

# Tillsonburg POST

FREE

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## Ceremony held for Sports Hall of Fame

JEFF HELSDON

Editor

A 1980s track and field team that competed at the national level, a basketball player, three tennis players, a refereeing chief, and the man who is the town's connection to the NHL were the latest inductees into the Tillsonburg Sports Hall of Fame.

The inductees were honoured at an induction ceremony on May 21 in the Lion's Auditorium, accompanied by family, friends and former teammates. The Sports Hall of Fame honours past and present residents who made contributions to sport, as athletes, team members, coaches or builders.

Tennis players Judy, Karen (Culp), Christine Liwanpo, and Remy Donaldson were recognized as individual athletes. The Senior Men's Tillsonburg Legion Track and Field Club Cross Country Running team was inducted under the team category. Former Tillsonburg Minor Hockey refereeing chief Steve Garnham was lauded as a builder for his efforts to raise the profile of officiating in town and recruit more referees. Tillsonburg resident and NHL Senior Executive Vice President of Hockey Operations Colin Campbell was presented with the Lifetime Achievement Recognition.

The Liwanpo triplets excelled in athletics while attending Glendale High School from 1994 to 1998, and helped the school secure five Oxford-Elgin tennis team championships. Their success started in Grade 9, with Judy winning the Junior Girls' Singles Oxford-Elgin title, while Karen and Christine claimed the Junior Girls' Doubles championships. They excelled to the point they were moved up to senior in Grade 10, despite being junior in age. Judy won three gold medals in singles at WOSSA. Karen and Christine dominated doubles, winning three Oxford-Elgin titles and capturing four consecutive WOSSA gold medals.

CONTINUED TO PAGE 14



(JEFF HELSDON PHOTO)

### GIRLS JUST WANNA' HAVE FUN!

Tillsonburg Kinettes' Ladies Night Out was a success on Saturday night at the Tillsonburg Soccer Club, coming close to selling out for the first-time event. Besides being fun, the 80s-themed ladies-only night raised proceeds for Domestic Abuse Services Oxford (DASO), Epilepsy Southwestern Ontario and other local charities. Left to right are, Rena Pittao, Adele Black and Shelley Miller in their 1980s attire. See more photos on Page 21.

## Taste of Summer promises variety of activities for next Saturday

JEFF HELSDON

Editor

While Tillsonburg residents usually look forward to the annual Taste of Summer event, there is sure to be extra excitement this year surrounding anything with the word 'summer' in it after a bout of cool, wet weather.

The annual fundraiser for the Tillsonburg District Memorial Hospital Foundation starts at noon on June 6 and runs until 8 p.m. The event, presented by 3E Power Corporation

Ltd, has all the typical activities with a small change, in that organizers are asking people to bring their lawn chairs.

Musical entertainment, which used to take place off to the side, is going to be moved front and center onto the stage.

"Bring a lawn chair and spend the afternoon or evening in the park listening to local music," said Gerry Dearing, executive director of the foundation.

The musical line-up for the day will begin with Fred Hodgson playing a wide range of music across many genres at 2 p.m. Local Sydney Barnabi will take to the stage at 3 p.m.,

CONTINUED TO PAGE 2

# DOOR WORLD

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# Local talent will be on display at Taste of Summer

CONTINUED FROM FRONT

with country being her main forte. Carter Nevill will play from 4 to 5 p.m., followed by Stunt from 5 to 6 p.m.

The 10 food trucks will be arranged in a circle around the stage. There will be something for everyone's taste amongst the vendors. The Kinsmen stand with burgers, fries, and hot dogs is new. Soda Street, with its dirty sodas with ice cream, and 180 Coffee are also new. Returning will be Shaw's Ice Cream Cool

Convenience, Funnel Cake Factor, JTK Meats, Nectar and Poppin' Kettle Corn. A beer tent will be set up in front of the stage, featuring Power House Brewing products, as well as family tents.

Flying Furballs dog show will thrill the crowds with the dog agility show. Captain Corbin's Magic Show will be there to present magic for the youth in a display, as well as roaming through the crowd. Reptalia from London will have a static

display featuring reptiles sure to thrill some and make others' skin crawl. Little Hobby Hill Farm will have a petting zoo, which has been popular in the past. There will also be inflatable slides, a youth inflatable obstacle course, and a trackless train at the event.

Vendor village's 20-plus vendors will have a variety of arts, crafts, and home goods for sale. The TDMH Volunteer Association will hold a 50/50 draw, with

proceeds donated to the foundation.

Taste of Summer is one of the hospital foundation's largest fundraisers of the year, along with the golf tournament. Admission is by donation.

The foundation raises funds for hospital equipment not covered by Ministry of Health funding. A display of the hospital equipment that needs to be replaced will be in one of the tents in the vendor village.

## Oxford County council purchasing Woodstock YMCA for homeless shelter

LEE GRIFFI

Post Contributor

Oxford County council approved the purchase of the former Woodstock YMCA property on Dundas Street, with plans to convert the site into a homeless shelter and support centre.

The sale closes on May 29 for \$4.55 million. According to realtor.ca, the property was listed for \$5.69 million. It is expected to open in early 2028 following extensive renovations, the cost of which is not known.

While all discussions and the approval of the purchase were made behind closed doors, the county held an emergency meeting last Tuesday afternoon after the Grant Haven Media story late last week, making the purchase public. Woodstock Mayor Jerry Acchione read a motion following a lengthy in-camera session.

"Moved by myself and seconded by Deputy Warden Martin, that the verbal report of the warden be received and that staff be directed to implement the previously planned communication regarding the Homelessness Support Centre and further, that the warden be authorized, at his discretion, to speak on matters containing closed session reports as it relates to the acquisition of the Homelessness Support Centre property."

Acchione added he supported the move to allow Warden Marcus Ryan to clear the air.

"I appreciate what's going on right now on social media. There's been a lot of accusations thrown around, and I appreciate the warden being able to speak to this if council so decides, as

he sees fit."

Woodstock city/county Coun. Bernia Martin seconded the motion and spoke to it.

"I enthusiastically support this motion and look forward to the communication that comes forward from it."

That communication came in the form of a press release from county CAO Ben Addley and an additional statement from Ryan on Tuesday evening.

"This is good news for our community and a fundamental step toward getting more people the support they need to get off the streets," said Addley.

"Working with our community partners, the building will offer emergency shelter services along with on-site supports that help people move safely inside, become stabilized, and connect to the right form of housing. It will also be tied to the new HART Hub and Wellness Centre in Woodstock, a provincially funded facility that provides mental health and addictions support, along with other services," he added.

Interviewed on Wednesday morning, the warden said the closed-doors process had been approved by the county's integrity commissioner (IC).

"It is absolutely normal municipal practice throughout Ontario, explicitly made legal in the Municipal Act, and we checked twice with our IC throughout this process to ensure we were doing it properly."

He added taxpayers saved at least \$580,000 by keeping the purchase in camera.

"That's why we do that, to protect taxpayers'

dollars. If we are going to purchase a property, we are going to do that in the most efficient way that we can. Municipalities go into closed session to say to their staff they would like to purchase a property, and here is the maximum number we would like to go to. Staff then have the ability to negotiate a purchase price."

Ryan understands the property's neighbours have legitimate concerns, but since the county will own it, they will be better equipped to manage the issues that go along with a homeless shelter.

"Homelessness, addiction and mental health issues are arguably the most important issues this term of council has had to deal with. If we don't find a better way to deal with it, it's going to get worse for everybody. The only option, other than this, is worse."

The warden, who is not seeking re-election in Zorra Township, said homelessness wasn't an issue he ever expected would be a part of his time as an elected official.

"But here we are. Without a doubt, the vast majority of Oxford and Woodstock residents will be better off with this homeless service centre."

In his own statement, Ryan said a member of county council recently questioned the actions over the process involved in purchasing the building.

"The councillor stated that they were very concerned as an elected official. I couldn't agree more: voting one way and saying the opposite is very concerning. On April 28, this member of council voted in public, in open session, to go

into closed session to consider purchasing the former YMCA property for use as the Homelessness Support Centre."

While not naming her directly, Ryan was referring to Woodstock city/county Coun. Deb Tait who attempted to pass a notice of motion to implement public consultation before the sale of the building was finalized.

"Then, on the same day, the councillor voted, again in public in open session, to adopt the recommendations in report HS (CS) 2026-02 to purchase the former YMCA property for use as the (shelter). Council is here to make the tough decisions on the tough issues and be accountable. I have great respect for this councillor and every single member of council, and I believe without doubt that all of us are working to serve in this way."

Tait also released a brief statement on Wednesday.

"We were all elected by the public. I firmly believe that the public's business should be done in a public forum with public discourse. A motion that states: the recommendations in closed are adopted. That gives the public no chance to have their say. It also does not allow a councillor to speak to it as it is confidential information discussed in closed."

She added when dealing with millions of dollars of taxpayer money as an elected official, they should err on the side of caution and be as transparent as possible.

"My motion for the public meeting, even though seven councillors voted to defer, served its purpose to bring the issue to the public."



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## EDITORIAL

# Letter to the Editor

## THANK YOU EVERYONE!

On May 19th, the Tillsonburg Horticultural Society held its 18th Annual Garden Auction and Sale.

The business community, near and far, were exceptionally generous with donations. The society's craft and artisan members were very creative and generous as well.

Despite the extreme weather Mother Nature hurled at us, there were record crowds who attended. Whether it was simply to purchase plants or baked goods, to purchase chance tickets on the prize draw, or to participate in the live auction, everyone's contributions are very much appreciated.

On behalf of "the Hort", I would like to express our heartfelt thanks for your significant support which greatly helps beautify the town.

Sincerely,  
Christine Nagy  
President



After the storm.

(JOANNE NEWELL PHOTO)

Have something to say?

Submit your Letter  
to the Editor here:

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## Asparagus: Eat it....it's good for you



WRITER'S  
CORNER

NORMA COLLIS

Tillsonburg Post Columnist

Asparagus season is upon us and I for one am extremely happy about it. I love that we live in an asparagus growing area and that so many local farms have it for sale, often still dewy from its early morning harvest.

I didn't always "feel the love."

When I was a kid, our home garden contained a huge asparagus patch. My very thrifty mother served asparagus every night for dinner until the crop died off. I

grew up in a household where one had to try a little of everything on one's plate.

I would attempt to calmly and logically explain that I had already tried the stuff, the night before and the night before that and I didn't like it then and was pretty sure I wouldn't like it now. The "judge and jury" did not accept that argument as a valid plea.

That one lonely stalk of asparagus was always the last thing sitting on my otherwise empty plate. Of course, by that time it was cold and even more unappetizing looking, but I managed to get it down.

We lived right across the street from my elementary school, which allowed me ample time to dash home for lunch each day. One day, my mother set a steaming hot bowl of soup in front of me. The concoction was a very suspicious shade of green. Who knew that asparagus could be made into a soup? This was some new kind of culinary torture and I was not impressed.

That day, I really was "saved by the bell." The school bell could be heard very clearly

at our house and when it rang to signal the end of the noon time break, I dashed out the door tossing a "sorry, no time to eat" remark over one shoulder. Asparagus soup did not ever appear on my lunch menu again.

I prayed for asparagus season to be over. I picked the asparagus fern to include in my weedy, wildflower bouquets as often as possible. I think I was hoping that I could kill the asparagus patch off if I picked enough of the greenery that grew along with those horrible "green stalks of misery."

Alas, asparagus is hardy stuff and my plan failed.

One day I came home at the end of the school day to find my mother at work in our kitchen preparing asparagus to go into the freezer. "Isn't this great?" she said. "We'll be able to enjoy asparagus all winter long."

Somewhere along the way, over the years, my tastes have changed and I now seek out asparagus to eat as it comes into season.

Sadly, my husband does not share my enthusiasm. He will eat a little of the stuff, but I always hear about it, if you know what I mean.

I even tried hiding it in a stir fry dish. He took one bite, and said, "You put asparagus into this, didn't you?"

Just to keep the conversation lively at our house, I forward every online asparagus recipe to him via email, as the recipes pop up online. Thanks to AI, once you show an interest in a topic, you are flooded with more information about your topic of choice. Every day Google sends me an abundance of suggestions for delightful dining experiences featuring asparagus. I happily forward on every one of those suggestions to my spouse.

He replies to each one immediately with a sad face emoji and a comment that usually reads, "Ha ha. Very funny."

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

# Doors Open returns to Tillsonburg after a decade

## MUSEUM MUSINGS

KATE BAKOS

Cultural Heritage Manager/Curator,  
Annandale National Historic Site

By Kate Bakos –

If you've ever driven past Annandale National Historic Site and thought, "I really should stop in one of these days," Saturday, June 6th, is your day, and your excuse extends well beyond one building.

Doors Open is back in Tillsonburg after a 10-year hiatus, and this year's return brings six local sites into the fold, all open to the public for free.

Part of a province-wide heritage tourism initiative run by Doors Open Ontario, the program gives residents and visitors alike a chance to explore significant buildings, unique spaces, and cultural landscapes that are often passed by but rarely stepped into. For a community with as much layered history as Tillsonburg, it's an overdue opportunity.

Participating this year are Annandale National Historic Site, Station Arts Centre, Royal Canadian Legion Branch 153, Theatre Tillsonburg, Betty's Marketplace, and Tillsonburg Pioneer Cemetery. Truly a cross-section of the community that spans military history, the arts, civic fraternity, and everyday commerce.

At Annandale NHS, visitors can take guided tours through the historic house, make crafts in the program room, visit our two new exhibitions, A Marvel Farm:

Annandale's Farm, and Tillsonburg's British Home Children. Also, while at Annandale NHS, pick up a self-guided walking/driving tour map that highlights historic buildings throughout Tillsonburg.

Royal Canadian Legion Branch 153 will be open from 1 p.m. to 3 p.m. for a 100th Anniversary Open House. Visitors will have the opportunity to view memorabilia, war artifacts, and displays highlighting Legion activities, meet Veterans, Air Cadets, and members, and enjoy light refreshments

Tillsonburg Pioneer Cemetery will have self-guided materials and volunteers on hand to share the stories of the site's notable figures.

Station Arts Centre is using the occasion to launch something new: a limited-edition series of artist-designed

buttons featuring original work by local Bridge Street Artists. Visitors can also take part in "Pressed Together," a free community art project in which participants decorate button templates that will be assembled into a large-scale mosaic on display through the summer.

Theatre Tillsonburg is tying its participation to the opening weekend of its latest production *Having Hope at Home*, with Doors Open activities planned to complement the show. Oddfellows Otter Lodge #50 and Betty's Marketplace will open their doors to offer a look inside two of the distinctive spaces anchoring the historic Tillson block downtown.

Doors Open Tillsonburg runs Saturday, June 6th. All events are free and open to the public. For anyone who has spent years meaning to explore what this town has to offer, the wait is officially over.

# Gilvesy has concerns with Strong Mayors court challenge

JEFF HELSDON

Editor

Tillsonburg's mayor doesn't see a legal challenge of the province's Strong Mayor legislation as a good use of taxpayers' dollars, but does have concerns about changes in local decision-making.

The province introduced Strong Mayor legislation in 2022, with a small group of municipalities named for the change in administrative powers, with one of the main motivators being an intent to expedite home development. Since then, it has expanded to more locations, with Tillsonburg, Ingersoll, Woodstock, and Stratford added.

Stratford recently mounted a constitutional challenge to the legislation. A release from the city states the chal-

lenge "raises constitutional considerations, including that the Strong Mayor legislation is inconsistent with section 3 of the Charter of Rights and Freedoms and the unwritten constitutional principles of the rule of law and democracy resulting in the removal of effective representation on City Council."

Tillsonburg Mayor Deb Gilvesy had concerns about the cost of such a challenge to Stratford taxpayers.

"I can understand an organization such as AMO challenging this in court, but I also believe local tax dollars should be spent wisely, and this could become costly," she said, saying she will be following the case.

Gilvesy said, outside the budget, where strong mayor powers can't be delegated except to staff with direction on how to prepare the budget, the powers are limited.

"I have never used them and have delegated all authority to council where possible," she said.

Gilvesy understands the province governs municipalities through the Municipal Act, but she does see some overstepping. For example, the province will be appointing the regional chair for Kitchener-Waterloo instead of having the position elected.

"I do have concerns about the erosion of local decision-making, particularly regarding housing," she said. "I would prefer to see regional chairs or wardens elected at-large, as I believe that would be a more democratic process and would better represent higher-populated areas."

She would also like to see Tillsonburg have another vote at Oxford County council, something this council and past ones have advocated for.

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# New heating, cooling business in Tillsonburg



(JEFF HELSDON PHOTO)

J.P. Riches, left, and Bill Szucsko started Tillson Mechanical. Both formerly had their own businesses, but combined forces to start the new company this spring.

JEFF HELSDON

Editor

Two veterans of the heating and cooling industry have come together to form a new business.

J.P. Riches, who is from Tillsonburg and started Riches Heating and Cooling in 2019, joined with Delhi native Bill Szucsko to start Tillson Mechanical on April 1. Szucsko started Solo Mechanical in Dorchester in 2011, and Riches worked for him while he was taking his apprenticeship.

“We help each other when we get busy,” Szucsko said. “It just got to be so much so we joined up.”

“I didn’t want to work alone anymore and we always worked well together,” Riches added.

Tillson Mechanical offers service on heating, water heaters, duct work, and air conditioning, both in residential or commercial. This includes furnaces, fireplaces pool heaters, gas and barbecue lines, in-floor heating and sheet metal fabrication. The company sells Rheem furnaces and air conditioners.

Between Riches and Szucsko they have over 40 years of combined service and sales in heating and air conditioning. They also have another technician and an apprentice.

Asked what sets them apart from the competition, Szucsko answered, “We have more invested and care more about our customers.” He also said the phone is always on.

Tillson Mechanical can be reached at 519-860-1766.



(CONTRIBUTED PHOTO)

## LIONS GIVE

Tillsonburg Lions Club has donated \$2,000 to support the Tillsonburg Multi-Service Centre’s Get SET (Skills, Education, Training) Literacy program. These funds will help purchase new and relevant learning materials, update technology resources and support volunteer recruitment for new literacy tutors. Left to right are: Abby Malott, Stonebridge Community Services Manager; Randi-Lee Durham, MSC Employment & Literacy Director; and Lions members Holly Reynolds, David Pipher (president) Dave Beres and Allan Hartley.

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# Fresh Idea Collective hosts sold-out female entrepreneurship event

AMANDA NELSON

Post Contributor

Two Tillsonburg businesswomen were part of a recent business summit.

Kerry Ramsay, founder of Fresh Idea Collective, hosted another sold-out event recently at the St. Marys Golf and Country Club. The Business LeadHERship Summit brought together leaders and business owners from across Ontario to learn, connect and discuss their business goals.

CTV News reporter Karis Mapp interviewed Tillson-

burg entrepreneurs Kristine Hayes and Kelly Heleniak, two of the three sisters behind Shaw's Ice Cream.

Originally from Tillsonburg, three of six sisters purchased the brand when it was close to shutting down. Having grown up working at their family's business, Dad's Ice Cream Shop, they decided while still in college to buy Shaw's and revive it.

Despite early challenges, the brand has since expanded and is now available in stores across Canada, known

for its unique and seasonal flavours.

"We had to wear a lot of hats, but growing up balancing being moms, wives and our own lives, we learned the importance of having the right people in our corner," said Heleniak.

The pair also discussed adapting their leadership styles to support their team of more than 100 employees, emphasizing the importance of recognizing individual strengths and challenges.

Keynote speaker Cheryl



(AMANDA NELSON PHOTO)

Karis Mapp of CTV News speaks with Shaw's Ice Cream co-owners Kristine Hayes and Kelly Heleniak during the Business LeadHERship Summit in St. Marys.



(JEFF TRIBE PHOTO)

## WRITE ON!

The Port Burwell Writers Festival 2026 featured a varied crew of authors writing in several genres gathered and presenting inside the Periscope Playhouse Saturday, May 16th in the village. In the front row, left to right, are: James McLean, Patrick Baxter, Nathan McIntyre and Mike Costa, on behalf of Donna Costa. In the back row, are: Bruce Bolin, Dawn Beecroft-Teetzel, Ivanka Fear, Kelly Young, Brad Davey, C.J. Frederick and Peggi-anne Wright.

Himburg led off the day, and spoke about the importance of vision and the courage to imagine what's possible before the path is fully clear.

"Vision takes shape when you have the courage to imagine what's possible, even before all the steps are mapped out," she said. "When we stop believing that what we've done so far is the ceiling of what we can accomplish, this is how we start to claim our lives."

Himburg also shared that a recent stroke earlier this year will not stop her from pursuing her goals and continuing to grow.

"I'm a glass-ceiling breaker," she said. "When we take an idea that feels impossible and start to ask how we can break that ceiling, we begin to take action, and all of a sudden it becomes possible."

She emphasized the im-

portance of aligning vision with personal values, noting that when the two are connected, actions and goals become clearer.

Second speaker Aileen Edwards of AME Consulting discussed executive presence, highlighting that confidence is something that must be practised consistently to build momentum.

She explained that hesitation and self-doubt can be perceived by others, while confidence and clarity can inspire trust.

"People benefit from your hesitation — don't let them," she said. "Lead clearly, lead with presence, lead believing you are ready, no matter what."

Edwards also spoke about her experiences as a Black woman in leadership and the importance of believing in oneself before feeling fully

ready.

"As women, we need to know how to enter rooms with intention," she said. "If you don't trust yourself in the room, people can feel that. Confidence is not volume — it's a decision."

"Being seen is not ego, it's stewardship. You can't build a brand by being invisible."

Throughout the day, attendees had opportunities to connect with other entrepreneurs and take part in discussions on leadership, business challenges and work-life balance. Participants travelled from across Ontario, including as far as Ottawa.

The event highlighted the continued growth and impact of female-led businesses in local communities and beyond.

For more information on future events, visit [freshideacollective.com](http://freshideacollective.com)

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# TOWNSHIP OF NORWICH NEWS



## 'Extremely unfortunate' destruction of traffic crossing signs in Norwich continues

LUKE EDWARDS

Post Contributor

A Norwich councillor has expressed his frustration with the apparent theft and damage of traffic calming signs in

the Holbrook area of the township.

Shawn Gear brought up the issue at the May 12 township council meeting.

"They (staff) are now on the third round of replacing these signs, and it's extremely unfortunate," Gear said.

The incidents have repeatedly happened around the bend on Highway 59, he said. Replacing each sign costs \$6,000, money that comes out of the pockets of taxpayers.

Gear, who's been a strong advocate

of road safety measures, said there's been limited feedback from citizens on who the culprits are.

"I'm extremely disappointed that this type of situation is happening," he said.



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**WEEKEND QUIZ**

**by Jake Grant**

1. The Appalachian mountains span across what two countries?
2. What 3-day music festival took place in upstate New York 1969?
3. Who wrote the novel "To kill a Mockingbird"?
4. What planet in our solar system is known for its rings?
5. What country was the first to adopt bitcoin as legal tender?
6. A Permanent Resident Card is also commonly known as a what?
7. What year was Wikipedia founded?
8. What company owns YouTube?
9. Who was the first actor to play James Bond?
10. What does AIPAC stand for?

**This week's answers are found on pg. 27**

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# TOWNSHIP OF NORWICH NEWS



## Less voice for the same cost: Chair shares concerns about conservation authority changes

LUKE EDWARDS

Post Contributor

Lower-tier municipalities in Oxford will lose a voice on conservation matters as the province moves forward with legislation consolidating the agencies across the province, the chair of the Upper Thames River Conservation Authority told Norwich councillors at the May 12 meeting.

But while they won't have as much of a say on such issues, Brian Petrie - who's also the mayor of Ingersoll - local taxpayers will still be on the hook financially.

"The province is taking all the say and we're basically getting stuck with the bill," he said.

As part of the changes, the Upper Thames authority

will be consolidated with others to create a new Western Lake Erie Regional Conservation Authority. Governance will be restricted to upper-tier and single-tier municipalities only.

Petrie said the new governance rules means townships like Norwich will lose a voice, while a small single tier municipality like Pelee Township will have their own representation. In addition to the larger areas authorities will cover, Petrie said much of the policy will be dictated by a recently created provincial board.

"We're still going to pay a big portion of the cost but it's really frustrating when you have no say," said Coun. Lynne DePlancke.

In Oxford, it will be the upper tier municipality that pays the bills. Additionally, Petrie said he expects there

will be significant transition costs the county will have to help pay.

Petrie said they did offer some feedback and participated in regional roundtables, though he said it didn't appear the province was particularly interested in hearing what they had to say.

"To me consultation is back and forth and active input, and there wasn't any of that available," he said.

In the meantime, Petrie said they can't make any big decisions and have essentially been told by the Province to just run the day-to-day operations. They will try to support CA staff in what's an uncertain and tumultuous time for them.

The Province hopes to have the new CAs running by next February.

## Norwich supports Oxford Age Friendly Strategy

LUKE EDWARDS

Post Contributor

Norwich has endorsed a plan for Oxford that aims to improve the lives of seniors in the township and county.

Councillors supported the Oxford Age Friendly Strategy presented at the May 12 council meeting, and agreed to cover the costs of the hall rental for a planned June 17 Aging Friendly Roadshow coming to Norwich, from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. at the Norwich Community Centre. The event will offer locals a glimpse of some of the services and opportunities that exist to help and support the area's older residents. Lack of awareness was identified as an issue by both council and age friendly committee members.

"It's so important we get the message out there of what's available, what's needed," said Coun. Lynne DePlancke.

Meagan Lichti, chair of the Oxford Age Friendly Committee and Diane Handsaeme, director of Home Support Services, at the Tillsonburg & District Multi-Service Centre, gave councillors an overview of the strategy. Needs identified in the strategy include: transportation, access to health care, appropriate and affordable housing, limited supports for aging in place, social participation and infrastructure like sidewalk and trail maintenance or accessible washrooms.

"I want to age in place and I want to stay where I'm comfortable, where I know my family is and live out

my days peacefully," said Handsaeme.

The strategy also includes several recommendations based on the needs. Some included expanding volunteer driving services or increasing coordination between transportation providers, reinstating local memory clinics and cognitive assessment services, exploring opportunities for alternative living arrangements, reducing isolation through technology and including digital literacy training, and considering developer incentive programs to promote age and dementia friendly housing and community design.

Raising awareness is also a key across all areas, the strategy says. And that's where the road show comes in. The event takes place on June 17.



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(JEFF HELSDON PHOTOS)

### RAINY SATURDAY

Two local events were impacted by Saturday's all-day rain. (Left photo) Although ducks like water - even plastic ones - the volume of rain made it unsafe for the duck handlers to be in the Big Otter Creek, and as a result the Rotary Club of Tillsonburg's 2026 Duck Race fundraiser was completed through a random number generator. Taking part in the event were, left to right, Rotary members Jason Weiler, exchange student Sota Hashiura, Gloria Aykroyd and Fazana Chohan. Winners were: Pat Carroll (\$2,500), Jerry Cnockaert (\$750) and Jay Staley (\$250). (Right photo) The golf portion of the Upper Deck Youth Centre's 38th annual golf tournament was a washout, but the meal portion and prizes still went ahead. More than \$23,000 was raised through the event.

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# Legion celebrating centennial on June 6

JEFF HELSDON

Editor

The local branch of the Royal Canadian Legion is marking the centennial of its parent organization on June 6 as part of Doors Open Oxford.

“During this open house, we’re opening up the Legion, letting everybody within the town

and the area in, showing them what the Legion is all about,” said President Tom Brown. “We’re going to have displays, telling what goes on with veterans, what goes on with our sports programs – our golf, our snooker, our cards, our darts.”

He elaborated further on the sports programs, explaining competitors in golf, snooker, cards, or darts can compete beyond the branch, at the

zone, district, provincial, and national levels.

There will also be displays to show all the things the Legion does in the community, such as supporting veterans, local minor sports teams, and youth groups. A membership table will also be set up. The two entities within the Legion – the Ladies’ Auxiliary and Royal Canadian Air Cadets – will also have displays at the event.

“We want to ensure the general public knows about the stuff the Legion does,” Brown said.

The local branch celebrated its 95th in 2024, meaning the Royal Canadian Legion was

young when the Tillsonburg branch was chartered.

Following the First World War, the Great War Veterans’ Association was formed and organized Armistice Day ceremonies on Nov. 11. Other veteran groups were also formed, and all united to form the Canadian Legion of the British Empire Service League in 1925. The group was incorporated on July 17, 1926. The name was gradually changed from 1959 to 1961, first dropping “British Empire” from the name in 1959, and then adding “Royal” with Queen Elizabeth’s consent.



(JEFF HELSDON PHOTO)

## RIBFEST

Tristan Edward of Gonzalez Barbecue sauces ribs on the grill Friday night. The event featured three different rib vendors and music by Black River Remedy. Although Saturday was challenging, the event attracted a good crowd on Friday and Sunday. Organizers are planning on running the event again next year.



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# JJ Staley returns home with stories to tell



## MUSIC CORNER

**BEN ADDRESS**

*Tillsonburg Post Columnist*

Jeffrey Jay Staley is a veteran of the Canadian Armed Forces and an accomplished roots musician with a knack for storytelling through his deeply personal songs and hard-earned perspective. Oxford County is lucky to have this performer in our neck of the woods next week.

Performing under the name JJ Staley, the Aylmer-based artist has spent years transforming life experiences into music that blends honesty with heartfelt stories. Before stepping back into the spotlight as a solo acoustic performer

Staley served 12 years in the Royal Canadian Horse Artillery while also being the lead singer and songwriter for The Murder By The Lake Band. His former band was a Southern Ontario act known for mixing rock, alternative country and blue-collar storytelling into its songs and live performances. The band built a reputation for energetic shows and emotionally driven songs that drew heavily from real-life experiences, small-town living and the struggles faced by everyday working people.

"I was honourably discharged from the Canadian Forces after twelve years," Staley recalls. "While in the forces I never stopped playing or writing music. I just put it on the back burner. When I was released, because of the things I had done and seen, I used a lot of it as inspiration for my song writing and from there it just took off."

Following his military service, music became both a creative outlet and a way to process experiences that few people could fully understand. That emotional honesty continues to define his song writing today.

While fans of Murder By The Lake Band may recognize Staley from his years leading the

group's rock and alternative country sound, his solo material takes a more stripped-down and intimate approach.

"The Murder By The Lake Band was more of a rock and alternative country show," Staley explains. "My solo stuff is definitely more singer-songwriter. A lot of it is storytelling."

As the frontman for The Murder By The Lake Band, Staley spent years performing throughout Ontario, developing a loyal following among fans of independent Canadian music. The band's 2015 release titled 'Tales From The Lake' features a sound that blended the edge of heartland rock with outlaw country influences, helping them stand out in the province's live music scene. Those years on the road also helped Staley sharpen the storytelling style that now defines his solo performances.

Now recently returned to the area after spending decades away, Staley is reconnecting with the local music community and looking forward to becoming part of the Oxford County and surrounding area scene once again.

"I have actually just returned to Tillsonburg after 20-plus years of being away," Staley said.

"I have only seen a bit of the local music scene but do have many friends from the area who are into the local music scene. I hope to hook up with them sooner or later and see what is going on."

Staley's first show since his return is taking place Thursday, June 4 at The Copper Mug. Audiences attending that performance can expect much more than a standard acoustic set. Between songs he shares stories pulled from his life experiences creating a performance that is equal parts concert and conversation. It is safe to say that it will be an emotional journey.

"At The Copper Mug audiences can be expected to laugh, cry and even maybe be a little frightened," Staley says with a laugh. "One thing they can expect for sure is a good time with some good music and great stories."

The show at The Copper Mug starts at 8 p.m. with no cover charge. Fans of authentic song writing, acoustic music and powerful storytelling will not want to miss this unique evening of live music.

For more information on JJ Staley you can follow him on his official social media page at [www.facebook.com/MusicofJJStaley](http://www.facebook.com/MusicofJJStaley)

## UPCOMING SHOWS

**MAY 28 - DALLAS SMITH W/ TYLER DELARGIE**  
Tillsonburg Community Centre: \$79 - 7:30 p.m.

**MAY 31 - KARAOKE WITH GEORGE THE TURTLE**  
The Copper Mug: Free Entry - 1 p.m.

**MAY 31 - TRIVIA NIGHT**  
The Copper Mug: Free Entry - 5:30 p.m.

**JUNE 4 - JJ STALEY**  
The Copper Mug: Free Entry - 8 p.m.

**JUNE 5 - KERAM & IAN BW**  
Paddy's Underground: \$10 - 8 p.m.  
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**JUNE 10 - EUCHRE NIGHT**  
The Copper Mug: 5:30 p.m.

**JUNE 12 - MUSIC TRIVIA NIGHT**  
The Copper Mug: 8 p.m.

**JUNE 13 - KARAOKE NIGHT**  
The Copper Mug: Free Entry - 8:30 p.m.

**JUNE 19 - DOWNCHILD BLUES BAND FT. CHUCK JACKSON & TYLER YAREMA**  
The Copper Mug: Free Entry - 8 p.m.

**JUNE 20 - RIGHT TURN CLYDE**  
The Copper Mug: Free Entry - 10 p.m.

**AUGUST 7-9 - BUDDIES FEST**  
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# Ceremony held to add latest inductees into hall of fame

CONTINUED FROM FRONT

They were undefeated during their high school careers.

In provincial OFSAA play, Judy advanced to the quarter-finals in Grade 12 and the semi-finals in Grade 13, while Karen and Christine reached the OFSAA finals in both of their senior years. Their success on the courts earned each of them a tennis scholarship at American universities. They also played in the Indian Ocean Island Games in 2003, helping the team win bronze.

Judy, who was the only one of the three sisters who could make the ceremony, was totally surprised by the nomination.

"I never thought it could happen," she said.

They were nominated by their coach Jim Donaldson, who passed away a couple of weeks earlier. Judy said the award should have been his, adding, "He made such an impact on so many of us."

## Remy Donaldson

Remy Donaldson was also recognized in the junior athlete category. Nominated by former coaches Ches Sulkowski and Dan Rajnovich, Donaldson said these two coached him the most in high school.

"I was grateful to them because they both mean a lot to me, and I stay in touch with them until this day."

Donaldson was recognized for achievements across multiple sports. His athletics started in the pool with the Tillsonburg Torpedoes at the age of eight. He qualified for several national events and earned more than 100 ribbons and 40 medals. His strongest events were the 100m and 200m backstroke, disciplines in which he set Tillsonburg pool records and competed at provincial and Eastern Cup competitions.

In high school athletics, Donaldson made his mark in tennis, volleyball, and basketball. He was an Oxford-Elgin champion and a WOSSA AA semi-finalist in tennis, and also earned his Ontario Association tournament badge and Olympic Gold Award at Camp Olympia.

On the volleyball court, he was part of Glendale teams that went to the Oxford-Elgin championships in Grades 9 and 12. He was part of teams that earned WOSSA AA silver medals in Grades 9, 10, and 12, before capturing the championship in Grade 13 and advancing to the OFSAA quarterfinals. Besides the six medals he won in volleyball, he was also the MVP in several tournaments.

Donaldson's basketball teams won Oxford and Oxford-Elgin championships, reached WOSSA AA finals multiple times, and qualified for OFSAA twice. He was named MVP at the Junior Captains/Veterans Game, was an all-star at the Tillsonburg Classic, and cap-



(JEFF HELSDON PHOTO)

The latest additions to the Tillsonburg Sports Hall of Fame were inducted at a dinner and ceremony held on May 21. Left to right are: (front row) Remy Donaldson, Judy Liwanpo, Steve Garnham, (back row) Adrian Shorter, Paul Roberts, Claus Rinne, Rick Cornelissen, Dave Mills, Steve Connor, Tim Wood and Ron Becht. Absent from the photo were: Karen Culp (Liwanpo), Christine Liwanpo, and Colin Campbell.

tained the Woodstock Optimist team to a Juvenile A provincial title. In his final year, he made school history by being captain of both the Glendale basketball and volleyball teams when both won gold.

At the University of Waterloo, he played basketball from 1996-1999. During that time, the team won several tournament medals and qualified for the Canadian University championships in 1998. Individually, Donaldson was an OUA leader in foul shooting and three-point percentage.

## Senior Men's Tillsonburg Legion Track & Field Club Cross Country Running Team

This team was inducted in the team category for its accomplishments in the 1985 season. Led by coach Dave Mills, the team consisted of Ron Becht, Claus Rinne, Rick Cornelissen, Adrian Shorter, Tim Wood, Steve Connor, Paul Roberts, and Mike King. While several runners were born and raised in Tillsonburg and others lived in the surrounding area, the group came together to form a cohesive, highly competitive distance-running team.

In 1985, the squad captured both the Ontario Senior Men's Cross Country team championship and the Canadian Senior Men's Cross Country team championship, marking an exceptional dual triumph at the provincial and

national levels. Their Canadian title cemented the Tillsonburg Legion team's place among the strongest cross-country programs in the country that year.

Mills was credited for the team demonstrating depth, preparation, and a commitment to excellence.

Interviewed that evening, Mills said he believed the nomination came about after the 40th anniversary of the cross-country championships last year. Roberts' wife said she was nominating them at the time.

"I was a bit surprised because it had been a long time since we won the Canadian championship," he said.

## Steve Garnham

Steve Garnham was inducted into the Builder category for his contributions to officiating and hockey development in Tillsonburg and the Southern Counties region.

He first donned the black and white referee jersey at the age of 14, and became Referee in Chief for Tillsonburg Minor Hockey in 2001. He served in that capacity for nearly two decades, while also taking the same role for Southern Counties Minor Hockey Association.

His duties included scheduling officials locally, organizing out-of-town travel assign-

ments for the Southern Counties Rep league, and assigning officials for all U-9 to U-18 OMHA playoff games. As an OMHA supervisor, he mentored countless young referees, offering guidance and support. He also served on several OMHA committees for Officiating and Supervisor programs.

Throughout his time, he ensured Southern Counties officials were recognized and selected for year-end provincial tournaments. Previously, these opportunities were taken by officials from larger centres.

In addition to his work within minor hockey, Garnham coordinated officiating for high school hockey in the region and was instrumental in bringing the WOSSA finals back to Oxford County by securing top-level local officials for the event.

Over the years, he earned numerous high-profile assignments, including the OMHA AAA Peewee gold medal game (2004-05), AAA Peewee bronze medal game as linesman (2006-07), and the OMHA AAA Midget division (2008-09). He also officiated at the OHF Peewee A championships and made regular appearances at OMHA finals as both referee and linesman.

Garnham was surprised by the nomination and award. He reflected that his method of allowing new referees to try their hand at it before committing was part of the success.

"I did have a different recruiting strategy than most minor hockey people," he said.

Several of the officials he recruited are still at it today, and were in the audience for the awards to show their appreciation. Andrew Gradish, who is currently a referee and is chief referee for Southern Counties, nominated Garnham.

## Colin Campbell

Campbell was presented with the Lifetime Achievement Recognition in recognition of his induction into the Hockey Hall of Fame as part of the Class of 2024.

Currently, the Senior Executive Vice-President of Hockey Operations for the NHL, the Tillsonburg resident's involvement in hockey began in town. The son of long-time town employee and Arena Manager Jack Campbell, he grew up at the rink learning the game, respecting it, and developing the work ethic that would carry him far beyond the community.

As a player, Campbell enjoyed a lengthy NHL career, earning respect for his competitiveness, toughness, and leadership. He later moved behind the bench as a head coach with the New York Rangers, further deepening his understanding of the game from every angle.

CONTINUED TO PAGE 15

# Ceremony held to add latest inductees into hall of fame

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 14

It was there that he earned a Stanley Cup Ring as the head coach.

It was in his executive role, however, that Campbell's impact became truly transformational. For more than 25 years as Senior Executive Vice-President of Hockey Operations in the NHL, he has been one of the league's most influential decision-makers. He has overseen discipline, officiating standards, and rule interpretation during some of the most pivot-

al eras in modern hockey. He played a central role in the modernization of the game, helping implement rule changes following the 2004-05 lockout that increased speed, skill, and scoring, and guiding the expansion and refinement of video review to enhance fairness and accountability.

Campbell has also been instrumental in the NHL's international growth. Through global initiatives, international competition planning,

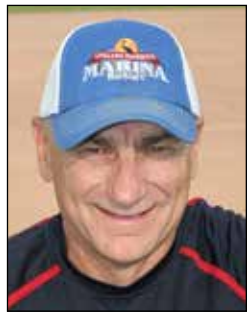
and collaboration with players, coaches, and executives worldwide, he has helped "open up" the game and position it for worldwide expansion. His leadership has helped shape how hockey is played, governed, and experienced not only in North America but across the globe.

Having to leave early that evening for work – he had to oversee the Montreal Canadiens-Carolina Hurricanes game – Camp-

bell later said, "The Tillsonburg recognition is really about all the people that coached me growing up - my teachers in high school, who were great examples of coaching and giving their time to all the teams I played on, and all my teammates on the Tillsonburg teams that made playing sports fun."

He has many great memories at the Tillsonburg arena, and ran hockey schools there for many years.

## Slo-Pitch game cancellations due to weather warnings



**EYE  
ON  
SLO-  
PITCH**

DAVE WEAVER

Post Columnist

Our Men's Tuesday night action was cancelled due to tornado warnings. Hopefully these unsettled weather issues don't persist throughout the season.

### Ladies' Division

Resting Pitch Face split their doubleheader, losing by mercy to Simmonds Mortgages in the opener before doing the same to Queen Bees in the nightcap. Foldens Machine Works scored nine late to beat SunSpace/Bill Klyn Carpentry by four. Cooks Concrete Jays had little trouble with the Wildcats, mercying them in five.

### Foldens Machine Works-14, SunSpace/Bill Klyn Carpentry-10

Foldens-Amber Woolgar 4-4; Mack Brackenbury 4-4.

SunSpace-Amanda Stubbs 4-4; Kim Hurd 4-4.

Game Synopsis-This one was tied after four, then Foldens broke it open scoring nine over two innings. Jen Francis and Nancy Teixeira reached and scored twice.

### Resting Pitch Face-15, Queen Bees-2

Resting-Katie Pittock 4-4; Katie Depew 4-4.

Queen Bees-Alyssa Berkeley 2-2; Ashley Senivita 2-2.

Game Synopsis-Katie Pittock reached four times and scored three runs for the winners.

### Cooks Concrete Jays-16, Wildcats-1

Cooks-Maddi Obar 3-3; Mayra Baelde 4-4.

Wildcats-Ling Wong 2-2.

Game Synopsis-Maddi Obar tripled and scored three runs for the winners. Paige Baynham also scored three runs.

### Simmonds Mortgages-20, Resting Pitch Face-5

Simmonds-Forrestt Ashley 4-4; Brooklyn Carroll 3-3.

Resting-Sara Sohm 2-2; Amy Rhame 2-2.

Game Synopsis-Simmonds broke open a close

game, scoring six in back-to-back innings. Tracey Carruthers led the winners with four runs batted in, and Forrestt Ashley was a homer shy of hitting for the cycle.

### Men's Division 1

The Cubs, the new entry in the division, won both of their games last week, winning their inaugural match against last season's playoff champions Cobra Chickens. They rallied late to edge out SunSpace/Bill Klyn Carpentry in their second game. SunSpace bounced back walking off Hit N Run on the Friday. The Mill recorded their second win of the season, beating Cobra Chickens by four. The Mill, Cubs and Leeswood Construction Dirty Mitts are all at two wins and no losses. 1,2 Seal Insulation Hawks are the only other undefeated team, but have only played once.

### The Mill-18, Cobra Chickens-14

The Mill-Ryan Black 5-5; Bob Evans 4-5.

Bryan Deblaire HR.

Cobra-Logan Froese 4-4 Nathan Froese 3-4 Caleb Reimer HR

Game Synopsis-Bryan Deblaire, Ryan and Noa Black each scored three runs for the winners.

### SunSpace/Bill Klyn Carpentry-24, Hit N Run-22

SunSpace-Ryan Miller 6-6, HR; Dallas Dalby 4-5.

Hit N Run-Peter Janzen 5-5; Jacob Klassen 4-5; John Wiebe HR; Diedrich Klassen HR.

Game Synopsis-Ryan Miller walked this one off for the winners, hitting a two-run homer, Alex Dalby scored five runs on the night.

### Cubs-11 SunSpace/Bill Klyn Carpentry-10

Cubs-John Dyck 3-3; Frank Klassen 3-3.

SunSpace-Jake Millar 3-4; Alex Dalby 3-4.

Game Synopsis-Dave Peters, John Dyck and Jamie Teichroeb each scored two runs for the Cubs.

### Cubs-9 Cobra Chickens-6

Cubs-Jamie Teichroeb 4-4, 2HR; Marcus Enns 3-4; Joel Dyck HR.

Cobra-Nathan Froese 2-3; Jesse Froese HR; Caleb Reimer HR.

Game Synopsis-A three-run sixth keyed the Cubs victory. Chris Dyck, Octavia and Daniel Teichroeb hit doubles in the rally.

### Men's Division 2

Papa's Auto Spa moved into a tie for first with Pelicans and All Seasons Estate Care Bandits after edging out the Quackheads. At My Play-

ground/IQT Logistics picked up their first win evening their season record. They won easily over the winless Designated Drinkers squad. Strike Force collected their first win, also over Designated Drinkers.

### Papa's Auto Spa-11, Quackheads-10

Papa's-Jake Rempel 3-3; Zach Vanderhaeghe 3-3; Jesse Legg HR.

Quackheads-Cody Long 3-4; Phil Beauvais 2-4.

Game Synopsis-Craig Davidson scored two runs, including the winning run for Papa's.

### Strike Force-17, Designated Drinkers-5

Strike-Henry Teichroeb 4-4; Abe Klassen 3-4; Henry Klassen HR.

Drinkers-Warren McCallister 2-3; Kevin Postma 3-3.

Game Synopsis-Henry Klassen homered, doubled and drove in five for the winners.

### At My Playground/IQT Logistics-14 Designated Drinkers-4

A.M.P.-Landon Partlo 3-4; Trent Lamb 3-4; Connor Smith HR; Brandon Balazs HR.

Drinkers-Isiah Scram 2-3; Gavin Haggith 2-3.

Game Synopsis-Trent Lamb singled, doubled and scored three runs for the winners.

### Men's Division 3

The Sandy Shore Brew Jays and Sluggers sit atop the loop undefeated with two wins apiece. Sandy Shore started off their season with a doubleheader sweep of Wolfpack in two close affairs. Sluggers also beat Wolfpack and easily beat John Beere to record their second win. Wolfpack got

into the win column with a close win over the Beer Bombers.

### Sluggers-13, John Beere-3

Sluggers-Gary Woolner 3-3; Alex Barnes 2-3.

John Beere-Shaun Elliott 3-4; Shawn Ryser 3-3.

Game Synopsis-A seven-run seventh put this one away for the Sluggers.

### Wolfpack-14, Beer Bombers-12

Wolfpack-Cam Butler 4-4; Ethan Diechert 3-3.

Bombers-Quinton Vink 4-4; Adam Van Dyck 3-4.

Game Synopsis-Gulbir Sekhon led the winners, driving in four.

### Sandy Shore Brew Jays-15, Wolfpack-11

Sandy Shore-Dan Konrad 5-5; Duane Nutt 5-5; Devon Schultz HR.

Wolfpack-Kevin Hmeil 3-3, HR; Matt Pitt 3-3.

Game Synopsis-Duane Nutt and Dan Konrad each scored three runs for the winners.

### Sluggers-19, Wolfpack-6

Sluggers-Tanner Mueller 3-3; Gary Woolner 3-3.

Wolfpack-Jarryd Roest 3-3; Gulbir Sekhon 2-2.

Game Synopsis-Alex Barnes, George Goertz and Gary Woolner each crossed the plate three times for the Sluggers.

### Sandy Shore Brew Jays-18, Wolfpack 16

Sandy Shore-Devon Schultz 4-4, HR; Tyler Klemp 4-4; Mike Haegens HR.

Wolfpack-Matt Pitt 4-4; Cam Butler 4-4; Kevin Hmeil HR.

CONTINUED TO PAGE 16

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# Slo-Pitch game cancellations due to weather warnings

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 15

Game Synopsis-A big seven-run fifth keyed the winner's victory. Devon Schultz hit a three-run homer in the rally.

### Men's Division 4

N.I.M. continue to lead the division after recording a mercy win over Tornadoes. Diamond Kings edged out Smokin Bases to remain one game back tied with R.L.P. Melanie Luksys and

Brickhouse Boys. R.L.P. split a doubleheader with Brickhouse Boys and narrowly defeated Smokin Bases while Brickhouse Boys mercied the Tornadoes.

### Diamond Kings-18, Smokin Bases-17

Diamond-Pete Goertzen 4-4; Johnny Wall 4-4. Smokin-Colton Trudel 5-5; Jeff Sausa 4-4.

Game Synopsis-Smokin Bases pulled to within one with a late rally. Pete Goertzen had a single, double, triple and three runs scored for Diamond Kings.

### N.I.M.-18, Tornadoes-1

N.I.M.-Cory Chambers 4-4; Dan Jennings 3-3. Tornadoes-Reese Ashford 1-2; Aiden Brown 1-1.

Game Synopsis-Brodie Earls and Cory Chambers each scored three runs for N.I.M.

### R.L.P. Melanie Luksys-8, Smokin Bases-7

R.L.P.-Caden Craggs 3-3; Dalton Cassidy 2-2. Smokin-Wade Kirby 3-3.

Game Synopsis-A five-run sixth won it for R.L.P., Blake Ash and Caden Craggs each scored two runs on the night.

### Brickhouse Boys-18, R.L.P. Melanie Luksys-3

Brickhouse-Nathan Bridges 4-4; Luke Thomas 3-3, HR; Parker Morris HR.

R.L.P.-Evan Scamen 2-2; Jax Vanes 2-2.

Game Synopsis-Everyone in the winner's order scored at least one run, and Nathan Bridges and Luke Thomas each scored three runs.

### R.L.P. Melanie Luksys-18, Brickhouse Boys-15

R.L.P.-Evan Scamen 4-4; Landon Boughner 4-4, 2 HR; Caden Craggs HR.

Brickhouse-Tony Epp 5-5; Clayton Cassar 4-5; Nathan Bridges HR; Parker Morris HR.

Game Synopsis-Landon Boughner hit homers in back-to-back at-bats for R.L.P.

### Brickhouse Boys-20, Smokin Bases-5

Brickhouse-Ryan Davidson 4-4; Parker Morris 4-4; Shawn Knelsen.

Smokin-Wade Kirby 3-3; Ian Barrett 2-2.

Game Synopsis -Tanner Lammens had a pair of doubles for the winners, and Ryan Davidson scored four runs.

LADIES	W	L	T	PTS
COOKS CONCRETE JAYS	3	0	0	6
FOLDENS MACHINE WORKS	3	0	0	6
SIMMONDS MORTGAGES	3	0	0	6
RESTING PITCH FACE	2	2	0	4
SUNSPACE/BILL KLYN CARPENTRY	0	3	0	0
WILDCATS	0	3	0	0
QUEEN BEES	0	3	0	0

MEN'S DIVISION 1	W	L	T	PTS
LEESWOOD CONSTRUCTION DIRTY MITTS	2	0	0	4
CUBS	2	0	0	4
THE MILL	2	0	0	4
1,2 SEAL INSULATION HAWKS	1	0	0	2
COBRA CHICKENS	1	3	0	2
SUNSPACE/BILL KLYN CARPENTRY	1	3	0	2
HIT N RUN	0	3	0	0

MEN'S DIVISION 2	W	L	T	PTS
ALL SEASONS ESTATE CARE BANDITS	2	0	0	4
PELICANS	2	0	0	4
PAPA'S AUTO SPA	2	1	0	4
STICKY BANDITS	1	0	0	2
AT MY PLAYGROUND/IQT LOGISTICS	1	1	0	2
QUACKHEADS	1	1	0	2
STRIKE FORCE	1	1	0	2
MAVERICKS	0	1	0	0
UNDERHILL FARM SUPPLY	0	2	0	0
DESIGNATED DRINKERS	0	3	0	0

MEN'S DIVISION 3	W	L	T	PTS
SANDY SHORE BREW JAYS	2	0	0	4
SLUGGERS	2	0	0	4
WOLFPACK	1	3	0	2
BIRD'S GOLF	0	0	0	0
NAPA/COWARD'S PHARMACY	0	0	0	0
JOHN BEERE	0	1	0	0
BEER BOMBERS	0	2	0	0

MEN'S DIVISION 4	W	L	T	PTS
N.I.M.	3	0	0	6
DIAMOND KINGS	2	1	0	4
BRICKHOUSE BOYS	2	2	0	4
R.L.P. MELANIE LUKSYS	2	2	0	4
TORNADOES	0	1	0	0
SMOKIN BASES	0	3	0	0

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# Gemini keeper Davis' dream of a goal represents shout out for all the shutouts

JEFF TRIBE

Post Correspondent

Call it a shout out for all the shutouts.

A soccer goalie since the age of 10, Tillsonburg Gemini keeper Elysse Davis has had a companion dream of finding the back of the opposing net.

"It took me four years to get there," smiled Davis after rounding a 6-0 Thames Valley Regional Athletics (TVRA) Southwest Tier II girls' soccer championship victory over the visiting Woodstock St. Mary's Warriors Tuesday, May 19 at the Tillsonburg Minor Soccer Park.

She and Gemini striker Kaia Spanjers had an agreement, namely that if Tillsonburg should get four goals ahead of an opponent, they would switch positions. Davis had a chance to score during a game the previous season, however it, along with her

dream, were cut short.

With the Gemini leading comfortably in this year's Tier II championship game, she welcomed the opportunity to try again in the final high school soccer game of the graduating Grade 12 student's career. Used to having goalposts be her best friend, an earlier 12-yard strike found the bar to the Warriors keeper's right. Davis made the most of a second chance however, running onto a Callie Emerson through-ball, and getting a 12-yard scoring shot off between two converging defenders up and under the crossbar.

"She just knew where to put it," commented fellow Gemini Sophia Monsere, the team's foremost goal-scoring authority. "It was good, the proper place."

"I know where goalies don't like it," Davis added with a smile.

Monsere finished with a hat-trick to fuel Tillsonburg's attack, she and Kherrington Spanjers giving the Gemini a 2-0 lead at the half. Monsere added two second-half goals and Kaia Spanjers the other Tillsonburg marker, heading into the Gemini goal for a guest appearance where she also completed the shutout.

"She had more shots than I did," Davis credited. "I had zero - she had two and a slow roller."

The two teams had played to a 0-0 draw during the regular TVRA season eight days earlier, Tillsonburg capping its playoff run with a dominant performance.

"I think we just really wanted it a lot more today than we did in season," said Brooklyn Diaz. Like Davis, she



(JEFF TRIBE PHOTO)

The 2026 TVRA Southeast Tier II champion Tillsonburg Gemini girls soccer team following a 6-0 shutout victory over Woodstock St. Mary's Warriors.

is a graduating Grade 12 student, enjoying her final high school game with many girls she's played together with since they were eight or nine years old.

"I think we all wanted to finish strong and all together."

The Gemini had talked to each other on the day said Monsere, communication which had definitely helped.

"Nice way to finish," she added. "It definitely showed our hard work paid well."

"It was a great way to finish the season," agreed co-coach Kristin Czerniawski, echoing Monsere's comments about communication and playing as a team. "A lot of growth."

A warm, sunny day was a nice change to the weather experienced through much of the season added co-coach Vanessa Neves, equally proud

of the growth the team had displayed through the season.

"Even the younger ones," she concluded, "you could see their confidence skyrocket."

TVRA Boys' Baseball

The TVRA Boys' Baseball quarter final was Tuesday, May 19 in Dorchester, and the Gemini

"It was just a game where their hits found some holes and ours seemed to be right at their players," said coach Derek Partlo. "They were a young, scrappy team that put the bat on the ball and pressure on our defence."

Playing a little tight at first, the Gemini settled down said Partlo.

"Later, we had runners on base all the time, we just didn't have the big moment to get us back in the game, and we couldn't keep them from scoring."

GEMINI SCOREBOARD	
TVRA SOUTHEAST GIRLS RUGBY	
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PARKSIDE	34
GEMINI	14
TVRA CUP 4 MONDAY, MAY 25 QUARTER-FINAL	
GEMINI AT ARVA MEDWAY COWBOYS, 11:30 A.M.	



(JEFF TRIBE PHOTO)

Gemini Sophia Monsere (right) cuts around a St. Mary's defender during a 6-0 shutout win, to which the Tillsonburg forward contributed a hat-trick.



(JEFF TRIBE PHOTO)

Gemini Elysse Davis (right) looks for a second goal against the St. Mary's keeper.

# Red Sox patch together win over Port Dover

GRAHAM NICKERSON

Post Contributor

One week ago, there was doubt whether the Red Sox would have enough players to field a team for their May 22 game against the Port Dover Clippers. The Tillsonburg management rounded up a patchwork team in time for Friday night and narrowly edged out the Lake Sidlers 7-5.

Jordan Vitias was on the other side of the battery, toeing the slab for his first start of the season. The right hander pitched three strong innings of one-hit ball, giving up two earned runs while tallying five strikeouts, four of which were the backwards variety. Vitias' command wavered in the second, walking three straight batters, but he was able to get out of a bases-loaded jam, limiting the damage to two runs.

The ball was passed to Tim Thiessen, who came out of retirement for the game and threw two solid innings, allowing two runs, but both were unearned.

Behind the dish was 39-year-old Jim Davis, who usually dawns the Old Sox uniform, but was called down to play with the younger crowd to fill out the lineup. Davis played a good backstop, settling in after a few shaky early innings. Timely

blocks helped to preserve the lead as the game wore on. Davis admitted that he had not caught a game in 18 years. Anyone in the crowd would be hard pressed to believe it.

Tillsonburg led off their half of the first inning by stringing together four straight singles, which plated two runs. Vitias stepped in with no outs, and runners on first and second, when he flared a bloop hit to the short stop. The ball was dropped and the runners were caught off their bases when confusion ensued. Nobody on either side knew if the infield fly rule had been called. The batted ball was not obviously a fly or a line drive which left judgement to the umpire. Umpire Terry Peacock pointed to the ball, but gave not verbal confirmation of the ruling which left the runners scrambling on the basepaths. Both Red Sox ended up in run-downs which resulted in one of the slopiest triple plays turned in many years.

Port Dover would gain the lead in the third on a hit by pitch and error. Tillsonburg gained the upper hand a half inning later when teenage phenom Oden Oatway and Fish Verschueren scored on a Three Finger Morris bounce out and a Vitias hit, respectively. Vitias' long single tattooed the 291' sign in right field on the fly, narrowly missing a home run.

The Clippers changed arms to start the fifth, and their new hurler Anrey was wild from the start, issuing three free passes in the inning. Two Dover errors and a Jeff Prouse sacrifice fly was good enough for three 'Burg tallies. Prouse took to the hill in the final two innings, racking up five strikeouts to put the hometown in the winner's column.

One quirk of the game was two sets of players with overlapping jersey numbers as the call ups grabbed their temporary uniforms from the extras box and whatever fit they wore.

Tillsonburg plays Friday May 29 at home with first pitch flying at 7:30.

Port Dover.....021 020 0 – 5 2 3  
Tillsonburg.....202 030 X – 7 10 3

TILLSONBURG	AB	R	H	PO	A	E
RACHAR, SS	3	2	2	0	2	0
KING, P, 3B, LF	3	1	1	1	0	0
VERSCHUEREN, RF, P	3	0	0	0	0	0
MORRIS, 1B	3	0	1	7	0	0
VERHOEVE, LF, P	3	0	1	1	0	0
PROUSE, CF	2	0	0	1	0	0
VITIAS, C	2	0	0	11	0	0
SEITZ, 2B	3	0	0	0	2	0
MINERS, EH, P	1	0	0	0	0	0
APPLEFORD, 3B	1	1	0	0	3	0
<b>TOTALS</b>	<b>27</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>5</b>	<b>21</b>	<b>7</b>	<b>0</b>

**Summary:** ER, Port Dover 2, Tillsonburg 5; LOB, Port Dover 7, Tillsonburg 9; 2B, Verschueren; RBI, Mitchell, Benko, Verschueren, Morris (2), Vitias, Prouse; W, Thiessen; L, Anrey; BB, Anrey (5), Vitias (4), Thiessen (1); K, Wilson (2), Anrey (1), Vitias (5), Thiessen (1), Prouse (5); Time, 2:04

# Fisheries Canada hopes to bring endangered minnow back to Big Otter

CASANDRA TURNBULL

Post Contributor

An ambitious effort by the federal government is hoping to return an endangered fish species to the Big Otter Creek.

The Eastern Sand Darter, a small member of the perch family, survives in only nine river and lake areas across Ontario, making its presence in the Grand River especially significant. Unlike many fish species, the Eastern Sand Darter requires clean, expansive sandbars free of excess silt and contamination. Researchers say the stretch of river between Brantford and Cayuga offers exactly the type of habitat the fish needs to thrive, and Big Otter Creeks, near Tillsonburg, is one of the introduction sites.

From May 4 to 14, researchers with Fisheries and Oceans Canada (DFO) returned to Brantford to collect data and continue a unique conservation initiative on this threatened species at risk that quietly inhabits portions of the Grand River.

"The Eastern Sand Darter population in the Grand River is believed to be one of the largest populations in Canada," said Andrew Drake, PhD research scientist with DFO's Great Lakes Laboratory for Fisheries and Aquatic Sciences. Estimates place the local adult population between 40,000 and 140,000 fish, with numbers remaining relatively stable over the past decade.

That healthy population has made the Grand River the source for an ambitious species recovery effort.

Over the past two years, DFO has been conducting an experimental reintroduction project

involving the careful capture and relocation of adult Eastern Sand Darters from the Grand River to Big Otter Creek. The species once inhabited Big Otter Creek but disappeared from the watershed in the 1950s after habitat degradation made the area unsuitable.

Researchers believe conditions have improved enough to support the species once again.

The relocation effort is highly controlled. Fish undergo health assessments before being carefully packaged and transported while researchers monitor oxygen and water temperature throughout the journey. After arriving at their destination, the fish are gradually acclimated before being released, said Drake in response to questions emailed to the DFO last week.

He added, last year, DFO transferred 500 adult fish, and researchers were nearing that same target during this year's field work in Brantford.

"Some of the released fish remained in the sandbars where they were released, demonstrating good initial condition and survival," Drake said.

Researchers will continue monitoring those sites in hopes the transplanted fish reproduce and establish a self-sustaining population.

For local conservation organizations like the Brant Land Trust, the work underscores the importance of protecting not just a species, but the broader ecosystem that supports it.

"The Grand River is a feature which has to have the highest level of protection since it feeds our communities," said Lou Knechtel of



(SUBMITTED PHOTO)

**Robin Gáspárdy, Aquatic Science Technician with Fisheries and Oceans Canada, displays an Eastern Sand Darter during field work in the Grand River. Researchers spent May 4 to 14 collecting data and relocating the threatened species as part of an ongoing recovery effort aimed at establishing a new self-sustaining population in Big Otter Creek, near Tillsonburg.**

Brant Land Trust. "When you speak with DFO, you can tell just how passionate they are about our area and the health of the Species at Risk fish that thrive here."

The Brant Land Trust works to protect and restore ecosystems and biodiversity across Brantford and Brant County within Canada's Carolinian region, an area known for supporting more rare and threatened species than anywhere else in the country.

Knechtel said the organization has increasingly focused on public education surrounding

watershed health and aquatic environments through speaker series and partnerships with environmental experts.

For DFO scientists, protecting the Eastern Sand Darter goes beyond saving one species.

"Species like Eastern Sand Darter are an important part of Ontario's native biodiversity and provide numerous ecosystem benefits," Drake said. "Protecting Eastern Sand Darter habitat through effective watershed protections is the most effective way to ensure that this species remains in Canada for generations to come."

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(STUART BLOWER PHOTOS)



The intense competition can be seen on the faces of the Coyle's and ReMax U-8 girls soccer team during a game last week.



Players with Domino's Pizza and Bossy Nagy Group met in U-8 girls' Tillsonburg Minor Soccer Club action.



Flooring Canada and Avondale United Church teams played Thursday after getting rained out on their Tuesday practice.



A Copper Mug U-10 girls player stops a Catholic Women's League player from stealing the ball during a game last Thursday.



In U-15 play last week, A U-15 E and E McLaughlin Ltd. player attempts to work the ball past a Lightweight Gym challenger.



In recent Tillsonburg Football Club play, the WD Accounting U-16 girls played London Dinamo FC in a close game that ended in a 1-1 draw.

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(JEFF HELSDON PHOTO)

### JEEP GO TOPLESS DAY

The annual Jeep Topless Day Run started at the Norfolk Mall on May 16. This is a world-wide event by Jeep owners. Locally, the Cross Country Jeepers and 4 x 4 organized the event, which included a drive and a barbecue at Upper Deck. The event also raised \$400 through registration, the barbecue and a raffle, which was donated to the Helping Hand Food Bank. When this event couldn't be held during Covid, Jeep owners started the tradition of ducking their Jeeps. Local organizer Michelle Babcock is seen here with a duck that will be added to her dashboard.

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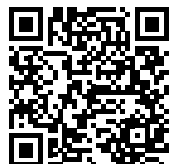
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# LADIES NIGHT OUT



(JEFF HELSDON PHOTO)



(ROBIN KRAFFT PHOTO)



(ROBIN KRAFFT PHOTO)

## ROCK ON!

The 1980s was the theme and the music for the night as attendees to the Tillsonburg Kinettes Ladies Night Out danced the night away. From the Locomotion, Madonna and Michael Jackson to Guns 'N Roses and AC/DC, attendees grooved to 1980s tunes while raising money for local charities.

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# Music and more on Cape Breton's Ceilidh Trail



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

PAUL KNOWLES

*Tillsonburg Post Columnist*

Almost everyone has heard of the Cabot Trail. That's not surprising – Nova Scotia's Cabot Trail is one of the most breath-taking drives you can take in Canada, or anywhere in the world, for that matter.

Fewer, perhaps, know of the other Cape Breton Island "Trail" that connects with the Cabot Trail. Known as the "Ceilidh Trail", it begins at the Canso Causeway – the entry point to Cape Breton Island. The Ceilidh Trail then follows the western coast of the island for 107 kilometers, to Margaree Harbour, where it connects with the Cabot Trail.

As you may know, "ceilidh", pronounced kay-lee, is a Gaelic word that original meant "a visit". Today, it has come to include the idea of an informal gathering with music, dance, story-telling... and, very probably, beverages. There are ceilidhs all over Canada's four eastern provinces, some simply kitchen parties, others ticketed events in rented halls. Every one of them is fun.

And there is no lack of east coast music on Cape Breton Island. This, after all, is the home of Ashley MacIsaac, Natalie MacMaster, The Rankin Family, the Barra MacNeils, John Allan Cameron, J.P. Cormier, and the late and dearly missed Rita MacNeil. So it's not surprising that the powers that be have dubbed this route "The Ceilidh Trail."

And you're not far along the trail, coming from the south, before you encounter

physical evidence of the importance of music in this region. The Celtic Music Interpretive Centre is on the route, only 29 kilometers from the Canso Parkway. It's in Judique... not to be confused with the other small communities in the immediate area named Judique South, Rear Judique South, Rear Judique Chapel, Judique North, Judique Intervale, Little Judique, and Little Judique Ponds. No, I am not making this up. I think it is charming, if a tad confusing.

The Celtic Music Interpretive Centre offers three distinct opportunities to visitors. You can dine in the restaurant. You can take in a concert of Celtic music (played on a stage in the dining room, so you'll probably want to eat and listen). And, you can visit the museum section of the Centre.

The museum has a lot of information about Cape Breton musical history. And if my experience is anything to go by, it's best to carry earplugs, because visitors have the chance to try their hands at playing a violin – with a video introduction to the art of the instrument. Trust me, the lesson didn't help. I was screech-worthy terrible.

The only problem with having lunch at the Interpretive Centre is that you will also want to have lunch at the Red Shoe Pub in Mabou, only 30 km north. This is a special place – the restaurant features live music, seven days a week, and that's not surprising because it's owned by Heather, Cookie and Raylene Rankin of the famed Rankin Family.

In truth, there is music almost everywhere in this part of Nova Scotia. We stayed at the Glenora Inn (arranged very kindly by our hosts at Tourism Nova Scotia), which is in this district as well (I wrote about it in a previous feature). At the Inn, there was a wonderful duo playing Celtic music in the dining room in the evening. And in true spirit of the ceilidh, they called up a young man from the au-



(PAUL KNOWLES PHOTO)

**The Celtic Music Interpretive Centre is a must-stop on your tour of the Ceilidh Trail.**

dience, a pianist friend of theirs, to join them for several songs.

There are plenty of arts and crafts stops along the trail, as well. In one shop, a woman was proudly declaring herself to be a hooker, as she produced hooked rugs, pot holders, and other items for sale in the shop. I asked about her work, and she stopped for a moment to give me a very thoughtful, well-spoken answer.

I realized a few minutes later the reason for her articulate response, when she gave the same spiel, word for word, to another shopper.

I admit that everything I have mentioned so far takes place indoors, which is rather ridiculous when you are talking about travel in Cape Breton Island. Inevitably, the star of the show will be the seacoast, and the innumerable panoramas that inspire you to pull off the road and savor the scenery.

One perfect stop is at Inverness, where you can walk the beautiful beach, or stroll on the trail that runs along the very presti-

gious Cabot Links Golf Course. A note of caution: playing 18 on this lovely course will cost you between \$400 and \$600. But walking the trail, enjoying the view... and not worrying about a missed putt ... is free.

There are many places to stay along the Ceilidh Trail, and it would appear that none of them are big, typical, cookie-cutter hotels. Here the options range from beach-front villas to geodomes to distilleries to country inns to RV sites. For more information about accommodation, see <https://capebretonisland.com/ceilidh-trail/>.

Of course, if you are visiting Cape Breton Island, you will want to travel the Cabot Trail. But leave a few days for its little sister, the lovely Ceilidh Trail.

*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](mailto:pknowles@golden.net).*



Live music at the Celtic Museum Interpretive Centre.

(PAUL KNOWLES PHOTO)



A mural at the Centre depicts a typical ceilidh.

(PAUL KNOWLES PHOTO)

# Students explore health care through community partnership



(CONTRIBUTED PHOTO)

Glendale High School students in the Exploring Healthcare program were given the opportunity to see first hand some of the equipment in Tillsonburg District Memorial Hospital, including the CT scanner.

## HOSPITAL HAPPENINGS

LISA DAHM

Executive Assistant,  
Rural Roads Health Services

Since 2024, Tillsonburg District Memorial Hospital (TDMH) (of Rural Roads Health Services) and Glendale High School have been partnered to offer high school students an exploratory experience in healthcare.

Glendale has been offering a new course called Exploring Healthcare, which introduces students to personal health promotion, a variety of medical services, treatments, and technologies. Students also explore secondary and post-secondary pathways that lead to careers in healthcare. The course is offered to Grade 10 and 11 students each semester.

At the start of this new program, TDMH received a simple request from Glendale to provide outdated medical equipment and supplies to support their new healthcare-based class. After a meeting between Kait Buchner, the high school instructor, and April Mullen, Chief Nursing Executive/Vice President Clinical Services at the hospital, the team was able to expand the partnership, including hands-on learning experiences for students.

“The future of healthcare begins with the students we inspire today,” says Mullen. “Encouraging students to explore a career in nursing, medicine, and other health disciplines is an investment in our healthcare system and helps build stronger communities. The hospital is pleased to partner in providing this valuable opportunity for students (to explore careers in healthcare).”

During each school year since the partnership began, the class is visited each month by a different guest speaker from the hospital, representing areas including nursing, diagnostic imaging, laboratory services, pharmacy, occupational therapy, physiotherapy, physician services, and human resources. These speakers share insights into their roles and responsibilities, required post-secondary education, training and certifications, key skills and work habits needed for success, and the rewards and challenges of working in healthcare.

Following the classroom presentations, students participate in onsite hospital tours. In facilitated groups of five to six, approximately 20 students tour departments including diagnostics, laboratory, pharmacy, rehabilitation, the emergency department, and inpatient units to experience where a career in healthcare might lead them.

“I liked seeing all the places and different jobs and how

it all connects together to form a team that ultimately helps people. It was very organized and clean,” said Teagan Trahearn, a student in the program.

This partnership has exceeded Glendale High School’s expectations, and student feedback has been overwhelmingly positive.

“I am incredibly grateful for our partnership with Tillsonburg Hospital and the meaningful opportunities they provide to our healthcare students at Glendale High School. These experiential learning experiences are invaluable and have allowed our students to explore a wide range of careers within the healthcare field and actually see what these professionals do on a day-to-day basis. We are fortunate to be part of such a supportive community,” says Buchner of the program.

Several students have shared that the course and hospital experiences have inspired them to pursue careers in healthcare. “I really enjoyed how we got to get a glimpse into different career options and what their typical days look like. I thought the ultrasound department was super interesting and cool to learn about, but honestly it was all a great experience,” said student, Carly Valcke.

Both Glendale and TDMH are happy to be inspiring the next generation of potential health care workers in our community.

# ROLLING MEADOWS



# GRAND OPENING

You're invited to celebrate with us!

Saturday, June 6th

12pm to 4pm

2 Finch Street, Tillsonburg.


Light refreshments

& prize draw.

**HAYHOE™**  
— HOMES —

# COMING EVENTS

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**EXPECT MORE.**

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### JUNE 27 | 8 AM - 12 PM IGA-LOEB-VALU-MART 25TH REUNION

Tillsonburg Legion, 16 Durham Street, Tillsonburg  
A celebration of 25 years since the closing. All OLD/NEW former employees are welcome. Tickets available at Chrissy's Corner store or contact Nancy at nshelton8@aol.com. Tickets are \$20 each, also available at the door. Advance ticket sales would be appreciated. Have pictures or memorabilia (uniforms)? Please bring them with you. Hope to see you there. Many stories to tell.

## MAY

### MAY 30 | 9 AM - 12 PM BAKE, PLANTS, PURSES, JEWELLERY, AND ACCESSORIES EVENT

St John's Anglican Church, 46 Ridout ST W

### MAY 29 | 4 - 8 PM MAY 30 | 8 AM - 1 PM HUGE INDOOR YARD SALE - 2 DAYS THIS YEAR!

St Pauls United Church 88 Bidwell St., Tillsonburg

Something for everyone..toys, tools, antiques, plants, clothes, household & more! BONUS - Saturday BAKE SALE and hotdogs.

## JUNE

### JUNE 6 | 10 AM - NOON MESSY CHURCH: EASY PEASEY St.Paul's United Church 88 Bidwell St.Tillsonburg

Crafts,games,snacks,music a story and lunch  
Children should be accompanied by an adult

### JUNE 6 | 9 AM - 5 PM CELEBRATING COMMUNITY AT EDISONFEST

Vienna Memorial Park, 6226 Plank Rd., Vienna

Local Vendors, Bouncy Castles, Food Trucks, Blacksmith demonstrations, and featuring World Champion Arm Wrestler Mike Gould! Registration begins at 10 am for the arm wrestling competition! Email: bayhamhistoricalsociety@hotmail.com for further information!

### JUNE 6 | 11 AM - 2 PM BBQ FOR DASO (WOMAN'S SHELTER) Home Hardware parking lot

Cowards, Home Hardware, and the Tillsonburg Lions Club are hosting a fund-raising BBQ for DASO. Cheeseburgs(\$6), Hamburgs(\$5), Hot Dogs(\$4) and Cold Drinks(\$1) will be offer with all proceeds going to the shelter. Come join us, bring friends and support this worthy cause.

### JUNE 6 | 9 AM - 1 PM TASTE OF SUMMER Memorial Park, 46 Sanders St, Tillsonburg, ON

Presented by: 3E. Food trucks, vendor village, children's shows & activities! Entrance by donation to the TDMH Foundation.

### JUNE 6 | 1 - 3 PM ROYAL CANADIAN LEGION 100TH ANNIVERSARY OPEN HOUSE Tillsonburg Legion, 16 Durham Street, Tillsonburg

Come on down to the Legion from 1pm-3pm to browse our memorabilia, artifacts, sports areas, and so much more we offer. Celebrate our 100th with cake and coffee! All Welcome!

### JUNE 6 | 1 - 3 PM DISCO DANCE Tillsonburg Legion, 16 Durham Street, Tillsonburg

Featuring live band The Groove from London Ontario on Saturday June 6 at 8 pm. Tickets \$15 or \$20 at the door available at the Legion. This is a 19+ event. For more info call 519-842-5281.

### JUNE 10 | 10 AM - 3 PM THE BROWNSVILLE ANNUAL SCHOOL REUNION Brownsville Community Centre

There will be a Potluck lunch, so please bring your favourite dish. All former students and spouses are welcome to attend. If you have any Historical information or pictures please bring them with you. If you have any questions please contact Patty Meertens at pmeertens@gmail.com.

### JUNE 13 | 8 AM - 1 PM GIANT YARD SALE, BAKE SALE AND BBQ TENT Springford Baptist Church, 422 Main St West, Springford Ont

Featuring Sausage on a Bun, Hot Dogs, Potato chips, Pop. Also on site will be Girl Guide Cookies for sale and free popcorn. Fill a Bag for \$5 (we supply the bags) and stuff it full with items from the Yard Sale. Larger items will be priced singly. There will be no clothes or furniture at this event. Lots of parking on the street. Lots of homemade baking at the Bake Table. Stop by for all the deals and join us for a midmorning snack or lunch at the BBQ tent.

### JUNE 20 | 10 AM - 10 PM PLATTSVILLE'S 175 ANNIVERSARY CELEBRATION Plattsville Park and Arena

10 am Firefighter Breakfast, Heritage Displays 10-4, Portraits of Honour, 12 noon Parade, 1pm Opening Ceremony, 1-4 Car & Tractor Show, 2 thru 10 pm Live Music & Entertainment, Kids

Activities, Vendor Market, Lions BBQ and the grand finale, an 18 minute Drone Show at 9:45 pm. Free admission. Fun for all ages. Thanks to our Platinum Sponsors - Canadian Heritage and North Blenheim Mutual Insurance celebrating 165 years. [www.plattsvilleheritagesociety.com](http://www.plattsvilleheritagesociety.com)

## JULY

### JULY 17 & 18 BRANTFORD UKULELE FESTIVAL

Tickets for the 2026 Brantford Ukulele Festival, set for July 17th and 18th are going fast! Register before April 17th to get in on the Early Bird special. Get details on performers, workshops and more at [brantfordukulelesociety.org](http://brantfordukulelesociety.org).

### JULY 19 | 2 PM DECORATION DAY FOR FORESTVILLE CEMETERIES Hillcrest Cemetery, 638 Charlotteville Road 1, Forestville

Rain or shine. Bring your lawn chair, a friend, and umbrella. Music will be provided by "Blue Chicory". Everyone welcome!

## ONGOING CLASSES, CLUBS & ORGANIZATIONS

### 3<sup>RD</sup> TUE. OF MONTH | 6:30 - 8:30 PM CAREGIVER CONNECTION Revel Realty Woodstock, 111 Huron Street (Virtual/hybrid 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](http://family.cmho.org) or email [oxfordcounty@pcmh.ca](mailto: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.

### 2<sup>ND</sup> TUES. OF MONTH (SEPT. TO MAY) | 2 - 4 PM 4<sup>TH</sup> 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 [dhfe@silomail.com](mailto:dhfe@silomail.com). Website: <http://www.rpsc.org/chapters/oxford>

### 3<sup>RD</sup> 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](http://lynnriverprobus239.com) or email [lynnriverprobus239@gmail.com](mailto:lynnriverprobus239@gmail.com)

### TUESDAYS & THURSDAYS | 7 - 9 PM SATURDAYS | 10 AM - 12 PM LEARN BRAZILIAN JIU-JITSU (BJJ) North Broadway Baptist Church

Thanks to donor support, we've been able to purchase mats and uniforms, and our instructors generously volunteer their time. This isn't a business—any donations go straight back into the program to help buy more uniforms, mats, and equipment. If it's within your means, a \$20 monthly donation helps support the program, but if not, classes are completely free. **Classes are open to anyone 14 and older.** If you'd like to try a class, please arrive about 15 minutes early to sign waivers and get fitted for a uniform. Information can be found at: <https://www.northbroadwaychurch.ca/nbmfa>, <https://www.facebook.com/northbroadwaymfa>, <https://www.instagram.com/northbroadwaymfa/> Inquires can be made at: [nbmfa@northbroadwaychurch.ca](mailto:nbmfa@northbroadwaychurch.ca)

# COMING EVENTS

**EVERY OTHER FRIDAY | 1 - 4 PM**

## **SPRING INTO 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! May 1, 15 & 29, June 5 & 19.

**FRIDAYS | 1 PM**

## **INTERESTED IN BRIDGE?**

### **JOIN US AT THE TILLSONBURG DUPLICATE BRIDGE CLUB**

**Tillsonburg Senior Centre - 45 Hardy Ave, Tillsonburg**

Don't have a partner? Come anyway and we will match you up with someone. For more information, visit their Facebook page: TburgBridge.

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

## **PLATTSVILLE & DISTRICT HERITAGE SOCIETY**

### **2026 EXHIBIT - HOLIDAYS & CELEBRATIONS THAT BRING US TOGETHER**

**Archive & Museum at Chesterfield, 816661 Oxford Rd 22, Bright (June 20 - visit us at Plattsville 175)**

Donations accepted. Refreshments. For private viewing email [plattsvilledistrictheritage@gmail.com](mailto: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](http://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](http://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](mailto:oxford.griefsupport@von.ca)

Phone: 1-888-866-7518

All Programs are Free-of-charge.

# CLASSIFIEDS

## TREES

For Sale: Shade Trees; Maples, Oaks, Birch, Beech, Honey Locusts, Elms, Magnolia, Hydrangea Tree, Tulip Tree, Crab apples, Ivory Silk Lilac, Chanticleer Pear, Golden Weeping Willows and more. Apples, Pears, Peaches, Plums, Apricots, Nectarine, Blueberry, Haskap etc. Lots of healthy strong Spruce, Cedars and White Pine for your privacy hedges and windbreaks. Hundred of flowering shrubs.

Reg Hours 7am- 6pm Mon-Sat at Martins Nursery c/o Emanuel Martin. 42661 Orangehill Rd., Wroxeter, ON

## OBITUARY

# DANIEL RENE ST GELAIS

(DECEMBER 28, 1966 - MAY 22, 2026)



“Always surrounded by love” Daniel “Dan” Rene St Gelais suddenly welcomed into God’s Presence on Friday, May 22nd, 2026, at the Tillsonburg District Memorial Hospital at the age of 59 years. Born in Tillsonburg, Dan was predeceased by his parents Real “Ray” St Gelais and Betty Marie (Murray) St Gelais. Much loved husband of 37 wonderful years to Lisa (Winkworth) St Gelais, of Tillsonburg. Proud and loving father and father-in-law of: Matthew (Tina), of Aylmer; Alicia (Rob) and Danielle (Nicholas), all of London. Proud grandfather of Tyler and Criss. Dear Brother of Murray St Gelais, of Tillsonburg, Bonnie (Bill Culver) of Simcoe and Betty Jo (Pete Klassen) of Tillsonburg and several nieces, nephews and cousins. Survived by a Special Father-in-law and close friend Ernest Winkworth of Tillsonburg and late Sharon (Hurst) Winkworth (January 1, 2019). Dan will also be missed by several friends throughout the area.

Dan was a good person who was well-liked by many friends. He treasured his wife Lisa and their family. Dan collected thousands of cans for the generous assistance of Tillsonburg Shrine Club to ultimately benefit the Shriners Children’s Hospital. Dan loved the outdoors especially campfires, camping, boating and RVing with friends and family.

The St Gelais family will receive friends and relatives at the Maurice J. Verhoeve Funeral Homes – Burial and Cremation Services Inc., 262 Broadway Street, Tillsonburg on Friday, May 29th, 2026, from 1:00 to 2:00 p.m. A Complete Memorial Service to Honour Dan’s Life follows in the Verhoeve Funeral Home Chapel on Friday, at 2:00 p.m., by Pastor Dave Heinrichs of First Baptist Church, Tillsonburg, officiating. Later inurnment will take place in the Straffordville Cemetery. Everyone who knew Dan can share favourite memories, photos, personal condolences, order flowers online or contribute memorial donations to the “Tillsonburg Shriners” or to the “Shriners Children’s Hospital”, via Dan’s online tribute page at [www.verhoevefuneralhomes.com](http://www.verhoevefuneralhomes.com) or by contacting the Maurice J. Verhoeve Funeral Homes-Burial and Cremation Services Inc. (519) 842-4238, entrusted with all arrangements, with confidence.

## OBITUARY

# EDWARD B. SHELLY



With heavy hearts our family announces the unexpected passing of Edward Shelly at his home on Friday May 22, 2026. He is survived by his beloved wife of 64 years Carol Shelly (nee Prong). Proud Dad of Allen, David, and Jason (Monica). Loved Papa of Elena (Brent), Robert, Katie (David), Thomas (Robert), Daniel, Aissa, Sadie, Hailey (Trent),

and great grandfather of Jack. Remembered by his siblings Marie Matthews, John (Lynda), and Fred (Polly), sister-in-law Catherine Prong, and his many nieces and nephews. Ted was predeceased by his parents Sidney and Kathleen, brothers and their spouses Brian (Pauline), and Derek (Butch), and brother-in-law Ken Matthews.

Edward Shelly was a member of the Royal Canadian Army Service Corp., and a proud Veteran. He was a long-time member of the Royal Canadian Legion Branch 524 serving as President, Service Officer, Sergeant at Arms, a helper delivering Christmas packages at Parkwood Veteran’s Hospital, as well as his involvement with youth education at local schools. Ted had a long career as a truck driver with his company Otter Valley Trucking, and through the years he served his community as Deputy Chief of the Port Burwell Fire Department, a Village Councillor, Scout leader, baseball and hockey Coach. He loved chatting, and helping his neighbours. In retirement, Ted enjoyed camping with the Trailer Club.

Cremation has taken place. Please join us for a Celebration of Ted’s Life on Saturday June 13, 2026, from 1 to 4 p.m., at the Royal Canadian Legion Branch 524, 40 Wellington St., Port Burwell, Ontario. Memorial donations to the Royal Canadian Legion Branch 524 Port Burwell are appreciated. Wareing Cremation Services, 161 Broadway St., Tillsonburg, Ontario has been entrusted with Final Arrangements. Your messages of remembrance and condolence may be shared at [www.wareingcremation.ca](http://www.wareingcremation.ca)

# PUT YOUR MONEY WHERE YOUR HOUSE IS

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# RIDDLES

The more of me that you take, the more of me you will leave behind. What am I?

*Footsteps*

I honk without a horn. What am I?

*A goose*

I am the beginning of everything, the end of everywhere. I'm the beginning of eternity, the end of time & space. What am I?

*The letter E*

Two men jumped into the swimming pool but only one came out with wet hair. Why?

*Because one of them was bald*

What type of room has no doors?

*A mushroom*

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

*A plate*

What has a bottom at the top?

*Legs*

If I have it, I don't share it. If I share it, I don't have it. What is it?

*A secret*

A cowboy rides into town on Monday. Two days later, he rides out again on Monday. How is that possible?

*His horse was named Monday*

What loses its head in the day but gets it back at night?

*A pillow*

What type of lion never roars?

*A dandelion*

A dog crossed a river but it didn't get wet. How was that possible?

*The river was frozen*

I can run but cannot walk. What am I?

*Water*

# SUDOKU

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		2			5	8	7	

Solutions on Page 27

Level: Beginner

# PET OF THE WEEK



**CASPER**

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**Family  
Pet Centre**

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Tillsonburg, ON  
N4G 4W4**

**519-688-2672**

**HOURS:**

**Sun: 11 a.m. - 5 p.m.  
Mon - Fri: 9 a.m. - 8 p.m.  
Sat: 9 a.m. - 6 p.m.**

Nominate your pet to be Pet of the Week by emailing [info@tillsonburgpost.com](mailto:info@tillsonburgpost.com)

# WORD SEARCH

## DAY AT THE PARK

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

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## QUIZ ANSWERS

1. United States and Canada
2. Woodstock
3. Harper Lee
4. Saturn
5. El Salvador
6. Green Card
7. 2001
8. Alphabet Inc. (Google)
9. Sean Connery
10. American Israel Public Affairs Committee

## SUDOKU

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

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 Funeral Director



**5 Reasons To Choose A Traditional Funeral**

The primary goal of a funeral - whatever form it takes - is to give a departed loved one a befitting sendoff, traditional funerals remain an excellent way to achieve that goal.

**Here are the benefits of having a traditional funeral.**

**1. Gives opportunities for family members to say their final farewell**

The wake, the funeral service, and the burial are all part of a traditional funeral package. Together, they provide plenty of chances for family members to say their goodbyes in their own way.

Some family members or friends may not have been able to say goodbye before the person died, which can make it difficult for them to move on. Each funeral rite offers the opportunity to come to terms with the loss.

**2. It helps celebrate the deceased's life**

Traditional funerals are formal, structured events, but they still contain ample ways for loved ones to celebrate the deceased. Every element of a traditional funeral, such as the casket, religious readings, and eulogies offer elaborate and creative ways for a family to celebrate their loved ones life and memory.

**3. It allows people to express their grief in a healthy way**

Some people may be afraid of showing how they really feel about the death of a loved one because they are afraid that it will make them look weak or make other people uncomfortable around them. But having a traditional funeral can help them express their grief in a healthy way and let other people know that they are not alone in pain over the loss.

**4. Family members can be with each other during a difficult time**

Some family members may feel lonely after losing someone close to them. A traditional funeral preplanning can help them get through the loss by being with each other, allowing them to go through this period of sadness together.

Other types of funerals have their advantages, but there's usually only one service. Family members, who need to travel, may not get enough time to soak in the love and support before everyone goes their separate ways again.

On the other hand, a traditional funeral has several services and offers plenty of moments for loved ones to connect.

**5. Provides a structured activity during a disorienting time**

When a family member dies, it can be difficult for other family members to know what to do. They may feel like they are in a fog and not know how to handle their emotions.

A traditional funeral provides a structured activity that allows them to focus on something other than their grief. It also gives them time to process the death and begin their healing journey.

**A traditional funeral can be followed by cremation.**

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Hector Verhoeve  
 (1938 -2015)