

Woodstock Ingersoll Echo

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Homelessness Centre presentation, report and councillor motion dominate Oxford County Council meeting

LEE GRIFFI

Editor

Woodstock City/County Coun. Deb Tait was hoping to convince Oxford County council to take a second look at its plans for a Homelessness Support Centre at the former YMCA on Dundas Street in Woodstock.

Tait introduced a lengthy motion at the Sept. 23 county council meeting calling for the proposed centre to be put on hold while alternative uses for the site are considered, including transitional housing, following the emergence of the city's HART Hub.

She also asked council to consider finding a new location for a shelter, arguing that money allocated to the project does not have to be spent for another 18 months.

"Only the basement (at the YMCA) is being used. There is still time to find another location, be it an existing smaller building or a build-to-suit. We can still have it done in 18 months."

Tait acknowledged that Woodstock will always need a 24/7 shelter, but said the county is spending \$5 million on the building, with millions more required for renovations before the facility is equipped, staffed and operating.

CONTINUED TO PAGE 3



(RON YUZARK PHOTO)

BATMAN VISITS FRIENDLY CITY

Batman's arrival drew excited crowds on Sept. 13 as children and parents lined up for a chance to meet the iconic hero. Batman visited The Cheesy Cow for lunch and later went to Crafty Corner Tea Room for a cozy afternoon tea.

Oxford County Council approves Woodstock's request for enhanced downtown garbage collection

LEE GRIFFI

Editor

There was no shortage of confusion and controversy at the Sept. 9 Oxford County Council meeting where the City of Woodstock asked the county to reinstate twice-weekly garbage collection in the core until the end of the year.

After a lengthy debate, council voted in favour of a motion to bring twice-weekly pickup back to the downtown. Ingersoll Mayor Brian Petrie was the only member of council to vote against it.

Woodstock Mayor Jerry Acchione's original motion to increase service was questioned by South-West Oxford Mayor David Mayberry, who raised a point of order because Oxford County is currently in what is known as a lame-duck period.

"I am guessing to reinstate from, say, October to December is more than \$50,000, it's not in the budget, and I would suggest...we can't proceed with this. That is no comment on whether it's necessary or not, we have to follow the rules of the game."

CONTINUED TO PAGE 2



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Warden scolds council over perceived lack of preparation

CONTINUED FROM FRONT

Under provincial law, a lame-duck council can be restricted from appointing or removing municipal officers, hiring or dismissing employees, selling property worth more than \$50,000, or making expenditures or incurring liabilities over \$50,000, subject to certain exceptions.

As part of an amended motion which passed, the county will not be permitted to spend more than \$30,000 on the increased service level.

Acchione said since the city moved to a six-day collection system, the downtown has experienced a noticeable increase in illegal dumping and waste accumulation.

"The downtown core's unique needs, compared to residential neighbourhoods, with commercial and mixed-use properties, generate higher waste volumes and require more frequent collection without the space to store the...buildup of waste."

He added downtown garbage pickup has been reduced from just over 100 down to 44 per year.

"By comparison, the rest of the city saw a reduction of only eight opportunities...I would ask we reinstate this for the rest of 2026 until we have the waste agreement figured out between the municipalities."

Deb Tait, who seconded Acchione's motion, said the problem is having a detrimental effect on the downtown.

"I fully support this and hope my fellow councillors would understand what's going on and the problem we are having, and I'd like a recorded vote."

Oxford County is in charge of garbage collection across Oxford, and the county and City of Woodstock are currently negotiating a new deal for 2027 and beyond.

Warden Marcus Ryan questioned what budget line the \$30,000 would come from. CAO Ben Addley said council could direct staff where to find the money, or it would show up as a budget overage on the books.

"Which eventually is offset by any savings in other departments and/or contributions to future reserves," explained Addley.

Ingersoll Mayor Brian Petrie said he supports a better service level in downtown Woodstock but couldn't support the motion.

"I think there's an issue there. I think it probably should have been done when we discussed the original contract, but that's not the case... We are three months away from (budget planning), and this has a time stamp on it until the end of the year."

He added he is hopeful Woodstock and Oxford County will be able to negotiate a new contract to provide certainty in the level of service.

Coun. Bernia Martin said the two days of collection is what downtown Woodstock has been used to for many years and she was fully supportive of an interim measure.

"I am a little concerned the entire Oxford County is paying for a solution in one downtown. Until we implement a six-day cycle

DOWNTOWN WOODSTOCK GARBAGE AND GREEN BIN COLLECTION CHANGES START OCTOBER 6

Residents and businesses in the downtown corridor will receive twice-weekly pick-up on Tuesdays and Fridays.

across all of our communities, we may see a reaction like this in Tillsonburg, we may see Ingersoll, we may see it in Thamesford."

She added a long-term solution is what she hopes comes out of the contract talks between the two sides.

Only two of Oxford County's eight municipalities are on the six-day garbage collection system: Woodstock and South-West Oxford. The remaining six are scheduled to move to a six-day cycle in May 2027, when the new green-bin organics program begins in those municipalities.

Before the motion passed, Ryan expressed his displeasure at the deliberations before calling for a lunch break.

"Honestly, we all need to do better than this, okay. This is not good enough. This is a service level that our residents depend on every week, and this is a lot of money we are talking about, whether it's \$30,000 or whatever. I am embarrassed to think what residents of Oxford County are going to think when they watch this meeting about how unprepared we all are to have this debate."

He added that there was not enough information available, and that not all council members had received the same information.

"Nobody knows what the cost is. We're not doing good enough here. I think lunch is here, and I suggest that we take a break, and we all sort of think about the quality of work we're bringing into this chamber on behalf of the residents who sent us here and get our...in a pile and figure out what we're doing."

Ryan said he could not conduct an effective, efficient council meeting with the information provided.

"We had two perfectly justifiable points of order raised already because of the way this has been presented to council."

Businesses and residents in downtown Woodstock will get garbage and green bin organics collection twice each week starting Oct. 6. The change applies only to the Dundas Street corridor and laneways between Vansittart Avenue and Wilson Street.

Collection will take place every Tuesday and Friday morning, except on statutory holidays when alternate pick-up dates will be added. Details on the new downtown collection zone, Zone 5a, are being hand-delivered to addresses in the core this week and can be downloaded at www.oxfordcounty.ca/wasteline or www.cityofwoodstock.ca/living-in-woodstock/garbage-and-recycling/garbage.

There are no changes to blue box recycling for business, collected once a week on Tuesday, or residential recycling, which is collected every six business days under the regular Zone 5 schedule.

The new collection schedule is an interim change in effect until Dec. 31, until a permanent schedule and budget funding is confirmed by Oxford County and City of Woodstock Councils.

Coun. Tait motion defeated as YMCA neighbourhood group reveals list of asks

CONTINUED FROM FRONT

She said only one person who completed rehabilitation through the temporary HART Hub on Huron Street has not subsequently returned to drug use, while Woodstock Hospital has only two available beds.

"The people coming out who have asked for help have nowhere to go, so they're back to homelessness and addiction."

Coun. Jerry Acchione said he could not support Tait's motion, largely because people experiencing homelessness on Woodstock's streets need help now.

"There is no perfect location. This 24/7 wellness centre can bring shelter and community partners together in one place. That means consistent support, stronger connections to care and a clear path towards housing."

Acchione said he understands the concerns about a lack of transitional housing but said that should not be a reason to pause the centre because other locations are being discussed for that purpose.

Warden Marcus Ryan said that while he could not support Tait's motion, he agreed there is a need for more transitional housing and other types of housing.

"The fact we need those things doesn't mean we don't need the Homelessness Support Centre and the ability to start transitioning people out of homelessness."

Tait was the only councillor to vote in favour of the motion, which was defeated 9-1.

Neighbours seek greater involvement

A group called the Y Neighbourhood Committee also delegated before council, bringing forward concerns and requests from residents and businesses in the area.

Spokesperson Lee-Ann VanWees said the committee represents concerned neighbours and businesses.

"We have canvassed 150 addresses surrounding 808 Dundas St. for input. We are formally requesting the opportunity to be involved in the project being proposed to address the needs of unhoused individuals, both in the planning process and once it is operational. We are requesting that the County Council mandate a Good Neighbour Agreement and all recommendations

from the Crime Prevention Through Environmental Design that will guarantee the safety and well-being of the community surrounding the property."

The county's Human Services Department also released a Homelessness Support Centre Engagement Feedback Report at the meeting. Department Director Amy Smith presented the 11-page document summarizing community engagement conducted to date.

A motion to receive the report was tabled, but discussion led to a new motion from Acchione and an amendment from Coun. Jim Palmer. The motions were discussed, but no vote was taken.

Ryan criticizes council preparation

For the second consecutive council meeting, Ryan criticized councillors for what he described as a lack of preparation.

"I really strongly encourage you all to really think about what you want to do here and have wording that actually does it. I would also, again, for the second council meeting in a row, encourage you to come prepared to do work. If our staff came as unprepared as we did today, we would rightly be angry at them. Happily, they came better prepared than we did today."

Ryan said that on an issue as serious and important as this one, council needs to get it right. He then called for a lunch break.

When council returned, Acchione withdrew his motion and Palmer withdrew his amendment. Acchione then introduced a new motion to receive the county's engagement report while opening the door to continued input from residents.

"And that the community and neighbourhood committee be consulted and involved throughout the planning process," he read.

Acchione said businesses and residents in the area surrounding the YMCA need to have their voices heard.

Editor's Note: *The Echo will have more coverage of this story on its website in the coming days at <https://www.granthaven.com/woodstock-ingersoll-echo>, including more information on the requests made by the Y Neighbourhood Committee.*



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COMMUNITY RENEWS CALLS: Second Open Letter Urges MPP Ernie Hardeman to Address Centralization Concerns

Dear Mr. Hardeman,

We are writing to publicly follow up on the core community questions raised in our initial open letter from May 2026 and our direct correspondence in early August. Our goal remains to foster an open, constructive dialogue regarding the balance of authority between Queen's Park and our local municipalities.

The core questions we raised in May remain unanswered, yet the urgency surrounding them has only increased as provincial housing and land-use updates continue to roll out. Decisions regarding land-use planning, housing policy, and the scope of conservation authorities impact the very fabric of our community. As

a leader with deep roots in municipal and agricultural governance, you know firsthand that Oxford County's farmland, infrastructure, and local growth cannot be effectively managed by a one-size-fits-all approach from Queen's Park.

While we had hoped to discuss these matters privately, the absence of a response has led us to return to a public forum to ensure this important conversation continues. We respectfully reiterate our request for your perspective on the following:

- **Your position** on the increasing centralization of decision-making authority in Ontario.
- **Your advocacy** on behalf of Oxford's municipalities as these provincial policies develop.
- **The steps** being taken to ensure local voices retain a meaningful role in decisions affecting our region. Oxford residents value practical, accountable lead-

ership. We remain hopeful that you will share your insights with the riding, and we welcome your response to these ongoing community questions.

Sincerely,

**Peter Wright, President,
Ontario Party – Oxford Riding Association**

***Writer's Note:** This letter is a follow-up to a previous open letter published in May 2026, which called on MPP Ernie Hardeman to clarify his stance on provincial policies affecting municipal autonomy. Following a private request for a response sent in early August, the Oxford Riding Association has renewed its public call for dialogue as provincial planning policies continue to impact local agricultural and development frameworks.*

Khanna back in Ottawa as Parliament's fall sitting kicks off

LEE GRIFFI

Editor

The 45th session of Parliament kicked off this week in Ottawa as the House of Commons resumed sitting and the Member of Parliament for Oxford said he's ready to hold the government to account.

Arpan Khanna said he and his fellow MP's spent the last few months meeting with businesses, families, farmers and seniors, hearing their concerns. Now, he'll take those messages to the House of Commons.

"We had called for this to happen a lot sooner so we can get down to the business of the day. Obviously, there is a lot of uncertainty in our country right now with what's happening south of us and talks of expanding trade with the European Union."

He added the Conservative priorities remain saving Canadians money, having safe streets, protecting Canadian jobs and fixing a broken immigration system.

"Also, to bring that Canadian promise back to life where it once was. That's been our mission for the last few months and it will be our message going into the fall session. We look forward to working with all parties to get results for Canadians."

Some media reports continue to portray the Conservative caucus as divided over Pierre Poilievre's leadership, citing unnamed MPs who expressed concerns during the party's recent caucus retreat in British Columbia. Khanna said the party remains united and strong, both locally and across the country.

"We had a rally in Woodstock with about 3,000 people. The only people going against Pierre right now are probably the mainstream media and some of these so-called pundits who commentate. Our team is united, and we had a great retreat in BC where we discussed what we are hearing in our communities. We put forward solutions and strategies on how to fight for Canadians."

Khanna explained that serving as His Majesty's Loyal Opposition is a critical part of how the federal government functions, providing a means of holding the government to account.

"With the lack of transparency coming from Mark Carney and the Liberals, whether it's trade talks, the Gordie Howe Bridge, or talks about the European Union relationship, he can't treat this like a CEO in a boardroom. He is accountable to the people of Canada and that's what we will be fighting for."

Despite the global issues facing the country, many Oxford County residents continue to place affordability and cost of living as their number one worry. Khanna said people are also concerned about job losses and job creation.

"I can tell you we've had multiple people calling our office who are struggling to put food on the table. I had someone text me the other day saying their hydro had been cut off because they fell behind on their payments. The husband and wife have decent jobs, and yet they can barely get by. The working poor have become a reality."

He added the Conservatives plan to introduce legislation focusing on ways to save Canadians money.

"That's the frustration. People are working their butts off but

are barely getting by, and that's not the way it should be. The country has so much potential and could be the richest in the world. The government needs to focus its priorities on Canadians, not on giving fancy speeches abroad."

Khanna will serve as the Conservative Shadow Critic for Justice, something he said is a huge responsibility to try and keep Canadians safe.

"I will be on the Justice Committee and could be the vice-chair depending on how things go. I have been doing the work on justice for some time with my Jail Not Bail bill and meeting victims across the country. I will keep the same relentless pressure on restoring safe streets for our country."

The average person doesn't have first-hand knowledge of how Parliament functions behind the scenes and the critical work done at the committee level. Khanna sent out a parliamentary guide to his constituents in the summer, but he understands most Canadians don't have time to watch the Cable Public Affairs Channel or CPAC, which is where committee meetings are broadcast. He added his passion for the job hasn't waned.

"It has been just over three years since I walked into the Chamber for the first time. That feeling and humility are still there for me and I am ready to fight for Canadians. I want them to know I will always speak up and stand up for them. Far too often, politicians forget who they are fighting for and who the boss is."

Khanna said he remains passionate about sitting in the House of Commons and doing the work of the people.

"It's not my seat. I am holding it with the trust of Canadians and especially Oxford residents. That's the spirit I will take into the fall session and people can get in touch with me at any time. My office doors are wide open and my cell number is public. My commitment to serve still exists three years later and I am just getting started."

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Local singer wins international musical award at stateside gala

LEE GRIFFI

Editor

Traci Kennedy has been named the International Rising Star of the Year by the International Singer-Songwriters Association (ISSA).

The 60-year-old Oxford County singer was honoured at an ISSA awards ceremony at the Sandy Springs Performing Arts Center in Atlanta, Georgia.

“Winning this award was an incredibly humbling and emotional experience. To be recognized on an international stage for doing something I’ve loved for most of my life was truly beyond anything I could have imagined,” Kennedy said.

“I’m especially grateful to everyone who has supported my music and believed in my journey along the way. This award isn’t just a milestone for me; it’s a reminder that it’s never too late to keep chasing your dreams.”

Kennedy has been in the entertainment business for 42 years and is well known throughout Oxford and Elgin counties for performing at long-term care and retirement homes.

She said receiving the award gives her a tremendous sense of accomplishment.

“I have so much support behind me, and people are encouraging me to keep going and do what I do. When it comes back like this, it just means the world.”

Kennedy said her love of music led her to take early retirement from her part-time job at a dental office so she could focus on performing full time.

“I want to continue to go into the (care) homes because without the residents I’m not sure where I would be. They are my saving grace.”

In July 2022, Kennedy’s life was changed forever when her 30-year-old daughter, K’Lee, died by suicide.

In the aftermath of her loss, Kennedy wrote the song “You Never Said Goodbye,” which received a 2025 Josie Music Award nomination.

The experience has also inspired Kennedy to return to songwriting.

“I think I am going to start dusting off some of the songs I started writing and see if I can get them out there and give my followers what they’ve been wanting, and that’s more music out of me.”

Kennedy also praised the ISSA, saying the organization provides much more than recognition for musicians.

“They are such a supportive group of people, almost like a family. Even going to the awards for the first time, my husband and I, people were coming up to me and talking, and they knew who I was. These were people I had never met before. It was like we already knew each other. It was amazing to feel that love and



(CONTRIBUTED PHOTO)

Traci Kennedy was recently named the International Rising Star of the Year by the ISSA at an awards ceremony in Atlanta, Georgia.

support.”

Kennedy said she is grateful for every part of her musical journey and for the people who have supported her along the way.

“This award may have my name on it, but this moment belongs to everyone who has cheered me on and helped me keep believing in the dream.”

Kennedy, like so many other singers and songwriters, was influenced by Dolly Parton. She said the country legend touched many people’s lives in many ways.

“I honestly don’t even know what to say. Dolly was so much more than a country music legend. She was a songwriter, a storyteller, a dreamer, a trailblazer, and a beautiful example of what it means to stay humble while touching millions of lives.”

She added Parton was an inspiration.

“Her music, her voice, her heart, her humour, her determination, and the way she always seemed to make people feel like they mattered. All of it helped shape the artist I became. As a fellow songwriter and performer, I can only hope that someday I can leave even a tiny fraction of the impact that Dolly left on this world.”

Kennedy said the music world feels a little quieter and the rhinestones shine a little less brightly.

“Rest peacefully, Dolly. We will always love you.”

theecho.ca



MUNICIPAL ELECTIONS

CANDIDATE PROFILES

Affordable housing top of mind for lifelong resident Ashby's Ingersoll council campaign

LEE GRIFFI

Editor

Sherry Ashby was born and raised in Ingersoll. Her parents' families have been in Ingersoll for more than three generations. She has spent her career leading teams in the service sector and currently works as a grocery store specialist, helping nine locations solve problems, improve operations and increase profits.

"I am used to working with lots of personalities and in a team environment," she explained.

Four years ago she thought about running and decided this time she would put her name on the ballot.

"I am running because at the core of it I want to serve the people of Ingersoll. I am passionate and compassionate and want Ingersoll to grow and continue

to thrive. The biggest issue I see in the next ten years in Ingersoll is affordable housing. What are we doing to support seniors, people living on a disability pension, people working at minimum wage or people with only one income?"

She added the town has painfully few apartment buildings these people can live in and the wait list for geared-to-income living is years long.

"We are not building small affordable houses for young families, causing them to live in the current apartments because they can't afford a mortgage. This creates a stopgap that prevents seniors from being able to use those apartments. Not having affordable family homes also deters new families from moving into our town."

Ashby added Ingersoll is also facing how to pay for the MURC and she be-

lieves the town needs to figure out how to pay for a second ice now instead of down the road.

"The cost of the MURC has already more than doubled since the original quote was given, and these costs will continue to grow. We need two ice pads now not ten years after the first one is built. Truthfully, I feel strongly that if we don't address the second ice now, we will not build it due to cost increases."

She said a fundraising effort needs to be looked at now to offset some of the cost

"We need to be looking long term at long term solutions. I have no track record to stand on as I am running for the first time. I want people to know that I will work hard for everyone in Ingersoll, that I bring lots of energy with me, and an endless drive."



Sherry Ashby.

(CONTRIBUTED PHOTO)

Grigg seeks third term on Zorra council, this time as mayor

LEE GRIFFI

Editor

Katie Grigg has been Zorra's Ward 2 councillor for nearly eight years and she feels that experience has prepared her to become mayor.

"With nearly 8 years experience as an elected official, I'm passionate about this municipal work and enjoy applying the knowledge I have acquired to achieve positive outcomes for the community," explained Grigg. "I'm both a quiet observer and a creative problem solver, and through this combined lens I often discover new ideas to bring to the table to evaluate with council colleagues, in consultation with staff. I love Zorra Township, and while I still have new ideas, see opportunities, and have the skills to contribute to moving us forward, I believe I can best contribute by running for mayor."

Born in London, Griff went to school in Toronto and Italy for art before settling in Thamesford where she has lived for the past 18 years. She has been involved in the community through parent council, coaching sports teams, and she was president of Calithumpian for five years.

"I have developed wonderful relationships and gained a deep appreciation for the community through volunteer work. I'm a strong advocate for building healthy communities and am proud to be raising my children with my partner Ryan here in Zorra," said Grigg.

She added a lot of our challenges are not so different from our neighbours, however our solutions should be unique to who we are as a rural community and how we live, work and play.

"We are facing growth and affordability pressures in an ever-changing society and provincial framework. While growth is inevitable, we need to guide it in a way that leads us to healthy functional communities for the long-term. The data demonstrates the incredi-



Katie Grigg.

(CONTRIBUTED PHOTO)

ble benefits of social connection, active transportation investments, true inclusion, and access to meaningful support."

Grigg added there is a limited ability for seniors and young people to stay in the communities they are comfortable and connect to - which is heavily impacted by access to goods, services, employment, and housing variety.

"Part of this can be achieved with planning tools we can use locally, and the other part is having meaningful conversations with our provincial partners to advocate for more ability for municipalities to achieve housing units with the best outcomes for those who live here. We know our communities best!"

She said while Zorra may not have the large encampments seen in larger cities, the experience of being or becoming unhoused is a reality for a growing number of our residents even though it is often hidden from plain sight.

"We need to ensure that supports that are centralized in our neighbouring urban communities have meaningful outreach so that rural communities are not left behind."

Zorra is one of the top 10 aggregate producing municipalities in the province, and Grigg said they need to continue to advocate for fair funding, improved oversight and enforcement, reduced negative impact on residents and wildlife, and improved rehabilitation for long-term environmental protections and preservation of our farmland.

She added she is committed, prepared, and will put pen to paper to move things forward.

"I am always willing to make the tough decisions, coming from a place of being informed and having listened to all sides. I stand behind the work and how I contribute. I am proud of the work I have contributed to this term around rural school advocacy, rural road safety advocacy, and implementing new policies to continue to define and improve

municipal service delivery, such as our new recreation service levels."

She added her true value lies in the collaborative work she has done over the last two terms.

"Working to understand staff input and the concerns and priorities of my council colleagues to envision what can best move us forward as a community, and that I can stand behind. And that isn't MY record, but my contribution to the record of Zorra Council. While not flashy or exciting for a news story, that is really important to me."

Grigg said Zorra needs to position itself to be ready for the future, and ready to respond to the changes and pressures that inevitably arise.

"Both ensuring that reserves are appropriately built for fiscal responsibility and also planning for upcoming projects so that we are set for success when the time comes. It's about balance."

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MUNICIPAL ELECTIONS

CANDIDATE PROFILES

Scalisi taking another shot at the mayor's chair in the Friendly City

LEE GRIFFI

Editor

Anthony Scalisi is taking a second kick at the can as he vies for the position of mayor on Woodstock City Council.

Scalisi said his family roots in the city date back to the early 1900s when members of the Scalisi family established businesses on Dundas Street.

"The story of the Scalisi family is closely woven into the history of Woodstock, Ontario. For more than a century, the Scalisi name has been associated with hard work, entrepreneurship, and a deep commitment to the community," said the mayoral hopeful.

"As a direct descendant of this historic family, I was born and raised in Woodstock. Growing up here gave me a deep appreciation for the city's neighbourhoods, businesses, traditions, and the people who have made Woodstock such a special place to call home," he added.

Scalisi studied Computer Science at Mohawk College (Hamilton) and Computer Systems Support at Fanshawe College (London).

"I later worked for IBM out of college and spent approximately 17 years working for the Ontario Lottery and Gaming Corporation (OLG) for the Province of Ontario, progressing from an Electronics Technician into Information Technology and Project Management. That experience taught

me the importance of accountability, responsible budgeting, negotiating and delivering results for the people being served."

In 2018, Scalisi and his wife Lisa and I opened Woodstock's Water Shop.

"Together we built a locally owned business dedicated to providing residential and commercial water treatment solutions while becoming active supporters of community organizations, local charities, sports teams, and fundraising events. Through our business, we have always believed that giving back to the community is just as important as serving customers."

He explained family is at the centre of everything he does.

"Lisa and I are proud parents to our daughters, Vienna (8) and Vayda (2). Raising our children in Woodstock has strengthened my commitment to making our city an even better place for future generations—a community where families can feel safe, businesses can thrive, and residents can be proud of where they live."

Scalisi ran for mayor in 2022 and placed third with just over 20 per cent of the vote.

"I chose to run again because I believe our city can do better. My family's history has taught me that communities grow stronger when leaders listen, businesses succeed, families are supported, and government remains transparent and accountable. As I look to the future, I hope to continue building on that legacy—not simply by

remembering Woodstock's history, but by helping write its next chapter for generations to come."

Scalisi said he wants the job because he cares about Woodstock and the direction the city is heading.

"I want to go back to basics. I feel we have lost our focus on local issues and problems. We need to move back to what we can control and bring common sense, accountability, and transparency back to city hall. Woodstock has incredible potential, but we need stronger financial responsibility, better long-term planning, and a renewed focus on the issues that directly affect everyday residents."

He added the biggest issues facing the city are affordability, responsible spending, and the condition of assets such as the Civic Arena, the Community Complex and roads.

"Residents are feeling the pressure of rising taxes and the increasing cost of living. Families, seniors, and small businesses are all trying to make ends meet, and we need to recognize that every dollar spent comes from taxpayers who are already stretched thin. Woodstock continues to grow rapidly, and we must ensure roads, services, and community supports keep up with that growth responsibly."

He added that as a local business owner, he understands budgets, customer service, and the importance of making practical decisions.

"I also understand the challenges families and



Anthony Scalisi.

(CONTRIBUTED PHOTO)

businesses are facing because I live them myself. People know where I stand — I'm straightforward, approachable, and willing to have difficult conversations. I'm not interested in politics for status; I'm interested in results and making Woodstock stronger for future generations."

Scalisi explained the city is at a turning point and it can continue down the same path, or choose a new direction focused on transparency, fiscal responsibility, and community-first leadership.

"This campaign is about bringing residents back into the conversation and ensuring that City Hall works for the people again. I'm committed to listening, being present in the community, and making decisions that reflect the priorities of the residents of Woodstock."

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MUNICIPAL ELECTIONS

CANDIDATE PROFILES

Tucker banking on business background during Ingersoll deputy mayoral run

LEE GRIFFI

Editor

Mike Tucker is a BA, MA, and a Professor of Business and Economics at Fanshawe College. He has been married for 33 years and is the proud father of two children. He has also called Ingersoll home for the past 27 years.

"I am running for deputy mayor because I believe Ingersoll needs thoughtful, collaborative leadership that listens to residents, makes evidence-based decisions, and focuses on building a strong future for everyone who calls Ingersoll home."

He said as a faculty member and community advocate, he has spent his career helping people succeed, solving problems, and bringing different perspectives together.

"I have seen firsthand how important strong local leadership is in shaping the quality of life for residents. I want to use my experience, leadership skills, and commitment to public service to help guide our municipality through the challenges and opportunities that lie ahead. Strong leadership balances the decisions that need to be made today with an eye on the medium and longer-term impacts. For every action, there is a reaction."

Tucker said as the fall and 2027 approach, several key issues will require strong leadership and careful planning, including growth and infrastructure.

"Our community continues to grow, and with that growth comes increased pressure on roads, recreation facilities, emergency services, and municipal infra-

structure. We need to ensure that growth is managed responsibly so that services keep pace with demand while maintaining the quality-of-life residents of Ingersoll expect."

He added as the town grows and develops facilities on the perimeter of the community, it could be unintentionally pulling attention and business from the downtown corridor.

"Once again, balanced growth should be a priority."

Tucker explained many families are finding it increasingly difficult to find housing that meets their needs and budget.

"Addressing housing affordability is critical to maintaining a vibrant, inclusive, and economically healthy community. Future growth should consider both ownership and rental units, striving to ensure we do not experience a lack of supply in either. This is a major driver of higher prices and rents."

Fiscal responsibility is also top of mind for Tucker. He said residents expect their tax dollars to be spent wisely and municipal governments must balance investments in essential services with the need to keep taxes affordable.

"Transparent decision-making and responsible financial management are key. I am not saying or promising a tax cut, but what I will advocate for is keeping property tax increases in line with inflation."

He explained supporting local businesses, attracting new investment, and creating opportunities for workforce development will be essential to ensuring

long-term prosperity.

"Ingersoll has been very resilient despite the elimination of production from the Cami plant. We must continue to seek and develop partnerships that create jobs and encourage new businesses as well as support existing businesses."

Tucker added the decisions we make today will shape our community for decades to come. Growth, housing, financial management, and economic development affect every resident, whether they are raising a family, running a business, attending school, or enjoying retirement.

"If we address these challenges proactively, we can build a municipality that is affordable, sustainable, and welcoming. If we fail to act, we risk placing greater burdens on future generations."

Tucker is an economist with close to 40 years of experience in financial services and economic policy, and he is proud to have been a part of over 20,000 students who have studied accounting, marketing, management and human resources.

"Residents should vote for me because I bring a combination of leadership experience, practical problem-solving skills, and a commitment to collaboration. I will listen to residents and ensure their voices are heard, share my thoughts and explain council's position on certain issues."

He added he would make decisions based on evidence, data, and community needs. While I always have an opinion on issues, I purposely seek to let data guide the decision-making process.

"I would work collaboratively with council members, staff, community organizations, and local businesses. The



(CONTRIBUTED PHOTO)

Mike Tucker, pictured with his wife Christine, is running for Ingersoll's Deputy Mayor.

best decisions are never made in a vacuum. I would also advocate for responsible spending and transparent governance and focus on solutions rather than division."

Tucker said Ingersoll is at an important crossroads, and it faces real challenges, but there are also tremendous opportunities. He believes in the potential and resiliency of the community and in the people who make it such a great place to live, work, learn, and raise a family.

"Together, we can build a municipality that is financially responsible, economically diverse and vibrant, inclusive, and prepared for the future. I would be honoured to earn your support and serve as your deputy mayor. Yes, it's time."

Petrie looks back on the last four years as he asks for support for the next four

LEE GRIFFI

Editor

Four years ago, Brian Petrie asked for the support of Ingersoll residents to help move the town forward.

"Bringing my eight years of experience on town council into the mayor's office, I committed to delivering real results while keeping our municipality financially sustainable. Today, I am incredibly proud to stand behind our collective track record. Every single priority identified by our community now shows real, measurable results."

Petrie said over the past four years, Ingersoll has achieved incredible momentum.

"We completed our Downtown Enhancement Plan to turn our downtown into a place to live, work and play, launched a new Community Health Strategy to improve local healthcare access, planted thousands of trees, expanded our municipal

trail network and made Ingersoll an even more welcoming community."

He added most excitingly that construction is officially underway on the highly anticipated multi-use recreation centre. The facility will feature Ingersoll's very first double gymnasium, a modern arena we can be proud of and an indoor walking track, without putting your financial future in jeopardy.

"Through strategic partnerships, the Ingersoll Community Campus will also include a new school site, a long-term care home investment, and 20 acres of much-needed residential housing."

He said those milestones were achieved through strategic investments, working collaboratively and strict fiscal management.

"Ingersoll ratepayers benefited from the lowest average tax rate increase across all of Oxford County, while the town's overall financial position improved and our local

roads and infrastructure were maintained."

Petrie said the town has proven our economic resilience and created a community where major industry wants to be.

"Despite regional hurdles, including the idled CAMI Assembly plant, we have strategically diversified our industrial base. Major investments from companies like IMT, 214 Carson Co, Dot Foods, ERTH Power, Gorilla Commercial Brakes, and ArcelorMittal Tailored Blanks have injected vital new growth into our local tax base."

He said despite those successes, his job is not finished.

"To fully realize the benefits of these major investments, Ingersoll needs experienced, collaborative leadership over the next four years. That is why I am running for re-election as your mayor."

He added his immediate priority will be to re-engage with residents, businesses, and industrial partners to map out our next



Brian Petrie.

(CONTRIBUTED PHOTO)

community goals through a fresh strategic plan and then get to work to achieve them collaboratively.

"Let's work together to ensure Ingersoll remains a vibrant, affordable, and wonderful place to call home. Let's keep Ingersoll moving forward, together!"



SATURDAY, OCT. 3, 2026
12 - 4 P.m. | MUSEUM SQUARE

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BBBS Day celebrated across Oxford County



Mayor Jerry Acchione, Liz and Kristin of BBBS and supporters gathered to raise the flag in Museum Square.

Oxford County marked Big Brothers Big Sisters Day on Sept. 14 with a series of flag raising ceremonies held in association with Truth and Reconciliation. The day began at 10 a.m. at the Oxford County Administration Building, continuing at 10:30 a.m. in Museum Square in downtown Woodstock, and concluding at 1 p.m. at the Oxford-Broadway Parkette in Tillsonburg. Community members, dignitaries, volunteers, and supporters gathered to honour the mentoring relationships that strengthen local youth and to acknowledge the shared commitment to respect, understanding, and a brighter future for young people across the county. Each ceremony featured brief remarks highlighting how mentoring relationships foster confi-

dence, resilience, and belonging among local youth. Speakers also reflected on the shared values between Big Brothers Big Sisters and Truth and Reconciliation—particularly the importance of creating safe, supportive environments where young people can thrive. The events underscored the community’s commitment to celebrating mentorship and acknowledging the role it plays in building a more inclusive future. Big Brothers Big Sisters of Oxford County facilitates supportive mentoring relationships for children and youth. By partnering young people with committed volunteers, the organization helps foster resilience, confidence, and brighter futures—igniting the power and potential of every child.

(RON YUZARK PHOTOS)

Sip & Sculpt: Creepin’ it Creative

Saturday, October 3, 2026
5–7 p.m. | \$95 | Ages 19+

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PUBLIC NOTICE

Notice of application for approval to expropriate land

Expropriations Act, R.R.O. 1990, Reg. 363

IN THE MATTER OF AN APPLICATION by the County of Oxford for approval to expropriate the lands in the Town of Ingersoll, Oxford County being:

All Right, Title and Interest (Fee Simple)

- 1. Part of PIN 00165-0001 (LT)**
Part of Lot 19, Concession 1 West Oxford; Ingersoll, designated as Part 1 on Sketch 1
- 2. Part of PIN 00144-0047 (LT)**
Part of Lot 18, Concession 1 West Oxford; South-West Oxford, designated as Part 2 on Sketch 1
- 3. Part of PIN 00145-0046 (LT)**
Part of Lot 18, Concession 2 West Oxford; South-West Oxford, designated as Part 3 on Sketch 1
- 4. Part of PIN 00145-0074 (LT)**
Part of Lot 18, Concession 2 West Oxford; South-West Oxford, designated as Part 4 on Sketch 1
- 5. Part of PIN 00147-0117 (LT)**
Part of Lot 19, Concession 2 West Oxford; Ingersoll, designated as Part 5 on Sketch 1

registered in the Land Registry Office for the Land Titles Division of Oxford (No. 41), for the municipal purpose of facilitating the infrastructure and road improvements to the intersection of Oxford Road 119 (Harris Street) and Clarke Road intersection, as well as the widening of Oxford Road 119 from Clarke Road to Highway 401, in the Town of Ingersoll, together with ancillary works associated thereto.

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that an application has been made for approval to expropriate the interest in the lands described hereinbefore.

Any owner of lands in respect of which notice is given who desires a hearing into whether the taking of such land is fair, sound and reasonably necessary in the achievement of the objectives of the expropriating authority shall so notify the approving authority in writing:

- a) in the case of a registered owner, served personally or by registered mail within thirty (30) days after the registered owner is served with the notice, or, when the registered owner is served by publication, within thirty (30) days after the first publication of the notice; and,
- b) in the case of an owner who is not a registered owner, within thirty (30) days after the first publication of the notice.

The approving authority is:

The Council of the County of Oxford
21 Reeve Street, P.O Box 1614,
Woodstock, Ontario, N4S 7Y3

The expropriating authority is:

County of Oxford
21 Reeve Street, P.O Box 1614,
Woodstock, Ontario, N4S 7Y3

Originals signed by: Tena Michiels, Deputy Clerk

This notice issued on
September 25, 2026

This notice was first published
online on September 10, 2026,
at www.oxfordcounty.ca/notices



A stronger downtown. A stronger Ingersoll.

I want to help build an Ingersoll that is welcoming, vibrant, business-friendly and proud of its community – with practical improvements to our downtown, our local businesses, our streets and our public spaces.

Nine practical priorities for Ingersoll

No slogans, no vague promises – nine areas where a Councillor can actually push for change, and what change would look like in each one.

1. Revitalize Downtown Ingersoll

Create a downtown that residents are proud of and visitors want to explore.

2. Make Ingersoll More Business-Friendly

Make Ingersoll a community where businesses want to invest.

3. Encourage More Patios & Outdoor Spaces

More people downtown means more customers for local businesses and a more vibrant community.

4. Make Downtown a Place to Stay

A successful downtown should have activity throughout the day and into the evening.

5. Improve Ingersoll's Curb Appeal

One coordinated strategy instead of a dozen disconnected projects.

6. Support Responsible Growth

Development that leaves the town stronger than it found it.

7. Infrastructure & Maintenance

Responsible investment in the things we already own.

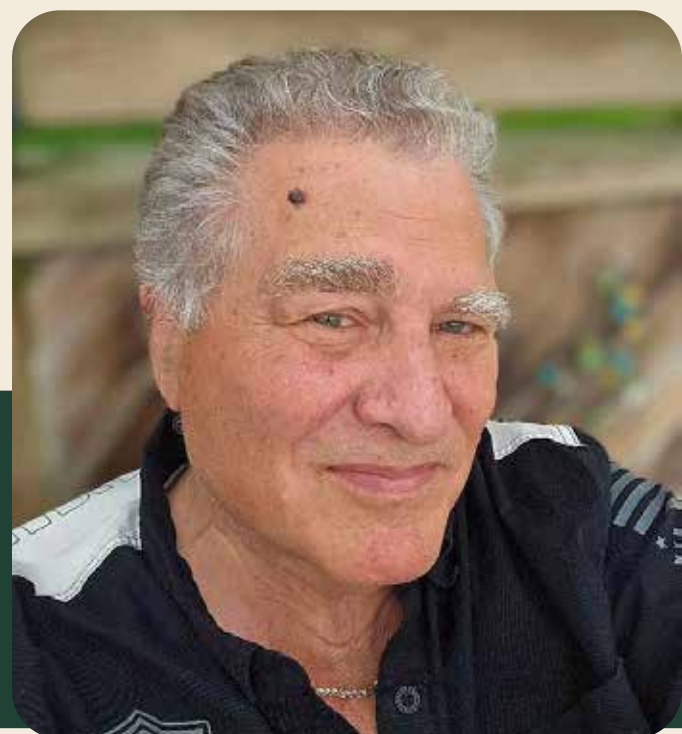
8. Listen to Residents

A Councillor who is accessible, approachable and willing to listen.

9. Responsible Spending

We can improve Ingersoll without spending money simply for the sake of spending money.

Dr. Lou D'Orazio
Ingersoll resident.
Candidate for Town Councillor, 2026.



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Authorized by Lou D'Orazio.

Woodstock supports annual Terry Fox Run



Chair Steve Iorio shared his time when he met with Terry on his stop in Woodstock during his Marathon of Hope.

This year's Terry Fox Run raised \$53,600 for cancer research, as the community gathered at Southside Park on Sept. 20 to honour Terry Fox's legacy. The event marked the 46th anniversary of the Marathon of Hope, drawing families, supporters, and volunteers to one of the city's most beloved green spaces. Participants walked, ran, and rolled along the route in a non competitive, family friendly atmosphere. Community members contributed generously, supporting the Terry Fox Foundation's mission to advance innovative cancer research across Canada. Event organizer Steve Iorio reflected on

the significance of the day. "Terry Fox showed us what courage looks like," he said. "Woodstock stepped forward again this year with heart and generosity. This run was more than an event — it was a commitment to hope, community, and the belief that we can make a difference together." During the Marathon of Hope, Terry spoke at Museum Square on July 16, 1980, leaving a lasting imprint on the city's collective memory. The 2026 run carried that spirit forward, contributing to a nationwide movement that has raised over \$1 billion for cancer research since 1980.

(RON YUZARK PHOTOS)



Steve and his extended family from Hamilton, touched by cancer, posed for a photo with a Terry Fox poster.



Participants were off, walking, running and rolling for the annual Terry Fox Run.

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ROUTE TO THE PAST

HISTORY

The Thames Valley Trolley

SCOTT GILLIES

Echo Contributor

In the pre-automobile era, people travelled by horse and buggy, by train, or by shank's mare, and while there were 24 passenger trains and 45 freight trains passing through Woodstock and Ingersoll around 1910, most local people were not likely to hop on the train to travel between the two towns. However, in 1901, all that changed.

In 1900, the Woodstock Board of Trade, forerunner of the Chamber of Commerce, worked with two American-based investors to ink an agreement to construct and operate an electric street railway from Woodstock to Beachville, and later with Ingersoll.

The Von Echa Company, headed up by Dr. Samuel Ritter Ickes and Mr. J.H. Armstrong, both from Pennsylvania, signed a deal with the Woodstock city council for a 50-year lease to operate streetcars on the main street and along the Thames River valley.

At the time, the notion of interurban radial railways was hitting its peak. The advent of inexpensive hydroelectric power from Niagara Falls made the prospect of operating electric railways along with electric industrial motors and domestic street lighting far more accessible, appealing and attractive to investors.

Plans were underway in other parts of the province which envisioned electric railways connecting Niagara with Hamilton, Brantford, London and Windsor in the west, and Toronto to Kingston in the east.

Dr. Ickes, a medical doctor from Pittsburgh, had already started several electric street railways in the United States, and had also established a similar system in Brantford. At the same time, other investors were looking to develop railways in the London area. At the same time, the provincial government passed legislation making this idea of expansive travel even more amenable to the public, and to investors.

In the spring of 1900, the charter to form the Woodstock Thames Valley & Ingersoll Electric Railway Company was obtained from Woodstock and West Oxford Township officials. Ingersoll however was a little slow to agree. It would take another year before terms with the cheese town could be finalized. Nevertheless, construction on the new train system began on July 3, 1900, with the laying of track down the centre of Dundas Street, commencing at the corner with Wellington and heading west to Mill Street.

At the corner of Mill and Dundas, the tracks took a turn to head south, passing under the Grand Trunk Railway trestle bridge, then turning west onto Park Row.



Dundas Street, Woodstock - Estelle - ca. 1910.

(CONTRIBUTED IMAGE)

From here it headed west to the village of Beachville.

On November 8, 1900, the maiden voyage of the first streetcar took place. The citizens had been told to expect an elegant streetcar with plush seating and stained-glass windows. Instead, what they got was a second-hand car from Alleghany.

Gaily painted up with stained glass in the transom windows of the roofline, the streetcar was christened "Estelle" after Dr. Ickes' daughter. Instead of padded seats, there were two long wooden benches to accommodate 24 passengers running along the interior walls, while a small potbellied

stove was there to offer the appearance of heat during the winter months.

For pennies a ride, local people could now travel from Woodstock to Beachville, and then on to Ingersoll by 1901. Besides the possibility of purchasing goods in either town, there were often special, or extra runs each hour when there were large theatrical performances at the Woodstock Opera House (in later years the Capitol Theatre), or at the Ingersoll Town Hall auditorium. When Ingersoll voted to go dry during the temperance movement, locals were known to head to the "Friendly City" for a cup of libation.

CONTINUED TO PAGE 15

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TICKETS

The Thames Valley Trolley

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 14

Another major attraction however was Fairmont Park. Created specifically by the Von Echa Company, this amusement park was established along the Thames River between Woodstock and Beachville; approximately opposite the present-day location of the Commodore Apartments.

This park, with its dance pavilion, merry-go-round, canoe rentals, picnic grounds and electrically illuminated buildings attracted thousands of visitors each year. The Park was especially busy during holidays like Victoria Day, Dominion Day, and Labour Day. The concept of earning additional revenue from these excitement seekers appealed to the board of directors of the Von Echa Company and the Woodstock Thames Valley & Ingersoll Electric Railway Company. The concept was so popular that other streetcar companies followed the same practice. Springbank Park in London is one such example.

Orchestral performances and theatrical shows put on

by travelling troupes of thespians and even a zoo with monkeys, alligators, and an octopus were just some of the attractions at Fairmont Park.

While the tracks in Woodstock were eventually extended to Huron Street, rights-of-way had to be negotiated with rural residents. Many of them were willing to give up the narrow strip of land in front of their farms and homes in exchange for free tickets on the tram.

The company also provided employment for some local men who worked as motormen or conductors while the railway ran until 1925. These included Fred Barker and Forrest Gould from Beachville, Jack Watson from Ingersoll, and Norm Merritt and Art Briggs from Woodstock. Laying tracks would have appealed to others who had previously worked for steam railways. Estelle and her sister cars, the "City of Woodstock", and "Oxford" only needed one set of tracks. All these vehicles were double-ended so they could travel in either direction without the need for a turntable or even a turning loop.

Riding the rails with Estelle was occasionally fraught with difficulties and dangers, especially as she headed west, down the Dundas Street hill and entered the Mill Street turn. If some young hooligans had managed to flip the trolley connector off the overhead electrical wire, the streetcar lost all power, and all control. Speeding down the hill, with no way to operate the air brakes, Estelle would often jump the tracks and continue further west until coming to a screeching halt, and all the passengers sliding off the two benches into a heap at the front of the car!

The excitement and joys of travelling between the two towns concluded in 1925. The advent of the automobile and intercity buses tolled the death knell for the electric street railway. The final run took place on the evening of October 31st, 1925, with a farewell gathering taking place in Beachville. The destination of the first run in 1900 became the last stop on its final run.

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Sunday: Closed

Woodstock Ingersoll EchoSPORTS

SPOTLIGHT ON

WOODSTOCK NAVY VETS

Navy Vets off to .500 start to inaugural GOHL season

LEE GRIFFI
Editor

The Woodstock Navy Vets have had an up-and-down start to their inaugural Greater Ontario Hockey League season with a pair of big victories on the first weekend to go along with a pair of losses in week number two.

Woodstock hosted St. Marys, one of the favourites to contend for a Sutherland Cup this season, on Sept. 19 and took it on the chin with a 9-1 loss. The Lincolns outshot the Navy Vets 31-12 as Kobe Nadalin’s shutout bid was ended by Emre Alves’ first goal of the season.

Woodstock hosted Elmira the previous night and dropped a 4-1 decision. Jackson Boone found the back of the net for the Navy

Vets, his second of the season.

Woodstock’s home opener was on Sept. 12 against the Stratford Warriors, one of the most successful franchises in Ontario junior hockey history and earned a 5-1 win in front of over 1,000 fans. Ian Kubelka stopped 30 shots as the Navy Vets were outshot 33 to 18. Will McGregor and Kyle Arthur led the attack with two points apiece.

The team opened the season with a road matchup in Listowel on Sept. 11 and skated away with a 6-5 overtime win. Jaxson Bagshaw netted the winner just over six minutes into the extra period, his third of the game, with assists going to Evan Giannone and Will McGregor. The Navy Vets trailed 5-3 after 40 minutes but roared back in the third on goals from Bagshaw and Giannone.

The Woodstock Navy Vets have acquired 2009-born forward Noah Aitas from the Brantford Titans in exchange for a Player Development Fee.

A native of Richmond Hill, Aitas joins the team after spending the past two seasons with the highly regarded Ajax/Pickering Raiders AAA program. Prior to joining the Raiders, he spent two seasons competing in the Greater Toronto Hockey League with the Vaughan Kings and Mississauga Reps.

Aitas is coming off a strong 2025-26 season with Ajax/Pickering, picking 16 goals and 22 assists in 31 regular season games. He continued to produce in the postseason, adding five goals and three assists in eight playoff games.

“Noah is a player we feel fits really well with the group we’re building,” said General Manager Darren Young. “He’s smart, he plays with pace, and he has the ability to create offence for both him and his teammates. He also isn’t afraid to play a physical game and compete in difficult areas. We already have a talented group of forwards, and we believe Noah makes that group even deeper.”

Young added Aitas brings a combination of speed, hockey sense and playmaking ability to the team. While capable of producing offensively, his willingness to compete physically and engage all over the ice gives him the ability to impact the game in multiple ways.

“The addition gives the Navy Vets another talented young player as the organization continues to build both for the present and the future,” he said.

Next action for Woodstock is on Friday, Sept. 25, when they host the Komoka Kings at 7:45 p.m. It is Emergency Responders Night at the Reeves Community Complex. Any responder showing their service ID will receive free admission. The following night, the Navy Vets travel to Elmira to take on the Sugar Kings at 7:45 p.m.





Downtown Woodstock

Garbage and green bin collection changes

Beginning October 6, 2026, businesses and residents in downtown Woodstock will temporarily receive garbage and green bin organics collection every Tuesday and Friday.*

This change applies only to the Dundas Street corridor and laneways between Vansittart Avenue and Wilson Street, new Collection Zone 5a, and will be in effect until December 31, 2026.

Information meeting

 **Thursday, October 1, 2026**
Drop in: 6:00 - 8:00 p.m. | Presentation at 7:00 p.m.

 **Oxford County Administration Building**
21 Reeve Street, Woodstock



*Alternate days may be scheduled for statutory holidays.

For more information or to download the new Zone 5a schedule for downtown Woodstock, visit www.oxfordcounty.ca/wasteline

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WESTERN CONFERENCE	GP	W	L	OTL	SOL	PTS	GF	GA
1 - CHATHAM MAROONS	4	4	0	0	0	8	21	9
2 - ST. THOMAS STARS	4	4	0	0	0	8	16	8
3 - ST. MARYS LINCOLNS	4	3	1	0	0	6	21	11
4 - ELMIRA SUGAR KINGS	3	2	1	0	0	4	14	10
5 - WOODSTOCK NAVY VETS	4	2	2	0	0	4	13	21
6 - KOMOKA KINGS	5	2	3	0	0	4	15	18
7 - STRATHROY ROCKETS	2	1	0	0	1	3	7	5
8 - LASALLE VIPERS	2	1	1	0	0	2	7	6
9 - LISTOWEL CYCLONES	3	0	1	2	0	2	11	16
10 - SARNIA LEGIONNAIRES	1	0	1	0	0	0	1	5
11 - STRATFORD WARRIORS	3	0	3	0	0	0	8	14
12 - LONDON NATIONALS	3	0	3	0	0	0	5	14

POLICE BRIEFS

Oxford OPP briefs

LEE GRIFFI

Editor

OPP completes Operation Safe Start as school year begins

The Oxford detachment of the Ontario Provincial Police is thanking motorists for mostly complying with traffic laws in school zones.

Police conducted the initiative during the first two weeks of the school year, running from Sept. 8 to Sept. 11 and Sept. 14 to Sept. 18 across the county.

"Thanks to the cooperation from the public, the proactive safety messaging shared by numerous media partners and the targeted cruiser, foot and bike patrols made by members of Oxford OPP, the initiative was successful," said a police press release.

"Although one incident of disobeying the law around school and bus zones is too many, the low number of charges sug-

gests members of the public are taking student safety seriously," it added.

Oxford OPP Detachment Commander, Inspector Tomy Hymers, thanked area drivers for mostly complying,

"On behalf of Oxford OPP, I would like to thank the motorists who operated their vehicles safely during this time frame. We encourage everyone to continue to drive safely, smart and sober, to continue to improve the safety of Oxford County roads."

Suspects arrested after being seen live on CCTV stream

A prompt call to police after a notification from a residential CCTV unit resulted in the arrest of two people on Sept. 13 in Norwich Township.

At approximately 10:40 p.m., police were called to a property on Base Line for a report of a break and enter in progress.

Police, along with the West Region OPP Emergency Response Team and Canine, located two individuals attempt-

Here are the results of Operation Safe Start:

Speeding – 4

Community Safety Zone – 5

Disobey Stop Sign – 3

Fail to Stop for School Bus – 1

Stunt Driving – 1

ing to steal machinery and tools from a barn on the property. Suspects had attended the property in a black pick-up truck towing a black trailer.

A 45-year-old resident of Bayham was arrested and charged with break and enter with the Intent to commit an indictable offence, possession of break-in tools, obstructing a peace officer and failing to comply with a probation order.

A 50-year-old Norfolk County resident was arrested and charged with break and enter with the Intent to commit an indictable offence and possession of break-in tools.

Both were released from custody and are scheduled to appear before the Ontario Court of Justice on Dec. 8.

Large police presence in Woodstock turns up inoperable weapons

LEE GRIFFI

Editor

Residents in the area of Harcourt Crescent in Woodstock noticed an increased police presence, with officers from the Woodstock Police Service (WPS) and the Waterloo Regional Police Service on Sept. 15.

The day before, police attended a residence in the area as part of an investigation.

"During that investigation, items resembling weapons were observed inside the home, including what appeared to be a rocket launcher. As a precaution, a search warrant was obtained, and the Waterloo Regional Police Service's Explosives Disposal Unit was called in to safely exam-

ine and remove the items from the property," said a WPS press release.

The items were determined to be inactive and confirmed to be a novelty or decommissioned item with no explosive capability. No live firearms or explosive devices were located, and there was no risk to public safety at any time during this process.

One individual was taken into custody during the investigation and has since been released unconditionally. The investigation has now concluded, and no charges were laid.

"The Woodstock Police Service is using this occasion to remind the public of the risks associated with owning or storing items that closely resemble real firearms or mil-

itary ordnance, even when those items are inert, decommissioned, or collectible in nature," added the release.

"Police cannot visually distinguish a replica or inert weapon from a real one in the field. Any item that looks like a weapon must be treated as if it were functional and dangerous until proven otherwise, which can require significant police resources, including specialized units, to resolve safely."

Realistic replicas, decommissioned firearms, and novelty ordnance should be stored out of plain view and careless use or display should be prevented.

"The Woodstock Police Service thanks the community for its patience during this investigation and thanks the Waterloo Regional Police Service for their assistance."



(WPS PHOTO)

A joint police investigation turned up inoperable weapons in Woodstock's north end. One person was arrested but eventually released with no charges being laid.

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SoupStock fundraiser returns for the fall

EMILY STEWART

Echo Correspondent

The SoupStock fundraiser for Domestic Abuse Services Oxford (DASO) is back just in time for soup season.

The event will be held at Goff Hall on Oct. 21 running from 11:30 a.m. to 2:15 p.m. Guests will have the opportunity to taste a variety of soups from local restaurants and vote for their favourite. Competitors will have a chance to win the prized Golden Ladle award.

“It’s a chance to enjoy some great food, discover local businesses and spend time with friends, family and community members, all while supporting DASO,” Samantha Ton, DASO’s administration and communications manager, said to the Echo.

So far, there are six local restaurants and food businesses confirmed to be participating in SoupStock, with more anticipated.

This will be the first time SoupStock is held in the fall. Previously, the annual fundraiser was held in March.

“We thought October felt like the perfect fit for SoupStock. There’s something about the crisp fall weather, changing leaves and cozy fall atmosphere that makes a

warm bowl of soup even better,” said Ton. “We wanted to embrace that feeling and give people a fun fall event to look forward to. We’re excited to bring SoupStock into a new season and hopefully make it a fall tradition for our community.”

Proceeds from the SoupStock fundraiser will keep DASO’s programming and services running to support women and children fleeing domestic violence. The organization must raise over \$250,000 each year to keep operations running. Any government funding DASO receives covers basic operating costs and staffing.

“The funds raised through events like SoupStock help us provide the things that make a real difference for people accessing our services, from food and basic necessities to transportation, outreach and the many supports that help people move toward safety and stability,” Ton said.

SoupStock guests will have a choice to be part of one of two sittings – one that runs from 11:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. or from 1 p.m. to 2:15 p.m. Tickets are \$20 each and can be purchased ahead of the event at Whisk and Roll Bakery, Your Farm Market (cash only), or by sending an email to sam@daso.ca. Any remaining tickets will be sold at the door for \$25 the day of the event.

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Woodstock Police arrest two following violent sexual assault

LEE GRIFFI

Editor

Police have laid charges against two men after what they are calling a “violent incident” on the afternoon of Sept. 16.

A massive police presence occurred at 4 p.m. on Sept. 16 on Wellington Street after the report of a woman being assaulted and sexually assaulted.

“Members of the Woodstock Police Service Uniform Patrol, Emergency Response Unit, Criminal Investigations Branch and Street Crime Unit responded to the area of King Street and Wellington Street South following a report of a violent incident,” said a police press release.

“Upon arrival, officers located a female victim in the area who had sustained injuries. The investigation determined the female had been sexually assaulted and assaulted by a person known to her. Bystanders intervened and assisted the female. During the intervention, a male suspect was assaulted by intervening members of the public,” it added.

The female victim has been released from hospital.

As a result of the investigation, a 35-year-old male from London was ar-

rested and charged with aggravated assault and sexual assault. He was remanded into custody following a recent bail hearing. A 29-year-old from Woodstock was charged with assault with a weapon and possession of a weapon for a dangerous purpose. Police say the latter was arrested for an alleged assault on the 35-year-old.

Police said they worked quickly to locate the assault suspect, who was arrested a short time later through the coordinated efforts of the responding units.

The investigation is continuing into other parties involved, and the victim was taken to hospital to be treated for serious injuries.

“This investigation is being led by the Woodstock Police Service's Special Victims Unit (SVU), which investigates offences involving vulnerable persons and victims of serious interpersonal crimes, including sexual assaults, human trafficking, intimate partner and domestic violence, and elder abuse. The SVU takes a trauma-informed, victim-centred approach and works with victims to connect them with appropriate community supports and services. Anyone experiencing violence or abuse is encouraged to reach

out to police and local community support agencies,” added the release.

After the Echo published the story online, some members of the public expressed concerns about the arrest of the Woodstock man, prompting police to issue a statement.

“The Woodstock Police Service is aware of public discussion regarding the charges laid in connection with the September 16, 2026, investigation, including comments suggesting that police are discouraging bystanders from intervening to help others. We want to address this directly.”

It added police are not discouraging anyone from intervening to protect another person from harm.

“Bystanders who take reasonable action to help someone in danger play an important role in community safety, and the Woodstock Police Service supports that. The Criminal Code recognizes the right of any person to use force to defend themselves or another person and permits reasonable force in doing so,” it added.

Whether or not force used is reasonable depends on the specific circumstances of each case, including factors such as the nature of the threat and the nature of the

force used in response.

“In this case, our investigation determined that a prohibited weapon was used during the intervention. The use of a prohibited weapon is a significant factor in any legal assessment of whether the force applied was reasonable, which is why charges resulted in this specific instance.”

Police added it's also important to understand that being accused of a crime does not remove a person's protection under the law. If an assault occurs against anyone, including a person who is themselves facing charges, police have a duty to investigate and apply the law accordingly. The justice system does not permit selective enforcement based on who the victim is alleged to be.

“We recognize the public's interest in this case, but we are limited in the further detail we can release. Providing additional specifics at this stage carries a real risk of affecting the ongoing judicial process for the victim and all individuals charged. We take that responsibility seriously, and it is why our public statements will remain measured while these matters are before the court. We ask the public to allow the judicial process to run its course before drawing conclusions.”

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for Woodstock City Councillor

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Woodstock Legion celebrates 100th anniversary

The Royal Canadian Legion Branch 55 marked a major milestone on Sept. 19, as the branch celebrated its 100 Year Open House at 642 Dundas Street, Woodstock. The event welcomed residents from across the community. The afternoon invited visitors to reflect on the branch's century of service and remembrance. Guests enjoyed BBQ hamburgers and sausages with pop, water, or juice for five dollars, while displays of military vehicles and historical information highlighted the branch's long-standing role in supporting veterans. WWI and WWII re-

enactments offered a vivid look at Canada's military past, drawing steady interest throughout the day. Live music added to the social atmosphere as members, families, and visitors gathered to honour the Legion's contributions to Woodstock. The event theme, 'Honouring our Past, Celebrating our 100 years, Building our Future', captured the spirit of gratitude and continuity that shaped the celebration. The open house was part of a full day of activities at Branch 55, which also hosted a sold out Hawaiian Dance Party later that evening. (RON YUZARK PHOTOS)



Representing the Cadet program were LCpl Ecker, MWO Brimm, Captain Piper CD, Captain Arbuckle CD and WO Pike 2833 RCDCC.

Woodingford Lodge Opens Its Doors for Second Annual Community Engagement Day

KYRAH SMITH

Echo Correspondent

Woodstock's Woodingford Lodge hosted its second annual Long-Term Care Community Engagement Day on Sept. 18, joining long-term care homes across Ontario in opening their doors to the community.

The event provides an opportunity for homes to showcase their role in the community and encourage conversations about how residents, families, staff, volunteers and community partners can work together to enhance quality of life in long-term care. It welcomed community members, families and local leaders to learn more about Woodingford Lodge and the work taking place within the home.

Administrator Kate MacDonald opened the event by explaining the purpose behind Community Engagement Day and reflecting on the progress Woodingford has made over the past year.

"Thank you for coming. This day was established by the Ontario Long Term Care Home Association (OLTCA), for people in the health field to create an opportunity to open doors and invite our community partners to experience long-term care differently," she said.

"It's about building stronger connections with our community and showing long-term care is not only simply a place to live and receive care, but also a place to contribute, connect and belong."

MacDonald explained that during last year's event, community members discussed the home's strengths and areas for improvement. This year, the focus was on how Woodingford has built upon those strengths.

"At the centre of this is a simple belief. Long-term care should be about living."

One of the most significant areas of growth for Woodingford has been the expansion of its Family Transition Program. This year, the home also received additional funding through Community Access to Long-Term Care (CALTC), which supports seniors in remaining at home longer by providing access to services that promote independence, health and quality of life, while also providing respite for caregivers.

"Our role in the Family Transition Program begins well before someone moves into long-term care," MacDonald added.

Through the Family Transition Program and CALTC funding, Woodingford now offers seven-day-a-week daytime programming. With the expansion into weekend care, participants can access recreation, socialization, meals and personal care, while physiotherapy is available Monday through Friday.

"We continue to offer care partners support and system navigation," MacDonald said. "Currently, we are supporting 45 clients in (the program), with eight on our

waitlist, and that continues to grow daily."

Woodingford also works closely with Ontario Health at Home and community partners to facilitate referrals and connect individuals with appropriate services. MacDonald encouraged those attending to help spread the word about the programs available.

MacDonald also emphasized the role Woodingford's residents play within the broader community.

"Our residents are an important part of the community. Through our Kindness in Action program, residents contribute to local causes, build relationships and find meaningful ways to give back."

Woodingford has established partnerships with organizations including Big Brothers Big Sisters and regularly organizes initiatives such as food drives and appreciation events for first responders.

MacDonald also spoke about how the home continues to rethink what independence can look like in long-term care.

"Perhaps one of the best examples of this comes from one of our residents. His name is Renee," she said.

MacDonald explained that Renee prepares his own meals, tends to his garden, participates in activities that are meaningful to him and advocates for his fellow residents.

"His story reminds us that our role is not to define what someone's life should look like. Our role is to create opportunities that allow each individual to continue defining that for themselves. Living does not stop when someone walks through our doors."

While celebrating the progress made at Woodingford, MacDonald also acknowledged the challenges facing the home, including increasingly complex health conditions among residents, staffing levels, recruitment and workload. She noted that these challenges are not unique to Woodingford but are being experienced by long-term care homes across the province.

"We want our community partners and local leaders to see both sides of the story. The incredible work that's happening every day, and the challenges we need to address together," MacDonald said.



(KYRAH SMITH PHOTO)

Woodingford Lodge resident Renee and caregiver/friend Jennifer pose for a picture. Renee's inspiring story was the topic of conversation at the home's second annual Community Engagement Day.

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Ingersoll “Takes Back the Night” in march against sexual violence

KYRAH SMITH

Echo Correspondent

Members of the Ingersoll community gathered at Dewan Park for Take Back the Night, a rally and march against sexual violence organized by Oxford DART, Ingamo Homes, Domestic Abuse Services Oxford, Oxford Sexual Assault Services (OSAS) and Safe & Well Oxford on Sept. 17.

The event ran from 6:30 p.m. to 7:45 p.m., beginning with sign-making and refreshments before attendees gathered for an evening of speakers, music, poetry, and reflection.

The crowd included survivors and allies of all ages and genders, including Mayor Brian Petrie and Deputy Mayor Lindsay Wilson.

Kelly Welch performed for the crowd following a land acknowledgement from Sarah Stevens.

“I’m going to share a woman’s feeling song,” Welch began. “This song is for all of us here tonight, so if you want to carry this song in your heart and send those good thoughts out to anyone who might need it.”

Laura McCreery, MC of the event and spokesperson for OSAS, then introduced herself and offered some background on Take Back the Night.

“I am first and foremost a capital-F feminist,” McCreery began, earning applause from the crowd. “What we do at OSAS is provide wraparound support for individuals in Oxford County who have experienced sexual violence in all its forms. We’re gathered tonight to take back the night.”

McCreery explained that Take Back the Night originated in the 1970s, when women around the world began gathering to protest the lack of safety they experienced, including the fear of walking alone at night.

“Take Back the Night is now a space that recognizes that sexual harm can happen at any time, anywhere and to anyone,” she said.

“I appreciate every individual here tonight.



(KYRAH SMITH PHOTO)

Laura McCreery, MC of Take Back the Night and spokesperson for OSAS, shares some background on the event and introduces various speakers throughout the evening.

Whether you march for a friend, a parent or neighbour, or for yourself, to be your own safety. I want you to know, I am with you, we are with you. It is not your fault and you are not alone.”

McCreery also highlighted the precarious future of sexual violence support services in Oxford County.

According to McCreery, OSAS is currently unfunded and has relied on community donations and generosity over the years. She noted that the organization is the only specialized provider of sexual violence services in Oxford County and warned that, within six months, there is a possibility the county could be left without those supports.

“We know one in three women will experience some form of sexual violence, or intimate partner violence. One in six men experience sexual violence, and two in three transgender people have been sexually assaulted. Less than 50 per cent of them will report these crimes.”

McCreery urged the community to recognize the importance of ensuring survivors have somewhere to turn when they are ready to seek help.

“We know how important it is that when survivors feel they need support, there is someone there to answer the call.”

She also expressed how “incomprehensible and unthinkable” it is that 50 years after Take Back the Night began, communities such as Oxford could face a future where survivors have nowhere to go for specialized support.

“We are not powerless,” McCreery added. “We can use our voices to point to the change we want to see.”

Next to speak was Patricia Marshall-DeSutter, a mother, wife, survivor and community advocate, who shared her own experience of surviving abuse.

“Abuse was not an isolated chapter in my life,” Marshall-DeSutter said. “Ten years ago, in the autumn of 2016, I walked into Take Back the Night for the very first time.”

Marshall-DeSutter shared that she had recently fled her abuser and described feeling as though she had become a ghost, questioning whether living was worth the agony of picking up the pieces.

Through community support and reconnecting with her ancestral roots, she said she was able to call her spirit back.

“Darkness did not win,” she said.

Marshall-DeSutter also spoke about the ongoing violence experienced by Indigenous women across Canada, calling on the crowd to acknowledge the issue and speak out against it.

“These are not statistics on a page. These are mothers, our sisters, our aunts, our youth.”

Support worker Erinn Todd followed with a selection of poetry from her published collection, “17,” touching on themes that resonated with the evening’s message.

Deputy Mayor Lindsay Wilson also addressed the crowd, referencing feminist activist Gloria Steinem.

“As Gloria Steinem said, the truth will set you free, but first it will p**s you off,” Wilson said, drawing laughter from the crowd. She added she hoped some of the issues discussed during the rally had “lit a fire” within



(KYRAH SMITH PHOTO)

The community of Ingersoll marches downtown in support of “Take Back the Night”, a rally to help raise awareness to sexual violence.



(KYRAH SMITH PHOTO)

Attendees were invited to march through downtown Ingersoll with their signs, led by Brooke McCoy in a series of chants.

the community.

“As a woman, sometimes it can be unbecoming to be mad or angry. This is the space for that anger.”

Wilson noted that occurrences of sexual and gender-based violence in the community are above the national average and expressed concern over the potential loss of local services.

“To hear we are less safe and have less services is unacceptable,” she said.

Wilson also emphasized the importance of learning how to recognize signs of violence within the community, as well as knowing how to report concerns and connect people with available supports.

She took a moment to thank those working in social services, gender-based violence services and as first responders.

“I hope we all get a bit of healing tonight,” Wilson said. “In the meantime, we’ll take back the night.”

Following the speakers, attendees were invited to march through downtown Ingersoll with their signs, led by Brooke McCoy in a series of chants.

The evening concluded with closing remarks from Amy Canlas, DART Coordinator, who expressed her gratitude to everyone in-

volved in bringing the event together.

“My heart is so full. It takes an absolute village and I want to take a moment to look at the pillars of the village and say thank you,” Canlas said.

“It takes the most vulnerability, strength and bravery to stand out upon a crowd and speak out against violence. Thank you to everyone who showed up tonight, to march, listen and support. Because of every single person here, we didn’t just host some event; we built a sanctuary. We took back the night.”

Take Back the Night brought together community members in a show of solidarity, remembrance, support and determination, reminding attendees that survivors should not have to face sexual violence alone.

For anyone experiencing sexual violence, support is available. To learn more about services available through Domestic Abuse Services Oxford, visit www.daso.ca.

Writer’s note - It’s very rare to experience a million different emotions at once, but this event accomplished just that. From anger to sadness to a sort of determination and comfort, Take back the Night was an incredibly powerful rally filled with strong and kind human beings. An unforgettable experience.

Ontario opens nominations for the 2027 Rural Ontario Inspiration Awards

Province celebrating rural leadership, economic innovation, community building and local partnerships

STAFF

Woodstock Ingersoll Echo

The Ontario government is opening nominations for the Rural Ontario Inspiration Awards, an annual program recognizing the people, businesses, organizations and communities that are helping to drive economic growth, create opportunity and strengthen rural Ontario.

The announcement was made on Tuesday as part of Rural Ontario Week.

"In rural communities across the province, people are making a difference every day by stepping up, creating opportunities and helping to build a stronger rural Ontario," said Lisa Thompson, Minister of Rural Affairs. "The response to last year's Rural Ontario Inspiration Awards showed us how important it is to recog-

nize and honour those contributions, and we're proud to continue that celebration in 2027."

The Rural Ontario Inspiration Awards will recognize outstanding achievements across eight categories: Rural Inspiration, Rural Community, Rural Entrepreneur, Rural Youth Leader, Rural Economic Innovation, Rural Partnerships, Rural Champion, and Rural Heart.

Nominations will be accepted until October 23, 2026, and can be submitted at www.Ontario.ca/RuralAwards.

"Rural Ontario is home to remarkable people and organizations whose leadership, creativity and commitment strengthen our communities every day," said Marcus Ryan, Oxford County Warden and Chair of the Western Ontario Wardens' Caucus.

"The awards are an opportunity to celebrate these contributions and share the stories of those creating meaningful change across the province. I encourage residents and community leaders throughout Western Ontario to nominate the inspiring individuals and organizations helping our rural communities thrive," he added.

Minister of Municipal Affairs and Housing, Rob Flack, explained rural Ontario is a driving force behind the province's economy, and its success is built on the hard work of local leaders, businesses and communities that create jobs, attract investment and build opportunity.

"Through the Rural Ontario Inspiration Awards, our government is proud to recognize the people and organizations who work tirelessly to strengthen their communities, grow local economies and

ensure rural Ontario continues to prosper for generations to come," he added.

The provincial government said the awards support the three pillars of Enabling Opportunity: Ontario's Rural Economic Development Strategy by recognizing contributions to safe and strong rural communities, business development and attraction and a growing rural workforce, all of which help build a strong and thriving rural economy.

Following a unanimous vote by the Legislative Assembly of Ontario on March 31, 2026, Rural Ontario Week was established as an annual provincial observance during the third full week of September. Ontario is the first province in Canada to formally recognize an annual week celebrating the contributions of rural communities.

Ingersoll dedicates bench at local dog park to community volunteers

STAFF

Woodstock Ingersoll Echo

At the Town of Ingersoll's regular meeting on July 13, council approved installing a volunteer recognition bench at the Ingersoll Off-Leash Dog Park.

Council directed staff to finalize the wording of the plaque to read, "The Ingersoll Off-Leash Dog Park is a lasting example of what volunteers can achieve together. This bench is dedicated to all those who helped make this park possible."

The park opened in 2017 after many vol-



(CONTRIBUTED PHOTO)

unteers came together to help make the project a reality. Their time, effort, and dedication played a major role in creating the park for the community.

This bench and its accompanying memorial stone were installed on Sept. 22nd, serving to recognize the volunteers who helped make the dog park possible.

"Without their support, the park would not be here today. The bench and plaque will provide a lasting way to thank those volunteers and acknowledge their contribution to an important community space," said a Town of Ingersoll press release.



(CONTRIBUTED PHOTO)

Worship With Us



Old St. Paul's
Anglican Church
723 Dundas St., Woodstock
Sung Holy Eucharist
Sundays at 11:00 am
Fri October 16 - Euchre - 7:00 pm
Everyone welcome
Rector: The Rev'd Patrick Martin
Historic Old St. Paul's: Celebrating 192 years

CHURCH OF THE EPIPHANY
Anglican Church
560 Dundas St. Woodstock
Worship Services
followed by Coffee Hour
Sunday 8:00 a.m.
Sunday 10:30 a.m.
Wednesday 10:30 a.m.
Saturday 6:00 p.m.
Rev. Richard Hetke
will be offering Communion.

VOTE
DAVE
CRIPPS
FOR COUNCILLOR
INGERSOLL

Authorized by Dave Cripps.

McKinnon asking for transparency at TVDSB

LEE GRIFFI
Editor

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

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

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

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

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

McKinnon said one of his biggest concerns

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

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

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

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

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

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

“I don’t think it was the trustees they should have gotten rid of. Somebody was

spending the money, but it certainly wasn’t the elected officials who make \$1,100 a month. What are they really trying to do?”

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

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

Before the province took control of the board, McKinnon said, parents would typ-

ically receive answers to their questions or see issues resolved quickly. He added that he is also concerned members of the media are not having their questions answered.

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

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

Weekend Quiz

By Jake Grant

1. Who was the first emperor of Rome?

2. Which African country is known as the “Rainbow Nation”?

3. How many brains does a leech have?

4. What is the longest-running American sitcom?

5. Where did mahjong originate?
6. What was the first billion-dollar movie?

7. What creature holds the record for the world’s largest eyes?

8. Who was the legendary king with the golden touch?

9. What type of acid gives grapefruit its tartness?

10. What is the national animal of New Zealand?

This week’s answers are found on pg. 31

TheHeartofOxford.ca

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@TheHeartOfOxford

The Heart of Oxford

EXPERIENCE



Scan to purchase your ticket

SATURDAY NOVEMBER 7th

10.00am–7.00pm | Oxford Auditorium

Enjoy live music, delicious food, and shop a wide selection of local brands all under one roof. It’s the perfect place to start your holiday shopping. Let’s support our local businesses this season!

Riddles

I saw my math teacher with a piece of graph paper yesterday.
I think he must be plotting something.

If you multiply this number by any other number, the answer will always be the same. What number is this?
Zero.

I am an odd number. Take away a letter and I become even. What number am I?
Seven.

What do you call a bear with no teeth?
A gummy bear.

I have pointed fangs, and I sit and wait. I have piercing force, and I crunch with weight. I grab my victims, but they do not fight. I join them each with a single, quick bite. What am I?
A stapler.

What kind of ship has two mates but no captain?
A relationship.

Sudoku

by PeterS 2026

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

Solution found on page 31

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*** **

CHOLE

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

Word Search

HUNTING & FISHING

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

ANGLER
BAG
LIMIT
BAIT
BLINDS

BOBBER
CAMO
CAMOUFLAGE
CASTING
CATCH

DECOY
FLETCHING
GAME
HABITAT
HARVEST

LICENSE
LURE
NET
POACHING
QUARRY

SCENT
SEASON
TACKLE
TRACKING
WILDERNESS

COMING EVENTS

SEPTEMBER

SEPTEMBER 29 | 10:30 - 11:30 AM
SEPTEMBER 30 | 7 - 8 PM
FUNG LOY KOK TAOIST TAI CHI® OPEN HOUSES
 (Sept. 29) St. David's United Church, Kirk Hall, 190 Springbank Ave, Woodstock
 (Sept. 30) Church of the Epiphany, Basement Hall, 560 Dundas St, Woodstock
 Discover the health benefits of a Taoist Tai Chi® arts introductory program to be held in the Woodstock area! Join us for a demonstration, ask questions, and learn more about our practice. For details, Email: Woodstock@taoist.org or visit www.taoist.org/locations/Woodstock or call 1-888-824-2441.

SEPTEMBER 30 | 7 PM
OXFORD HISTORICAL SOCIETY ALTADORE
 Chartwell Oxford Gardens, 423 Devonshire Ave, Woodstock (Main Entrance)

The only home fine enough to entertain the Prince of Wales in 1860. Come join Thomas Ryerson as he takes us through the rich history of the house on the "Round Hill" and its former occupants. Free Event, No Registration, Parking, Donations Welcome! www.oxfordhistoricalsociety.ca or email us at info@oxhs.ca

OCTOBER

OCTOBER 3 | 10 AM - 4 PM
OXFORD COUNTY BRANCH – ONTARIO ANCESTORS – OCTOBER IS FAMILY HISTORY MONTH
 The Governor's House (Oxford Genealogical Society) 82 Light Street, Woodstock

Supporting family history research since 1979, our resource library helps visitors discover their Oxford County ancestors. Experienced volunteers can assist with local records, family histories, cemeteries, obituaries and more. During Family History Month, enjoy starter kits, genealogy and DNA resources, and free scanning of albums or scrapbooks. Everyone is welcome!

OCTOBER 5 | 7 PM
OPERATION CHRISTMAS CHILD KICK-OFF
 Faithway Baptist Church, 576 Brant St. Woodstock

All are invited to the annual Operation Christmas Child kick-off being held at Faithway Baptist Church 576 Brant St. Woodstock on Monday, October 5 starting at 7:00 pm. Come hear the impact of a simple shoebox gift to a child and their community around the world. Updates and new information will be shared. Special guest speaker will be the Canadian director for Operation Christmas Child. Please RSVP to Karen at 519-425-0172.

OCTOBER 13 | 7 PM
HANGINGS, HAUNTINGS AND HALLOWEEN-TALES FROM OXFORD ARCHIVES
 Beachville District Museum
 Beachville District Historical Society speaker series welcomes Liz Dommasch with "Hangings, Hauntings and Halloween-Tales from Oxford Archives". Join us at the Beachville District Museum for an evening of haunting stories with lunch and treats to follow. All are welcome.

OCTOBER 13 & 27 | 1 PM
SACRED HEART PARISH EUCHRE
 Henderson Hall, 133 John Street Ingersoll
 We invite everyone to join us for a Euchre afternoon. Refreshments provided.

OCTOBER 17
HEARTS FOR ETHIOPIA HOSTS A WALK IN THEIR SHOES

A Walk in Their Shoes invites participants to step into the daily experiences of women and children in Ethiopia, while raising vital funds to support those living in extreme poverty. Participants will learn how the money raised will change the lives of women and children in Ethiopia. Be a part of something special, a fundraiser that makes life-changing projects possible in Ethiopia. **Don't wait — register as an individual or gather your friends, form a team, and register today at www.heartsforethiopia.com. Every dollar raised makes a difference!**

OCTOBER 18 | 2 - 4 PM
AN ORCHID EXPEDITION ON THE RIO NEGRO, BRAZIL
 Richards Memorial Church, 360 Edgeworth Avenue, London, ON

The London Orchid Society meets the third Sunday of each month. Join us for a presentation by Deb Boersma from Windsor, ON. Her presentation is An Orchid Expedition on the Rio Negro, Brazil deep into the Amazon Rainforest. Everyone is welcome to attend the meeting for more information at www.londonorchidsociety.com; contact Daryl at 519-666-2927.

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

NOVEMBER

NOVEMBER 21 | 11 AM - 2:30 PM
FAMILY FUN DAY
 Emmanuel Reformed Church, 170 Clarke St. Woodstock, ON
 Penny Sale - Silent Auction - Bake Sale - Games for all Ages - Delicious Soup - Chili - Hot Dogs - Buns - Yummy Desserts - Drinks. FREE ADMISSION - EVERYONE WELCOME.

ONGOING CLASSES, CLUBS & ORGANIZATIONS

SECOND THURSDAY OF EVERY MONTH (SEPTEMBER THROUGH JUNE) | 7 PM
JOIN THE WOODSTOCK COIN CLUB!
 Friendship Room at St. David's United Church
 190 Springbank Ave, Woodstock, ON
 Are you looking to make sense of your collection? Want to meet local folks who truly know your worth? Whether you are a seasoned numismatist or just found an old jar of coins, we want to meet you. Come trade stories, share your treasures, and talk shop with fellow collectors. WEBSITE: woodstockcoinclub.ca, EMAIL: woodstockcoinclub1957@gmail.com, FACEBOOK: Search "Woodstock Coin Club"

WOODSTOCK SEA CADETS AND NAVY LEAGUE CADETS ARE FREE PROGRAMS
 New Address: The Oxford School, 595459 Hwy. 59, Woodstock, ON N4S 7W1. 519-539-2111

SEA CADETS:
 12 – 18 years Tuesdays 6:30 – 9:00 pm
 Contact: 153sea@cadets.gc.ca

NAVY LEAGUE CADETS:
 9 – 12 years Wednesdays 6:30 – 9:00 pm
 Contact: nlccunicorn@navyleagueon.ca

EVERY 3RD THURSDAY | 5 - 7 PM
ARTISTS OPEN MIC | POETRY, PROSE, MUSIC & MORE
 Blueink Bookstore & Cafe, 491 Dundas Street, Woodstock, ON
www.blueinkbookstore.com. Go to "Events" Tab for information and to register

FOOD TRUCKS AT GRACE UNITED CHURCH TAVISTOCK
 116 Woodstock St. S. Tavistock

AUGUST 31 | 4:30 - 7:30 PM
 Born2Eat, Los Rolling Tacos, Fo'Cheezy
 Donations to Tavistock Agricultural Society

EVERY OTHER FRIDAY | 1 - 4 PM
BE FALL-ISH AND COME TO THE INGERSOLL COUNTRY MUSIC JAMBOREE
 Masonic Hall, 190 Thames St. S. Ingersoll
 Join us, walk ins welcome. Qualifications - love 50-70's country music. Perform, listen, dance & enjoy! September 4 & 18, October 2, 16 & 30, November 6 & 20, and December 4.

3RD 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 or email oxfordcounty@pcmh.ca for more information.

EVERY FRIDAY | 1 PM
TILLSONBURG DUPLICATE BRIDGE CLUB
 Tillsonbur 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.

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

LAST TUESDAY OF EVERY MONTH | 10 AM - 12 PM
MONTHLY VON BLOOD PRESSURE CLINIC
 Ingersoll Pharmasave, 19 King St. E., Ingersoll
 Last Tuesday of every Month.

3RD WED. OF MONTH | 6:30 - 8:30 PM
PEER SUPPORT GROUP FOR PARENTS & CAREGIVERS
 21 Wellington St., Woodstock (Virtual options available)
 PCMH is a peer support program providing support to parents and caregivers across Ontario with lived experience raising children and youth with mental health challenges. For more information, please visit family.cmho.org or oxfordcounty@pcmh.ca. We are also on Facebook: Parents for Children's Mental Health ~ Oxford County



UNIFOR LOCAL 636 WOODSTOCK FOODLAND, OXFORD COUNTY PRIDE AND OPERATION SHARING

are happy to be co-hosting

FREE

Traditional Thanksgiving Dinner
for those in need

**Unifor Local 636 @
126 Beale St Woodstock**

MONDAY, OCTOBER 12TH, 2026

TIME: 1:00 PM – 3:00 PM

COMING EVENTS

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 healing.

VON Oxford Supportive Care Programs offer assistance for grief stemming from various circumstances, such as the death of someone, caregiving, serious illness diagnoses, and life transitions. Through education, connection, and compassion, our programs create a safe space for individuals to explore their emotions and learn effective coping mechanisms during the grieving process.

Contact us today to learn more about VON Oxford Supportive Care Programs. Email: oxford.griefsupport@von.ca, Phone: 1-888-866-7518. All Programs are Free-of-charge.

OXFORD COUNTY DIABETES EDUCATION PROGRAM

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. Appointments are available at Alexandra Hospital Ingersoll and Tillsonburg District Memorial Hospital and by phone. **SELF REFERRALS ARE WELCOME.** Please call 519-485-9611 to book an appointment. Let's work together!

THE OPTIMIST CLUB OF OXFORD COUNTY

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

THE LIONS CLUB OF WOODSTOCK

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

OXFORD COUNTY BRANCH OF ONTARIO ANCESTORS

Are you looking to start a summer pastime? Are you interested in your family history? Oxford Branch has an extensive collection of family history and genealogical resources that can help you.

Come visit our Resource Centre at 82 Light Street, Courthouse Square, Woodstock. We are open Tuesdays to Thursdays 10:00 am to 4:00 pm

Volunteers are ready to help you get started or help you research for missing information. You can also connect with us on the web at <https://oxford.ogs.on.ca>. We are dedicated to supporting and promoting genealogical research in Oxford County. Hope to see you through the summer!

BEACHVILLE LEGION EVENTS:
434852 ZorraLine, Beachville

WEDNESDAYS | 7-8 PM
GENTLE CHAIR YOGA

WEDNESDAYS | 7:30 PM
HUMP DAY DARTS, FREE POOL

THURSDAYS | 7 PM
EUCHRE

FRIDAYS | 8 PM
DARTS, FREE POOL

THURSDAYS | 7 PM
LINE DANCING
Salsa and West Coast Swing 8:15. No partner required.

SEPTEMBER 26 | 7 - 11 PM
KARAOKE WITH KEN PYLE.

SEPTEMBER 27 | 1 - 4 PM
THAMES VALLEY BLUEGRASS AND OLD TIME COUNTRY PICKERS
Open Mic (acoustic only). Come enjoy the music!

SEPTEMBER 30 & OCTOBER 14 | 4:30 - 6 PM
OX ON THE RUN MOBILE LIBRARY

OCTOBER 9 | DOORS OPEN 6 PM BINGO STARTS AT 7 PM
OXFORD COUNTY FELINE WELLNESS BINGO

OCTOBER 9 | 5:30 PM
LASAGNE DINNER
To order call 519-423-6363 or rc1495.suppers@gmail.com

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

MONDAYS (STARTING SEPT. 14)
CADETS

TUESDAYS & THURSDAYS (&WEDNESDAYS STARTING SEPTEMBER 2)
DART LEAGUE

THURSDAYS (STARTING SEPT. 10) | 1:30 PM
SHUFFLEBOARD

FRIDAYS
CANTEEN IS CLOSED
Until sometime in October.

SATURDAYS | 7 - 11 PM
EVENING ENTERTAINMENT:

SEPTEMBER 26TH - NORTSHORE RAMBLERS

SEPTEMBER 27 | 5 - 6 PM
FAMILY DINNER FISH N CHIPS
Set price with dessert extra, per-order and pay no later September 23rd contact rc1branch55@rogers.com or 519-537-3112 to order.

OCTOBER 3
POPPY CAMPAIGN STARTS
Reminder that our Poppy campaign is coming up next month is starts October 24th and runs till November 10th, we will be needing as many volunteers as possible so please come out, have fun but most of all support your Legion and Veterans.

OCTOBER 24
BAKE SALE
Reminder about our Bake sale October 3rd we will need donations as well as baked goods for this event.

DECEMBER 18
100TH ANNIVERSARY GALA
Did you know it is the 100th anniversary of the Royal Canadian Legion and Branch 55 Woodstock, Ontario? We provide support to cadets, Veterans and local youth among many other things. Support our 100th anniversary gala either with a prize donation or monetary donation. More details by emailing rc1branch55@rogers.com

WOODSTOCK MEMORIALS



896 Dundas Street
Woodstock, ON, N4S 1H1

Specializing in the Personalization of Cemetery Monuments & Markers
Contact us to schedule an appointment with a Memorial Counsellor.

Phone: 519-421-2427
jmcmahon@stratfordmemorials.com

Large indoor display
superiormemorials.com

Ingersoll book store welcomes The Wild Beneath – in conversation with Reese’s Book Club author Kelly Anderson

KYRAH SMITH

Echo Correspondent

Commonplace Books hosted an author panel with Canadian author Kelly Anderson, whose novel *The Wild Beneath* was recently selected as a Reese’s Book Club pick on Sept. 9.

From 6:30 p.m. to 8 p.m., the bookstore was filled with excited fans clutching copies of the novel as Anderson sat down for an evening of conversation, questions and discussion about her journey as an author.

Store owner Shannon McKechnie hosted the panel, introducing Anderson and sharing her enthusiasm for the novel.

“It resonated with me so deeply. About a year ago, after experiencing some direction changes in life, it was just the perfect book,” McKechnie said. “So, I’m thrilled to have you (Kelly) here, and a group of so many other people who your story resonated with.”

Anderson began by thanking the crowd for attending, noting that making time to support a local author and their work is meaningful.

“It’s no small deal to take time out of your day to come and support an author with their book. You guys are my first local

event. I just feel so psyched to be here and honoured you came.”

Anderson also shared that *The Wild Beneath* is only the second Canadian book to ever be selected as a Reese’s Book Club pick (as of writing this). Founded by actor Reese Witherspoon in 2017, the club highlights books and authors, with a focus on stories that centre women and elevate their voices.

“I was on Reese’s Book Club stage in New York City the day the book came out,” Anderson explained.

She recalled sitting beside another author who spoke about carefully planning out her books and creating extensive details before beginning the writing process.

“I must have been sitting on the stage looking at her like, ‘Wow,’ because that’s not my experience of how any of this happened,” Anderson said with a laugh.

Anderson’s path to becoming an author was far from traditional. She began her career working in emergency medicine and HIV care, describing a life that revolved around caring for others.

“All I was doing was going to work, taking care of people, coming home, taking care of people,” she said.

Although she was fulfilling an important career, Anderson said she eventually found



(BRITT BARNIM PHOTOGRAPHY PHOTO)

Wild Beneath author, Kelly Anderson, Commonplace Books owner Shannon McKechnie and attendees smile for the camera.

herself caught in a cycle that left her constantly tired and unsure why she no longer felt like herself.

Then, on a random day in the middle of winter, inspiration appeared unexpectedly.

Out of the corner of her eye, Anderson saw a character she would eventually name Walker, who would become a central figure in *The Wild Beneath*.

“He has this metamorphic quality, and I saw him in my driveway, and I just couldn’t stop thinking about it,” she recalled.

With no formal writing training, Anderson began developing the story. As the book grew, she found herself juggling her medical career with a completely new creative pursuit while also learning to find her voice as a writer.

Eventually, she reached a point where she had to make a difficult decision: continue dedicating her time to medicine or give herself fully to *The Wild Beneath*.

Against what she described as all logical reasoning, Anderson chose the book.

She said the novel seemed to know something about her that she had yet to realize herself; that she could change and follow a different path.

McKechnie later asked whether Anderson’s experience working in medicine had influenced her voice as a writer.

Anderson said that one of the biggest lessons she carried from her time in healthcare was the importance of listening.

“If you’ve had the privilege of having a doctor in your life who is doing their job correctly, you will have felt how it feels when they really listen to you,” she said. “And I think writing a book is similarly about this, deep listening.”

McKechnie asked one final question: “When a reader closes the book, what is the main emotion you hope they take away?”

“I think as humans, we’re in this constant state of remembering and forgetting who we are, and what we really want,” Anderson said. She described *The Wild Beneath* as a story about remembering the “home” with-

in yourself and embracing the possibility of change.

“Metamorphosis is possible. This book gave me everything and owes me nothing.”

Following the panel, attendees had the opportunity to participate in a Q and A before Anderson signed copies of their books. In a touching gesture, Anderson even asked some fans to sign her own copy as a memento of the evening.

The event brought together readers eager to hear from an author whose unexpected journey from medicine to fiction has resonated with people far beyond the pages of *The Wild Beneath*.

Commonplace Books remained filled with conversation and excitement; a fitting atmosphere for a night celebrating a story that inspires us to take a closer look at our own paths.



(KYRAH SMITH PHOTO)

Kelly Anderson, author from Guelph, Ontario comes to Commonplace Books to discuss her new novel “The Wild Beneath.”

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QUIZ ANSWERS

1. Augustus
2. South Africa
3. 32
4. The Simpsons
5. China
6. Titanic (1997)
7. The colossal squid
8. King Midas
9. Citric acid
10. The Kiwi

SUDOKU SOLUTION

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

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