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Kinsmen pedestrian bridge to be replaced

JEFF HELSDON

Local Journalism Initiative Reporter

The Kinsmen Bridge will be replaced this summer. Town council approved reconstruction of the vital link between Hickory Hills and subdivisions on the west side of town and the downtown at the June 16 meeting. The accepted bid was for \$3.25 million, less than the \$4.69 million budgeted for the project.

In a report to council, Director of Operations Carlos Reyes reported that five bids were received, ranging from \$3.09 million to \$4.97 million, inclusive of HST. The approved recommendation was to accept the lowest bid, \$2.74 million, plus HST, from Lancoa Contracting of Caledon East. With the addition of engineering costs of \$166,327 and a 10 per cent contingency to cover unexpected costs. This represents a savings of \$1.4 million over the budgeted amount.

The bidding process also allowed alternative materials to be submitted, rather than the metal design, which is more reminiscent of the rail heritage of the original bridge. Lancoa was the only bidder to include an alternative, which was a modular panel design that would have saved \$250,000; however, it would have looked entirely different.

The approved design was for a prefabricated girder design with metal grate walkway. Included in the bid was a deflector plate so those walking across the bridge wouldn't be able to see the valley floor below, and create an issue for those with a fear of heights. It utilizes the existing cement pillars, with renovations, and features LED lighting on the walkway.

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TurtleFest was another success with wall-to-wall people downtown on Saturday for the annual street festival. There was something for people of all ages, from the bouncy castles to vendors, food trucks, and musical entertainment throughout the day

TurtleFest set records on many fronts

JEFF HELSDON

Local Journalism Initiative Reporter

TurtleFest was another success, setting records in several different ways over the weekend.

The event saw record attendance, a record number of vendors, the highest number of food vendors, and several

Last year, 30,000 people attended, a number confirmed by an independent analyst. Mark Renaud, CEO of the Tillsonburg District BIA, noted that the crowd seemed

"We had many, many new faces at the festival. There were buses from Toronto," he said explaining this was from a tour operator that chose day trips

"There was a family that flew in from Calgary," added Vanessa Fortner, BIA events and marketing coordinator. They were family of one of the bands that played.'

With sunny weather and enough of a breeze to keep it from being too hot, it worked in the event's favour. Renaud noted there were 15 events in Oxford County on Saturday.

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ROYAL LEPAGE

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nnandale House TurtleFest events also well attended

"It was the biggest and most attended event in the county on Saturday," Renaud said.

Vendors lined both sides of Broadway from Bridge Street to Oxford Street. With more than 140 and another 14 food trucks, it was record participation. Renaud said the vendors were pleased with the results.

"We've had a number of emails today from vendors who contacted us and said put me down for next year," he said on Monday.

The vendors ranged from downtown businesses that had a booth in front of their stores to other local businesses, service clubs, and out-of-town retailers.

"A lot of it was showcasing local Ontario or Canadian made products," Renaud said. "That was the focus of a lot of the booths."

New this year was Entrepreneur Alley, sponsored by Shaw's Ice Cream. All participants in this area were under the age of 16, and Shaw's sponsored it as a noted local entrepreneurial fam-

ily.

"It was just every bit as well done as a professional corporation," Renaud said.

"You could just see the vendors were so proud of their work," Fortner added. "They were happy people were coming to their booth. It was heartwarming."

Also new was the Adventure Zone, which featured displays of agricultural equipment, a display from the Gay Lea Dairy Museum in Aylmer, and the Tillsonburg FC soccer club in the parking lot adjacent to CIBC. This area had previously hosted a car show, but Renaud noted that there were several car shows scheduled for the same weekend, so the organizers decided to pay tribute

to the area's agricultural heritage.

There were also three automobile dealerships amongst the displays, featuring Ontario-made vehicles.

The Reptilia exhibit, which had three shows, was a hit.

"That is a natural tie-in with the turtle theme of TurtleFest," Renaud said. "The kids were mesmerized."

Bands played throughout the day, including locals and Juno nominee Adrian Sutherland from Attawapiskat, who was on tour. These led up to headliner Texas King, which took the stage at 9

"That was probably the most well-attended concert we've had downtown in a long time," Renaud said. "The street was full all night."

Annandale House events

The success of TurtleFest downtown was echoed at Annandale House. A variety of displays were present there, with a record attendance of 1,300 people on Saturday.

Kathleen Watkin, culture and heritage program coordinator with Annandale National Historic Site, said having new and exciting things drew people.

"The weather also helped," she said. "We did a lot of collaboration with the street fair. That helped a lot with the communication and ensuring we are part of the street fair."

Amongst those new events were a Theatre Tillsonburg dress-up photo station to promote its Christmas show, a talk about preserving native turtles from the Ontario Turtle Conservation Centre, the opening of the museum's Tillsonburg 1825 and Community Living Tillsonburg's 70th anniversary. Watkin said the Tillsonburg Horticultural Society seed-planting activity was the biggest draw.

Returning at Annandale House was the Toronto Lego Club handing out free Lego turtle kits. Watkin said there is a different turtle each year, and these have become collector's items. Scale Nature Park's display of turtles and snakes is a returning feature that is also popular.

The Friday night movie on the lawn was complemented by food trucks, games, and rock painting crafts prior to the show. This drew about 500 people on Friday night – which was an increase although Watkin said the 100 people who attended the movie was down. She said this was likely due to the cooler weather.

"We feel it was an extremely successful," Watkin said. "We look forward to doing it again, and adding to it, next year."

Tillsonburg's largest annual event started Friday night with a ribbon cutting at the Station Arts Centre as the Slow and Steady exhibit opened. This exhibit is a people's choice exhibit featuring art that displays turtles in various mediums. Oxford MPP Ernie Hardeman was on hand to celebrate the opening of TurtleFest, an event supported by a provincial Experience Ontario grant that provided organizers with funding to help festivals in need of financial and volunteer assistance.

Traditionally, Rogers has been a huge sponsor of TurtleFest through its Country 107.3 station in Tillsonburg. However, with the selling of the station in process, the communications giant didn't sponsor this year.

'This year created unique challenges for Turtlefest," Renaud said. "We had to pivot from the traditional reliable funding and that allowed us to be more creative with the entertainment."

With the Experience Ontario grant, a one-time initiative, a provincial representative attended to ensure that all commitments made in the application were met.

"They were very thrilled with everything," Renaud said. "The size of the festival for the size of the community, punching above its weight. They couldn'tå believe how busy it was and the fact it was an economic fully barrier free event."

He heard through the weekend that people couldn't believe the event was free unless people bought something from the vendors or food booths. There was free entertainment, free food and free music.

The Town of Tillsonburg was also a big contributor to the event. Mayor Deb Gilvesy paid tribute to the volunteer organizers of TurtleFest.

"Behind every booth, every sign, every music note playing in the background, there are volunteers. Incredible, hard-working people who've poured their time, energy and heart into making the day possible," she said. "From the setup to the final cleanup, it's our volunteers — our neighbours — who are the real heroes of this festival."

And those heroes have already started planning for next year.

"We actually had to turn down vendors because we didn't have room," Renaud said. "The committee will have a discussion when we have our debrief to create more space."

Vendor forms will be available at the end of January. Organizers know one of their challenges already will be filling the funding gap that was helped this year by the provincial grant.

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Tillsonburg Post

Kinsmen pedestrian bridge to be replaced

Reves told council, that if approved, the project would take four months and start the second week of July.

Coun. Chris Parker asked about the communication plan to inform residents about the four-month closure for reconstruction.

"This is a major way for people to access the downtown for that area," he said.

Reves said communication will be through social media and letters to residents of the area.

Coun. Kelly Spencer mentioned concerns from people in Hickory Hills about how to access the downtown during construction, noting the sidewalk is on the opposite of Baldwin Street and anyone walking would have to cross the street

"I'm wondering if there is anything that can be looked at for that," she said. "It can be daunting for cars, let alone walking slow across the

Reyes committed to returning to council with a report outlining options to that

Parker asked about the availability of the T-Go bus, and after it was confirmed there is a route from the areas impacted by the bridge closure, suggested, "With the bus already going there, maybe this is an opportunity to promote more ridership with the bridge down."

Mayor Deb Gilvesy said surveys through the South Central Ontario Region (SCOR) found using the bus can be intimidating for some.

"I know sometimes transit can be daunting for seniors or people who have never used it," she said. "It might be helpful to go to the Hickory Hills Clubhouse with a tutorial video on how to use the bus."

When Reyes pointed out the alternative design in-

cluded with the bid, Coun. Pete Luciani replied, "I did note the alternative design, although a very ugly alternative design. With the previous input from everybody who had input, especially the historical society, trying to keep it a little closer to what is existing, then into something that looks a little more, I don't even know what the comment is on that, I will leave it at that."

"I concur, because one of my comments was, please tell me we are getting the rustic-looking one," Gilvesy said.

The mayor asked questions about the grate floor, noting that there have been issues with the existing wooden surface, which has rubber mats placed on it in the winter to make it less slippery.

"Is there any type of winter maintenance that needs to be done on this surface, and are we definitely sure pets will be able to cross and mobility, scooters wheelchairs," she said. "The flooring/walking surface is what needs to be done right - now it's wood and they put rubber matt on it because it gets slippery - not ideal and the mat buckles up."

"It will be safe for pets," Reyes answered. "I would like to thank the groups involved because they raised the concerns about it be-



The Kinsmen Bridge is a vital link between downtown and subdivisions on the west side of Tillsonburg. It will be replaced this summer, and the bridge will be closed for four months during the process.

ing friendly for pets and for anyone using anyone using accessibility devices. Yes, It will be accessible and public works will be taking care of the winter maintenance."

Although he is working on getting more details on winter maintenance, Reyes said snow should go through the perforated surface.

"Is this not similar to the bridge at Lisgar," Spencer said. "It looks like it to me. What I could add is I lived around that neighbourhood for 20-30 years and bikes cross it, wheelchairs cross it, dogs cross it. I walked it every day. In the winter, I never had an issue with it being

slippery. My little dog hated it but I carried her."

Gilvesy pointed out a report on the Bridge Street changes is due back to council soon, but did note there was a suggestion of including parts of the old bridge in its design. She asked if that was part of the quote.

Reyes said that was not part of the quote, which covered fully decommissioning the bridge and disposing of it.

"I would certainly like to see if some pieces could be set aside," Gilvesy said.

Luciani questioned if part of the proposal price included scrap value for the existing bridge.

"If it is, that is obviously is something we have to look at. If we are looking at trying to remove some of that, and if we are going to be paying for our own bridge back, that isn't a good thing either," he said.

After discussion of when the next meeting of the Bridge Street committee was, it was decided this item could be discussed later.

In closing, Gilvesy said this project must go ahead due to a report saying the bridge was due for replacement.

"It needs to be done," she said. "I know it's going to be painful but it is for everyone's safety."



This photo from the report on the reconstruction of the Kinsmen Bridge shows the style of construction that will be used with its replacement.

Weekend Quiz

by Jake Grant

- 1. What is the biggest planet in our Solar System?
- 2. What shape is on the Maldives flag?
- 3. Who was the lead singer for the Tragically Hip?
- 4. True or False. Cats have more bones than humans.
- 5. The Citadel of Aleppo is located in what

- country?
- 6. Who brought tulips to Canada?
- 7. What is 0.75 as a fraction in simplest form?
- 8. What NBA players has the most points?
- 9. When was Boeing founded?
- 10. A beer flat, blind pig, or blind tiger are all different names for a what?

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This week's answers are found on pg. 26

Helping Hand is grateful for community support

CHRIS ABBOTT

Post Contributor

There is rising demand for Helping Hand Food Bank services

At the food bank's May 20th annual general meeting, it was noted that in 2023 the Helping Hand Food Bank supported 5,165 area people (3,676 households). In 2024, the need grew and the food bank supported 7,036 people, an increase of 35 per cent.

"We are on target, right now, to exceed all of that," said Samantha Hamilton, who came onboard as food bank coordinator in September 2024, estimating a 5-7 per cent increase overall in 2025 based on numbers from Feed Ontario, which represents more than 1,200 food banks and hunger-relief organizations across the province. Food Canada is projecting closer to a 20 per cent increase in 2025.

"We're sticking with that (5-7 per cent) number until we start to see some actual statistics that come out of that (rising tariffs). We are preparing for it, but not panicking about it, if possible.

"Our backpack program, which is separate, but under the same food bank umbrella, we had a total of 58 children at the end of the year," said Hamilton, "which again is going to increase. We are at 75 right now. That gives you an idea of the increase that we are seeing across the board."

The food bank's backpack program continues throughout the

Building partnerships and sponsorships are key priorities, she said, and bulk purchasing will help lower food costs.

"The move to our new building has been very successful and has served to make the public more aware of the needs for this community," said Marian Smith, treasurer, in her AGM treasurer report. "Demands for services are continually increasing, which puts a stress on the requirements for more funding. Our new coordinator, Samantha (Hamilton), has proved a godsend in this regard as she is constantly on the lookout for grants and more wholesale opportunities to purchase food."

In addition to corporate support, and support from charitable foundations, businesses and local industries, churches, service clubs and individuals, Smith noted there were also two estate bequests, including a bequest of more than \$260,000.

E-transfer donations are increasing, she added.

"Our hearts are overflowing with gratitude to our community for the generous support Helping Hand Food Bank has had over the years and continues to experience," Smith concluded.

> GRANT **HAVEN**

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Helping Hand Food Bank held its AGM on May 20. The food bank's board of directors includes Carol Currier, Amberleigh Lannoo, Tom Langrell, Karlee Slattery, Jennifer Goncalves, Wayne Vansevenant, Susan Saelens, Sara Dekeyser, Marian Smith, (with coordinator Samantha Hamilton), and Doug Cooper.

Helping Hand president Doug Cooper thanked the board of directors for their commitment and passion, and thanked the many food bank volunteers.

"When anyone asks me about the food bank, I always talk to them about the amazing work our volunteers do and how they work as a team with their individual responsibilities. We could not do what we do without the volunteers."

Cooper also gave a "big thank you" to individuals who donated to the food bank, the many sponsors, and their new coordinator.

Helping Hand Food Bank will continue to evolve as the demand for food insecurities increases," said Cooper.

Food bank services are expected to expand in 2025 to include Tuesday client service, likely in the fall, said Hamilton, through an online portal for scheduling appointments and shopping

"We can actually pack and prepare before they get here, to

serve more clients, so that nobody's being left behind just because they can't get an appointment time or can't get somebody on the phone.

"Wednesdays will still run the same," Hamilton noted.

Helping Hand Food Bank has recently submitted all of the information required for the Food Banks Canada Standards of Excellence accreditation.

"We're ahead of the curve on this, which is nice. A lot of work went into that."

New partnerships are developing with Helping Hand, the Salvation Army, Cycles of Life and St. Vincent de Paul in Tillsonburg, who are meeting monthly.

"We're all trying to do the same thing... we're just trying to make sure people aren't hungry, and that is the only measurement, to me, that is success," said Hamilton. "Are people in Tillsonburg hungry or not? If it's 'not,' that means we are doing a good job. However we go about doing it, that is still a success.'

Tillsonburg POST **Guiding Principles**

- 1. Everyone has a story
- 2. The news should be free for all to enjoy
- 3. Good news beats bad news
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- 5. Newspapers document history
- 6. Newspapers strengthen communities
- 7. Advertisers, big or small, should profit from their ads (meaning sensible ad rates)
- 8. Newspapers should be locally-owned and operated

TurtleFest was another success

With the vendors off the streets, the stage taken down and Broadway back to normal, another TurtleFest is complete.

The crowds in downtown Tillsonburg on Saturday speak volumes about the success of the event. At the peak of the event, Broadway was literally wall-to-wall people from the start of the closed off area near Bridge Street to Baldwin Street. There were ebbs and flows in the crowd through the day, but the numbers were solid.

Kudos needs to go out to organizers and volunteers for the successful event. Planning an event of this magnitude is no simple task. A tip of the hat should also go to local businesses and event sponsors, not only for their displays but also for their part in ensuring there was no cost to access TurtleFest – unless of course visitors purchased something from vendors or the many food vendors.

It's difficult to assess the economic impact from having thousands of people in Tillsonburg, but it has to be significant. Local businesses thrive with more customers, and events like TurtleFest help the bottom line and decisions if a business is viable.

Returning to reality, people in Tillsonburg will soon start lamenting about there not being enough to do in our town. Included in the list will likely be not enough shopping options, entertainment options, and activities for young people.

There are many low-cost activities in town: there are many great restaurants, including some recent additions that everyone should check out; the many shops on Broadway and the side streets provide a wide variety of unique items; the recreation facilities are top rate; and in the winter, catching a Thunder game provides top-notch hockey.

However, there are some glaring shortfalls on both the retail and entertainment fronts. Local business leaders have worked to bring some of the choice retailers to town, but Tillsonburg's geography and demographics work against it.

TurtleFest proves locals can make an event in town a huge success. Just imagine if that became contagious and all residents bought local whenever possible — word would get out and maybe some of those things on the wish list of residents would come to fruition.

We want to hear from our community! info@tillsonburgpost.com



FRANK VERES F

With TurtleFest this past weekend, it is appropriate to pay heed to these reptiles as it is their breeding season. Several people have reported to The Post sightings of breeding turtles, including this turtle that was breeding near the baseball diamonds adjacent to Lake Lisgar.

Laura Secord an important figure in Canada's history



THE STAGE IS THE WORLD

LAUREL A. BEECHEY

Tillsonburg Post Columnist

A woman was born 250 years ago this coming September in the midst of the US revolution, who would change the course of Canada.

She was born in Great Barrington Massachusetts. Her father was Thomas Ingersoll, who had emigrated from England in 1729 and was a major in the American army fighting against the British during the American Revolution. After the war, to escape the lawlessness, the family immigrated to Queenston in 1795 where he operated one of the earliest taverns and daughter Laura Ingersoll, married James Secord.

On June 18th, 1812, the U.S. declared war on Britian. In October, Issac Brock was killed at the battle of Queenston Heights and husband James was injured.

The evening before June 21st, 1813, Laura overheard soldiers who had commandeered the Secord home, discussing their plans to attack the British at Beaver Dams. Laura discussed the situation with her husband James, who could not deliver the warning as he was still incapacitated, having been severely wound at the battle Of Queenston Heights.

Laura who was 38, would have to make the trip herself, although she hoped, perhaps, not all the way. The Americans had control of most of the Niagara Peninsula and Canadians were not free to travel as they wished. Laura talked the U.S. commander into issuing her a pass which would allow her to travel the two miles, with some food, to St. David's where her half-brother Charles Ingersoll, had been ill and was being cared for at a Secord relative's home. There she hoped either Charles, or a nephew, could carry on the journey.

The next day, Laura set off at abouit 4 a.m., walking to St. David's. Upon her arrival, she discovered Charles is still ill and there is no one else to carry on. It is thought that her niece Elizabeth travelled with her.

It was a warm, June day and the next leg of the journey was through the Black Swamp. This was one big swamp! She did not have a pass for the road at the edge of the swamp, which was being patrolled by American soldiers, so she and Elizabeth followed faint Indian trails. Bears, boars, bobcats, wolves, mosquitoes, and the dreaded black flies were some of the dangers on this warm day. They had to go through muck and cross creeks, either wading across, or perhaps crossing on fallen trees, all the way to 12-mile Creek and Shipman Corners. Today, this is in St. Catherine's.

Elizabeth could not continue on from there; although younger than Laura, she was also weak from a previous illness and in fact only lived about a year longer. They had gotten lost in the swamp several times and night was falling when Laura began to climb the escarpment.

Have you ever really looked at that escarpment? Most people would have trouble walking up the road, let alone scrambling up through the bush. At the top, Laura stumbled on to the encampment of Caughnawaga Natives, there as allies of the British. Terrified that her scalp was to be a trophy, she somehow managed convince Chief Mishe-mo-qua and his warriors to take her to Fitzgibbon's station, at DeCew's house.

Laura had walked for close to 20 hours, almost 20 miles, or 32 kilometres, in the heat and humidity, with dangers from humans on the road; snakes in the swamp;

wolves in the forest; she climbed an escarpment and lived through meeting the Natives. Her dress was tattered and her bare feet bleeding when she was brought before Lieutenant James Fitzgibbon. Laura gave the warning that actually helped turn the tide of invasion of the Canadas.

Without Laura and local Indigenous people, including a Shawnee contingent led by Tecumseh, and Canadian militia units, the result of the war could have been different. They provided invaluable support to Canada's garrison of professional soldiers.

Would you have tried? Could you walk 32 km? Would you honour Laura and try? This is your chance! Granted, most of the walking will be on roads, no big swamps with snakes, mosquitoes, and bridges to cross over the creeks. No worries about being shot as a spy by American patrols. But you can get a glimmer of the courage and fortitude it took this middle-aged woman to give the warning.

The Laura Secord Special Event Hike is scheduled for June 22, 2025. This hike follows the Bruce Trail for 32 kilometers from the Laura Secord homestead in Queenston to Decew House. For information, registration & roster, for Run For Laura Secord Women's Run | Walk contact: https://raceroster.com/events/2025/102471/run-forlaura-secord-womens-run-walk

Tillsonburg Post

Bird banders calling 'bogus' on so-called Big Beautiful Bill

Post Correspondent

Concerns environmental fallout from Donald Trump's so-called Big Beautiful Bill could migrate north of the border have come to roost at the Long Point Bird Observatory (LPBO).

According to LPBO volunteer Jenny Evans, provisions within the bill would cut funding to the United States Geological Survey's (USGS) ecosystems mission area. Within that division. Evans continued, are biologists who look at species at risk, and additionally, the keepers of USGS bird banding data.

"The removal of that central data base will remove our ability to track the movement of birds or age of birds," said Evans.

In short, the USGS is both the sole source of all the bands used in North and Central America. contracted from a private company, and also the end destination for data from said bands. Each contains

fying code which prevents confusion, as well as a coordinated and centralized compilation procedure.

"Every station, every research project," said Evans, "everyone that puts a band on a bird."

Data collected and correlated on a continental scope provides a good indicator of habitat degradation, insect population and human impact says LPBO Program Coordinator Emma Buck.

"We can see who's doing better than others and who needs our help more."

Game birds are also part of the process says Evans, providing data which allows organizations including the Canadian Wildlife Service to set hunter quotas based on based on hard science which maintain healthy, sustainable populations.

"I think most hunters are in support of this," said Evans.

Buck's affinity for things avian and decade-long working rela-

a unique nine-digit identi- tionship with the LPBO's parent organization Birds Canada encouraged emigration from Norfolk, England, to Norfolk, Ontario.

"I just fell in love with the wildlife and birds," she said. "And the people are nice too."

Bi-annual banding at the LPBO begins April 1 and runs daily from 5:10 a.m. for roughly six hours through the peak of migration to the first week of June at its three stations: Long Point Tip, Breakwater (roughly halfway out), and Old Cut, where we were this late May morning. Banding resumes mid-August and continues through until November, catching what for many birds, is a return

As of mid-May over 4,000 individuals had been banded at Old Cut, moving toward a final estimated total of around 5,000. Highlights included one 'very lost' Scissor Tail Flycatcher, usually a habituate of Texas, as well as a healthy number of Blackburnian and Magnolia Warblers.

"Just a good mix of warblers," said Buck.

The lateness of the season was reflected in a scarcity of birds within the LPBO mist nets, but a 9:50 a.m. run did turn up a Philadelphia Virio and a Yellow-Bellied Flycatcher. As one might suspect, the latter aerial insectivore lives on a diet of flies and beetles in its boreal and south boreal forest breeding grounds. Tough to sex (by wing length), this second-year bird weighed 11.6 grams, had a wing chord length of 64 millimetres and a fat grading of 4, around midrange on the related scale of 0-7.

Meticulously recorded, this data would have been ultimately destined for the central USGS, a historical precedent currently thrown into question.

"There is a lot of things going on," said Evans, concerned organizations may be in effect working in their individual 'silos' rather than as part of a



LPBO Program Coordinator Emma Buck gently removes a Yellow-Bellied Flycatcher from a mist net.

unified, continental approach.

No one is giving up, perhaps moreso hanging in, doing their thing and hoping for change back for the better in four, potentially long years.

"We will persevere," Evans concluded.

COMMUNITY LIVING Tillsonburg

We are looking for 3 new members for our Board of Directors!

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Typically, the Board of Directors meets on a monthly basis. In addition, Directors sit on committees which may also meet monthly. Orientation and training is provided

The work of our Board of Directors has a meaningful impact on the lives of the people receiving services and fosters our efforts towards increased community inclusion

If you are interested, please forward a letter containing the following information:

- Name, address, telephone number and email address;
- Experience and attributes you would bring to the Board of Directors;
- A Professional and a Personal Reference
- A brief explanation of why you would like to become a Board member

Letters and resumes should be addressed to: Community Living Tillsonburg c/o The Livingston Centre 96 Tillson Avenue Tillsonburg, ON N4G 3A1

ATTN: Nominating Committee or email rosemaryc@communitylivingtillsonburg.ca

For more information or if you have any questions please contact Rosie at the email above.

Deadline for submission: June 23, 2025

Community Living Tillsonburg

96 Tillson Avenue Tillsonburg, ON N4G 3A1

Tel: 519-842-9008 x226 Fax: 519-842-7628

communitylivingtillsonburg.ca

Tillsonburg Post is now a **WEEKLY** publication!

The next issue will be: Thursday, June 26th Sign up for our newsletter to be notified! tillsonburgpost.com



BARBECUE FOR A CAUSE

Tillsonburg Lions Club members were at Tillsonburg Home Hardware on June 7, selling hot dogs and hamburgers as part of a fundraising initiative. Home Hardware Assistant Store Manager Raven Buckingham, left, and Lions President Jim Croker, right, presented a cheque for \$1,500 to Kim Fairhurst of Domestic Abuse Services Oxford (DASO).

Indoor pool will be closed for maintenance June 30-July 6

The indoor pool at the Tillsonburg Community Centre will be closed to the public for one week this summer for mechanical and equipment upgrades.

"There were a few outstanding upgrades that we weren't able to complete prior to reopening," explained Julie Dawley, Recreation Programs and Services Manager. "We're now ready to take on those tasks and bring the project to a close."

The list of outstanding work includes installing new ladders and lifeguard chairs, replacing select valves and filters, and lowering water levels to permit an intensive cleaning of the upper tiles and gutter area.

"We've tried to time the shutdown to minimize the impact on our regular patrons," says Dawley, noting the closure spans a long weekend when the indoor pool is typically closed.

Swimming lessons will not be affected by the closure, and both Aquafit and Adult Swim sessions will be moved to Lake Lisgar Waterpark during the shutdown. For casual swimming, the waterpark will be open daily beginning June 27 (11:00 a.m. to 6:00 p.m.).

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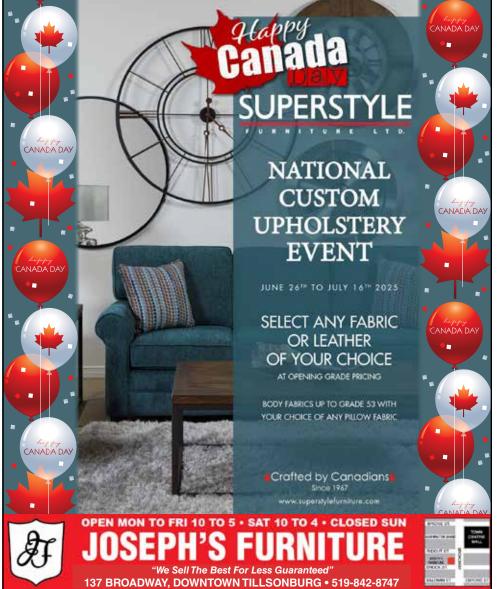
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Governments are listening to Chamber recommendations



(CHRIS ABBOTT PHOTO)

Daniel Tisch Echevarria, president and CEO of the Ontario Chamber of Commerce, was recently the keynote speaker at a Tillsonburg District Chamber of Commerce Chamber networking lunch. From left are Ashley Edwards, CEO of the Tillsonburg Chamber; Tisch Echevarria; Tillsonburg District Chamber of Commerce board president Megan Causyn; and Tillsonburg Deputy Mayor Dave Beres.

CHRIS ABBOTT

Post Contributor

Economically, Tillsonburg has been through half a decade of turmoil, said Tillsonburg Deputy Mayor Dave Beres, as he introduced Daniel Tisch Echevarria, president and CEO of the Ontario Chamber of Commerce, keynote speaker at a May 21st Tillsonburg District Chamber of Commerce Chamber networking lunch.

"We've survived a major pandemic, we're going through significant interest rate changes, and now we're concerned about the tariffs," said Beres. "And through all this, we've sustained considerable growth. So we have a very, very strong community that continues to grow, and we're looking forward to the challenges of the balance of the decade."

Tisch Echevarria kicked off his presentation praising and congratulating the leadership of the Tillsonburg District Chamber of Commerce, which has influenced policies of the Ontario and Canadian Chambers.

"We need this leadership more than ever," said Tisch Echevarria, speaking to chamber members about the trade situation with the United States, what the Ontario Chamber of Commerce is hearing from Ontario businesses, 'why are we in this mess?', the reasons why Trump's tariff policies are 'ultimately disastrous' for both Americans, Canadians, and everybody, and 'the way forward - how we can go about looking after ourselves' and ensuring that we can 'control our own destiny to the greatest extent that we can.'

"All of southwestern Ontario is affected," said Tisch Echevarria. "So much of Ontario's economic base is tied to trade with the United States."

He said survey results showed 60-70 per cent of Ontario businesses felt the tariffs would hurt them.

"Even the threat (of tariffs) is hurting. Even if tariffs are paused for 90 days – or whatever situation we are in – the uncertainty."

As to why the tariffs are increasing, in part, Tisch Echevarria said, "He (Donald Trump) thinks the trade deficit with Canada is a subsidy, rather than (United States) simply consuming more than it produces."

It affects businesses considering new investments and expansions, he said, noting businesses do not know if high tariffs are here to stay... or are they a negotiating ploy.

"You all know as business people, you can't stand still in business, right? Because if you're standing still, your competitors from the United States, competitors from other countries around the world, they are charging."

Tisch Echevarria said Trump's "obsession" about the 51st State has united Canadians, and after talking to American business leaders and Chambers, he says many are embarrassed.

"They want to resolve our differences," he said, noting it's only a matter of time before 'misinformation' is checked by economic realities - increasing inflation and unemployment.

Tisch Echevarria said Canada should explore more trade agreements with other G7 countries, diversifying trade and finding new markets.

"This damage to the reputation of US products and services could take years to repair," he said, and US markets could be unreliable and unpredictable for an unknown number of years.

Improved domestic trading policies can be introduced, he said, removing barriers for consumers, allowing more choice for businesses with markets across the country, improving product standards, and better access to labour.

"We've been talking about this a long time. We're seeing impact, we're seeing progress... There are so many benefits."

Improving transportation infrastructure and trade corridors are important, he said, as Canadians deal with congestion, gridlock, lack of rail infrastructure or insufficient ports.

"It's way too hard to get goods across the province, across the country."

The good news, he said, is that governments are listening to Chamber of Commerce recommendations, with exciting steps forward.

"I know we're facing hard times, and realistically these times may get harder still, but I am still optimistic."

Share the road and enjoy Bike Month in Oxford County

Oxford County is a haven for cycling enthusiasts with over 32 km of off-road cycling trails and endless day-trip opportunities

June is Bike Month in Ontario and the perfect time for cyclists of all skill levels to enjoy Oxford County's more than 713 kilometres of potential cycling routes and off-road trails.

Oxford County's Active Transportation Advisory Committee (ATAC) promotes active transportation and low-carbon travel. It advocates for a well-connected, safe, accessible, and functional active transportation network consisting of sidewalks and multi-use paths, designated bicycle lanes, wider paved shoulders, and off-road trails.

Tourism Oxford's Ride Oxford program offers cycling itineraries, road maps and suggestions for bike-friendly stops along Oxford's scenic roads, two extensive mountain bike trails, and the Trans Canada Trail for off-road bike enthusiasts.\

Oxford County participates in the Share the Road program, which uses recognizable signage to encourage motorists to be mindful and cautious of cyclists riding on County roadways and showcases Oxford County as a cycling-friendly community.

Traffic complaint leads to impaired driving charge

Members of the Ontario Provincial Police (OPP), Oxford Detachment responded to a traffic complaint, resulting in one person being charged with impaired driving.

On June 9, at approximately 8 p.m., members of Oxford OPP were dispatched to a traffic complaint on Broadway in the Town of Tillsonburg.

As a result of the investigation, Crystal Buick, a 48-year-old resident of the Town of Tillsonburg, has been charged with:

- Dangerous Operation
- Operation While Impaired

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

The accused has been released from custody and is scheduled to appear before the Ontario Court of Justice in Woodstock on July 22, 2025.

The OPP is committed to safety for all who utilize Ontario's roadways. Members of the public are urged to report Impaired Driving by calling 911 in emergency situations. Complaints of impaired, aggressive, or careless driving can also be made by calling 1-888-310-1122 or *677 from a cell phone.

We want to hear from our community! info@tillsonburgpost.com



PLAYGROUND SUPPORT

(CONTRIBUTED PHOTO)

St. Mary's Catholic Women's League (CWL) made a \$10,000 donation, in addition to a smaller donation of \$2,500 in 2024, for playground equipment at St. Joseph's. The playground equipment, used by the community at large and not just students at the school, had reached its expiry date and an upgrade needed. The CWL was able to provide this sizeable donation through fundraising efforts in the past year from spring and fall rummage sales and the Mistletoe Bazaar held in November. Left to right are: Janet Guralski, CWL treasurer; Kathy Holly, CWL President; Cheryl Barton, chair; Kristy Babb, principal St. Joseph's Catholic School; and Krystyna Verhoeve, community representative.

Oxford MP raises concerns about lack of budget

IEFF HELSDON

Local Journalism Initiative Reporter

As the House of Commons prepares to go into summer recess, Canadians are still waiting for a plan on how the government will be spending their money.

Oxford MP Arpan Khanna pointed out the government initially said it would not be releasing a budget in calendar 2025, but since amended that to release a fall budget.

Technically, Canada hasn't had a budget since March 31. With the exception of Covid, Khanna said the last time Canada went this long without a budget was more than 20 years ago

"It's just Canadians need to know where that money will be spent," he said.

As an interim measure, prior to the House of Commons breaking for the summer, MPs will be asked to vote on an estimates bill that will approve a half-trillion dollars in spending.

"There is very, very little detail where the money is going," Khanna said of the estimates bill. "From what we've extrapolated, we've been able to identify some areas where they're spending money. For example, they're spending the

money that goes to outside consultants."

Providing more detail, Khanna said the previous year the government spent about \$19 billion on outside consultants. This amount has now been increased to \$26 to \$27 billion.

"In the last Parliament we saw that money was spent on Liberal insiders, for example GC Strategies where they gave money to the contractors for the ArriveScan app, and now we're back in Parliament trying to figure out where the \$100 million went," he said. "We're learning from the Auditor General, it was only a two-man company that barely did any work, and skill sets weren't there for that work."

Although there are provisions for a new government to operate for a time without a budget, Khanna pointed to the rhetoric that Prime Minister Mark Carney would be a man with a plan and a budget, as he was a banker.

"Just like Canadians can't run a household without a budget, and business can't run without a budget, the government can't do that either," he said. "They're just pushing these bills through and getting these estimates through without much scrutiny.

"A half-trillion dollars of spending without oversight is problematic."

Although the last day of scheduled sittings is June 20, Khanna said his party has indicated they are willing to sit longer into the summer to get business done.

From what Khanna has seen, the government is not on top of the files. He pointed to a question he asked on immigration where the minister didn't have the details to answer the question.

"Every day we are asking questions, and tough questions, and not getting good answers," he said.

The Conservatives are not likely supporting the estimates bill, Khanna said. Any finance bill is a confidence motion, meaning if it doesn't pass, Canadians will be back at the polls. Khanna doesn't think that will happen and one of the opposition parties will provides the extra few votes needed to pass the legislation.

The Oxford MP did emphasize his party will support good legislation. He gave the example of Bill C-5, which will aid in building the economy and taking down inter-provincial trade barriers, and that the Conservatives supported it.

He said many other bills have "poison pills" – a term used for legislation that has good points, but also bad measures. Those bills he said, will be scrutinized in Parliament.

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

SIU investigating Tillsonburg arrest

The province's Special Investigations Unit (SIU) is investigating the circumstances surrounding the serious injury suffered by a 26-year-old man last week in Tillsonburg.

Preliminary information suggests the following:

- At approximately 12:30 p.m. on June 5, OPP officers located two persons of interest in the area of Bridge Street West and Broadway Street. These individuals a man and a woman were being investigated in relation to a theft.
- The man fled on foot and one of the officers pursued him on foot.
- The officer caught up to the man and took him to the ground. Following a struggle, the man was eventually handcuffed.
- Upon complaining of pain, the man was transported to hospital where he was diagnosed with serious injuries.

Two investigators with SIU have been assigned to the

The SIU is urging anyone who may have information about this investigation, including video or photos, to contact the lead investigator at 1-800-787-8529 or online at: https://siu.on.ca/en/appeals.php.





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Osmow's brings Mediterranean cuisine to town

JEFF HELSDON

Editor

The opening of Osmow's Shawarma in the Northgate Plaza brings a Mediterranean option to town.

Opening recently, the restaurant specializes in shawarma, plus has many other unique menu items.

This is the first business venture for owners Tanju Wadhwa and Samdisha Arora. They started working in a restaurant in the chain in North York after moving to Canada from India.

"Once we got to know Osmow's, we really liked it and decided we wanted to own one," Wadhwa said.

The couple went through the process of applying for a franchise and ended up with the new location in Tillsonburg.

Osmow's is inspired by Egyptian cuisine. Owner Sam Osmow opened a sub shop after moving to Canada in 2001. He transitioned to Egyptian food at the original location in Streetsville. It was hit and there are now 201 locations in North America.

The chain specializes in a "modern take" on classic Mediterranean and Middle Eastern dishes. A shawarma is a wrap with a difference. Offered in chicken, beef and lamb, Osmow's shawarmas are mainly cooked on a rotisserie and are made to order.

"The main thing about this restaurant I like is the food is always cooked fresh," Wadhwa said. "It's cooked on the rotisserie. There is no oil in it. It's healthy."

Customers can then choose the vegetables or sauce they want on their shawarma.

"Osmow's has the best garlic sauce, which makes all the difference," Wadhwa said.

There is also humus sauce, vegan options



JEFF HELSDON PHOTO)

Tanju Wadhwa, left, and Samdisha Arora are the owners of the new Osmow's location that opened at the Northgate Plaza on Broadway. The restaurant offers a modern take on Mediterranean cuisine.

and gluten-free options.

Looking at the "modern take", Osmow's offers the option of its shawarma served on Stix – or fries – and on the Rocks – or rice. There are also shawarmas with crispy

chicken bites. Some of the other unique items are poutine, and Osmow's take on a combo, which is the Oz Box and the Wrap Box

Even the desserts are unique at Osmow's,

and mouthwatering. There are three options: baklava, baklava cheesecake and the Dubai crunch. The latter is a brownie base with chocolate ganache and pistachio cream.





CADETS' ANNUAL REVIEW

TEEE HELSDON PHOTOS)

The 47th annual ceremonial review of the 153 Vanavair Squadron of the Royal Canadian Air Cadets was June 12. (Left photo) The flag party's entrance was one of the cues to start the ceremonies. (Right photo) James Berney, of the Ontario Police College was the reviewing officer for the ceremony. Awards were also presented for the year, and recipients honoured were: Leading Air Cadet Owen Van Brugge, Most Improved Cadet; Leading Air Cadet Chance Davies, Most Improved LAC; Flight Sgt. Wilhelm Schroeder, Most Improved NCM,; and Flight Corporal Anna Huszczo, Top Cadet of the Year.

Mejaski receives Volunteer Award recognition

CHRIS ABBOTT

Post Contributor

Lindsey Mejaski was the recipient of the Town of Tillsonburg's quarterly Volunteer Achievement Award, presented at the May 26 council meeting.

Carrie Lewis, Museum, Culture, Heritage and Special Awards Advisory Committee Chair, and Mayor Deb Gilvesy presented Mejaski with a certificate of recognition.

Treasurer on the Tillsonburg Minor Soccer Club board of directors, Mejaski is also the club's director of facilities and she is on the operations committee. Her role as U4 convener was praised by Lewis during the presentation.

"It is my honour to present Lindsey Mejaski the Volunteer Award in recognition of her outstanding dedication, leadership and commitment to the success of the Tillsonburg soccer program, particularly her role as coordinator of the U4 division," said Lewis. "Personally, my favourite division because they are so... cute.

"Lindsey exemplifies the spirit of true volunteerism by providing not only organizational skills, but also a deep passion for nurturing young players in the foundational years of their soccer journey. The U4 is the cornerstone of the program, introducing children to soccer in a fun and positive and encouraging environment. As the

leader of this division, Lindsey has made a profound impact on both the players and their families by creating an inclusive and dynamic experience that fosters learning, teamwork and confidence. Through her tireless efforts, the U4 division has become more than just a starting point for young athletes. It's become a safe, supportive space where children develop their first love for the game."

"Congratulations Lindsey, and thank you for all you do for the youth in our community," said Mayor Deb Gilvesy.

Mejaski, a sales admin with London Machinery Inc., is now in her second year volunteering at the Tillsonburg Minor Soccer Club

"I grew up at the soccer park. My first-ever job was there at the canteen with Mike (Papaioannou). I just have a love for the soccer park itself – it was a big part of my life – and it's nice to give back."

Her oldest son started in soccer in 2024, and now her 'middle' daughter is playing. A younger daughter is expected to play when she's a bit older.

"Soccer meant a lot to me growing up, so I want my kids to have that, as well as the community, to have a great place to play. I want it to be very welcoming... just a good place to be."

Mejaski (formerly Ambrus) and Jenn Bakker started a new recreational women's league this year. Games are Sunday nights.



(CHRIS ABBOTT PHOTO)

Tillsonburg Mayor Deb Gilvesy, left, and Carrie Lewis, Museum, Culture, Heritage and Special Awards Advisory Committee Chair, on the right, present Lindsey Mejaski with a Volunteer Achievement Award certificate of recognition on May 26.

"We have about 60 women, a lot of them moms, four full teams. We just had our first game last night (May 25) - my legs are killing me," Mejaski laughed.

Many of the women are in their 30s, she

said, and they have 40 and 50-year-olds.

"It was so much fun. Everyone stayed and had drinks afterwards, it was so nice. So a lot of good things are happening at the soccer park."

Tillsonburg woman receives international award

JEFF HELSDON

Editor

A Tillsonburg woman made history in several ways when she received an international towing award.

Jen Dean was presented with the Tow Woman of the Year award from the Women of the Towing and Recovery Association of America (WTRAA) at its gathering in April. She was not only the first Canadian to win the award but the first international winner. At 29, when she received the award, she believes she may also be the youngest. Dean works in the family business Advanced Towing with her father, Mike, mother, Rosemary, and sisters, Melissa, Amanda, and Lisa.

The story of how Dean became a member of WTRAA is an interesting one. In 2023, she received the Hero of the Industry Award from the Professional Tow Association of Ontario. This occurred after 10 different customers sent in nominations. She doesn't know who all the nominators were for that award but does know of two. In one instance, Dean, who has first aid as an OPP auxiliary member, former firefighter, and combat engineer with the Canadian Armed Forces reserves, provided first aid until an air ambulance arrived at a gentleman who was in a car versus transport collision in front of the Advanced Towing location on Highway 19. In the other case, she provided first aid to a woman who had suffered a stroke at the Tillsonburg fishing derby where Dean was volunteering.

"They said if she was 10 minutes longer getting to London to the stroke clinic she would have passed away," Dean said.

Stories written about that award appeared

in industry magazines Tow Canada and the American publication Tow Times. Officials from WTRAA saw the article, then reached out to Dean and invited her to join their group. Dean was the youngest to win the Hero of the Industry award, and the first woman.

She and her mother attended the Towing and Recovery Association of America show in Florida last year. They were planning to attend this year, and the only thing slightly out of the ordinary is one of the WTRAA officials asked Rosemary if they were planning on attending.

They were at the show on April 19 and went to a women in towing luncheon. During the luncheon, the commentator began discussing the award winner.

"We were sitting there and I thought are they talking about me," Dean recalled of what was going through her head. "I didn't have a clue."

Also a Kinette member and a member of the Tillsonburg Fair Board, Dean believes that her volunteering helped her win the award.

"For me it's second nature to give back to the community," she said. "For them it stood out. It was multiple things, and not just one thing."

She also took the Wreckmaster course in the United States, and completed it despite breaking her hand two days earlier. The instructor later approached her and gave her a Wreckmaster Rotator pin, of which there are only 200 in existence.

"He was so impressed I was getting in there and doing it with a broken hand," Dean said. "He was impressed with my work ethic."

Information on Dean will be part of the permanent display honouring Tow Woman of the Year recipients in the Towing Museum in Chattanooga, Tennessee.



(JEFF HELSDON PHOTO)

Jen Dean was the first Canadian to receive the Town Woman of the Year award from the Women of the Towing and Recovery Association of America. She previously won the Hero of the Industry Award from the Professional Tow Association of Ontario.

TURTLEFEST 2025



Henry Sonier of Straffordville gets behind the wheel of a Kioti tractor in the agriculture zone.



Tillsonburg resident Elle Declare was one of the local entertainers to take the TurtleFest stage on Saturday. There was entertainment throughout the day, including locals and headliners Texas King.



(JEFF HELSDON PHOTO:

Brooklynn Brighton, 6, was amongst those who took part in the rock-painting activity at Annandale House on Friday night. She chose to paint a turtle.



Ribbon cutting for TurtleFest was on Friday at the Station Arts Centre. Left to right are: BIA board of management chair Allison Biggar, BIA executive director Mark Renaud, Oxford MPP Ernie Hardeman and mascot George T. Turtle.



Appropriately enough, the movie on the lawn at Annandale House as a part of TurtleFest was Teenage Mutant Ninja Turtles II. The crowd for the Friday night tradition that is part of the annual festival was down, but the new activities before the show pushed the Friday crowd to a new level.



The bouncy turtle, custom designed for TurtleFest is always a popular attraction for the younger festival attendees.



Sobey's employee Aurora Gray supervised the corn hole game at the Sobey's booth. Charlie Page tried her skill at the bean bag toss.



Reptalia's live shows at TurtleFest were a hit with people of all ages as staff brought the reptiles out for a show. Rumour is George T. Turtle even attended.



The Carver Kings were a new attraction this year, demonstrating chain saw carving throughout the day.



Reptalia's reptile trailer was popular at TurtleFest. This iguana looks out at the crowd as they have a look at it.



The star of TurtleFest was, of course, George T. Turtle, who is the official mascot for the event. George was a popular photo subject as people made their way through the town.



Station Arts Centre's Creative Imagination Station provided a variety of activities for the younger creative minds, ranging from creating their own art to face painting. Binal Patel, right, has her face decorated by Anny Lauwerier.



The petting zoo in front of the Tillsonburg Town Centre drew animal lovers to check out the llamas and other creatures.



Hailey, left, and Shelby Sauder were two of the three Sauder Sisters who had a booth set up in Entrepreneur Alley. Each has their specialty, providing baking, crocheted animals and woodworking.

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New banners in Glendale gym pay tribute to past champions



(JEFF HELSDON PHOTO)

JEFF HELSDON

Editor

There was a sense of nostalgia as the team behind the new banners listing past athletic champions of Glendale High School gathered to look at their efforts.

Past students at Glendale will remember the pennants that hung in the old gym highlighting the teams and individuals who were county, Oxford-Elgin, WOSAA and provincial champions. Those have since morphed to include the newer TVRA championships. These banners came down when the older gymnasium was due for a new paint job.

Dave Sandor, who was head of phys-ed at the time, retired the same year but was still going to complete the task. Unfortunately, Covid restrictions got in the way and it was sidelined.

"It was Dave's idea to take the pennant down and put the banners up," credited former Glendale basketball coach Brian O'Rourke.

"Brian called me and said what's happening here," Sandor said.

The two got together, approached principal Dave Chisholm and got the project back on track. They had been talking for a few years but finally fulfilled the last obstacle, funding, with a donation from Ed and Ewart McLaughlin.

Finalizing the list, and ascertaining which athletic association was in place at the time took a lot of research on Sandor's part. Not only did he go off the old banners, but he also looked at photos of the winners on the wall, at plaques and talked to coaches.

"It's a great way to celebrate history and all the athletic championships over the past decades," Chisholm said. "

The banners, which span one wall of the new gymnasium, cover the time from when Glendale opened in 1959 to a tennis team championship in 2023-2024. The banner design allows for more teams to be added as more championships

O'Rourke reflected on the number of championships on the wall he was at the helm for, both with the Gemini and its predecessor the Glendale Griffins. The boys' basketball teams won 18 of 19 Oxford-Elgin championships, and 12 WOSAA championships. Some of those were in the days before the regional school entity was divided into divisions. This meant Tillsonburg was playing against city schools. Glendale also played twice in the Detroit Silver Dome before a Pistons game.

In the hey days in the early 1970s, the players on O'Rourke's roster included the offspring of players from the former Tillsonburg Livvies team, which won the Canadian men's championship and was the core of the Canadian men's Olympic basketball team twice. O'Rourke said the three Coulthard brothers became all Canadians on their university teams and one was drafted by the Pistons. Bob Horvath played for Fanshawe College and was MVP when the London college won the national championship.

O'Rourke also fondly remembers playing against Tillsonburg-born former Toronto Raptors coach Jay Triano when he was attending secondary school Niagara Falls' A.N. Myer Secondary School. In the last eight seconds of an OFSSA quarter-final game with the Glendale Griffins up by three, O'Rourke told his players to let Triano score. He knew the clock would be running and the ball would go to Glendale, resulting in a one-point win.

Although he made it to OFSSA (provincials) three times, O'Rourke's teams came away losing to the larger cities of Kitchener, Ottawa and Windsor.

"I have to admit I coached two badly," he said, explaining he still remembers his decisions all of these years later.

Over the years, there were 20 players from Glendale who played on either college or univer-

sity basketball teams. O'Rourke also gave credit to junior coaches Wayne Coyle and Dave Quarrie for building the Glendale basketball legacy.

Sandor, who coached soccer, volleyball and badminton, pointed to a 2018 boys' soccer championship and winning silver at WOSSA.

"David put hours of research into this and it wouldn't have happened without him," O'Rourke said. "He can count that as an OFSAA championship as far as I am concerned."



Glendale High School's new gymnasium has new banners celebrating the school's athletic championships over the past six-plus decades. Those responsible for the effort were, left to right: Dave Sandor, Brian O'Rourke and principal Dave Chisholm.

Tillsonburg shines in slo-pitch home-run derby at tourney

DAVE WEAVER

Post Columnist

It was a busy weekend in Tillsonburg with the Turtlefest Celebrations.

Area Tillsonburg Slo-Pitch players converged on St. Thomas to compete in the annual Slo-Pitch All-Star game against their rivals.

There were seven games combined events - four men's games and two ladies', plus the homerun derby.

Tillsonburg 's Bryan Deblaire repeated as the winner of the homerun derby. Tillsonburg won the event 27-23.

In the lid lifter, Tillsonburg 's D4 team - comprised of players off of C Division players - hit five homers to win the match.

The D3 team, comprised of B and C players, jumped out to a quick 10 -0 early lead but couldn't hold on. St Thomas dramatically walked it off in the bottom of seventh to steal the win.

The third featured a strong D2 St Thomas ladies squad. Till-sonburg had one bad inning and couldn't overcome the big lead that the host team had built up.

The D2 was a nail biter: Tillsonburg took a two-run lead into St Thomas 's last at-bat. St Thomas tied, and then won it with a walk-off grand slam.

The next game was not close from the start, as the Ladies D1 team put up runs at will and won in a mercy.

After winning the homerun derby, Tillsonburg pinned all of its hopes on the D1 Men's team to tie St Thomas in games won. However, the host squad mercied them for the second year in a row belting out 11 homers to Tillsonburg's three.

The weather cooperated and the spectators came out in droves to support both associations.

A huge thanks to Scott Johnson for all of his tireless work and to Mel Taylor as well and all of their volunteers.

Ladies' A Division

Foldens Machine Works had a successful week as they defeated first place Jays and second place Simmonds Mortgages.

Jays won a close one over a game Trillium Court squad.

Simmonds mercied Trillium on the Monday.

Simmonds Mortgages-16,

Trillium Court-1

Simmonds-Jenn Mowatt 2-2; Tracey Carruthers 3-3.

Trillium-Lyn Hewitt 2-3; Sam Culp 1-2.

Game Synopsis-Corrie Smith had a triple and drove in three for the winners.

Foldens Machine Works-19, Simmonds Mortgages-10

Foldens-Mackenzie Brackenbury 3-3; Amber Woolgar 3-3. Simmonds-Kerry Jensen 3-3;

Jackie Davison 3-3.

Game Synopsis-Foldens took advantage of the fact that Simmonds didn't have a regular pitch-

balls in the win. Foldens Machine Works-10, Javs-8

er and drew a plethora of bases on

Foldens-Danielle Swart 4-4; Mackenzie Brackenbury 3-4.

Jays-Maddi Obar 3-4, Kristen Cadotte 2-3.

Game Synopsis-Foldens led the entire game. Melissa Redekop, Jenn Dahl and Danielle Swart each scored two runs.

Javs-6, Trillium Court-4

Jays-Kristen Cadotte 3-3, Elisha Duyvestijin 2-3.

Trillium-Lynn Hewitt 3-3, Ashley Gee 3-3.

Game Synopsis-Candi Obar scored two runs including the winning run in Jays low scoring victory.

Ladies' B Division

Kyle Nesbitt Trucking collected a pair of lopsided victories over George's Auto and Resting Pitch Face to move into first place.

Resting won their first ever edging out Wildcats. Wildcats had an even week after they had won by nine over George's.

Kyle Nesbitt Trucking-18, Resting Pitch Face-1

Nesbitt-Claire Barker 3-3; Kim Hurd 3-3; Nicole Morgan HR

Resting-Kia McAllister 2-2; Katie Pittock 1-1.

Game Synopsis-Eleven of Nesbitt 's 12 batters scored at least one run. Tammy Griswold crossed three times.

Wildcats-13, George's Auto-3 Wildcats-Tracey Coderre 3-3; Ashley Anderson 4-4.

George's-Erin Jefferies 2-3; Sara Mudford 2-3.

Game Synopsis-Wildcats' Lingli Wong singled three times and scored in her first three at-bats.

Kyle Nesbitt Trucking-20, George's Auto-7

Nesbitt-Nicole Morgan 4-4; Lacey Warren 4-4.

George's-Emily Goodall 2-2; Brittany Sandham 3-3.

Game Synopsis-Nicole Morgan and Lacey Warren each singled three times and tripled to lead the winners.

Resting Pitch Face-14, Wildcats 12

Resting-Martina McCallum 4-4; Jenna Wilford 4-4.

Wildcats-Krystal Sivyer 4-4; Nikki Lama 3-3.

Game Synopsis-A three-run sixth won it for Resting. Amy Rhame scored runs in consecutive innings.

Men's A Division

The 1,2 Seal Insulation Hawks continue to dominate as they recorded win number 10 against just one loss. They won easily over Smitty's Electrical and were given a scare by Cobra Chickens, narrowly escaping with a one-run decision.

Leeswood Construction Dirty Mitts have moved themselves into second place after winning easily over The Mill.

Bill Kyn Carpentry beat Cobra Chickens and O&L Duct Design Ducks to move themselves into fourth.

John Klassen Realty Hit N Run moved into a tie for second, edging O&L and winning by nine over Smitty's.

Courtland Landscape and Grounds won their second in a row beating The Mill.

Hit N Run-16, O&L Duct Design Ducks-15

Hit N Run-Franky Klassen 4-5; Jacob Klassen 4-4, HR; Johnny Unger 2 HR; Peter Klassen HR.

O&L-Kelso Tveit 4-5; Andrew Garnham 4-5, HR.

Game Synopsis-Hit N Run gave up five in the seventh but were able to hold on for the one run victory.

1,2 Seal Insulation Hawks-20, Cobra Chickens-19

Hawks-Cam Bueckert 5-5; Martin Klassen 4-5, HR; Daniel Enns HR; Johnny Epp HR; Johnny Klassen 2 HR.

Cobra-Brian Dyck 5-5; Marcus Peters 4-4; Jesse Froese 3 HR; Ethan Fehr HR; Marcus Enns 2 HR; Ethan Froese HR.

Game Synopsis- The Hawks won it with a walk-off hit from Daniel Enns.

Hit N Run-20, Smitty's Electrical-11

Gemini baseball team finishes fourth at OFSSA regionals

JEFF HELSDON

Editor

The Gemini baseball team finished fifth at the recent OFSAA West Regional playdowns.

The Gemini started the tournament in Windsor on June 4 with a convincing 7-1 win against West Niagara. They then came up against defending champions and first seeded Bishop Allen Academy from Etobicoke, and lost 18-7.

"We thought we would get everyone in and give our starters a rest," said coach Derek Partlo. "We saved our pitching for the rest of the tournament. There are pitch counts."

In the third game, the team faced fourth-seeded York Mills 12-1. With rain that night, Thursday's games were cancelled and the Gemini had to drive back to Windsor Friday for a game against Upper Canada College. In the top of the fourth inning, with the Gemini trailing 1-0, city staff kicked both teams off the diamonds, saying they could cause damage.

"They cancelled the game but the sun is coming out," Partlo said.

The tournament continued on June 10 in London, and for the Gemini this

meant the continuation of the game against Upper Canada College. The Gemini ended up losing 2-0 to Upper Canada College, which is a private sports academy. With the double knock-out format of the tournament, the second loss meant the Gemini were done.

Partlo said the tournament was a positive experience, with the Gemini finishing with a 2-2 record against big city schools. He added they were seeded ninth, or last place, and finished fifth. He said the game delay was tough on the players as well.

"We faced kids going on to Division 1 schools in the States and on the national team," he said. "The level of ball was elite and the boys hung in there with every team.

"It was a great experience for the boys to play that high level ball. They showed a lot of teams they can hang in there with the best in the province. I'm proud of the boys."

Next year will see the Gemini baseball team losing four or five players, but a portion of the line-up returning.

"A bunch of our players are returning next year so we are looking to build off this," he said.

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CONTINUED TO PAGE 16

EYE ON SLO-PITCH

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 15

Hit N Run-Peter Klassen 4-5; Franky Klassen 4-5; Johnny Unger HR; Martin Klassen HR

Smitty's-Jeremy Dennis 3-3; Zack Cowenberg 2-3.

Game Synopsis-Franky Klassen, Pete Wall, Johnny Unger and Peter Wolf each drove in three for Hit N Run.

Bill Klyn Carpentry-18, O&L Duct Design Ducks -6

Klyn-Ryan Carroll 4-4; Kyle McDougall 4-4, HR; Nathan Boldt HR.

O&L-Gus Ford 2-3; Connor Smith 2-3; Spence Meron HR; Kyle Smith HR.

Game Synopsis-Bill Klyn broke the game open with a seven-run fifth, Ryan Carroll reached and scored all four times.

Bill Klyn Carpentry-16, Cobra Chickens-9

Klyn-Nick Joosse 3-4; Jake Millar 3-3; Dallas Dalby HR; Kyle McDougall HR; Ryan Carroll HR.

Cobra-Jim Froese 3-3; Nathan Froese 3-4, HR; Marcus Enns HR.

Game Synopsis-Bill Klyn plated seven in each of the first and fifth innings.

1,2 Seal Insulation Hawks-24, Smitty's Electrical-11

Hawks-Peter Epp 4-4; Jesse Hiebert 5-5; Johnny Klassen HR.

Smitty's-Adam Smith 3-4; Doug Falkins 4-5.

Game Synopsis-Daniel Klassen had a big night, driving in six for the Hawks.

Courtland Landscape and Grounds-20, The Mill-15

Courtland-Joe Thorburn 5-5; Scott Balazs 4-4, HR; Darryl Vandendriessche 4-4, HR.

The Mill-Steve Derks 4-4, HR; Noa Black 4-4, HR; Matt Evans HR; Bryan Deblaire 2 HR.

Game Synopsis-Scott Balazs's three run fourth inning homer was key for Courtland.

Leeswood Construction Dirty Mitts-13, The Mill-3

Leeswood-Sean Miller 3-3; Travis Nikin 2-2; Tim Townsend HR; Trevor Stuyt HR.

The Mill-Tim Morgan 3-3, HR; Steve Derks 2-3; Billy Wilson HR.

Game Synopsis-A seven-run second by Leeswood decided this one.

Men's B Division

At My Playground/IQT Logistics remained unbeaten defeating Designated Drinkers by five.

Sandy Shore Brew Jays collected their second victory beating winless John Beere for the second time.

Underhill Farm Supply split

a pair with Pelicans and mercied Sandy Shore.

Bayham Construction Lumberjacks had a mercy decision over John Beere.

At My Playground/IQT Logistics-19, Designated Drinkers-14

A.M.P.-Marshall Baker 3-3; Logan Savoy 4-4; Gavin Balazs HR; Brandon Balazs 2 HR.

Drinkers-Warren McCallister 4-4; Michael White 3-4; Kyle Postma HR.

Game Synopsis-Brandon Balazs hit a pair of two-run homers and Gavin Balazs was a double shy of hitting for the cycle to lead the winners.

Underhill Farm Supply-16, Pelicans-15

Underhill-Dave Phipps 4-4, HR; Troy Sebok 3-3; Stephen Schafer HR; Cole Williamson HR; Curtis Chambers HR; Aaron Dyck HR.

Pelicans-T.J. Neville 4-4, HR; Evan Baldwin 3-3; Andrew Dawson HR.

Game Synopsis-Underhill pounded out five homers in the win

Underhill Farm Supply-22, Sandy Shore Brew Jays-1

Underhill-Clay Thompson 4-4; Aaron Dyck 4-4, HR; Troy Sebok HR; Curtis Chambers HR.

Sandy Shore-Josh Mabee 2-2; Sean Guiler 1-2.

Game Synopsis-It was all

Underhill as they scored runs in every inning but the second. Everyone in the order scored at least one run.

Bayham Construction Lumberjacks-17, John Beere-2

Bayham-Peter Klassen 4-4, HR; Nicholas Klassen 4-4. John Beere-Trevor Fleet 2-2;

Mike Mesquita 2-3.
Game Synopsis-Caleb Dyck,
Peter Klassen and Matthew

the winners. Sandy Shore Brew Jays-18, John Beere-12

Klassen scored three runs for

Sandy Shore-Ryan Hutchinson 5-5; Duane Nutt 5-5.

John Beere-Mark Carrel 3-4; Shaun Elliott 3-4.

Game Synopsis-Leadoff batter Ryan Hutchinson hit four singles and a double to lead Sandy Shore.

Pelicans-24, Underhill Farm Supply-9

Pelicans-Pelicans took advantage of an inordinate number of free passes in the win. Chris Parker reached and scored in five plate appearances.

MEN'S C

Men's C Division

Shaw's Ice Cream Sluggers won a pair to climb into a first place tie with N.I.M. N.I.M. beat Bird's Golf and C.R. Custom Engraving Smokin Bases. Swingers and Tailgators recorded the other victories.

Shaw's Ice Cream Sluggers-15, Bird's Golf-9

Shaw's-Jay Dadson 2-2; Devon Kellington 4-4.

Bird's-Steve Thompson 2-3; Dylan Terry 2-3.

Game Synopsis-A seven-run second keyed Sluggers win.

Tailgators-16 R.L.P, Melanie Luksys-13

Tailgators-Glenn Hunt 3-3; Kevin Hmeil 3-4.

R.L.P.-Blake Ash 5-5; Davin Ramer 5-5.

Game Synopsis-A seven-run fifth for Tailgators sealed their

Shaw's Ice Cream Sluggers-9, CR Custom Engraving Smokin Bases-6

Shaw's-Steve Annett 3-4; Alex Barnes 3-3.

C.R.-Chris Foresman 4-4; Jake Rempel 2-3.

Game Synopsis-Devon Kellington and Steve Annett each scored two runs for the winners.

N.I.M.-14, Bird's Golf-12

W

N.I.M.-Wes McDougall 4-4; Jake Denobriga 3-4.

Bird's-Nate Schram 4-4, 2 HR; Shawn Ryerse 4-4; Ryder Terry HR.

N.I.M.-16, C.R. Custom Engraving Smokin Bases-0

N.I.M.-Jeff Wheeler 4-4; Justin Dygos 4-4.

C.R.-Reg Burnett 1-2; Ben Swartz 1-2.

Game Synopsis-Justin Dygos reached four times and scored three runs for the winners

Swingers-18 , J/E Bearing-15

Swingers-Shawn Knelsen 6-6, HR; Clayton Cesar 5-6.

J/E Bearing-Darren Swick 4-5, HR; Dillon Outerbridge 3-3.

Game Synopsis-Shawn Knelsen hit for the cycle for the winners.

Shaw's Ice Cream Sluggers-20, J/E Bearing-3

Shaw's-Jay Dadson 3-3; Mackenzie Moat 4-4; Sebastian Plain 2 HR; Gregory Killough HR.

J/E-Carter McKay 2-2; Jeff McKay 3-3.

Game Synopsis-Tyler Rowe and Sebastian Plain each scored three runs for the winners.

Т

PTS

MEN'S A	W	L	T	PTS
1,2 SEAL INSULATION HAWKS	10	1	0	20
2-LEESWOOD DIRTY MITTS	7	3	0	14
2-COBRA CHICKENS	7	5	0	14
2-JOHN KLASSEN REALTY	7	4	0	14
3-BILL KLYN CARPENTRY	5	4	0	10
4-SMITTY'S ELECTRICAL	4	7	0	8
5-THE MILL	3	7	0	6
6-COURTLAND LANDSCAPE	2	8	0	4
6-O&L DUCT DESIGN DUCKS	2	8	0	4

MEN'S B	W	L	Т	PTS
1-AT MY PLAYGROUND/IQT LOGISTICS	6	0	1	13
1-BAYHAM CONSTRUCTION LUMBERJACKS	6	0	1	13
2-UNDERHILL FARM SUPPLY	6	4	0	12
3-PELICANS	5	2	0	10
4-SIDE 2 SIDE EXTERIORS STRIKE FORCE	4	1	1	9
5-DESIGNATED DRINKERS	3	4	1	7
6-COPPER MUG-LUBRICARE WANNABEE'S	2	5	0	4
6-SANDY SHORE BREW JAYS	2	8	0	4
7-JOHN BEERE	0	9	0	0

1-SHAW'S ICE CREAM SLUGGERS	7	1	0	14
1-N.I.M.	7	3	0	14
2-SMOKIN ACES	6	1	0	12
3-STICKY BANDITS	5	1	0	10
4-TAILGATORS	4	1	0	9
5-BIRD'S GOLF	3	4	1	7
6-TEAM SWINGERS	3	2	0	6
7-J/E BEARING	2	7	0	4
7-C.R. ENGRAVING	2	8	0	4
7-DIAMOND KINGS	2	6	0	4
8-CAIN'S BRICKHOUSE BOYS	1	4	0	2
8-R.L.P. MELANIE LUKSYS	1	5	0	2

LADIES A	W	٦	T	PTS
JAYS	7	1	0	14
SIMMONDS MORTGAGES	6	2	0	12
FOLDENS MACHINE WORKS	5	3	0	10
TRILLIUM COURT	3	5	0	6

LADIES B	W	L	Τ	PTS
KYLE NESBITT TRUCKING	5	3	0	10
WILDCATS	4	4	0	8
GEORGE'S AUTO	1	7	0	2
RESTING PITCH FACE	1	7	0	2



Cedar Flats Wind Project: What You've Asked

At wpd Canada, we believe in honest, open dialogue and respectful collaboration with the communities where we work. As we continue to plan the proposed Cedar Flats Wind Project, we want to provide clear and accurate information and address the questions we've heard most often. For more detailed responses, please visit our website to view the most recent Cedar Flats Wind Project FAQ or email us at cedarflatswind@wpd-canada.ca.

Who benefits from the Community Benefit Fund?

The Community Benefit Fund is proposed to provide a total of \$4 to \$6 million to the community over the life of the project, depending on its final size. This money is separate from landowner lease payments or property taxes paid by the project. It could support park upgrades, hydro bill assistance, community programs, and more. We invite residents to participate in shaping how this fund is used to ensure it aligns with your values and priorities.

Will this project raise property taxes for local residents?Local property owners will not be required to pay higher taxes as a result of this project. In fact, the project is expected to generate an additional \$5-7 million in property tax revenue for the municipality, thereby supporting local services, infrastructure, and community programs.

What's being done to protect our water wells and aquifers?

Protecting groundwater is a priority. We're mapping local wells and working with independent hydrogeological consultants to assess soil and groundwater conditions. These studies will guide turbine placement and ensure water protection is part of our design process.

What about birds and wildlife?

We've completed two seasons of bird and waterfowl surveys, including studies for tundra swans. While swans have been seen in the broader area, none have been recorded on the land proposed for turbine sites. Further environmental assessments will ensure local wildlife and habitats are carefully considered.

What happens when the project ends?

The project is expected to operate for 20 years under contract with the IESO. After that, it may either continue operating, be upgraded, or be decommissioned. If decommissioned, all equipment will be removed and the land restored to its pre-construction condition, following environmental and regulatory guidelines.

wpd has safely decommissioned a wind project in Ontario before, with positive feedback from local landowners.

Will landowners be responsible for decommissioning?

Landowners will not be responsible for decommissioning costs, even if the developer is no longer around. wpd includes financial safeguards like Letters of Credit or dedicated accounts, in lease agreements to ensure funds are available to remove turbines and restore the land at the end of the project. These protections are legally binding and remain in place throughout the life of the project to protect landowners from future liability.

How will landowners and community members be protected?

Safety is our top priority. wpd follows strict safety standards throughout construction and operation, in line with all applicable provincial laws and regulations for wind energy facilities. We also carry comprehensive insurance coverage to protect workers, landowners, and the community. These policies are required by regulatory bodies and are built into our agreements with landowners.

Does wpd have experience with this kind of project?

Yes. We've safely completed five wind projects in Ontario and operate large-scale renewable energy projects globally including a recent 272 MW wind project.

How long does the IESO's review process take and when will decisions be made?

The Ontario Independent Electricity System Operator (IESO) is running a province-wide process to help plan for future energy needs. Through this competitive process, companies across Ontario can submit proposals to build new electricity projects. These proposals are reviewed and ranked, with priority given to the ones that offer the best value for Ontarians—mainly by keeping electricity costs as low as possible.



Let's Keep Talking
We're grateful for the dialogue and hope to continue working together.
Email us at cedarflatswind@wpd-canada.ca with questions or ideas about the project or the Community Benefit Fund.

MUSIC CORNER

Juno-nominated Great Lake Swimmers make their Tillsonburg debut



BEN ANDRESS

Tillsonburg Post Columnist

This Friday Juno-nominated indie-folk collective Great Lake Swimmers will bring their timeless nature-soaked songs to Tillsonburg for the very first time when the band headlines an intimate night of live music at Paddy's Underground. Arriving on the heels of their luminous new single "One More Dance Around The Sun" the band is ready to remind audiences why

they remain one of Canada's most enduring folk treasures.

Led by songwriter and vocalist Tony Dekker, Great Lake Swimmers have always carried the hush of backcountry roads and the open air of small towns in their music. It's very fitting that the band's latest recording unfolded not in a big city studio, but in a converted farmhouse near Port Hope, Ontario.

"We set it up in a Nashville session-style arrangement, which is to say it was in a room with highly skilled musicians that aimed to get it done in the least amount of takes," Dekker explains. "By take two I think we had already nailed it. I also wanted it to be a 'warts and all' approach so we embraced the little irregularities of the session in the name of feel and economy. We captured the really great energy of playing the song as a group for the first time."

Dekker also reflects on the placement of our planet during the recording session. "Incidentally, the night we recorded it, there was not only a full moon but a lunar eclipse, which if you believe in that sort of thing, might have had some bearing on it."

The new single is the band's first new song since their 2023 album "Uncertain Country", and first new recording since they released 2024's acoustic retrospective album "In Pieces" and it hums with the soft certainty that comes from lessons learned along winding roads. Asked what line from the new song he'd whisper to his younger self, Dekker doesn't hesitate to answer.

"I think the line that might resonate with my younger self could be 'I know my place in the shifting sand.' Things are always changing all around us in small and big ways, in life and in the larger systems, we're a part of, and I think it's important to be resolute in the face of that and to keep your moral compass fixed in the right direction. I think it was Prince who said, 'there's joy in repetition.' It feels great to sing that chorus, which is on the subject of repetition itself."

Long nights on the highway are part of the band's DNA, with countless tours since the Great Lake Swimmers inception in 2003. It's a sense of the vast and the intimate that draws the band to places like Tillsonburg. Dekker, who grew up in Wainfleet, Ontario feels at home in rooms where the music can breathe.

"I think the band feels really comfortable interacting with audiences in smaller towns and part of that is probably because I grew up in a really small town myself. I think the music takes on a special character when we're playing to a more intimate audience too," Dekker said, reflecting over the past 20 years and change. "It makes me think of the traveling troubadours of a century ago bringing their songs and stories from town to town."

Looking ahead, Dekker promises there's much more to come.

"We're working on new songs right now and plan on trying a few of them out on this next run of shows. If all goes well, we'll hopefully have a new album ready in the fall."

Great Lake Swimmers have a busy year planned with summer music festival cross Canada.

"We have a tour planned in Western Canada with our friends Elliott Brood. Lots more in the works too which is really exciting. It's good to be back up and running at full steam again."

Music fans can expect a night of gentle revelations and heartfelt honesty when Great Lake Swimmers step onto a Tillsonburg stage for the first time.

"One More Dance Around The Sun" is out now on all major streaming platforms. Catch Great Lake Swimmers live Friday, June 20th at Paddy's Underground. Doors open at 8 p.m.. Tickets are \$35 (HST included) in advance by calling The Mill at 519-842-1878 or visiting Eventbrite.ca. Tickets will be available night of the concert at the door for \$40 (subject to availability.) This is an all ages/licensed event with ATM on site and wheelchair accessibility. Visit the band online at www. greatlakeswimmers.com for upcoming news, music and tour dates.

UPCOMING SHOWS

JUNE 19 - OPEN MIC NIGHT W/ BILLY GIBBONS Paddy's Underground No Cover - 7:30 p.m. (sign up sheet open at 4 p.m.) - all ages/ licensed

JUNE 20 - GREAT LAKE SWIMMERS

Paddy's Underground \$35 - 8 p.m. - all ages/licensed

JUNE 21 - KARAOKE NIGHT The Copper Mug No Cover – 8 p.m.

JUNE 22 - "BLUE SKY" ARCHIE WRIGHT

Annandale NHS (Music On The Lawn Series) No Cover – 7 p.m. - all ages

JUNE 27 - CONNOR PETKAU, BFMTRL & LAUREN RITCHIE Paddy's Underground \$20 - 8pm - all ages/licensed JUNE 28 - THE WRIGHT STUFF Tillsonburg Legion #153 \$15 - 6pm

JULY 11-13 - +BÜDDIES FEST The Mill/Paddy's Underground/The Copper Mug \$69 per day / \$174 Weekend Pass - 3pm all ages/licensed

With over 30 years of industry experience, my goal is to work together with you to develop a successful marketing strategy for your business needs.

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WRITER'S CORNER

Let's hear it for libraries

NORMA COLLIS

Post Columnist

When I was of preschool age, my father's work took us to the small town of Fergus.

Once we got settled, my sister, who was six years older than I, decided that she wanted to visit the town library and apply for a library card.

My mother walked us down the steep hill from our home and into downtown Fergus.

The public library was situated in the heart of the main street and it was housed in a lovely old Andrew Carnegie-designed brick building.

I can still remember the smell of the place, as we entered through the large front door. That aroma smelled of promises. I was in awe as I gazed up at the rows of tall bookshelves, crammed with every size and colour of book imaginable.

My sense of wonderment soared, when the kindly librarian, Mrs. Blythe, pointed us in the direction of the children's section. One whole side of the place was dedicated to children. It looked like a "Heaven on earth" to

I carefully made my selection of items that I wished to

borrow and confidently approached the charging desk, where my sister was filling out her application form.

Mrs. Blythe looked at me, and then at the carefully-chosen books that I was carrying.

"Oh, my dear" she said. "Children who have not yet started school are not allowed to borrow books.'

I was mystified.

"Why not?" I asked her.

"Well," she replied, "you might rip the pages or even colour in the book.'

I was scandalized and highly insulted. I had a large collection of my own books at home. Not even once had I ever considered defacing those cherished tomes.

My sister generously offered to borrow my selections on her brand new, shiny yellow card.

That was a kind gesture, but I did not feel the same excitement and anticipation that I had felt when I first entered those large and impressive doors.

Seeing my crestfallen face, Mrs. Blythe reached under the large charging desk and brought out several elderly picture books that were about to be removed from cir-

"You may have these to keep, if you like," she offered. I was thrilled.

The books still had borrowers' cards and pockets in the back of each volume.

I went home and gathered up my own large collection of books. My dad supplied me with old envelopes from his own correspondence. I cut the envelopes in half and carefully glued one in the back of each of my books. My sister helped me make borrowers cards from file cards, also supplied by my dad from his own office supplies.

I arranged all 'my holdings' on my own bedroom bookshelves and declared that my library was open for business. I added that anyone of any age would be allowed to borrow items from my library.

This offer was even extended to babies.

My customer base largely consisted of my dolls and teddy bears, but that library was open 24/7.

Mrs. Blythe continued to supply me with discards and my library expanded.

On the day that I started kindergarten, I made two very important announcements: number one, I was done with afternoon naps; and number two; could someone in the family please go with me downtown as I had very important business at the town library.

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

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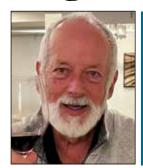


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Wealth Management Dominion Securities

Regensburg: a well-preserved Medieval gem



OH, THE PLACES WE'LL GO!

PAUL KNOWLES

Tillsonburg Post Columnist

It's not a challenge to find something "old" when you are walking around the cities and towns of Europe. The history here goes deep, but it is also frequently on display, all around you.

And in a city like Regensburg, Germany, the place is not just old, it's special – as acknowledged when Regensburg's Old Town was listed as a UNESCO World Heritage Site. Ironically, while the designation honours the city's Medieval architecture (the Middle Ages lasted a long time, from the fifth century to the 15th), the actual UNESCO recognition is only two decades old – it happened in 2006.

A walking tour of Regensburg (and it is very walkable), will take visitors through many centuries of history, and many architectural eras. But perhaps the most striking thing about Regensburg is something that has not changed since before the Romans came here, in the first



A typical, historic street in Regensburg, with the modern touch of a helicopter flying overhead.

century: the Danube River.

The Danube flows right through the city, and at the time of our visit, the mighty river was on full, powerful display. It's one of the remarkable things about Regensburg and other communities along the Danube – that they have withstood the onslaught of the river in flood, for many centuries.

You can't help but be aware of the river during your visit, because one of the highlights of any tour is the Old Stone Bridge, an engineering masterpiece constructed between 1135 and 1146. During the second and third crusades, knights crossed this bridge; today, it is used by tourists and residents alike, but by very few soldiers in chain-link armour.

The ancient bridge is itself the subject of some great local stories. One that is certainly true is that the project included impressive towers. There is one fewer, today, because a failed effort to blow up an ice jam on the Danube blew up one of the towers, instead. It was never replaced.

A less certain account involves a competition between the builder of the bridge, and the builder of a cathedral, now replaced but under construction at the same time. The story is, the bridge-builder made a deal with the devil to guarantee finishing first: he promised the devil the souls of the first three to cross the bridge when it was completed, as long as that happened before the completion of the cathedral. He won – and offered up the souls of the first three to cross the bridge, which happened to be a dog and two chickens. There is no report of the devil's reaction.

Perhaps the most striking ancient building in Regensburg is Dom St. Peter (Regensburg Cathedral). Founded on the site of much earlier churches (dating back to about 700 AD), construction on this magnificent church started after fire destroyed previous churches. Work on the present version began in 1275 and the cathedral was completed in 1320... sort of. In fact, work continued for centuries, with the cathedral's towers (which measure about 106 meters in height) only finished in 1869. And as any visitor will notice, a view of the cathedral includes serious scaffolding, which has been in place for 20 years, and which residents suspect to be permanent). As with almost every European cathedral, expensive, ongoing restoration work is an omnipresent reality.

In total, there are nearly 1,500 listed heritage buildings in Regensburg, dating from the Roman period on.

As in many heritage cities in Europe, there



(PAUL KNOWLES PHOTOS)

Regensburg is located at the northern-most point of the Danube River. This photo was taken when the Danube was in flood – a continual challenge to riverfront towns.

are interesting examples of art, both ancient and modern, throughout the city. One very striking example is the mural on "The Goliath House", a 16th-century work depicting David's defeat of the giant. The house itself is several centuries older.

I was also struck by a back-alley mural portraying the artist Pablo Picasso, there for no apparent reason, but a really well-executed painting (except for the random branch of ivy that appears to be running up his nose).

There is more to do in Regensburg that wandering around looking at buildings – although that can take quite a while. The city is home to Germany's oldest bratwurst restaurant, the Alte Würstküche (Old Sausadge Kitchen) and a number of breweries. Personally, I enjoyed a Gluck's Pilz at Jolie's Café.

Not enjoyable, but more essential, is the part of any tour of Regensburg that involves the history of the Jewish residents of the city. As is frequently the case, this is a story of persecution, betrayal and eventual genocide. In the late Medieval period, Jews were protected in Regensburg, but when a recession hit in 1500, the "Christian" leaders realized they could solve their financial problems by driving the Jews – to whom they owed money – out of the city.

By the 20th century, the Jewish population had recovered, but in 1938, the Nazis destroyed the synagogue, and several Jewish-owned homes and stores. During World War II, hundreds of Jews were deported, many to their death at the Dachau concentration camp.

Today, a newly created architectural/artistic

work commemorates the location of the synagogue, and honours the memories of the Jews who died in the persecutions over the centuries

It's a sobering stop on a fascinating tour of one of Germany's best-preserved Medieval cities

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



Dom St. Peter has been fronted by scaffolding for at least 20 years.

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SWOX NEWS



Mount Elgin expected to nearly triple in size, village boundary expansion likely required

DEBBIE KASMAN

Post Contributor

At its June 3 meeting, planning staff from Oxford County shared a report with SWOX councillors saying the village of Mount Elgin has recently been experiencing, and is expected to continue to experience, considerably higher than previous levels of growth and development.

Planning staff estimate that Mount Elgin village currently contains approximately 300 households, representing a population of approximately 900. According to the most recent draft growth forecasts for the township, Mount Elgin is expected to add more than 800 households over the next 30 years, which will almost triple the current population of the village, making Mount Elgin the size of Tavistock.

Substantial employment growth has also been forecast for the village over that same time period. In order to accommodate this growth, a village boundary expansion will likely be required.

Mount Elgin is designated as a 'Serviced Village' in the County Official Plan and is the only settlement in the township serviced by both municipal water and wastewater infrastructure. Therefore Mount Elgin is intended to be the township's primary growth centre and will need to accommodate the majority of the residential and employment growth forecast for the township over the next two to three decades.

Planning staff suggested the township consider undertaking a secondary planning process for the village in order to comprehensively assess the various land use challenges and opportunities and to establish a clear vision and land use policy direction to guide development and investment for the next 20 to 30 year period.

The primary purpose of this secondary planning process would be to justify the extent, location and direction of the proposed settlement boundary expansion and to identify appropriate land use designations, major road alignments, public service and infrastructure locations and requirements, pedestrian and transit routes, development phasing, how agricultural land and other natural resources (e.g. wetlands, woodlands, valley lands, aggregates) and cultural resources would need to be protected and how environmental hazards (e.g. floodplains, erosion hazards) can be avoided.

Approximately 295 new residential lots/ units have recently been approved for Mount Elgin village. To support the approved residential development and future forecasted growth, Oxford County and SWOX Township have committed to substantial investments in infrastructure and public services, including wastewater treatment plant expansions, a new township municipal office and day care, and a new 1.65 ha (4.07 ac) municipal park.

To ensure efficient use of these investments and that these public facilities will be as accessible as possible for residents, the township has expressed the desire to integrate and connect new development (public and private) with existing and future public infrastructure, facilities, and services.

The township has identified that Plank Line/Highway 19 (a provincial highway under the jurisdiction of the Ministry of Transportation) as being a significant challenge for growth of the village, both in terms of obtaining new road accesses and the overall connectivity and walkability of the community.

Highway 19 bisects Mount Elgin village, resulting in a geographic divide

between the eastern and western parts of the village, which presents challenges for establishing a cohesive village core or "downtown" area and serves as a significant barrier to developing an integrated walkable community, especially considering the speed and volume of vehicular traffic on Highway 19. Residents feel unsafe crossing Highway 19, leading them to access services elsewhere and/or primarily stay on the west side of the village.

Attracting businesses and services to Mount Elgin is also a key township priority. It was noted in the staff report that opportunities to accommodate new businesses within existing buildings and/or commercial areas in the village are currently limited. As such, one of the key challenges in realizing the township's vision for the community will be creating a new commercial "hub" or "core" area for the village that will be able to accommodate new businesses and services to serve the growing needs of the community.

As Mount Elgin is the largest serviced settlement in the township and future home for the township's municipal offices, there is a desire to create and support a unique sense of place and identity for the village of Mount Elgin.

Councillors approved a motion in June for township and Oxford County planning staff to work together to develop a detailed terms of reference for a secondary plan to establish the overall scope and expectations for the project including any further consultation with council that may be required.

If approved, the cost for the full secondary plan, including recommendations for boundary expansion, could be anywhere from \$100,000 to \$400,000, with 50 per cent of the cost generally shared between the township and the county.



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SWOX NEWS



SWOX council asked to be "unwilling host" for proposed wind energy projects,

DEBBIE KASMAN

Post Contributor

In a staff report made to South West Oxford (SWOX) Council on June 3, township staff "strongly recommend" council refuse the request to be an "unwilling host" for any proposed wind energy projects.

Staff are concerned that adopting a blanket "unwilling host" position at this stage could limit council's ability to evaluate each proposal independently and on its own merits.

The staff report suggests wind energy projects can differ significantly in design, location, scale, and the potential benefits or impacts they may offer. The report also states that a one-size-fits-all approach may limit the township's flexibility to consider important factors such as environmental impact, agricultural compatibility, economic benefit and alignment with broader county and municipal energy and climate goals.

Clerk Julie Middleton also shared that the township has received written comments via email from 75 individuals in the community.

The staff report was completed in response to council's request for a summary of community concerns related to proposed wind energy developments received to date and staff's research on those issues.

SWOX Township is currently the potential host of two proposed wind energy projects – Cedar Flats and Bower Hill Wind Farm. Both are in the early stages of proposed development. These potential projects are being brought forward by two separate companies: Prowind Canada Inc., proposing the Bower Hill Wind Farm and wpd Canada Corporation, proposing the Cedar Flats Wind Project.

The Bower Hill Wind Farm project would consist of six wind turbines with a total capacity of 36 megawatts, located near Highway 401 and Hydro One distribution circuits. The Cedar Flats Wind Project could see up to 34 turbines from Verschoyle south to almost

Corinth and then west past Highway 73 with turbines reaching 200 metres or 656 feet tall.

Information sessions were held by Prowind about the Bower Hill project on April 15 and on May 24. Open house events were also held at the Gunn's Hill Wind Farm on April 30, and May 14, allowing residents to meet the project team and to see turbines in operation. These sessions were attended by community members both in support of and opposed to the project, as well as by elected council members from Oxford County.

Wpd held information sessions for the community on April 29 in Malahide Township and on April 30 in Brownsville. Wpd is planning more community sessions in the future.

An opposition group called 'South West Oxford and Malahide say no to wind turbines' presented their concerns to a large crowd in Beachville on June 4th. The same group also held an opposition meeting to a crowd with standing-room only on May 7th in Browns-ville

A summary of concerns from the community, which were shared with SWOX councillors in the June 3 staff report, include the fear of property values going down, the loss of good farmland, changing the look and feel of the countryside, improper disposal after decommissioning, waste that won't be cleaned up or recycled, wildlife could be harmed, light flicker, low vibrations, headaches and dizziness, changes to the environment, blades throwing ice, well water safety, the profits going to other countries, and pitting neighbours against each other.

The report revealed that one of the recurring requests from members of the public has been for council to pass a resolution declaring the township an "unwilling host" for wind energy projects.

The report strongly recommends council retain the ability to assess each proposal on a case-by-case basis, informed by community consultation, technical review, and the full

range of information presented – both in support of and in opposition to each individual project.

The report also states this approach will ensure that decisions are thoughtful, balanced, and made in the best interests of the community as a whole.

Township staff acknowledge and understand the concerns being expressed by the community, but say it is important to recognize the potential benefits associated with wind energy development, which include a more diversified and resilient energy supply, a reduction in greenhouse gas emissions, support of provincial, county and municipal goals related to climate change and clean energy transition, a lower-carbon alternative to fossil fuels, local economic benefits through land lease payments to property owners, and community benefit agreement and funds for local projects and priorities as well as job creation during construction and maintenance phases.

Oxford County staff, who also spoke at the June 3 council meeting in SWOX, shared that some high level questions need to be answered before moving forward such as how would these potential projects affect farming technology, GPS, and other compatibility issues from a construction perspective, saying these questions are not unreasonable. Oxford County staff also admitted things are currently fluid with the province and more information is required.

At this current time, both the Cedar Flats and Bower Hill projects remain proposals only and have not received any form of municipal approval. Neither Prowind nor wpd have reached the stage of submitting a formal request to either SWOX or Malahide Township for a Municipal Support Resolution, which is a key component of the competitive procurement process under Ontario's energy framework.

The 'South West Oxford and Malahide say no to wind turbines' group will be delegating at an upcoming council meeting on June 17th at 6:30 p.m. at the Mount Elgin Community Centre at 333204 Plank Line. The community group is asking concerned citizens to show up at the meeting to express their concerns.

Malahide Council declared Malahide Township an "unwilling host" in a unanimous vote on June 5.

Staff in SWOX Township said it is important to note that passing a resolution declaring a township an "unwilling host" does not legally prevent a wind energy proponent from approaching council with a formal request for municipal support. An "unwilling host" resolution is not binding and does not preclude the township from receiving or considering future proposals. Under the Independent Electricity System Operator's (IESO's) current procurement processes, what matters is whether a Municipal Support Resolution (MSR) is passed.

According to Wind Concerns Ontario, 159 municipalities have passed formal resolutions declaring themselves to be "unwilling hosts" to new industrial wind power sites.

In October, Zorra Township unanimously said no to any new wind turbine projects until the province revises its policy and gives municipalities more information about their impacts. The motion said it was halting approval until the Energy Ministry and the Independent Electricity System Operator, which co-ordinates Ontario's power system, change the procurement process to better inform municipalities about agricultural, health, environmental and other impacts.

Norwich Township also declared itself an unwilling host in 2013, but the Gunn's Hill Wind Farm was constructed anyway. The Ontario Ministry of the Environment and Climate Change, now the Ministry of Environment, Conservation and Parks, granted final approval for that project, in spite of opposition by Norwich Township and community residents.





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TOWNSHIP OF NORWICH NEWS



Solving Norwich's road issues a complicated, expensive endeavour

LUKE EDWARDS

Post Contributor

Norwich councillors are hoping to get answers to how to solve some of its road issues

Conditions of the township's road system came up multiple times at the June 3 meeting, with staff and councillors at times butting heads on how to fix problems that have arisen. Ultimately, little progress was made, though councillors did approve a motion from Coun. Adrian Couwenberg to have staff report back on options to redirect some of the township's brushing budget to ditching work. Meanwhile, discussion surrounding resurfacing projects for Firehall Road and Beaconsfield Road were tabled for the time being.

"We don't have enough money to maintain our gravel roads, we don't have enough money to maintain our paved roads right now, we're always short of money for roads," said Coun. Lynne DePlancke.

Couwenberg's motion calls on staff to come back with a report by July 8. He said he'd been hoping to redirect funds at the June 3 meeting, but would have to settle for the July report.

"There are ongoing issues on our ditching program. There's water on the roads, there's roads washed out. There's one puddle I like

to call the 20-year puddle that's always in the same spot every year," he said.

"I'd like to see some funds redirected from the brushing, because we can't raise taxes, everybody's alarmed at taxes. But I think our priorities need to be set, and take some (money) from brushing and cutting sumac down every year in the same spot, to ditching and getting the moisture (out).

Following that motion, CAO Matt Smith presented a report recommending postponement of the resurfacing projects for Firehall Road between Oxford Centre Fire Hall and Oxford Road 14, as well as Beaconsfield Road from Highway 59 to 299 metres east of Middletown Line. Staff recommended postponement of the projects to 2026 to prevent a recurrence of what happened with Curries Road, where an upgrade project backfired and resulted in a severely damaged road.

The report suggested frost and thaw in late February and heavy truck usage at the same time led to the destruction of the newly upgraded road. But ultimately, the damage was the result of an insufficient road base. The only long-term solution for Curries Road is reconstruction, staff said.

To not repeat the same issue, staff tested sections of Firehall Road and Beaconsfield Road.

"After completing these test holes, staff do

not believe that it would provide good value for taxpayer dollars to add a hard surface on top of the existing gravel roads in these locations, as the inadequate base layer could well lead to similar problems as were experienced on Curries Road," the report said.

The recommendation didn't sit well with Couwenberg.

"To kick this can down the road again, this is the third time I have to debate Firehall Road,"

Smith suggested there wasn't really a debate, but simply staff responding to the conditions they've discovered.

"There is absolutely nothing in this report or in our opinion that says we should not be hardsurfacing these roads," he said.

"This is a case of pennywise, pound foolish...we need to do things the right way."

DePlancke seemed to agree with staff's assessment.

"If we don't properly do the reconstruction on these roads, it's no different than building my house...If you don't put up the right foundation, your house is not going to last," she said.

"If we do a road again and it ends up like Curries, we're going to be the laughingstock of this whole municipality.'

In addition to recommending the postpone-

ment of the two roads to 2026, the staff report also recommended including additional funds in the 2026 budget for the full reconstruction and hardsurfacing of Firehall and Beaconsfield, as well as for the reconstruction and asphalt paving of Curries Road.

The resolution failed. With that, Smith said staff needed some direction.

"If you don't agree with what staff is recommending, give us clear direction about what you want. This is our best advice for these specific projects," he said.

Couwenberg then put forward a motion that 'council direct staff to set up a committee comprised of two councillors, and the appropriate staff and consultants to determine the most cost effective and appropriate reconstruction processes before moving with the gravel road conversion program."

"I am not convinced that a committee is something that will help us get to a solution on this," replied Smith, who also earlier in the meeting said it was highly unusual to not have an engineer involved in these types of projects.

Councillors ultimately deferred a decision to a later meeting.

As if that wasn't enough, at the meeting council also received a petition from the Free Reformed Church of Oxford County requesting a section of Pleasant Valley Road be paved.

Councillors vote against allowing staff to perform civil marriage solemnization services

LUKE EDWARDS

Post Contributor

There won't be wedding bells heard at town hall anytime soon

Norwich councillors turned down a proposal from staff to allow the clerk and other staff members to perform civil marriage solemnization services. It was a service the township offered previously, but ended in 2010 after staffing changes.

"The resumption of officiating services will provide an additional service to residents who may appreciate the opportunity for a simple and inexpensive civil ceremony," said Kimberley Armstrong, township clerk and director of corporate services.

Under the proposal, couples could have hired town staff to be an officiant. It recommended a \$250 fee for ceremonies held in the municipal office during regular office hours and a \$350 for offsite/off hours ceremonies. While previously only the clerk could perform the ceremony, the report recommended delegating authority to several staff members to provide the service, "in order to provide more flexibility in dates and times available for those wishing to utilize the services," Armstrong said.

There would also have been a \$25 fee for wit-

nesses, if they were required. The fees would easily cover the staff time, staff said.

Coun. Karl Toews was opposed to the recommendation on two fronts. He said township staff are already burdened with a heavy workload.

"I'm more concerned with maintaining our current service levels rather than, it seems to me, burdening our staff with additional duties and additional tasks," he said.

However, CAO Matt Smith, said the service is pretty straightforward, with only a couple template ceremonies offered. They'd be small in nature, and also something staff enjoy doing.

"It's one of those things that's just quite nice for us to be able to do. I spend quite a lot of my time saying no to people and so getting to do something that makes people genuinely happy is a very pleasant thing," he said.

Toews' second concern revolved around a perceived undermining of something he considers a very important aspect of marriage, asking staff if they had a licence to perform the cere-

Armstrong said it's a process allowed by the province, and it can be designated to other staff

'We currently issue marriage licences and we do get asked if we provide officiating services,"

Councillor questions 'delayed response' to Pride flag vandalism

LUKE EDWARDS

Post Contributor

A perceived delay in responding to two incidents of vandalism against the Pride flag at Emily Stowe Public School was the result of scheduling conflicts and a desire to send out a carefully crafted response, Norwich Township's mayor and CAO say.

Norwich Township sent out a press release on May 27 regarding the incidents, which took place on May 16 and May 24, respectively. At the June 3 council meeting, Coun. Shawn Gear questioned why it took so long.

We need to be proactive and we need to address these situations immediately. We need to let the community members know that we're here to support them," Gear said.

CAO Matt Smith told councillors it was a combination of factors that led to the release coming out later than some would have hoped. For starters, he said staff didn't learn about the vandalism until the OPP sent out a press release. At the time, both he and Mayor Jim Palmer weren't at town hall. He said they exchanged emails regarding the situation.

Additionally, Smith said they wanted to be thoughtful in their response.

"I think part of the delay was being unsure about what we as a council would want to say,"

"We wanted to be sure that everybody was comfortable with what the township was saying because I know this has been an issue that this township has experienced issues with in the past and I think it's really important that we say the right thing rather than the first thing."

Coun. Lynne DePlancke first raised the issue by speaking to a letter included in the correspondence section of the agenda.

Dated May 26 from Mary-Kathryn Barbier, the letter expressed hope Norwich would publicly condemn the acts of vandalism.

'Such acts are not only symbolic attacks on the 2SLGBTQ+ community. They are also stark reminders of the work still needed to ensure safety, inclusion, and dignity for all members of our community," the letter read.

The township's release was issued the follow-

"I want to support this and I want people in the community to realize that we have accepted the Safe and Well Communities document that was put out by Oxford County," DePlancke

The Safe and Well Communities plan includes several priorities. Among them, under the Equity, Diversity and Inclusion section is an objective to work "collaboratively with police services to develop and implement strategies that decrease crimes targeting racialized, diverse or vulnerable populations, such as LGBTQ2+."

COMING EVENTS

INDIGENOUS CULTURAL CELEBRATION

The Tillsonburg and District Historical Society will be holding an Indigenous Cultural Celebration on **Thursday, June 19th at Memorial**

Park in Tillsonburg, Ontario. June is National Indigenous History Month in Canada, a time to recognize the rich history, heritage, resilience and diversity of First Nations, Inuit and Métis. Robyn Michaud will again be participating along with Indigenous Musicians and Dancers. Food will be available starting at 6 pm with Indigenous Food trucks as well as the Fairboard food booth. Bring your lawn chairs as seating will be limited. Opening Ceremonies and Entertainment will start at 7 pm. Admission is free. Please spread the word. Invite your friends and family. Many of the entertainers are youth so this event should be of interest to young people.

TILLSONBURG LEGION HAM SUPPER FRIDAY

June 27 from 5pm-6pm.

All Welcome! Only \$18 cash (HST included) at the door. Includes scalloped potatoes, vegetables, rolls, homemade desserts, tea, and coffee.

LIVE BAND "THE WRIGHT STUFF"

performing at the Tillsonburg Legion on Saturday June 28.

All the "wright" music you love from the 60's to 2000. Tickets \$15 at the Legion. Doors open at 6pm and show starts at 7pm. ALL Welcome down at the Legion!

CLINTON, ONTARIO 150 AN-NIVERSARY July 4,5,6

BARTLIFFS BAKERY AND RESTAURANT REUNION Library Park, July 5, 11 -4 pm Meet and greet! Memories and Laughter!

Hosted by Liz Bartliff

CANADIAN HARVARD
AIRCRAFT ASSOCIATION
OPEN HOUSE & FLY DAYS
July 5 (Rain Date: July 6)
August 16 (Rain Date: August 17)
Sept 13 – Wings & Wheels
All event dates take place from 9am
– 4pm

Tillsonburg Regional Airport
Join us for our Open House &
Fly Days during our special 40th

anniversary season. These monthly family-friendly outdoor events are always FREE and offer the opportunity to see our collection of Harvard aircraft up close, tour our hangars, explore restoration projects, purchase souvenirs, and best of all, purchase a flight! Pre-booking your flight experience is recommended by contacting crewflights@harvards. com. On July 5th, Join us for a very special Open House & Fly Day that will officially celebrate our special 40th anniversary! This FREE family-friendly outdoor event will offer lots of fun and entertainment and we invite you to be a part of it. As with all our Open Houses, visitors will have the opportunity to see our collection of Harvard aircraft up close, tour our hangars, explore restoration projects, purchase souvenirs, and best of all, purchase a flight! Pre-booking your flight experience is recommended

DECORATION DAY FOR FORESTVILLE CEMETERIES Fairview Cemetery, 698 Charlotteville Road 1, Forestville Sunday July 20th , 2025 @ 2:00 p.m.

by contacting crewflights@harvards.

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

PIZZA FEST Thursday July 24, 2025: 4 pm -8:30 pm

Downtown Ingersoll

Live Music - Rated Blue, Street Performers, Car Show, Vendors, Stores Open Late, Children's Activities, Hands On Exotics Safari Adventure, and lots of Pizza! Seating available. Free Admission - Food Tickets: \$1 ea. Pizza Slice: 3 Tickets Pop/Drink: 1 Ticket. Proceeds to local charities. Visit us on FB/Instagram: Ingersoll BIA

NORTH OF SIXTY OPEN MIC AND JAM

at the Tillsonburg Legion on Saturday July 5 from 1pm-4pm.

\$7 cash at the door. Jumbo Hot dogs with potato chips available for \$5 from 12-2pm. For more info call 519-842-5281.

TILLSONBURG LEGION PATIO DANCE

on Saturday July 19

featuring live band "North of Sixty" from 5pm-8pm. Tickets \$10 in advance or \$15 at the gate. Vendors craft tables open. Cash bar. Food available. All Welcome. For more info call 519-842-5281.

OXFORD COUNTY ANNUAL COIN SHOW

Woodstock Coin Club Along with Ingersoll Coin Club Sunday, June 29th, 2025 Woodstock Agricultural Society Fairgrounds 875 Nellis St., Woodstock, On N4S 4C6

9:00am to 3:00pm

Admission: \$4.00. Buy, Sell, Trade & Evaluate. Kid's Table | Free Parking | Food Booth is open Contact: John Tryhub, (519) 608-8446 /

john@woodstockgoldnsilver.ca

TOWNSHIP OF NORWICH CANADA DAY CELEBRATION July 1, Otterville, 1:00 pm

Parade, children's activities in park, beer garden, music, pie & home decorating contest, baseball game, JPs BBQ, fireworks. Visit https://www.norwich.ca/media/fcvn1sbl/canadaday-2025-poster-final.pdf

MOTORCYCLE RALLY RIDE 4 SUICIDE AWARENESS July 5 2025

Registration: 9:00-10:45 am Kickstands Up: 11:00 am Start & Finish: 645 Finkle Street, Woodstock, ON

\$20/bike registration.
Ride rally to raise awareness for suicide and its prevention. Victim Services of Oxford available for support and information. Door prizes after ride for registrants.

OXFORD GRIEF CARE:

FREE Monthly Grief Support Group Register at: oxford.griefsupport@von.ca or 519-539-1231 Ext 6299 or 6296

TILLSONBURG

WHEN: 2nd Tuesday of every month WHERE: VON Oxford Office 24 Brock St. W., Tillsonburg TIME: 6:30PM-8:00PM

INGERSOLL

WHEN: 4th Tuesday of every month WHERE: Ingersoll Public Library 130 Oxford St., Ingersoll

TIME: 10:30AM –12:00Noon

WOODSTOCK

WHEN: 3rd Saturday of every month WHERE: Sakura House Hospice 715180 Oxford Rd.4, Woodstock TIME: 10:30AM-12:00Noon

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

TILLSONBURG LIONS

book page: TburgBridge.

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

MEMBERS GENERAL MEET-ING

1st Wednesday of every month Starting at 7:00 pm

Not a member contact us to join The Wagner Memorial Teeterville Legion Branch 526. 3890 Teeterville Road, Teeterville, Ontario. For More Information Call, the Legion 519-443-5588

https://www.teetervillelegion-branch526.ca

WOULD YOU LIKE TO VOL-UNTEER TO HELP AT ONE OF OUR EVENTS? WE WELCOME YOU!

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

You do not need to be a member to Volunteer, Just contact the legion and leave your name and number and purpose of your call. Someone will get back to you as to where you might be needed. Students and Adults welcome. Open hours. Wed.-Fri. 3 pm-10 pm, Sat.1 pm-10 pm, Sun.1 pm-6 pm. For More Information call, the Legion at 519-443-5588 or teetervillelegionbranch526.ca

WEEKLY CRUISE NIGHTS Hosted by the Tillsonburg Cruisers at the Tim Hortons/Wendys.

Everyone is welcome to come and enjoy vehicles of all makes and years.

RIDDLES

I rise high and make you sweat,Don't stare too long, you'll regret. What am I?

Sun

I melt in heat, I'm cold and sweet, A summer treat you love to eat. What am I?

I'm full of sand and salty air, You'll find seashells and sunshine there. What am I?

Beach

I'm thrown around and filled with air, Bounce me or toss me high in the air. What am I?

Beach ball

Green in summer, raked in fall. I'm alive, and I grow tall. What am I?

Grass

I'm often grilled and served on a bun, Add ketchup and I'm summer fun. What am I?

Hot dog

I fly at night with a flickering light, In summer fields, I'm quite the sight. What am I?

Firefly

I give you shade, I block the sun, I sit above you when the fun's begun. What am I? Umbrella

I'm worn on your face to help you see, When summer sun shines down on me. What am I?

Sunglasses

I buzz around on summer days, But swatting me's not part of your praise. What am I?

Mosquito

I cool you down when it's too hot, You dive right in — like it or not! What am I? Swimming pool

I'm sticky, colourful, and found on sticks, I melt fast, so eat me quick! What am I?

Popsicle

SUDOKU

						by	Peters	3 2025
5	9	2						
4		6	1					
3	7		9	8				
	6	9		7	4			
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						6	3	1

Solutions on page 26 Simple (0)

PET OF THE WEEK * * * *

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

WORD SEARCH

SUMMER VIBES

G	P	P	X	T	I	X	M	0	S	A	N	D	C	A	S	T	L	E	υ	
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SUNSHINE

BEACH

OCEAN

POPSICLE

ICE CREAM

FLIPFLOPS BONFIRE

SEASHELLS

SAND CASTLE

SUNGLASSES

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VACATION

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PAINTING



SUDOKU

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

QUIZ ANSWERS

- 1. Jupiter
- 2. Crescent moon
- 3. Gord Downie
- 4. True
- 5. Syria
- 6. Princess Juliana
- 7. 3/4
- 8. LeBron James
- 9. 1916
- 10. Speakeasy

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CLASSIFIEDS

BIRTHDAY



BIRTHDAY



Matthew Potz



Best wishes Dad! from your three girls -Mary Anne, Caroline, Sharron, and all our families

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CLASSIFIEDS

IN MEMORIAM

IN MEMORY OF KEVIN HOPPER

DEC. 24, 1968 - JUNE 22, 1991



Love, like a beautiful song, echoes on in the heart when the last note is silent. Always loved and missed.

Mom & family.

TREES

Hundreds of shade trees, fruit trees, apples, pears, peaches, plums, sweet and sour cherries, apricots, nectarines, blueberries, haskapp grapes, raspberries, elderberries etc. Lots of spruce, pine, cedars for windbreak and privacy hedges. Sizes 1-8 ft. in containers ready to go. Flowering shrubs and much more. Mon-Sat 7:00am to 6:00pm

Martin's Nursery, 42661 Orangehill Rd Wroxeter, ON N0G 2X0 (1 Conc. North of Wroexter on Belmore Line)

CELEBRATION OF LIFE

Celebration of Life for James Ronald Rice, June 22nd, at the Tillsonburg Legion from 1-4p.m.

OBITUARY

VAN DAELE gus

(NOVEMBER 7, 1935 - JUNE 11, 2025)



It is with great sadness, that we the family of Gus Van Daele, wish to announce his peaceful passing, after a long and well-lived life, on Wednesday, June 11th, 2025, at PeopleCare Tavistock LTC, in his 90th year. Gus was a former resident of Tillsonburg and Langton. For several years, Gus farmed tobacco alongside his loving and muchloved wife of 61 years,

Simone (nee Vanhooren) Van Daele (July 12, 2020). Gus was a member of Sacred Heart R.C. Church, Langton. Gus is predeceased by his children Rick Van Daele (1996) (survived by his wife Joanne) and Kim Van Daele (2018). Always a caring grandfather and great-grandfather to: Ashley (Chad Andrews), of Tillsonburg and their children Avery and Ethan; Ryan Van Daele, of Guelph; Justin Van Daele, of Guelph; Colin Van Daele, of Simcoe. Also survived by his sister Georgette Hooyer and by several nieces, nephews and cousins. Predeceased by 3 siblings Susie Dalby, Julian Van Daele and Roger Van Daele.

Friends, neighbours and relatives were invited to attend public visitation on Friday, June 13th, 2025, between 6:00 and 8:00 p.m. in the Maurice J. Verhoeve Funeral Homes Chapel, 40 Queen Street, Langton. In keeping with Gus' expressed wishes, a Traditional Funeral Mass of Christian Burial was held on Saturday, June 14th, at 11:00 a.m. in Sacred Heart R.C. Church, 24 Albert Street, Langton, by Rev. Fr. Seejo John. Interment followed in Sacred Heart R.C. Cemetery, Langton.

Everyone who knew Gus is invited to share favourite memories, photos, express personal condolences, order flowers or as expression of sympathy contribute memorial donations to the "Heart and Stroke Foundation of Ontario" via Gus' online tribute page at www.verhoevefuneralhomes.com or by contacting the Maurice J. Verhoeve Funeral Homes- Burial and Cremation Services Inc., Langton (519)842-4238, which has been entrusted with all funeral arrangements, with confidence.

OBITUARY

HARNESS HAZEL DOREEN

(MAY 18, 1934 - JUNE 15, 2025)



It is with heavy hearts the Harness family announces the very sad passing of our family Matriarch Hazel Harness after a brief illness.

Proud Mum of Brad (Hong), Deborah and Trevor and predeceased by her children Russell (1975), Lisa (2005) and Warren (2022). Loving Grandmother of Russell (Alina), Caitlin, Ryan (Megan) and Connor. And

very happy Great-grandmother of Violet Hazel. Loyal sister of Aundrey Longpre and Joan Charlton (2022). Sadly, missed by many nieces and nephews and family members in England.

Born in London, England and immigrated to Canada in 1957 with former husband Fred (2012) and settling in Oakville, Ontario where she raised her six children. A lady of many talents she ran a successful horse farm and was head cashier and dedicated assistant to several store managers at large grocery store. Where she was mentor and "mom" to countless young workers, and was affectionately known as "Hurricane Hazel". After a long career Hazel retired to Tillsonburg's Hickory Hills Community and spent 15 years proudly volunteering as the social conveyor organizing countless social activities and charity events.

A passionate gardener and talented knitter, Hazel was someone who cherished family traditions and values, hosting Sunday dinners and always bringing family and friends together.

Truly one of a kind, Hazel was a dedicated and loving mother and grandmother who was a kind and caring friend to all who had the pleasure of knowing her.

At the request of Hazel, cremation has taken place. Hazel will be interred at St. Jude's Cemetery in Oakville.

Memorial donations in honour of Hazel can be made to the Terry Fox Foundation, Diabetes Canada or Covenant House, Toronto, either directly with the charity or by contacting Ostrander's Funeral Home who have been entrusted with the arrangements.

Condolences and memories can be made at www.ostrandersfuneralhome.com.

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\$55,889*HST



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\$43,899*HST



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2021 RAM 1500

Warlock, 62,528 km's, Heated **Bucket Seating, Navigation,** V6 4x4, F25-005A



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2024 TOYOTA COROLLA CROSS

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999+HST



2021 FORD BRONCO SPORT

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\$26,799+HST



2019 JEEP CHEROKEE TRAILHAWK

90,481 km's, Trail Rated, Leather heated seats, Navigation. 25-061A

\$24,799*HST



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