

Tillsonburg POST

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Family medicine residency expansion includes TDMH

JEFF HELSDON

Editor

Tillsonburg District Memorial Hospital is among the sites chosen for an expansion of Western University's Schulich School of Medicine and Dentistry family medicine residency program.

According to an announcement issued Sept. 22, the residency program will expand into Sarnia-Lambton and Oxford County. Locally, those partnerships include Rural Roads Health Services' Tillsonburg and Ingersoll sites and Woodstock Hospital.

Beginning in 2027, the new sites in Sarnia-Lambton and Oxford County will each welcome two residents, creating four new family medicine residency positions across the region. As communities continue to face family physician shortages, the new sites will strengthen rural and regional training and support the future of primary care in Southwestern Ontario.

"As a medical school, we recognize our responsibility to help ensure the communities we serve have the physicians and health-care workforce they need, both today and for generations to come," said Dr. John Yoo, Dean of Schulich Medicine and Dentistry. "At the same time, these communities provide exceptional environments for medical education. Residents benefit from broad clinical experiences, close relationships with preceptors, and meaningful connections with the communities and patients they serve."

CONTINUED TO PAGE 16



CHAMBER CELEBRATES 50 YEARS

(CHRIS ABBOTT PHOTO)

The Tillsonburg District Chamber of Commerce celebrates its 50th anniversary last Thursday at its annual Awards of Excellence dinner and awards. A full room was on hand for the awards. See story on Page 14 of today's Post and next week's paper for more information on the awards winners.

Soccer player competes for Youth Athlete of the Year

ROBIN KRAFFT

Post Correspondent

Eleven-year-old Solomon Henry has risen to third place in Colossal's Youth Athlete of the Year competition that celebrates young athletes while raising awareness and funds for the Why Not You Foundation.

The organization, spearheaded by NFL Quarterback Russell Wilson and Ciara, is a nonprofit that advances education, encourages young people to pursue their goals, and empowers today's youth to develop confidence (athleteoftheyear.org).

Solomon, an avid Tillsonburg soccer player, and Grade 7 student at Monsignor J.H. O'Neil Catholic School, entered the competition for eight to 15-year-olds as the only Canadian in his group, and he's excited to represent his town and his country.

"I wanted to challenge myself," Henry said. "To see if I could win. You never know what can happen."

He remembers the first time he saw the game played as a four-year-old and how he felt drawn to it.

"The first time I saw someone play soccer, I said I wanted to play," Henry said. "I thought I can actually do that."

CONTINUED TO PAGE 18



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SCAN



Residency program could bring more doctors to town

CONTINUED FROM FRONT

That is the strength of distributed medical education.”

This is a first for TDMH, and Oxford County.

“While our hospitals and community clinics regularly accepted residents from Schulich for two and four-week rotations, this is an important next step,” said Dr. Ian Hons, regional academic director for Oxford and chief of staff at Woodstock Hospital. “For the first time, we will be welcoming resident doctors to Oxford County for the entirety of their two-year family medicine training.”

The new training sites build on Schulich’s strength in distributed medical education, providing community-based experiences for learners at all stages of their training. That network spans more than 60 communities across Southwestern Ontario, from Windsor to Tobermory, supported by more than 110 health-care partner sites and nearly 1,000 clinical faculty members.

At the new sites, residents will learn across hospital, clinic and community care settings, gaining a broad range of clinical experience, including at TDMH and local practices. Their training will include emergency medicine, pediatrics,

obstetrics and gynecology, surgery, internal medicine and palliative care, alongside comprehensive family medicine.

Hons is hopeful this will bring more family physicians to Oxford County. He pointed to Discovery Week, which sees physicians spend a short stint in rural communities, as a success in bringing doctors to the county.

“We’re hopeful that creating a more sustained training experience through the family residency program will build on that success, and give future physicians even more opportunities to get to know our community and why it’s such a special place to live and work,” he said.

Residents will work closely with local physicians and health-care teams, with an emphasis on close mentorship, hands-on learning and increasing responsibility as they prepare for independent practice.

“Our goal is to give residents a well-rounded family medicine experience that reflects the care they would provide in Oxford County if they choose to practice here,” Hons said.

“By embedding residents directly into these communities, we are not only providing them with a uniquely diverse, hands-on clinical education, but we are

also addressing the urgent need for family physicians where they are needed most,” said Dr. Daniel Grushka, associate professor and postgraduate program director for the Department of Family Medicine. “Through strong collaborations with our health-care partners, we are training a new generation of exceptionally skilled generalists who are committed to caring for families across our region.”

“This program reflects an extraordinary level of collaboration across Oxford County,” Hons added. “Our local family physicians and specialists have embraced the opportunity to teach and mentor residents, creating a supportive, hands-on learning environment where they will experience the full spectrum of community-based care and develop the skills and confidence to provide comprehensive care.”

Tillsonburg residents may encounter one of the residents during a visit to their family physician or at TDMH.

Hons has high hopes for the longer-term impacts of the school being part of the program.

“Being a site for Schulich’s family residency program means that we have future physicians training with us, establishing

relationships with our healthcare teams, and learning more about the community and patient population they would be caring for if they choose to build a career in Oxford County,” Hons said. “With time, we believe this program will strengthen local recruitment of family physicians, providing better access to primary care for members of our community.”

“We are very excited to be a partner in bringing this residency program to Oxford County,” said Nadia Facca, Rural Roads Health Services (AHI/TDMH) CEO/President. “We welcome these new residents into our community with open arms.”

“Bringing these residency opportunities to Oxford County is an important step in strengthening health care in Oxford County and across Southwestern Ontario,” said Ernie Hardeman, MPP for Oxford. “By giving future physicians the opportunity to train and work in our community, we are helping build a stronger pipeline of doctors who can serve our communities for years to come. I’m pleased to see the continued collaboration with our local health-care partners and look forward to seeing these new residents become part of the local community in 2027.”

Tillsonburg Terry Fox Run surpasses fundraising goals

CHRIS ABBOTT

Grant Haven Media

Success can be measured many ways.

In Tillsonburg, the Terry Fox Run checked all the boxes, raising more than \$37,000 for cancer research through the Terry Fox Foundation and the Terry Fox Research Institute. They had more participants this year and just as much fun as they do every year.

“We had like 250 people,” said Tillsonburg Run coordinator Shelley Weiler.

Last year’s Tillsonburg Terry Fox Run, with nearly 200 participants, raised \$39,500, which was in the ‘Top 20 per capita’ in Canada. That number will be surpassed this year.

“We definitely topped it out this year,” said Weiler, noting they received thousands of dollars in cash donations on the day of the run, and more will donations will be coming in over the next couple weeks. “It was the best year.”

Tillsonburg was the 17th official Terry Fox Run site registered in Cana-



Brent Hosler, left, and Wayne Beard at the Tillsonburg Terry Fox Run on Sept. 20.

(STUART BLOWER PHOTO)

da, a few years after the original run in September 1981. Today there are more than 760 Terry Fox Runs across the country and the cancer research fundraiser is held in more than 60 countries.

“We always say that,

‘We were the 17th community to sign up for a Terry Fox Run in Canada,’” Weiler smiled.

All of the participants, sponsors and volunteers were thanked.

“You brought the energy and made today so

special,” Weiler posted on social media.

“The committee, they’re raring to go (for 2027). We know what works – what we call ‘the base model.’ But we do like adding things here and there, just to make

it more memorable every year.

“A big thank you to the organizing committee, because without them, none of this would have happened.”

This year the Tillsonburg committee focused

on signs and photo opportunities.

“We have a ton of pictures this year, just from people participating and getting involved. We saw a lot of families – the whole family – grandparents, their kids, their grandkids, we saw generations coming out. It was such a good year!”

And that’s coming in a year Weiler thought would be a challenge, getting people motivated during difficult economic times.

“That’s OK,” Weiler had said, knowing it would be a slow upward climb. “Then, all of a sudden, two to three weeks before, the kids were back in school and everyone was thinking about it. So it just skyrocketed from there.”

Individuals like Brenda Gibbons and Courtney Hopkins were two of the top fundraisers. Inovata Foods (\$7,810), the De-Decker Family and Sage Rush were the top teams.

“Systemair gave us a cheque for \$6,800 at the Run. Systemair and Inovata, they were almost half of our fundraising total.”

EDITORIAL

Positive news on the health care front

The recent announcement that Oxford County hospitals will be part of Western University's Schulich School of Medicine and Dentistry family medicine residency program is good news for the area.

In simple terms, this means that physicians completing their residency – or post-graduate training under the supervision of another doctor – will now be working in Oxford. Two positions have been created and will be based in Tillsonburg, Woodstock and Ingersoll, both in the hospitals and with family medicine practices. While this will assist with the workload, it also increases the possibility that these doctors will work in Oxford County when they set up their own practices. This is a real win-win situation.

Having residents working in Oxford County is a first, and a positive step forward. With the retirement of several family physicians looming in the next few years, hopefully this will help alleviate any future shortage.

This news follows earlier this year's earlier announcement of the Oxford County Nurse Practitioner-Led Clin-

ic in Tillsonburg. It will provide care for 13,000 people in Oxford County who were previously without a primary health care provider.

Tillsonburg council recently approved \$5,000 in extra spending for its Shared Physician Recruitment Incentive Support Model to help a doctor start with one of the existing practices to replace a retiring doctor. Another move forward.

As was stated by Stephanie Nevins, executive director of the Oxford County Nurse Practitioner-Led Clinic, at the time of the opening, having a primary care provider is important: "It means earlier diagnoses, better management of chronic conditions, and support for mental health and overall well-being. Most importantly, it means people are no longer navigating the healthcare system alone. Having a regular primary care provider is truly life-changing."

These announcements are a positive step toward addressing the shortage of primary health care providers in Tillsonburg. The situation is a contrast to where it was only a year ago, with thousands on wait lists and no primary health care provider, or any hope in sight.



Early morning mist.

(JEFF HELSDON PHOTO)

PHOTOGRAPHERS WANTED

Do you have a great photo you think would look good on the editorial page?

The Tillsonburg Post is looking for images to display in this space from community members who would like to share their art work. All images must be taken in Tillsonburg, or the immediate area, and should not be of people.

Images should be high resolution jpegs. Please send only one image per e-mail, and send no more than three images. Images should be sent to jeff@granthaven.com

CLARIFICATION

The question in last week's Post with the council candidates was edited for candidate John Gilvesy as it didn't seem to fit the format. On reconsideration, his full answer is below.

The questions were: **Do you live in Tillsonburg, and if so, for how long, and what is the reason you are running for council?**

No. We live on Potters Road, but our businesses and rental properties are in Tillsonburg.

We were born in Tillsonburg hospital, went to schools and church in Tillsonburg, shop in Tillsonburg, and have our doctor, lawyer and accountant in Tillsonburg. Our family has been involved with building or renovating many buildings in Tillsonburg. Sandra taught and I coached in Tillsonburg. I was president of the Tillsonburg Real Estate Board, Chair of Tillsonburg Hydro, and member of the Tillsonburg Rotary Club. My interests are in promoting the best interests of Tillsonburg.

The beautiful monstrosity that haunted my childhood



**WRITER'S
CORNER**

NORMA COLLIS

Tillsonburg Post Columnist

At one time, when it was our home, the manse for St. Paul's United Church in Tillsonburg, had a large, antique hall tree-type piece of furniture in place of pride, in the front hallway.

It had a small seat suitable for small bottoms only, a tall mirror to check if one's Sunday best hat was properly in place, and an intriguing long narrow cupboard that ran down the right-hand side of this unusual piece of furniture. That long cupboard contained a large saucer-shaped, metal receptacle that rested

on the bottom of the cupboard. We were told that this was an enclosed umbrella stand and that one should stand their wet "brolly" in the cupboard with the bottom of the parasol resting in the tin drip tray.

There were elaborately-crafted metal coat hooks that appeared on either side of the long mirror. I don't remember anyone hanging any clothing on these hooks as this would have marred the overall effect of the impressive furniture item.

The manse contained many other pieces of heavy antique furniture and my sister and I were often "pressed" into service when it was time to dust the contents of our house.

Both my sister and I hated to dust that piece of hallway furniture. It had curlicues of decorations both wooden and metal. Trying to get your fingers and a dust cloth into the swirls and edges of these items was a nightmare.

"It's your turn to dust the monstrosity," my sister would announce.

"No, it's not, I did it last time," I would fire back.

The ensuing 'debate' would frequently

require parental involvement, and one or the other of the two sisters would lose the argument and have to face up to the tedious job of tending to the 'monstrosity.'

If my mother was preparing to host a ladies' meeting in the house, our finished work was inspected with an exceptionally critical eye. Sometimes the offending wielder of the dust cloth was summoned back and the tedious task repeated with the supervisor hovering near by.

I was six years younger than my sister. Had I been a kid of average height, I probably could have argued that I was too little to reach all the way to the top of this aggravating piece of furniture. I didn't have a leg to stand on where this point of argument was concerned.

In reality, I had two legs to stand on and they created a tall kid who always had to stand in the back row of every class photo. In kindergarten, I soon learned that I was going to be doomed to standing in the middle of the back row of the class photo for the rest of my elementary school days.

You can imagine my surprise when,

as an adult, shortly after moving back to Tillsonburg, I again encountered the 'monstrosity.' It now sits inside the Bidwell Street entrance door to St. Paul's church itself.

The passage of time and an adult perspective change the way that one views things.

I now realize that this unique piece of furniture is an impressive and very attractive addition to any hallway. I look at it every time I enter the building and often say to myself, "Ah, there it is. The beautiful monstrosity that holds so many memories for me."

Thankfully I can now enjoy the total effect of this piece of furniture in the most positive of ways because..... I am not the one who has to dust it anymore. It is no longer a 'monstrosity'; but instead, a beautifully-preserved piece of history from an era that appreciated detailed craftsmanship.

Norma Collis is a local author of the Holly Colly series, including "Holly Cottage Goes on Vacation" which will be released this month.

A portrait of Tillsonburg's first mayor restored

MUSEUM MUSINGS

KATE BAKOS

Annandale National Historic Site

Keen-eyed visitors to Annandale National Historic Site may have noticed that the portrait of E.D. Tillson had been missing from display. Rest assured, the painting was sent to a professional conservator for what museum staff affectionately call a much-needed "spa day."

The treatment not only improved the portrait's condition but also provided an opportunity to learn more about its history. As conservators examined the work, new details emerged about the painting's artist, its creation, and its place within Tillsonburg's history.

While many museum artifacts appear unchanged year after year, age affects everything. The conservation of E.D.'s portrait was undertaken to ensure the long-term preservation of the piece. As work on the portrait progressed, however, it revealed new information that has deepened our understanding of the painting.

To understand the significance of the portrait, it helps to understand its subject. Edwin Delevan "E.D." Tillson (1825-1902) was one of the most influential citizens in Tillsonburg's history. The son of Tillsonburg's founder, George Tillson, E.D. continued the family's legacy of entrepreneurship and civic leadership. After Tillsonburg's incorporation in 1872, he became the town's first mayor and helped guide the young municipality through a period of growth and development. Beyond public service, he was also a successful businessman whose influence helped shape many aspects of the community residents know today.

The portrait was added to the museum's collection in 1986. This was before the opening of Annandale NHS, when the Tillsonburg Museum sat on the banks of Lake Lisgar. After more than 40 years in the collection, the piece had accumulated clouding on its surface, muting the painting's colours and obscuring fine details. The white clouding was particularly noticeable across E.D.'s face.

This condition, known as efflorescence, occurs when materials within the paint migrate to the surface over time and become visible as pale deposits. The source of this deterioration led to one of the project's most intriguing findings. Conservators found evidence



(CONTRIBUTED PHOTO)

E.D. Tillson's framed portrait before the restoration.

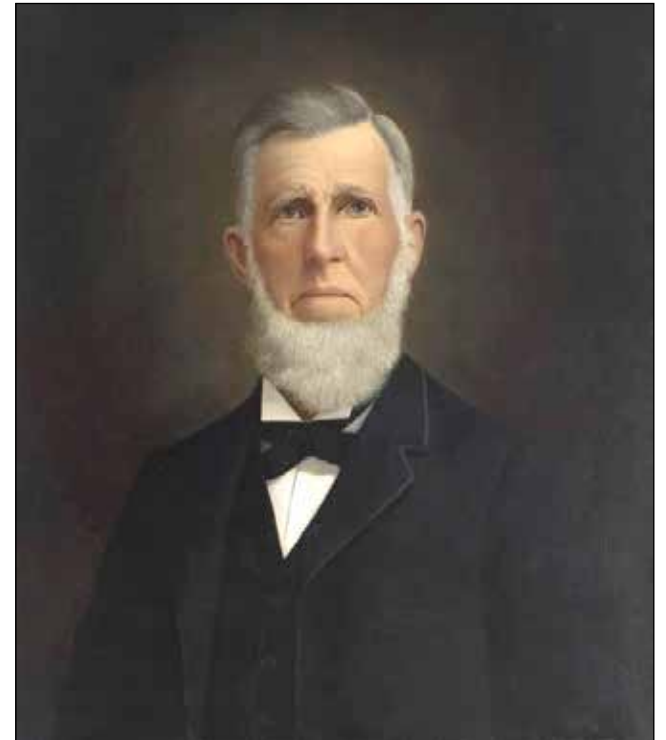
suggesting the portrait may have been created using a preliminary photographic process and then painted over.

During the late nineteenth century, some artists used photographs as references or as part of their painting process. In this case, examination of the portrait revealed materials associated with early photochemical techniques, as well as zinc-based compounds within the paint layers, providing clues about how the work may have been created.

At the same time, conservators undertook treatment to address the visible deterioration that had accumulated over decades.

Conservation treatment focused on carefully cleaning the work while protecting the original paint. Specialized gel systems reduced efflorescence and removed accumulated dirt. The results improved the image's clarity, allowing us to appreciate details hidden under years of surface deposits. Once cleaning was complete, conservators applied a museum-grade synthetic varnish to enhance colour depth and provide a protective layer against further deterioration; think of it as sunscreen for the painting.

The most exciting discovery made during the conservation process was revealed in the lower right corner of the painting. Prior to treatment, museum staff did not know whether an artist's mark existed. Once the painting was removed from its frame, it revealed the artist's name, J.P. Hunt, along with what appears to be the date '98, likely indicating 1898. This mark most likely belongs to John Powell Hunt (1854-1932), a Canadian painter born in St. Marys, Ontario, who later lived and worked in London, Ontario. Hunt is best known for his oil paintings depicting rivers, woodlands, and rural



(CONTRIBUTED PHOTO)

E.D. Tillson's portrait after the conservation work, which removed the white clouding and improved its clarity.

landscapes throughout Southwestern Ontario. Although he is primarily remembered today for his landscape paintings, the rediscovered signature confirms that he also produced portrait commissions.

The frame itself was restored, but it also provides additional historical context. Attached to the lower portion is a metal plaque bearing the inscription:

"E. D. Tillson, Esq. / First Mayor of Tillsonburg / 1872 / Presented by His Children / November 1911."

The 1898 date raises interesting questions about the portrait's creation. E.D. Tillson passed away in 1902. With the plaque and the artist's mark seemingly at odds, we find ourselves asking why this portrait was created. Did E.D. sit for the portrait, or was it painted entirely from the photographic likeness beneath the paint? Did E.D. commission the work, or was it commissioned by his children? Does the portrait represent E.D. as he appeared in 1872 or 1898? While further research may help answer these questions, the conservation project has already uncovered valuable historical context.

Today, the portrait of E.D. Tillson has returned to display at Annandale National Historic Site. Visitors may first notice the brighter colours, clearer details, and restored frame. Beyond these visible improvements, however, the conservation project achieved something equally important. It transformed a familiar piece of the collection into a newly understood artifact, revealing the artist's identity, offering clues about how the portrait was created, and adding new information to the story of one of Tillsonburg's most influential citizens. In doing so, it reminds us that even objects we think we know well can still have stories left to tell.

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Arpan Khanna appointed vice-chair of the House of Commons Standing Committee on Justice and Human Rights

Arpan Khanna, Member of Parliament for Oxford and Shadow Minister for Justice and Attorney General of Canada, has been appointed Vice-Chair of the House of Commons Standing Committee on Justice and Human Rights (JUST). MP Khanna will lead the Conservative team at the committee, which is responsible for studying and scrutinizing legislation, policies and programs related to Canada's justice system, the courts, the Department of Justice and the protection of human rights. A lawyer by profession, MP Khanna brings direct experience in the law to his role as the Shadow Minister for Justice and

Attorney General of Canada, along with a clear mandate from the people of Oxford to restore safety to our communities. Prior to taking his seat as Vice-Chair, Khanna introduced Bill C-242, the Jail Not Bail Act, to end bail for repeat violent offenders, and has advocated repeatedly in the House of Commons on bail reform, rural crime and the rights of law-abiding firearms owners. "Since I was elected, I have made it my focus to bring the concerns of Oxford directly to the floor of Parliament," MP Khanna added. "As Vice-Chair, I will use every tool in the toolbox to restore safe streets, stronger laws, and justice for victims."

Missed an issue?
View all past issues online anytime:
tillsonburgpost.com



FUNDRAISER CLEANS UP (CONTRIBUTED PHOTO)
A fundraiser held by Van Leeuwen's Detailing and Paint Protection raised \$1,405 for the Tillsonburg Helping Hand Food Bank. Owner Levi Van Leeuwen presents a cheque to Samantha Hamilton, Helping Hand Food Bank coordinator. The money was raised through a barbecue held in conjunction with the grand opening of the new location at 20 Cat Alley.

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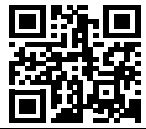
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Honouring the British Home Children legacy

DEBBIE KASMAN

Post Contributor

Annapdale National Historic Site (ANHS) hosted a special presentation on Sept. 19 by Lori Oschefski, President of Home Children Canada, to honour the legacy of British Home Children.

Between 1869 and 1948, more than 100,000 children were sent from the United Kingdom to Canada, Australia and New Zealand through child migration programs and placed in homes and farms across the country where they worked as domestic servants and labourers.

These children came from families facing poverty or other hardships and were often placed without full consent or understanding and with little supervision after placement.

Collectively these children are known as the British Home Children.

Some of the children found supportive homes, but approximately 75% of the children endured hardship, exploitation, and abuse. Many were separated from their siblings, forced to repay their travel costs, and suffered severe neglect and sexual abuse in isolated settings. Most were denied an education.

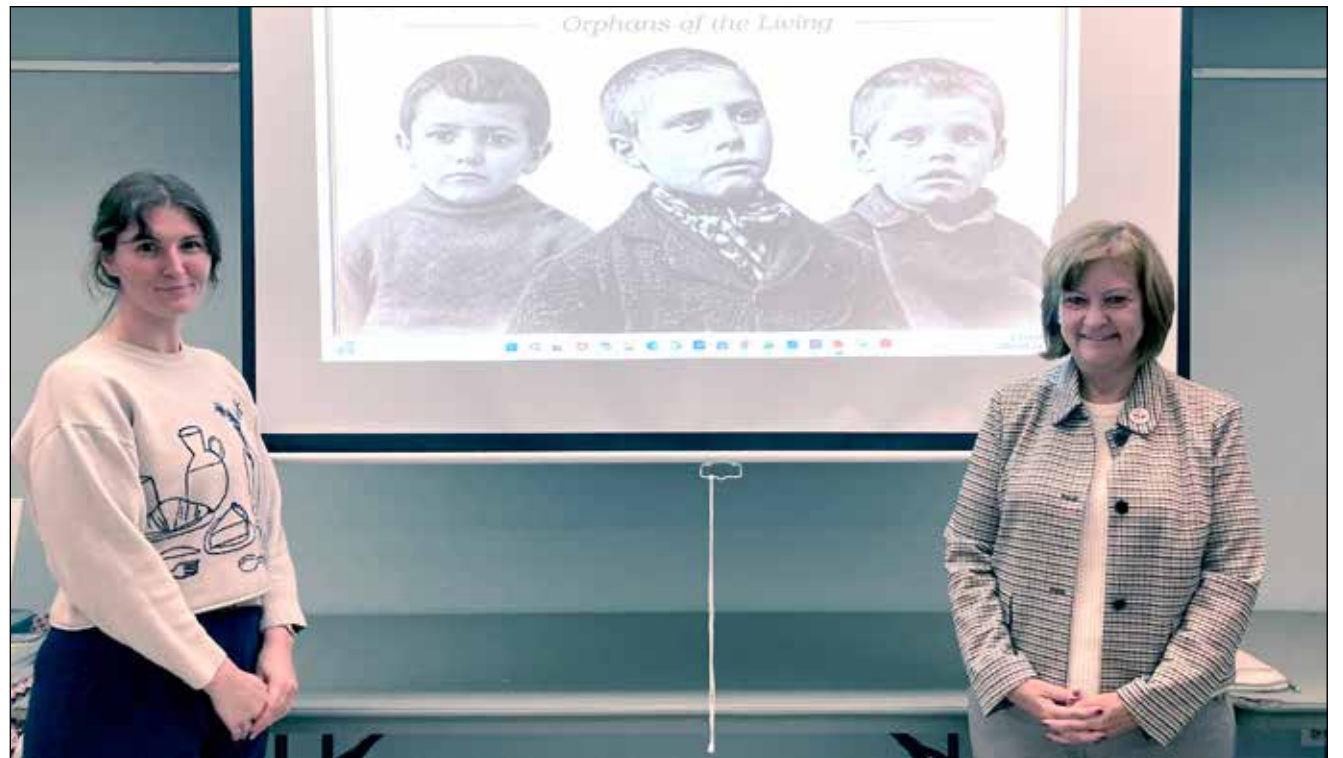
Some of the children did

well, but it was due to their own tenacity and their will to live that made the difference, says Oschefski. Committed to unraveling the narrative of Home Children, Oschefski embarked on an exploration in 2007, fostering a profound understanding of these historical immigration programs.

Oschefski is not only an expert in her field, but she also holds accolades for several noteworthy achievements, including recipient of the Ontario Museum Association's Award of Excellence in Exhibition for a long-term exhibit created in partnership with the Black Creek Pioneer Village in Toronto and a two-time nominee for Historical Awards for the numerous books she has written.

Oschefski says anywhere from four to six million descendants of the British Home Children are still living in Canada, although the number is likely much higher, and this mass immigration of child labour ended when Canadian social workers began to push back in the 1920s. There had been numerous suicides making headlines all around the world, and during the depression it was felt that these children were taking much needed jobs.

In 2010, the British government offered a formal



(DEBBIE KASMAN PHOTO)

Kate Bakos, Cultural Heritage Manager/Curator (left) and Lori Oschefski, President of Home Children Canada, at the Annapdale National Historic Site on Sept. 19.

apology to former child migrants for the severe hardships the children endured. So far, there has been no apology from the Canadian government.

The Town of Tillsonburg is honouring these children with an exhibition at the Annapdale National Historic Site.

The Rotary Clock Tower will also be illuminated yellow on Sept. 28, which is National British Home Child

Day.

The colour yellow represents the sunflower, the official flower associated with British Home Children. As a symbol of resilience, the sunflower honours the lives, contributions, and lasting legacies of the children who came to Canada and helped shape communities across the country, including many in the Tillsonburg area.

The Newman/Helsdon family is one such family.

Ernest George Newman arrived in Canada in 1893 at the age of 16. He was placed with a family near Straffordville, married Mary Ann Ullman in 1901, had two children, Bert and Phyllis, and worked for the Public Utilities Commission for 32 years. Newman died in 1952 and is buried in the Tillsonburg Cemetery.

Oxford County Archives is offering an exhibition online, Tillsonburg's British Home

Children virtual exhibit, at www.oxfordcounty.ca/archives.

The exhibition is not a complete history of every British Home Child who settled in the area. Because of the stigma historically associated with being a British Home Child, many experiences were never shared.

Residents are encouraged to visit the exhibition at NHS through Oct. 31st or explore the online exhibition.

Physician Recruitment

My Healthcare Background
I was a registered nurse for 25 years, working in Tillsonburg community and at the local hospital. My father, Jim Spencer was the President of Tillsonburg Hospital for 25 years.

Local Leadership
I am Vice-Chair of the Tillsonburg Community Health Committee and we have worked on incentive packages and a website for physician recruitment. I have personally connected with physicians from other countries to encourage them to move to Tillsonburg and practise in our community.

Advocating in Ottawa
For the last 3 years I have travelled to Ottawa to learn and advocate for Tillsonburg. I have spoken with the Ministry of Health and with Ontario Medical Association, sharing that our town has grown substantially, that we have many residents without a physician and that we have several physicians retiring soon. We are on their radar and they are aware of our situation.

I will continue strong advocacy for physician recruitment in Tillsonburg.

Authorized by Kelly Spencer.

Kelly Spencer for Mayor

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2024 GMC Sierra 1500

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2019 Dodge Grand Caravan

Was \$24,350 **98,206KM**
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Results from Operation Safe Start in Oxford County

The Oxford detachment of the Ontario Provincial Police (OPP) conducted a traffic initiative during the first two weeks of the school year, called Operation Safe Start. The initiative ran from Sept. 8-11 and 14-18, throughout Oxford County.

Thanks to the cooperation from the public, the proactive safety messaging shared

by numerous media partners and the targeted cruiser, foot and bike patrols made by members of Oxford OPP, the initiative was successful.

The following charges are the results of Operation Safe Start in Oxford County;

- 4 Speeding
- 5 Speeding - Community Safety Zone

- 3 Disobey Stop Signs
- 1 Fail to Stop for School Bus
- 1 Stunt Drive

Although one incident of disobeying the law around school and bus zones is too many, the low number of charges suggests members of the public are taking student safety seriously.

"On behalf of Oxford OPP, we would like to thank the motorists who operated their vehicles safely during this time frame. We encourage everyone to continue to drive safe, smart and sober, to continue to improve the safety of Oxford County roads," said Oxford OPP Detachment Commander, Inspector Tony Hymers.

OPP looking to identify suspect

JEFF HELSDON

Editor

Oxford OPP is looking to identify an individual in connection to a fraud incident that occurred on June 23 at a bank in Till-

sonburg.

Police are asking if the public can assist with identifying the individual in the photos to contact OPP at 1-888-310-1122. Those who wish to remain anonymous can call CrimeStoppers at 1-800-222-8477.



(CONTRIBUTED PHOTOS)

Tillsonburg Fire Department hosts open house

The Tillsonburg Fire Department is hosting a Fire Prevention Week Open House on Thursday, Oct. 8 from 6-8 p.m. at the Fire Hall, 80 Concession Street East. Bring the kids out!

This year Tillsonburg Fire Department is teaming up with the National Fire Protection Association (NFPA) to support Fire Prevention Week. The theme is "Charge into Fire Safety: Safe Charging Is a Superpower," focusing on the simple

steps people can take to recharge safely. Safe charging means making smart choices.

"The way you charge your lithium-ion battery devices can make a difference in helping prevent home fires," said Sarah Barclay, Fire Prevention Officer, Tillsonburg Fire Department. "It comes down to using simple habits each time you plug in."

To learn more about lithium-ion battery safety, visit fpw.org.

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You're invited! Sonbeam celebrates 40 years of childcare

ROBIN KRAFFT

Post Correspondent

Sonbeam Christian Daycare is inviting the community to join the celebration of their 40th anniversary on Saturday, Oct. 3 from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. with an Open House.

The nonprofit licensed childcare facility, located at 119 Bidwell Street, Tillsonburg, was established in 1986 by Bethel Pentecostal Church (then Bethel Temple) and has served hundreds of children and families in Tillsonburg and the surrounding area.

Sonbeam features programs for children ages 18 months to 6 years and they currently have 10 toddler and 40 preschool spaces. Their registration is full and there is a significant waiting list for their high-quality programs that aim to meet all the developmental needs of the child.

"We place emphasis on social, emotional, intellectual, and physical development through the environment and guidance based on Christian love and growth," Director Emily Smyth said. "We consider all children competent, capable, curious and rich in potential."

Smyth started working as a supply staff member at Sonbeam in 2016.

"We are the lucky ones who get to help expand the children's interests through play and support their development and growth," Smyth said. "We do this in various ways, but one of our favorite ways is going out into the community!"

When Bethel Pentecostal Church was planning a new build on Quarter Town Line, there was some discussion about Sonbeam moving with them.

"This location was and is still ideal for us," Smyth said. "We are able to visit the 'grandmas and grandpas' at a variety of retirement/nursing homes, and the Tillsonburg VON program. We also love being able to go to our local fire, police, EMS stations, the library, other local parks, and take nature walks in Participark. We are able to go to the complex in the spring and summer for swimming lessons. We attend the Remembrance Day ceremony at the Cenotaph, and we love walking downtown and saying hi to the citizens and puppies of Tillsonburg! We love how involved we are with our community; it is a big

part of who we are."

Sonbeam has a dedicated staff and excellent retention, with some staff members recently retired after 35 years of service, and others who have been in program for 20 to 25 years, and counting.

"I might be biased, but Sonbeam has the best staff!" Smyth said. "We are a family! Cheryl Hodgson is my last original staff member. We opened in September 1986, and she started in May of 87. She has seen it all and I lovingly refer to her as our corporate memory."

"People ask me how I've done it for so long," Hodgson said. "Every year is different. Every child is different. Every day is different. It's rewarding to see their growth, seeing them excel."

Hodgson is now in the office, as financial administrator, but she has fulfilled many roles over the years. She noted that everyone gets along; it's a team approach. In the highly collaborative staff environment, everyone is often asked to weigh in on decisions and share their vision, including what they wanted in the new playground, currently being installed in the par-



(ROBIN KRAFFT PHOTO)

Longtime Sonbeam staff member Cheryl Hodgson points out some memorable moments over the years as Sonbeam Christian Daycare celebrates 40 years in downtown Tillsonburg. Hodgson joined the staff in May 1987 during the first year of operation.

kette between Sonbeam and the Station Arts Centre.

"We hope it will be completed before the Open House," Smyth said. "We made our playground bigger. This way, the whole daycare can be outside at once. Outdoor time is a large part of our program, so it will be great not having to interrupt children having meaningful play

just because they have to take turns using the park. Sonbeam is actually purchasing the land our park sits on, (from the Town of Tillsonburg), ensuring that we can remain open for many years to come!"

Staff have been busy preparing for the anniversary celebration, which will include sensory activities, crafts, a bouncy obstacle course, door prizes,

es, and "Where are they now?" displays featuring children and families who have attended Sonbeam over the years.

"The event is open to the community," Smyth said. "We would love to see past families and past staff. If you're curious to see the building or are on the waiting list, staff will be here and you can ask questions."

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Candidates share what they heard while campaigning

JEFF HELSDON

Editor

Candidates in the upcoming municipal election have been knocking on doors in the community, talking to residents and garnering input.

What did they hear?

This week, candidates shared the one thing they heard at the doors that they would do something about if elected. They were given a limited space to share what they heard, with the restriction it should be a municipal government matter, so not homelessness (dealt with by Oxford County) or health care (provincial).

Mayoral candidates

Deb Gilvesy - Taxes. Meeting the infrastructure demands, rising construction costs and increasing policing costs will be challenging. Building the industrial base will positively impact residential taxes, but that is a long-term gain, not a short-term solution. We are on the right track, but must maintain momentum. Fiscal restraint, which I have exercised throughout my years on council, must continue. It takes discipline and sometimes saying no. We need to scrutinize every dollar, review the Asset Management Plan as costs change, and ensure every tax dollar is spent responsibly and provides value to residents.

Kelly Spencer - One issue I have consistently heard while campaigning, and one I share concerns about, is traffic safety. As demonstrated by my motion calling for a collision and traffic study on Highway 19, which has been sent to the Ministry of Transportation, I believe we need to listen to residents and pursue solutions. With our new Transportation Master Plan, I would work to improve pedestrian crossings, explore rerouting large trucks away from Broadway where feasible, pursue Connecting Links funding opportunities, and advocate through the police services board/detachment for increased speed and red-light enforcement. My goal is simple: safer streets for pedestrians, cyclists and drivers throughout Tillsonburg.

Councillor candidates

Lindsay Ambrus-Mejaski - One issue I have heard repeatedly while door-knocking is that some residents no longer feel comfortable spending time downtown. I understand that homelessness is a larger issue with many contributing factors, but locally, we need to ensure our streets and public spaces are safe, clean and welcoming. I would like to find practical solutions that help families and seniors feel comfortable going downtown, while creating an environment where local businesses can thrive. Our downtown should be a place where residents want to spend time, businesses can succeed, and everyone feels safe and welcome.

Dave Beres - Tillsonburg is known for keeping our downtown clean, vibrant, safe, and welcoming. Many have asked if the town can attract a major hotel chain to locate here. With a growing number of weekend sports tournaments, family gatherings, weddings, and industrial business groups, plus tourist visiting nearby Lake Erie summer events, Tillsonburg would be a great location to host a hotel facility with 80 to 100 guest rooms and suites, meeting rooms, a gym and a pool. Some had requested a roof top restaurant and patio overlooking Broadway. Downtown would be the best location.

Clayton Curtis - The one thing I have heard repeatedly while campaigning is that residents want a fresh, younger perspective and stronger representation at the council table. I believe I can bring both. I offer real-world experience, a willingness to listen, and a genuine long-term investment in our community. My family's connection to Tillsonburg runs deep. On my mother's side, I am directly related to our founder, George Tillson, and through my father's Curtis family, I am also seventh-generation Tillsonburg. I want to bring a fresh perspective while respecting our community's history, working toward practical, pragmatic solutions that serve residents today and for generations to come.

Katherine Englander - The question asked defined homelessness as 'not local'. I understand and respect the perspective. My response is that although primary funding and 'responsibility' rest with Oxford County, homelessness is a local concern and has been one of the top issues raised

by constituents with whom I have met. I have begun gathering information and have met with local individuals who are doing what they can to help. We need a united, community-based approach supported by accurate local data so we can better understand the issue, identify practical solutions, and advocate effectively to the county and for available grants and resources.

Ron Gasparetto - One concern I have heard consistently while campaigning is the need for more affordable and attainable housing in Tillsonburg. Families, seniors, and young people want to remain in the community they call home, but finding suitable housing at a reasonable cost can be challenging. If elected, I would like to work with Council, developers, and community partners to explore practical solutions that encourage a greater range of housing options while maintaining the character of our community.

John Gilvesy - Our Asset Management Plan anticipates a significant funding shortfall over the next 10 years. Let's reconsider our priorities before spending \$6M (or more based on track record) renovating our customer service centre to a new town hall. Perhaps instead we support our downtown core and work to make it safer. With current vacancy, the owners of the Town Centre Mall may be willing to provide competitive municipal office space, address issues at the underground parking area, and not obstruct development of a downtown hotel. Saved funds could be allocated towards future ball diamonds, arena, firehall upgrades, or other determined priority.

Steve Molnar - It has again been a pleasure to have relaxed and insightful conversations with residents as I meet them at their door. Beyond asking about issues and concerns, I always try to encourage them to share their ideas. Affordability tends to be a common theme throughout the community and the impact that uncontrolled growth can have on our infrastructure and services. By working positively with our regional and provincial partners and ensuring we utilize all the financial tools available to the town, we can have a council that prepares for the future while mitigating the financial impact on our citizens.

CONTINUED TO PAGE 13



Auto Tips From AutoCare

Fall Maintenance Advice



Aaron Thiessen

- 

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4. Check Fluid Levels:

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Candidates share what they heard while campaigning

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 12

Felix Nzemeka - One concern I have heard repeatedly while campaigning is the pressure of increasing municipal property taxes on residents, especially seniors, families, and people living on fixed incomes. If elected, I would work to find ways to control unnecessary tax increases while protecting the essential services residents depend on. I would carefully review spending, look for efficiencies, examine how Town-owned assets are being used, and support opportunities to attract new investment and expand our local tax base. My goal is responsible budgeting: every tax dollar should be spent carefully, transparently, and with measurable value for the people of Tillsonburg.

Chris Parker - One of the most consistent messages I have heard while campaigning is the need to improve transportation safety and address recreational capacity. Residents want safer roads, intersections, and active transportation options, while many families and community groups are concerned about the availability of recreational spaces and programs. These are issues that directly impact quality of life in Tillsonburg. If re-elected, I will continue advocating for practical investments and long-term planning that help keep our community safe, active, and accessible for everyone.

Chris Rosehart - As Tillsonburg grows, we need to make sure we are not losing the parks, trees, trails, and open spaces that make our community a great place to live. I also believe we need to look very carefully at how green space is handled with new development. We should not simply allow developers to pay money instead of provid-

ing the green space our community needs. Growth is important, but growth should not come at the expense of the quality of life we enjoy here. We need to plan for the future while protecting the green space we have today and making sure we are adding more for the next generation.

Kim Sage - One thing I have heard a lot about while campaigning is red tape and communication. Whether it's building, running a business, or putting on an event, people feel the process can be frustrating and take too long. If elected, I would like to look at ways to make things easier by simplifying the process and improving communication between the town and its residents. People should understand what is required, why it's required, and where things stand. I believe better communication and a more straightforward process could help reduce frustration and make it easier for people to get things done in our town.

Dee Tosto - While campaigning, one issue that stands out is frustration about issues residents believe town council should be responsible for, when responsibility may belong to Oxford County, the provincial or federal government. As a councillor, I will be a strong voice for Tillsonburg residents. I will listen, ask questions, and get the facts. I will understand who is responsible and, when an issue falls outside the town's role... partner and collaborate with the appropriate level of government to find a path forward. I will speak up, advocate for Tillsonburg and push for practical solutions. My approach is simple: listen, investigate, understand, partner, collaborate, advocate, find solutions.

Help tell Oxford's local climate stories

"Record Setting" campaign invites residents to share climate experiences

Oxford County is marked the first day of fall by launching a new storytelling project that invites county residents to share their experiences with extreme weather events.

Record Setting: Telling Oxford's climate stories (www.oxfordcounty.ca/speakup) will collect firsthand accounts and materials that show how changing conditions are affecting people's homes, health, work, and daily lives, helping document Oxford's history for future generations.

Extreme heat, wildfire smoke, drought, flooding and severe storms are becoming an increasingly visible part of life. This past summer, Oxford experienced multiple periods of extreme heat, including temperatures forecast to reach as high as 36°C, heavy rainfall and an air-quality warning caused by wildfire smoke. There were personal experiences: disrupted work and outdoor activities, concerns about health, crops and animals, and anxiety about what changing conditions could mean for the future. These are the stories Oxford County aims to preserve.

Submissions can document major events or everyday moments. They could include:

- Written stories or journal entries.
- Photographs and videos.
- Screenshots of text messages or social media posts.
- Images of storm damage, flooding, wildfire smoke or items damaged by extreme heat.
- Personal accounts of the worry, disruption or uncertainty caused by changing climate.

Everyone is welcome to participate, with farmers, business owners, outdoor workers, emergency responders and others whose work or daily lives are particularly affected by extreme weather encouraged to share their experiences.

Submissions will be transferred to Oxford County Archives for review and long-term preservation. They may also be shared through future educational initiatives, exhibitions or a future update to Oxford County's Climate Action Plan.

Visit Speak Up, Oxford! at www.oxfordcounty.ca/speakup to learn more and find out how to submit your climate story.

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Chamber of Commerce marks 50 years

CHRIS ABBOTT

Grant Haven Media

Dedicated to supporting and promoting local businesses, the Tillsonburg District Chamber of Commerce has a long history providing 'networking opportunities, advocacy, education, and resources to help businesses thrive.'

"We are very well known across all Chamber networks, we're punching well above our weight class," said Tillsonburg District Chamber president Lindsay Tribble at

the Chamber's Awards of Excellence on Sept. 24.

Tillsonburg District Chamber of Commerce came to fruition in 1976, said Tribble, created by local business owners recognizing the need for a non-partisan voice to represent business interests as the town was becoming a regional hub.

"This was particularly important at that time," said Tribble, noting it was a divisive and controversial era in Tillsonburg's history, "known as the 'battle of the malls.'"

From 1976 into the early 2000s, the Chamber was a leader in Tillsonburg in the role of economic development, helping to attract industry to town.

"Throughout our 50 years, the Chamber has had some notable, interesting initiatives," said Tribble.

In 1990, she noted the Chamber presented Stompin' Tom Connors with a plaque after he performed in Tillsonburg, which Connors appreciated, as he had 'put Tillsonburg on the musical map.'

"We also initiated an event known as Blue Jays Day with close to a thousand town residents attending a Blue Jay game," said Tribble. "This was known as 'Tillsonburg Day at the SkyDome.'"

Tillsonburg District Chamber of Commerce's most suc-

cessful achievements have been in advocacy and policy, she said.

"To date, Tillsonburg has written and advocated approximately eight provincial policies, making us the leading Chamber advocating in areas like access to rural health care... and most recently reducing congestion on Ontario highways and traffic accidents."

To all this year's Awards of Excellence nominees, Tribble said, "Be so proud. You have been seen by your peers as the best of the best. To award recipients, tonight you are recognized as some of the most respected and elite businesses and owners in our community."

"I say once again how proud I am to stand before this incredible community. In fact, each and every one of us in this room can be proud. In a time of economic uncertainty and volatility everywhere, Tillsonburg businesses and industry have continued to grow as substantially as it has for the 50 years of this organization. This community continues to prove we have a high level of resilience, an insane amount of motivation and drive, and an uncanny ability to positively thrive. We truly are the change makers, assuring the future here will be filled with a bigger and better tomorrow."

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WEEKEND QUIZ

by Jake Grant

- What is the traditional birthstone of October?
- Who bet Eddie Murphy \$100,000 he couldn't make a hit song?
- Who was selected 1st overall in the 2026 NFL draft?
- What is the name of the famous clock tower in Ottawa?
- In what year did ABBA win Eurovision?
- What disease used to be called consumption?
- What brand introduced the first-ever fully automatic drip coffee maker in the 1970?
- What is the color of an emerald?
- The offspring of a polar bear and a grizzly is a what?
- Montana shares a northern border with which 3 Canadian provinces?

This week's answers are found on pg. 30

Airport mural the culmination of two years work

JEFF HELSDON

Editor

The mural filling the terminal building at Tillsonburg Airport is the culmination of two years of work by local artist Stella Jurgen.

Walking through the front door of the terminal building, you're met with a hallway with tributes to local businesses. Amongst the vignettes captured are Milt Chesterman, founder of Chesterman's Power Products, on a lawnmower cutting grass, and the Heckford family standing in front of an antique Tillsonburg Glass truck. Another wall shows the Blue Star Air Charters hangar. Appropriately, a billboard advertising the Tillsonburg

Post sits below a shelf holding the papers.

But as you enter the main room/dining room, the focus shifts entirely to planes and aviation. The three major sponsors – John Klassen of Klassen Auto Parts, Ken and Ashley Edwards of 3E Power, and Isaac Froese of Froese Vegetables – are portrayed flying their planes. The mural immortalizes unique aircraft that call Tillsonburg Airport home, such as a 1929 open-cockpit monoplane and the Harvards. Emily Crombez, the first female pilot to fly waterbombers, learned to fly in Tillsonburg and is part of the mural.

Airport manager Don Huras said the mural has attracted a lot of attention from visitors in general and visiting pi-



(STELLA JURGEN PHOTO)

Tillsonburg Airport has attracted pilots from across the province, including Canadian astronaut Chris Hadfield. Jurgen was at the airport when he stopped in.



(JEFF HELSDON PHOTO)

Airport manager Don Huras and Stella Jurgen look at the detail in some of the paintings in the airport's mural.

lots.

"People fly in from around Ontario, and they see this, and they're 'Wow, who did this,'" he said.

Tillsonburg Airport hosted the Airport Managers Council of Ontario meeting in spring 2025. Huras said attendees were impressed. He said the mural has also garnered interest from those visiting the airport for breakfast.

Those depicted in the mural paid Jurgen a fee. She donated a percentage of her fees back to the airport to assist with the cost of other improvements.

The mural concept began with Huras

talking about replacing the posters on the wall with a mural.

"When people started having interest and wanted to have their airplanes painted, I designed the whole space," she said.

The project started in August of 2024 and was completed this August. Jurgen was limited to painting for only 2.5 hours per day after the cafeteria closed and while the terminal was open.

"It also took so long because of the detail," she said. "I wanted them to be realistic."

The building will have a grand opening sometime in the future.



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COMMUNITY UPDATE

Notices

Watch for Your Voter Information Letter

Before voting opens, eligible voters will receive a Voter Information Letter (VIL) by mail. This letter contains your unique voting PIN and instructions for casting your ballot online or by telephone.

If you don't receive your VIL or lose your PIN, assistance is available through the Voter Help Centre.

Learn more at www.tillsonburg.ca/election.

Loose Leaf Collection Begins October 13

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

Please note that heavy snowfall and prolonged freezing temperatures may delay, suspend or end the program earlier than planned. As a reminder, leaves, brush and other yard waste can also be dropped off at the Transfer Station, 50 Newell Rd. throughout the season.

Fall Water System Maintenance

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

October 5 - 16

All areas West of Participark and South of Concession St West.

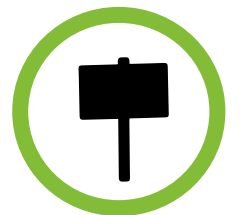
Visit www.tillsonburg.ca/news for the full flushing schedule and map.

In the event your water is discoloured, open a cold water tap in your home for 5-10 minutes until the line is clear. If discolouring persists after 24 hours, contact Customer Service at 519-688-3009.



Respect Election Signs

Residents are reminded that damaging, removing, defacing, stealing, or interfering with election signs is prohibited. Such actions may result in a police investigation and could lead to criminal charges. Let's help ensure a fair and respectful election process by respecting all legally placed election signs.



Fire Prevention Week Open House

Join the Tillsonburg Fire Department for its annual Fire Prevention Week Open House on Thursday, **October 8, from 6:00 to 8:00 PM.**

This free, family-friendly event is a great opportunity to meet local firefighters, tour fire apparatus, and learn important fire safety tips. Residents of all ages are encouraged to attend and learn how simple fire prevention measures can help keep our community safe.

For more information, follow the Tillsonburg Fire Department on social media for updates.



Active Living & Learning Opportunities

Youth Pickleball Tournament!

Join us on Saturday, October 3, 2026, from 9:00 A.M. to 3:00 P.M. at the Tillsonburg Community Centre for the Youth Pickleball Tournament!

Open to ages 10-18, this doubles (2v2) tournament features round robin play, followed by an elimination bracket, with divisions for ages 10-12, 13-15, and 16-18. This non-competitive event focuses on participation, skill development, and community, with prize draws for all participants.

Balls will be provided, but participants are asked to bring their own paddle. Registration Fee: \$16.70/person.

For more information and to register, visit: www.tillsonburg.ca/guide



Family Fitness Swim- NEW!

Looking for a fun way to stay active together? Join our new Family Fitness Swim, designed for families who want to enjoy the pool while building confidence and swimming skills. Participants can practice swimming skills, swim laps together, or simply enjoy recreational swimming in a family-friendly environment.

When: Sundays, 9:00 a.m. to 10:30 a.m.

Dates: September 13 to December 20*

Age: 8+ years

Fee: Same admission rates as Community Swim

No swim October 18, October 25, or November 22.



Fall fun is even more affordable!

Select September Session recreation programs are now 10% off.

Whether you're looking to stay active, learn something new, or try a new hobby, there's something for everyone.

Check out the Fall Recreation Guide for a full list of eligible programs and register today before spots fill up!

View the guide: www.tillsonburg.ca/guide



Culture Corner

Needle Punching with Heather Cork

Get creative and discover the art of needle punching with instructor Heather Cork! This beginner-friendly fibre art workshop will teach participants how to use a specialized needle to create beautiful textured designs using yarn and fabric. You'll leave with your own handmade piece to take home.

Date: October 21

Time: 1:30 to 4:30 p.m.

Cost: \$75 (taxes included)

Pre-registration is required, and all supplies are included.

Stay Connected

Want to be the first to hear about upcoming events, new exhibitions, and special programs? Be sure to follow the museum on Facebook, www.facebook.com/AnnandaleNHS.





Community Calendar

OCTOBER

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
				Community Skate 1 10:00 - 11:20 am	Community Skate 2 3:30 - 4:50 pm	Community Swim 3 1:00 - 3:00 pm Youth Pickleball Tournament 9:00 am - 3:00 pm
Family Fitness Swim 4 9:00 - 10:30 am Community Swim 1:00 - 3:00 pm Community Skate 1:15 - 2:35 pm	5	Community Skate 6 10:00 - 11:20 am Community Swim 1:00 - 3:00 pm	7	Community Skate 8 10:00 - 11:20 am Thanksgiving Lunch & Learn 12:00 pm Fire Dept. Open House 6:00 - 8:00 pm	Community Skate 9 3:30 - 4:50 pm	Community Swim 10 1:00 - 3:00 pm
Family Fitness Swim 11 9:00 - 10:30 am Community Swim 1:00 - 3:00 pm Community Skate 1:15 - 2:35 pm	Town Facilities CLOSED for Thanksgiving Annandale NHS CLOSED for Thanksgiving 12	Voting Opens 8:00 am 13 Community Skate 10:00 - 11:20 am Community Swim 1:00 - 3:00 pm	14	Community Skate 15 10:00 - 11:20 am	Community Skate 16 3:30 - 4:50 pm	17
		Voting for 2026 Municipal Election Open				
18	Council Meeting 5:00 pm 19	Community Skate 20 10:00 - 11:20 am Community Swim 1:00 - 3:00 pm	Needle Punching with Heather Cork 1:00 pm 21	Community Skate 22 10:00 - 11:20 am	Community Skate 23 3:30 - 4:50 pm Oscar's Puzzles: A Museum Escape Room 4:00 pm	Community Swim 24 1:00 - 3:00 pm
Voting for 2026 Municipal Election Open						
Community Skate 25 1:15 - 2:35 pm	Election Day Last Day to Vote 8:00 pm 26	Community Skate 27 10:00 - 11:20 am Community Swim 1:00 - 3:00 pm	28	Community Skate 29 10:00 - 11:20 am	Community Skate 30 3:30 - 4:50 pm Community Swim 7:30 - 9:30 pm	Trick or Treating 4:00 - 7:00 pm 31
Voting for 2026 Municipal Election Open						

Didn't find what you were looking for?



Check out all our other programs!

FREE Community Event Highlight



Legend

- All Ages
- Adult Program
- Youth Program
- Town Hall
- Museum

2026

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Local player competes for Youth Athlete of the Year

CONTINUED FROM FRONT

It wasn't always easy, and the ball handling took some practice, but Solomon is always focused on identifying his strengths and weaknesses and improving his skills. He tried basketball but admits that it just didn't

work out. He also practiced taekwondo for three years, which improved his awareness.

"It really helped me learn how to use my feet and how to use my mind," Henry said. "And it helped me

know where my players are going. If I don't know where my players are, I don't know where to put the ball."

"Solomon currently plays for the Brantford City Soccer Club," mom McKaila Richards said. "In just one

year, he progressed from the Development Team to the Target Team. He also went from spending much of his time on the bench to starting many games and has one of the team's best attendance records. He contributes on the field by scoring goals and helping his teammates score. Overall, he just loves soccer and is such a hard worker."

Solomon is competitive by nature; he always strives to get better at things, aiming for high achievements at school and on the field.

"One of his proudest soccer moments was winning a championship tournament in Niagara Falls and winning the FDSC Capelli Festival and Tournament in Hamilton," Richards said.

"Our first game in Niagara Falls we were playing versus my old team in Mississauga," Henry said. "I knew their weaknesses and strengths. I made the first goal and I was really happy because it was the first goal I made for that season."

Solomon has made new friends in the Brantford City Soccer Club, and he has noticed that there are equal opportunities for everyone.

"We don't let just one person score goals," Henry said. "We let everyone try; we have a lot of fun. We get to know each other. Understanding each other, we know each other's minds. I know his mind, he knows my mind."



(ROBIN KRAFFT PHOTO)

Solomon Henry poses with his championship medals and trophy. The Tillsonburg soccer enthusiast plays for the Brantford City Soccer Club and has his sights set on becoming Colossal's Youth Athlete of the Year.

Solomon is aware of the need for balance between fun and getting serious at game time.

"I'm very funny," he said. "I like to make people laugh. I'm the jokester of the family."

Solomon's advanced and intuitive awareness of teamwork gives him an edge as he progresses on to the semifinals. Winning the competition would be a great boost as he sets his sights on a career as a professional soccer player.

"If Solomon wins, he would receive \$25,000, be named Youth Athlete of the Year, and have the opportunity to represent 3Brand

in Sports Illustrated and on CBS," Richards said. "It would be an incredible experience for a young athlete from a small rural community."

Solomon would be thrilled to know that Tillsonburg is supporting him. Solomon's personal voting page is: <https://athleteoftheyear.org/2026/solomon-8d76>.

"As a parent, I'm passionate about giving Solomon opportunities to grow, challenge himself, and believe in what he can accomplish," Richards said. "Soccer has become such an important part of his life, and watching his journey has been incredible."



(CONTRIBUTED PHOTO)

Eleven-year-old Solomon Henry practices ball control skills on the field. Henry stands to win \$25 000 and an opportunity to represent 3Brand in Sports Illustrated and on CBS if he wins Colossal's Youth Athlete of the Year competition.

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Gemini seniors moving on from loss to relegated Tier I Flames

JEFF TRIBE

Post Correspondent

Aleks Hall had spent enough time in Ms. MacDonald's Grade 12 English class to recognize his battered nasal passages as a metaphor.

Technically, his injury appeared to have been somewhat self-inflicted - the apparent product of a perfectly-executed tackle on London St. Thomas Aquinas Flames ball carrier Hudson Shipley. But his, and the broader Tillsonburg Gemini Thames Valley Regional Athletics (TVRA) senior football season-opening experience, had metaphorically been like a punch in the nose.

"Literally," said Hall Friday, Sept. 25 at Glendale.

Left offensive guard/defensive nose tackle Cooper Feairs' studies with Ms. Ferguson's Grade 12 math curriculum went beyond simple odds calculations. But the fact the Flames listed roster and 30-plus member depth along the sidelines both easily doubled Gemini numbers.

"This is iron man football," Feairs shrugged. "Just gotta suck it up and go."

Throw in that both Tillsonburg's starting quarterback and running back were out with injuries, and the fact Aquinas was relegated from the TVRA's Tier I last season, and the 28-7 final in the Flames' favour reflected a pre-game educated guess.

But after falling behind 21-0 after the first quarter, Tillsonburg's ability to stiffen and answer with a fourth-quarter touchdown finished the day on a high note.

"All-in-all, we kept it within reason,"

said coach Sean Van Beers. "Lots to learn - lots to build on."

"It was tough, but it's all about the effort moving forward," agreed Tillsonburg's Hezekiah Cato.

"The boys battled, kept giving the whole game," added receiver/safety Kyp-ton Lofthouse.

James Strathearn followed a powerful offensive line surge across the goal line for the Gemini major, adding the point after. The scoring play was set up by a 37-yard pass-and-run combination from Grade 11 quarterback Carver Schott to Lofthouse.

"I give him (Schott) credit for standing in there," said Gemini coach Lee Janzen, noting the loss of starting QB Landon Dodsley to a hockey injury, left the back-up rookie pivot in a tough spot.

The disparity in team numbers was also evident along the Gemini sidelines, in the event of cramping, injury or simple fatigue. At one point, Janzen told his son Terren, looking for a quick breather from roles on offence, defence and special teams, that he had to go back in.

"It was chaos, I was spinning," said coach Janzen.

"If one guy goes down, it's like filling in a puzzle," said Lofthouse. "Fitting in pieces."

In a sense, it could be argued it was a relief to get the Aquinas game out of the way early and focus on week two opponent, Aylmer East Elgin.

"Get better and get back out there as soon as you can and help the team," said Hall.

"Continue to work hard at practice," Lofthouse concluded. "Next week's a whole new week, gotta move on."



(JEFF TRIBE PHOTO)

Gemini James Strathearn (22) stretches for additional yardage against Aquinas Flames' defender Mason Koch, as Tillsonburg teammate Hunter Vinnai (66) tries to create more space with a block.



(JEFF TRIBE PHOTO)

Gemini safety Kyp-ton Lofthouse brings down an Aquinas Flames ball carrier Friday, September 25 at Glendale.

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Join the Tillsonburg Curling Club for a **FUN** evening of curling and brew tasting.

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- Limited registration.** Register today to avoid disappointment.

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Several championships decided in slo-pitch leagues



DAVE WEAVER

Post Columnist

EYE ON SLO-PITCH

Several championships were decided this week in both the men's and ladies' leagues. The Cooks Concrete Jays captured the Ladies' A title. Resting Pitch Face won the B crown.

Two young teams were crowned champions in the men's loop. R.L.P. Melanie Luksys are the Division 4 winners while Beer Bombers a last-minute entry and a new entry took home the Division 3 title. Both teams were third-place regular season finishers.

At the NSA Provincial Championships in Hamilton over the weekend, the Bombers Super Series team battled hard making it to the Final in Men's B just coming up short to the Rockies. The team is comprised of 1,2 Seal Insulation Hawks and Cobra Chickens players.

Men's Division 1

Cobra Chickens are one game away from becoming repeat champions. They won by four in both games over last year's finalists, The Mill.

Game#1-Final

Cobra Chickens-13, The Mill-9

Cobra-Marcus Peters 4-4; Jared Froese 2-2; Wyatt Blatz HR.

The Mill-Bryan Deblaire 4-4; Jeremy Roy 3-4; Ryan Black HR.

Game Synopsis-Each team only hit one homer in this one, Wyatt Blatz was a triple shy of hitting for the cycle for the winners. Cobra Chickens scored runs in five of their seven at-bats.

Game #2-Final

Cobra Chickens-25, The Mill-21

Cobra-Wyatt Blatz 5-5, 2HR; Brian Dyck 4-4, HR; Fred Froese 2HR; Nathan Froese HR; Nicholas Blatz HR.

The Mill-Tim Morgan 4-4; Caleb Martin 4-4, HR; Greg Roth HR; Jeremy Roy HR; Steve Derks 2HR.

Game Synopsis-Cobra Chickens bats were on fire early as they plated 18 over their first three at-bats. Wyatt Blatz and Fred Froese each homered in consecutive innings. The Mill fought back and pulled to within four in the seventh. The two teams combined for twelve homers. Cobra's lead-off batter Brian Dyck doubled three times and scored five runs.

Men's Division 2

At My Playground/IQT Logistics completed the sweep of second-place Dave's Variety Mavericks winning on the Tuesday night. They reached their second consecutive final in only their second year of existence. They await the winner of the fifth, and deciding, game between Pelicans and Sticky Bandits played on Tuesday night. Sticky Bandits took the series lead with an eight-run win on the Tuesday night. The series was evened with the Bandits forfeiting the fourth game.

Game#3 - Semi-Final

At My Playground/IQT Logistics-18, Dave's Variety Mavericks-10

AMP-Brandon Balazs 3-4; Duncan McLean 3-4, HR.

Mavericks-Jason Landry 3-4; Chris Hass 3-4; Doug Falkins HR.

Game Synopsis-After being shutout for the first three innings, AMP scored 17 over their final three at-bats in the win. Brandon Balazs and Duncan McLean each reached and scored in each inning.

Game #3 - Semi-Final

Sticky Bandits-18, Pelicans-10

Bandits-Caleb Enns 4-4; Conner Friesen 3-4; Jordan Weibe 2HR.

Pelicans-TJ Neville 3-4; Adam Jensen 2-3, HR.

Game Synopsis-The Bandits scored seven runs in their first at-bat. Caleb Enns scored four runs for the winners in the game.

Men's Division 3

Beer Bombers, a brand new entry, won the Division 3 Championship in wal-off fashion in game four in their series against first place Sluggers. They had won by five to go up two games. Sluggers staved off elimination, walking off three Bombers. The Bombers turned the tables on Sluggers walking them off in the series clincher.

Game#2-Final

Beer Bombers-21 , Sluggers-16

Bombers-Zach Allison 5-5; Adam VanDyk 4-5.

Sluggers-Gary Woolner 5-5; Tyler Rowe 5-5.

Game Synopsis-Beer Bombers stole this one away with a seven-run sixth. Cayden Mitchell and Zach Allison each scored four runs for the winners.

Sluggers-12, Beer Bombers-11

Sluggers-Gary Woolner 5-5; Cassius Bailey 4-4.

Bombers-Evan Spence 4-4; Carter Spence 4-5; Cayden Mitchell HR; Brendon Vink HR.

Game Synopsis-The Beer Bombers scored sixth seven-inning runs to go up by one. Sluggers made the most of their final at-bat, scoring two on a walk-off base hit by Cole Seaton. The five in their order accounted for nine of their runs.

Game#4-Final

Beer Bombers-14, Sluggers-13

Bombers-Quinton Vink 4-4; Nathan Murphy 3-3.

Sluggers-Jake Superales 3-4; Gary Woolner 3-4.

Game Synopsis-Sluggers took a three-run lead into the bottom of seventh. Bombers first four batters scored and Quinton Vink delivered the walk-off base hit.

Men's Division 4

R.L.P. Melanie Luksys completed the upset of first-place N.I.M. winning in walk-off fashion in the fourth game of their series.

Game#3-Final

N.I.M.-11, R.L.P.Melanie Luksys-10

N.I.M.-Jeff Wheeler 3-4; Randy Husbands 2-3.

STANDINGS
MEN'S DIVISION 1
BEST OF FIVE COBRA CHICKENS - 2 THE MILL - 0
MEN'S DIVISION 2
BEST OF FIVE SEMI-FINAL AT MY PLAYGROUND/ IQT LOGISTICS - 3 DAVE'S VARIETY MAVERICKS - 0
BEST OF FIVE SEMI-FINAL STICKY BANDITS - 2 PELICANS - 2
MEN'S DIVISION 3
BEST OF FIVE FINAL BEER BOMBERS - 3 SLUGGERS - 1
MEN'S DIVISION 4
BEST OF FIVE FINAL R.L.P. MELANIE LUKSYS - 3 N.I.M. - 1
LADIES A
BEST OF FIVE FINAL COOKS CONCRETE JAYS - 3 SUNSPACE/BILL KLYN CARPENTRY - 0
LADIES B
BEST OF FIVE FINAL RESTING PITCH FACE - 3 WILDCATS - 1

R.L.P.-Blake Ash 3-4; Landon Boughner 2-3; Natan Granger HR.

Game Synopsis-A big seven-run sixth gave N.I.M. the come-from-behind win. Jeff Wheeler scored three runs for the winners.

Game #4-Final

R.L.P. Melanie Luksys-17, N.I.M.-16

CONTINUED TO PAGE 21



(CONTRIBUTED PHOTO)

The Cook's Concrete Jays swept the Tillsonburg Slo-Pitch Ladies' A series against SunSpace/Bill Klyn Carpentry to take the crown for 2026.



(CONTRIBUTED PHOTO)

Resting Pitch Face were the winners of the Tillsonburg Slo-Pitch Ladies' B Championship after defeating the Wildcats in four games.

Several championships decided in slo-pitch leagues

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 20

RLP-Dalton Cassidy 3-4; Jeremy Tannahill 3-3; Landon Boughner HR.

N.I.M.-Corey Chambers 4-5; Jeff Wheeler 5-5.

Game Synopsis-R.L.P. won it on a Dalton Cassidy walk-off hit.

Ladies' A Division

Cooks Concrete Jays dominated the regular season and the playoffs. They compiled a record of 28 wins, one loss and one tie in their 30 games played. They swept Sunspace/Bill Klyn Carpentry in three straight, mercying them in the clinching game on Monday night.

Game#3-Final

Cooks Concrete Jays 15, Sunspace/Bill Klyn Carpentry-3

Cooks-Mayra Baelde 4-4; Tracy Shackleton 4-4.

Sunspace-Nicole Morgan 2-2; Carrie MacDonald 2-2.

Game Synopsis-It was a low-scoring

game until the third when Cooks offence erupted for five runs, following that up with a six-run fourth. Maddi Obar, Mayra Baelde, Candi Obar and Jess Dyck scored in both innings.

Ladies' B Division

Resting Pitch Face are this year's B Champs, capturing their first title, winning their series with the Wildcats in four games. They won by five on Monday, and unfortunately the Wildcats had to forfeit the Wednesday game.

Game#3-Final

Resting Pitch Face-11, Wildcats-6

Resting-Amber Smith 3-3; Katie Pittock 3-3.

Wildcats-Krystal Sivyer 4-5; Ling Wong 4-5.

Game Synopsis-Wildcats were able to keep the final result close, despite playing with only eight. Amber Smith had a big night, hitting a triple, two doubles and scoring three runs for the winners.



(CONTRIBUTED PHOTO)

The Beer Bombers, a new team this year, took the Men's Division 3 title in Tillsonburg Slo-Pitch.



(CONTRIBUTED PHOTO)

RLP Melanie Luksys Jr. Hustlers won the Men's Division 4 Tillsonburg Slo-Pitch championship in four games.

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Answering your call

Changes to emergency medical dispatch

Beginning in October 2026, Oxford County Paramedic Services will use a new system to prioritize 911 medical calls. Police and fire calls are not affected.

The Medical Priority Dispatch System (MPDS) will help ensure those with the most serious medical conditions are seen first.

WHAT STAYS THE SAME

- When you call 911 for a medical emergency, an emergency communications dispatcher will be there to take your call.
- Calls involving life-threatening emergencies, such as cardiac arrest, stroke symptoms, severe allergic reactions or unconsciousness, will continue to receive the highest priority response — as they do now.

WHAT'S DIFFERENT

- When you call 911 for a medical emergency, you may be asked a few more questions to help dispatchers understand how serious or severe your condition is.
- If your needs are less urgent (flu-like symptoms or sprains) and the demand for paramedic services is high, you may wait longer for an ambulance to arrive.
- You may receive basic guidance over the phone while paramedics are on their way. You may also get a call back to check on your status during longer waits.

LEARN MORE

www.oxfordcounty.ca/medical-dispatch



Thank you sponsors for all your support in helping Special Olympic athletics to be able to play cornhole, bocce, golf, basketball and curling. This help athletics travel to tournaments and some to provincials and nationals.

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Courtland Vinyl Windows LTD
Couture Family
Coward Pharmacy Limited
Detailz Pluz
Equipment Centre
Simcoe
Expertech Automatic
Future Transfer Co. Inc
Flooring Canada
Tillsonburg
Fody's Automotive Plus

George Burnett Ltd.
Garden Gate
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JD Lighting
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Ypma Family

**Special Thank you to Ben & Janet @ Tillsonview Golf for hosting this event.
Also to JTK Meat Shoppe for catering our delicious meal.
Looking forward to everyone's support next year on Saturday August 14, 2027**

Thunder season to start this Saturday in Delhi

MICHAEL HOLLY

Post Contributor

It is hard to believe that it is hockey season already. It seems like just yesterday that the Thunder was driving to Erin and then Port Elgin in the playoffs.

There are huge changes to the Thunder this year and big expectations are expected. Joe Ryan, yes, the son of previous GM Bill Ryan, is the new general manager. Terry Corbin comes as the new head coach having extensive senior experience going back to the Simcoe Gunners.

The Oxford Cup was played in the last two weekends versus Tavistock. Tavistock has a seasoned team but despite the Thunder losing both games, we certainly represented. Only half the Thunder regulars played so the rookies learned a lot. All the rookies that the author spoke to said the same line... 'Boy that is fast hockey'.

Admission to both games was a food

bank donation. I did not get a total for Tavistock, but it was remarked by them that they collected twice what they did last year. Tillsonburg collected a huge amount with approximately 300 pounds of food and \$820.20. All was donated to the food bank as we have done for the last 19 years.

The Thunder start on the road next Saturday, Oct. 3 in Delhi. Puck drop is at 8 p.m. There is always a large Tillsonburg presence in Delhi. The Thunder Home opener is Sunday, Oct. 18 at 7:30 p.m. We are not enthused about the Sunday but ice time has been very difficult these days. Complete schedules are available online on the Thunder website www.tillsonburgthunder.ca and on Facebook.

The ticket prices have not been raised this year. Season tickets are \$120 for adults and \$40 for kids 5-16, under five is free. Call the writer, Michael Holly at 519-983-0050 if you need tickets. They are also available at the game.



(CHRIS ABBOTT PHOTO)

Tillsonburg Thunder played the second game of a pre-season home-and-home with Tavistock Saturday night at the Kinsmen Memorial Arena. Tavistock blanked Tillsonburg 3-0, outshooting the Thunder 35-20, to win the aggregate 7-1.

tillsonburgpost.com

"Tillsonburg has been fortunate to have many strong and experienced elected officials to both protect the legacy of our community and ensure our town has a strong foundation to provide for a progressive and sustainable future. Through his tenure on Council, including four terms as Mayor, Stephen has demonstrated his commitment to the residents of Tillsonburg that he understands the value of transparent governance and is again prepared to sacrifice other opportunities to ensure Tillsonburg is a unique place to live, work, play and retire in."

- Cam McKnight (Mayor of Tillsonburg 1991 – 2000)



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RIDDLES

What goes up, but never comes down?

Age.

A cowboy rode into town on Friday. He stayed for three nights and rode out on Friday. How is this possible?

His horse's name is Friday.

What has a neck but no head?

A bottle.

What is full of holes but still holds water?

A sponge.

How do you spell COW in thirteen letters?

SEE O DOUBLE YOU.

Why is Europe like a frying pan?

Because it has Greece at the bottom.

What do the numbers 11, 69 and 88 all have in common?

They all read the same way when placed upside down.

If 2 is company and 3 is a crowd, what are 4 and 5?

9.

SUDOKU

				5	9			
7			3	6		1		9
6	9	2		1			5	3
1	6							
9			1		2	6		7
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Solutions on Page 30 Level: Beginner

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WORD SEARCH

SEPTEMBER NEWS HIGHLIGHTS

U	A	V	X	Z	M	A	C	K	L	E	M	O	R	E	J	W	T	F	T
C	A	N	A	D	A	A	N	D	E	U	D	Q	O	O	X	U	V	G	R
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H	K	O	P	V	R	S	A	C	P	C	Z	A	E	F	G	Z	Q	W	Z

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TRADE WAR

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AI WARNINGS
CANADA AND EU

ED SHEERAN
MACKLEMORE
TRUMP MEDIA BAN

GREENLAND DEAL
META MUSE
NO HURRICANES

Police looking for information in connection to officer injury

A member of the Oxford detachment of the Ontario Provincial Police was struck by a dirt bike, while on an unrelated traffic stop, in Norwich Township.

On Friday, Sept. 25, at around 3 p.m. a member of the Oxford OPP was on general patrol when they initiated a traffic stop. While walking back to their cruiser they were struck by an unknown individual performing a "wheelie" on a dirt bike. The individual struck the officer and then fled the scene.

The officer sustained minor injuries.

The suspect is being described as:

- Male
- White
- Between 16 and 25-years-old

- Wearing a white San Francisco 49ers hoodie and blue jeans

The dirt bike is being described as:

- Black frame with red seat
- Single pipe exhaust
- Four-stroke engine
- Off-road tires

If you know anything about this incident, please contact Oxford OPP at 1-888-310-1122.

If you wish to remain anonymous you may contact Oxford County Crime Stoppers at 1-800-222-TIPS (8477).

Unsafe driving behaviours pose a significant risk to the safety of everyone. Please help us to keep Oxford County roads safe by reporting dangerous drivers.



(CONTRIBUTED PHOTO)

Police are looking for information on the owner of a dirt bike, pictured here, after a police officer was injured during a call.

tillsonburgpost.com

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OCTOBER 9 - KICKIN KOUNTRY
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Free Entry – 7 pm

OCTOBER 10 - JOEBREAKER W/ THE WASHOUT, JESSE LEBOURDAIS, NICK SHRUBSOLE & JON CREEDEN
The Copper Mug
\$15 - 7:30 pm

OCTOBER 15 - YOUTH FOUNTAIN W/ WE WERE SHARKS & SUCKERPUNCH!
Paddy's Underground
\$22.60 – 8 pm - 19+

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

OCTOBER 17 - SIX2S W/ NOTHING SHOCKING & THE HEADCASES
Paddy's Underground: \$10 - 8pm - 19+

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AUGUST WENT FAST
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SHOULD GET
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Have you heard something humorous around town that you think might be of interest to others? Either email them to us at info@tillsonburgpost.com with the title "Overheard at the Coffee Shop" or call 519.655.2341.

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



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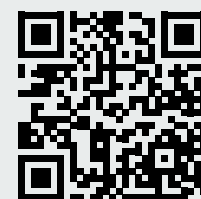
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EXPECT MORE.

OCTOBER 10 | 5 - 7 PM
OLDE FASHION HAM SUPPER
Otterville United Church, 231 Main Street East, Otterville
Tickets: Adults \$20, Children 2-12 \$8, Under 6 Free.

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

OCTOBER

OCTOBER 3 | 10 AM - 12 PM
ATTITUDE OF GRATITUDE MESSY CHURCH
St. Paul's United Church, 88 Bidwell St. Tillsonburg
Crafts, games, music, story, snacks and a hot lunch. Children should be accompanied by an adult.

OCTOBER 3 | 1 - 4:30 PM
KICKN KOUNTRY LIVE BAND
Tillsonburg Legion, 16 Durham St, Tillsonburg, ON
Only \$8 cash at the door. Cash bar available.

OCTOBER 3 | 2 PM
BONNIE SITTER
The Edison, Vienna & are Museum, 6209 Plank Rd. Vienna
Admission by donation, maximum 60 seats. Author Bonnie Sitter will take us on her incredible journey from the beginning of her book, Onion Skins & Peach Fuzz" to how it became and award winning documentary called "We Lend a Hand", the forgotten story of "The Farmerettes". Email - bayhamhistoricalsociety@hotmail.com for further information.

OCTOBER 5
OTTER VALLEY TAI CHI
St. John's Anglican Church, 46 Ridout St. W., Tillsonburg
New classes begin on Monday mornings and Thursday afternoons: Mon. Oct. 5: 9:00 – 10:30 am Introduction, 10:30 – 11:30 am Foundations. Thurs. Oct. 8: 2:00 – 3:30 pm Introduction, 3:30 – 4:30 pm Foundations. Enjoy gentle exercise with others as you work to improve flexibility, balance and stamina. Call 519-688-9779,

email ottervalley@canadiantaichiacademy.org, visit canadiantaichiacademy.org

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

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

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

ONGOING CLASSES, CLUBS & ORGANIZATIONS

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

3RD TUE. OF MONTH | 6:30 - 8:30 PM
CAREGIVER CONNECTION
Revel Realty Woodstock, 111 Huron Street (Virtual/hybrid options available)

Are you worried about your child or youth? Parents and Caregivers for Mental Health (PCMH) is here to listen, support, and walk alongside you on this journey. Our free Caregiver Connection peer support groups offer parents and caregivers a community of support. Can't make it in person? Join one of our virtual or hybrid groups! Visit family.cmho.org or email oxfordcounty@pcmh.ca for more information.

OXFORD COUNTY DIABETES EDUCATION PROGRAM
Appointments are available at Alexandra Hospital Ingersoll and Tillsonburg District Memorial Hospital and by phone

Are you looking for support with your Diabetes? Our Team of Registered Nurses, Registered Dietitians and a Social Worker is here to support YOUR goals. We can help with medication adjustments, lifestyle and diet changes, stress management, weight reduction strategies and more. **SELF REFERRALS ARE WELCOME.** Please call 519-485-9611 to book an appointment. Let's work together!

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

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

3RD WED. OF MONTH | 10 AM - NOON
LYNN RIVER PROBUS CLUB
Army, Navy & Air Force Club, Simcoe,

ON. Corner of Water St. and Culver St. Simcoe. Enter via Culver St.

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

TUESDAYS & THURSDAYS | 7 - 9 PM
SATURDAYS | 10 AM - 12 PM
LEARN BRAZILIAN JIU-JITSU (BJJ)

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

EVERY OTHER FRIDAY | 1 - 4 PM
BE FALL-ISH AND COME TO THE INGERSOLL COUNTRY MUSIC JAMBOREE
Masonic Hall, 190 Thames St. S., Ingersoll

Join us, walk ins welcome. Qualifications - love 50-70's country music. Perform, listen, dance & enjoy! September 18, October 2, 16 & 30, November 6 & 20, and December 4.

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

COMING EVENTS

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

PLATTSVILLE & DISTRICT HERITAGE SOCIETY 2026 EXHIBIT - HOLIDAYS & CELEBRATIONS THAT BRING US TOGETHER

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

Donations accepted. Refreshments.

For private viewing email

plattsvilledistrictheritage@gmail.com or call 519.535.1417.

1ST AND 3RD TUES. OF MONTH TILLSONBURG LIONS

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

1ST WED. OF MONTH | 7 PM

WAGNER MEMORIAL TEETERVILLE LEGION BRANCH 526 - MEMBERS GENERAL MEETING

The Wagner Memorial Teeterville Legion Branch 526 - 3890 Teeterville Road, Teeterville, ON

Not a member? Contact us to join. For More Information Call, the Legion 519-443-5588. www.teetervillelegionbranch526.ca

WOULD YOU LIKE TO VOLUNTEER TO HELP AT ONE OF OUR EVENTS? WE WELCOME YOU!

The Wagner Memorial, Teeterville Legion Branch 526 - 3890 Teeterville Road, Teeterville, ON

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

VON OXFORD SUPPORTIVE CARE PROGRAMS

Navigating any form of grief can feel overwhelming; however, with the right support, guidance, and education, individuals can discover a pathway to help in the healing of grief. VON Oxford Supportive Care Programs offer assistance for grief stemming from various circumstances, such as the death of someone, caregiving, serious illness diagnoses, and life transitions. Through education, connection, and compassion, our programs create a safe space for individuals to explore their emotions and learn effective coping mechanisms during the grieving process.

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

MEET THE PEOPLE OF THE MEMORIAL VETERAN BANNERS

LE VERNE MAURICE ROBERT HALEY

Le Verne Maurice Robert Haley was born in Tillsonburg, Ontario on August 24, 1922. He enlisted in the RCAF on November 13, 1942 and attended various training schools where he was taught the basics of flying. He completed his training at No 7 Service Flying Training School where he was promoted to Sergeant. On graduation he was posted rapidly to No 1 Air Gunnery Training School then to the No 1 General Reconnaissance School where they taught the art of Maritime/anti submarine patrol. He was then send overseas to the UK on August 23, 1944.

After the war he purchased his father's dairy farm and eventually became interested in the electronic training he had received overseas and found himself fixing radios for the neighbours. Eventually he set up his own business selling appliances and TV's. He retired in 1984 and enjoyed life on his hobby farm. He passed in 2012 at the age of 89 and is buried in Springford Cemetery.



October Special

Every oil change for the month of October enters for a chance to

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Second Prize \$250

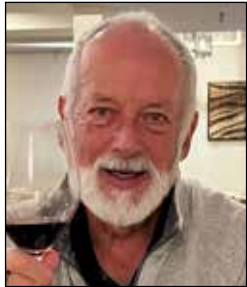
Third Prize \$100



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“Forest bathing” is a great experience, but not what you think



**OH,
THE
PLACES
WE’LL
GO!**

PAUL KNOWLES

Tillsonburg Post Columnist

One key difference between travelling as a tourist, and travelling as a travel journalist, is that as a tourist, you get to choose your own activities. As a travel journalist, I do get to consult with my hosts, but usually, the itinerary will include a number of destinations or activities that are not my idea.

And that’s how we ended up “forest bathing.”

When I tell friends that we went “forest bathing,” I’m usually met with a combination of bafflement and false assumptions. Many of which, I must confess, we shared before we headed out on this newest adventure.

We were staying at Le Baluchon Eco-Resort, a terrific getaway in the Mauricie region of Québec. We were hosted by “Québecauthentique,” the regional tourism association that represents Mauricie and the neighbouring region of Lanaudière.

I will write more about Le Baluchon in a future feature, because this is a hidden gem, easily accessible from southern Ontario, and a fabulous destination for a couples’ getaway or a family holiday.

But for this week... back to the forest.

Our “forest bathing” guide began our experience by noting all of the misconceptions the term engenders.

There is no actual “bathing.” You don’t get wet. You don’t wear a bathing suit. You don’t need a towel.

Instead, forest bathing is a rough – and

admittedly confusing – translation of a Japanese term, “Shinrin-yoku”, which can also mean “forest therapy.”

The concept is, participants take time to immerse ourselves in the atmosphere of the forest. Guides will suggest activities that will help us to focus on our immediate surroundings, thus leaving stresses of the outside world behind, at least for an hour or two.

“Sure,” I thought, with considerable skepticism. As is not uncommon, I was wrong. It was a wonderful experience.

The first bit of our slow stroll along a river and through the woods took us across a wooden bridge that spans the Rivière du Loup (an ancient name for the local waterway, unrelated to the Québec city of the same name). Our guide invited us to cross the river, one at a time, taking all the time we wanted to take in the view.

That was a good hint of what was to come. Forest bathing is anything but rushed. And honestly, as I stood in the middle of the bridge, gazing at the river, I could already feel a sense of relaxation.

We then were directed through a series of voluntary exercises. They’re voluntary, because being forced to do something would be antithetical to the purpose of the whole thing, right? But we did them all.

We walked slowly down a path in the forest, simply observing the trees, plants, and occasional birds around us. Then our guide stopped, produced some padded mats, and invited us to sit on rocks beside the river and, simply, be. It was incredibly peaceful.

That lasted a while, and then we resumed our stroll. A few minutes on, she reached into her back pack and pulled out magnifying glasses. That exercise involved looking closely at whatever we chose to observe: flowers, leaves, insects, anything that drew our attention.

I have to tell you, you cannot be focused on a tiny green spider, almost invisible to the naked eye, as it explores a flower, and



(PAUL KNOWLES PHOTO)

Forest bathing is essentially a directed stroll through nature... and a terrific stress reliever.

still think about your job, your to-do list, or anything else. You are truly immersed in the moment. I could have carried on with this exercise for a long time, flower to flower, bug to bug. It was lovely.

After our guide collected the magnifiers, she produced blindfolds. We took turns – my partner was blindfolded, and I led her to touch plants, even a clump of soil. Then she led me on the same adventure, and the impact of being denied sight while experiencing sound, touch, and smell was very powerful.

Finally, we were invited to collect something – a flower, a twig, a pebble, anything that caught our attention – and then we sat on logs and had a form of tea ceremony, during which we shared our reactions to the experience.

I know – this may sound very airy-fairy. But we found it to be a clearly practical way to de-stress.

Turns out, there are plenty of credible medical and psychological studies that at-

tribute significant benefits to forest bathing. They have found that the experience can help relieve high blood pressure, heart conditions, skin conditions and asthma. There is no doubt that it alleviates stress.

The technique was developed in Japan in the 1980s and is widely practiced there, today. And it is more common in Canada than I had imagined. As just one example, the Ontario Parks website has a section on forest bathing.

If you think this is something you could do on your own, without a guide, you are probably right. But I believe a guided experience, like ours at le Baluchon, is better – because your guide has the experience and the means to draw you away from your own daily concerns, and give you an hour or two of stress-free peace. What a gift!

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



(PAUL KNOWLES PHOTO)

Our guide, seated beside the Rivière du Loup as it passes through the le Baluchon Eco-Resort.



(PAUL KNOWLES PHOTO)

A view of the Rivière du Loup.

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OBITUARY

SYLVIA DIANE WITTET

(JULY 18, 1945 – SEPTEMBER 22, 2026)



With great sadness, the family of Sylvia Diane Wittet, announces her peaceful passing surrounded by her family, on Tuesday, September 22nd, 2026, at the Maple Manor Residence, Tillsonburg, in her 82nd year. Born in St. Thomas, ON, daughter of the late Joseph Fischer and the late Nellie (O' Brien) Fischer. Sylvia's family was very

important to her. Much loved wife and best friend of almost 65 years to Wm. Alan Wittet.

Loved mother and mother-in-law of: Wm. Alan Wittet Jr. (Wanda), London; Kevin (Kresta) Wittet, Tillsonburg; and Michele (Neil Verhoeve), Tillsonburg. Loved grandmother of: Ashlee (Richard Bye), Bill, Krystian, Steven, Emily (Dylan Taylor) and sons: Thomas, Noah; Ryan (Kayla), Ally, Olivia. Dear sister of: Virginia Raven, Barrie; and Patsy Ann Fischer, Woodstock. Survived by nieces, nephews and cousins.

During the early years, Alan and Sylvia farmed tobacco until 1974 when they sold the farm and moved into Tillsonburg. Sylvia was a dedicated employee at Johnson Controls, Tillsonburg for over 25 years. Alan and Sylvia dedicated many years to the Scouts movement, becoming leaders of the third Tillsonburg Boy Scouts where they mentored young men, teaching them life skills and taking them on many adventures, including Camp Jackson in Bala, Ontario. Sylvia enjoyed gardening and bird watching. In her spare time, Sylvia loved to sew and quilt and over the years made a quilt for every family member.

Friends and relatives were welcomed to attend public visitation on Monday, September 28th, 2026, between 12 noon and 1:00 p.m. in the Maurice J. Verhoeve Funeral Home Chapel, 262 Broadway, Tillsonburg. Funeral Service to Celebrate the Life of Sylvia Wittet was conducted on Monday, September 28th, 2026, at 1:00 p.m., by Rev. Father Tom Stradwick of St. John's Anglican. Everyone who knew Sylvia is invited to share special memories and photos, express personal condolences or contribute memorial donations to the "Tillsonburg District Memorial Hospital Foundation (Diagnostic Imaging Campaign)" or the "Alzheimer Society" or to the "Mocha Temple-Shriner's Children's Hospital" via Sylvia's online tribute page at www.verhoevefuneralhomes.com or by contacting the Maurice J. Verhoeve Funeral Home (519) 842-4238.

"The family would like to express their heartfelt gratitude to the Staff at Maple Manor for the excellent care provided to Sylvia."

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CLASSIFIEDS

OBITUARY

HARRY BROWN

NOVEMBER 13, 1934 - SEPTEMBER 25, 2026



Peacefully at Maple Manor Nursing Home on Friday September 25, 2026, Harry Hampton Brown passed away at the age of 91 years.

Predeceased by his loving wife Jean (2008). Loving father to Betty (the late Roland) Walker, Bonnie Brown, the late Barb Johnston, Carol (Tony) Graves, Mary (John) Winkworth, the late Linda (the late Wes) Graves. Proud grandfather to Jennifer (Henry), Jeffery (Olivia),

Jason, Justin, Sonya, Sam, Doug (Nancy), Angie (Chris), Cynthia (Jeff), Anthony (Kayla), Mindy, John, Joe and David. Great grandfather to 25 great grandchildren. Great great grandfather to 4 great great grandchildren. Survived by sister-in-law Minnie May Brown. Uncle to several nieces and nephews.

Predeceased by his parents Walter and Mine Brown, siblings Carl, Ralph, Norman "Buck" (Patricia "Bo")

Friends and relatives were received by Harry's family at Ostrander's Funeral Home; 43 Bidwell Street, Tillsonburg (519-842-5221) on Tuesday, September 29, 2026 from 6:00pm until 8:00pm. The Funeral Service for Harry was held on Wednesday, September 30, 2026, at 11:00am in Ostrander's Funeral Home Chapel. Rev. Ted Smith officiated. Interment took place at the Cultus Cemetery. Memorial donations can be made to the Heart and Stroke Foundation and can be completed online directly with the charity or via cheque payable to the charity by contacting Ostrander's Funeral Home. Condolences and memories may be shared at www.ostrandersonline.com

OBITUARY

THOMAS DONALD HOVORKA

(DECEMBER 29, 1971 - SEPTEMBER 24, 2026)



It is with profound sadness that we announce the passing of Thomas Donald Hovorka, a beloved son, brother, uncle, cousin, friend, and cherished member of his community.

Tom had a big heart and a deep love for the people and things that mattered most to him. His family was at the centre of his life, and his love for his nieces and nephews was especially evident. He supported them wholeheartedly, celebrated

their accomplishments, and was always proud to be part of their lives.

Tom had an immense passion for sports, especially football and baseball. His love of football gave him the opportunity to grow both personally and athletically. He competed at the collegiate level in the United States at Moorhead State and in Canada at Wilfrid Laurier University, where he also earned his bachelor's degree in history. His football journey continued professionally in Europe, where he played for the Bolzano Giants in Italy.

His love of baseball was just as strong. Tom spent many years as an umpire and was a former player with the Junior White Sox, where he formed many lasting friendships and created wonderful memories.

Outside of sports, Tom found joy in the simple things—especially fishing. He loved being outdoors with a line in the water and cherished every opportunity to spend time fishing.

Tom was also a member of the Fr. Ernie Deslippe Council of the Knights of Columbus in St. Thomas and a devoted member of the Catholic Church. His faith was an important part of his life.

Tom will be remembered for his kind heart, his loyalty, his love of family, his passion for sports, and the many ways he showed up for the people he cared about. He leaves behind memories that will continue to live on in the hearts and lives of all who knew and loved him.

Tom was predeceased by his father, Patrick Hovorka; his mother, Penny Hovorka, who passed away just 17 days before him; and his cousin and dear friend, Jay Kennedy.

He will be deeply missed by his sister, Kelly Hovorka; his brother, Patrick Hovorka Jr. (Karen); his beloved nieces and nephews, Brooklyn Hovorka, Matty Hovorka, Staten Vienneau-Hovorka, and Quinn Hovorka; his extended family; and the many friends who were fortunate enough to know him.

A Celebration of Life for Tom and his mother, Penny Hovorka, was held on Saturday, September 26, 2026, between 1:00 and 4:00 p.m. at the Tillsonburg Soccer Club. Family and friends were invited to come together to remember, celebrate, and share stories of two people who meant so much to those around them. Funeral arrangements have been entrusted to the Maurice J. Verhoeve Funeral Homes, Tillsonburg (519) 842-4238.

"Special thanks to the incredible staff at STEGH, who made sure Tom was comfortable and cared for during his final days. Your compassion, kindness, and dedication will always be remembered and deeply appreciated."

Tom and Penny are now together again, surrounded by the love that connected them throughout their lives.

Forever loved.

Forever remembered.

Forever in our hearts.

OBITUARY

MARY ANN BYRON

APRIL 21, 1944 - SEPTEMBER 21, 2026



With heavy hearts, we share the peaceful passing of Mary Ann Byron, 82, of Tillsonburg, on September 21, 2026. She left this world the way she lived in it: surrounded by the family she loved so fiercely.

Mary Ann was a mother to so very many. Some came to her through birth, some through marriage, and some simply wandered into her life and never left, because once Mary Ann cared for you, you were hers. She had a rare gift

for making people feel welcomed, wanted and loved. If you needed her, she was already on her way.

Born and raised in Delhi, Mary Ann was the daughter of Steve and Helen Pocnic and the sister of Nick. She was predeceased by her parents and her brother, and she carried their love and their stories with her all her life.

Everything Mary Ann had, she gave to her family. She was the voice in the stands at hockey and baseball games, the steady hand in the horse barn, and the one who saw her children through every adventure and every hard day, water fights included. Her children never had to wonder whether she'd be there. She always was: cheering the loudest, helping without being asked, and celebrating every win as if it were her own.

Later in life, Mary Ann found her true love in Lorne Bauer, who was taken from her far too soon. Through Lorne, her heart grew to hold a whole second family, who filled her life with even more love, laughter and joy. She treasured each of them.

Of all the names she answered to, perhaps her favourite was "G-Ma." Nothing lit up her face like her grandchildren. She was endlessly proud of every one of them, and anyone within earshot was sure to hear about their latest accomplishment. Being their G-Ma was one of the great joys of her life.

Mary Ann loved life's simple pleasures: travelling with Lorne, tending her flowers, working through a puzzle piece by piece, and spending time with her beloved horse family at the G.R.E.A.T. Horse Club. At home, she had faithful company in her three cats, George, Jack and Tina, who kept her company and made her smile every day.

Mary Ann leaves behind her loving family: Stephen Byron and Lisa Evans; Jeremy and Colleen Byron; John and Brenda Bauer; Lorie and Jack LaRoque; Becky and Willy Ashford; and Shannon and Chris Mayo. Fondly remembered by David Bauer (Jasmine) and sister-in-law April Mullen.

She will be lovingly remembered by her grandchildren, Seanna Byron, David, Roy, Amber, Kristin, Cody, Laurin, Emily, Cole, Toria and Reese, and by her 13 very special great-grandchildren, who brought her more pride and happiness than words could hold.

Mary Ann's life cannot be measured in years alone. It is measured in the people she loved and the people she made family. Her kindness, her generosity, her laugh and her unwavering devotion will live on in all of us who were lucky enough to be loved by her.

Cremation has taken place. Surrounded by the things she loved most (family, friends and horses), a Celebration of Life will be held, fittingly, on Mother's Day, at:

G.R.E.A.T. Horse Club
1031 Plowman's Line
Courtland, Ontario
Sunday, May 9, 2027

There could be no better day to honour a woman who was a mother to so many. Please come as you are, share a story, and help us celebrate the beautiful life she lived and the many people she loved. She will be deeply missed, lovingly remembered, and forever cherished.

Rest peacefully, Mom. We love you, and we will miss you always.

Wareing Cremation Services, 161 Broadway St., Tillsonburg has been entrusted with Final Arrangements. Your messages of remembrance and condolence may be shared at wareingcremation.ca

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3. Fernando Men-doza
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5. 1974
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7. Mr. Coffee
8. Green
9. Groaler or a piz-zly bear
10. BC, Alberta, Sas-katchewan

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4 Key Benefits To Prearranging Your Final Wishes:

- Your wishes are known to your family
- Urgent Decisions Are Completed Now
- Your Peace of Mind
- Addressing Funeral Costs

Benefit 1 - Your family and friends are the most important parts of your life, but without your clearly expressed final wishes, it will be up to them to come together to try to reach a consensus during a difficult time. Flowers, music, readings, and other simple decisions now can create feelings of animosity and disunity. **Preplanning eliminates the guesswork** and lets your loved ones have peace as they focus on their own healing and remembrance.

Benefit 2 - Prearranging aims to take care of urgent decisions now and protect your family from unnecessary pain and expense. When that inevitable day arrives, **you want your loved ones to be focused on the truly important things – remembrance, family support, and healing** – not making arrangements and decisions about your funeral. Preplanning prevents them from having to make considerable financial and logistical choices while under emotional duress.

Benefit 3 - There is peace of mind that comes with knowing that you will say goodbye in a way that uniquely reflects you and your life. By prearranging your specific final wishes you ensure that your family will be guaranteed to have the service you would have wanted on that important day. **Your decisions can shape how your family and friends remember you** and can help their healing process with a personalized service that truly reflects your individuality and unique personality.

Benefit 4 - Preplanning and prefunding your funeral addresses funeral costs today and lessen the financial burden for your family down the road. Many people assume savings or life insurance will cover their final expenses. By funding your funeral in advance, **you lock in the price of your specific wishes at current prices**, avoiding rising costs caused by inflation. You can then enjoy the rest of your life confident in the financial relief you'll give to your loved ones. Furthermore, there is no risk to prefunding your funeral; all prefunded trust monies remain in trust for the purchaser until services are rendered. **These funds are also fully transferrable** to another funeral home, such as in the case your wishes change or you relocate.

In short, prearranging your funeral allows you to show your love in a way your family will never forget. By taking care of all the details yourself – and well in advance – your preplanned funeral will exemplify the selfless love and generosity you have shown your loved ones throughout your life. Nobody is eager to reach the day of their funeral, but taking control of that inevitable step and organizing your final wishes is simply the right thing to do for yourself and for your family. Completing the preplanning process will create a great sense of clarity, joy, and pride.

Getting started is easy. Turn to your local professional funeral directors at the Maurice J. Verhoeve Funeral Homes - Burial and Cremation Services Inc., Maurice or Robert would be pleased to talk or meet with you, without obligation, to answer any questions that you may have. The Verhoeve family has been serving the Langton and Tillsonburg communities since 1958, we are 100% family owned and operated with the goal of putting your family first.



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