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Tillsonburg opts out of e-scooter pilot

JEFF HELSDON

Editor

Tillsonburg council took a wait-and-see approach to e-scooters.

The town received a request from a business to join the province's e-scooter pilot. The 10-year pilot, launched in 2019, allows municipalities to opt in and set where e-scooters may operate, insurance requirements, permit requirements, etc. The province sets standards for rider age eligibility, speed limits, and safety standards.

A report by Tillsonburg Deputy Clerk Laura Pickersgill said only 19 of 444 municipalities in Ontario have opted in to the trial. She presumes the province will make a more formal decision on e-scooters at the end of the trial.

Under the provincial legislation, an e-scooter is defined as a kick-style scooter with a standing platform, two wheels and an electric motor of no more than 500 watts.

Before completing the report, municipal staff met to discuss the issues and safety concerns.

Coun. Kelly Spencer said she rode e-scooters in Ottawa and Mississauga. Saying it was "certainly fun", she pointed out many people use the scooter for transportation in those cities. Spencer asked if the legislation also captured e-bikes.

Pickersgill said an e-bike is considered a bicycle under the Highway Traffic Act, and the wheels are much larger.

"With e-scooters, the wheels are much smaller, and there's more chance a wheel will catch on something," she said.

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TERRY FOX RUN

The annual Tillsonburg Terry Fox Run started on Sunday morning at the Tillsonburg Soccer Club. More photos on page 6.

(STUART BLOWER PHOTO)

New ball diamond proposal lives, sale of Annandale diamonds nixed

JEFF HELSDON

Editor

A proposal to build new baseball diamonds on Mall Road is still on the table, but council killed the proposed funding through the sale of the land where the diamonds sit.

The result could be the best of both worlds, since public sentiment at meetings was that people weren't against the diamonds but didn't want to see the land for the Annandale diamonds sold to fund the project.

The final motion council passed was to not use the An-

nandale Heights Ltd. parkland dedication (the ball diamonds) "for residential, commercial or industrial development at this time." The motion also directed staff to explore funding alternatives, including federal and provincial grants, and to consider potential future uses for the Annandale diamond space once the new diamonds are completed. A separate motion directed staff to apply to the Ontario Sport and Recreation Infrastructure Fund to fund the new ball diamonds.

Although council members were united in supporting the final motion, it drew some debate.

CONTINUED TO PAGE 2

VOTE

**DEB
GILVESY**

MAYOR

Authorized by Deb Gilvesy

"I am proud to endorse Deb Gilvesy for re-election as mayor. Deb has a strong work ethic and is a reliable leader who is committed to serving our community with integrity, dedication and practical solutions. I am confident Deb will continue to listen to residents, work collaboratively, and always put the best interest of Tillsonburg first over the next four years."

Dr. R. W. Dalby

Tillsonburg opts out of e-scooter pilot

CONTINUED FROM FRONT

Spencer asked for specifics on e-scooter accidents and whether any of the municipalities taking part in the pilot project had data. Pickersgill didn't have this data, but said she could look further.

"What I'm seeing out in the community is a lot of young people without helmets," Spencer said, after asking whether helmets are required if the rider is under 16.

She also asked what will happen to the small business in town selling e-scooters, and was told that if the business doesn't have a license, it won't be able to operate in Tillsonburg.

Saying she has seen dozens of e-scooters in town, Spencer asked if there was anywhere they could be used, and was told they could be used on private property.

Mayor Deb Gilvesy asked whether the town opted into the pilot and whether the scooters would be allowed on trails and sidewalks.

Pickersgill said sidewalks were not recommended, adding, "It's up to the municipality how far it goes with this."

Coun. Chris Parker asked whether a business was licensed to sell e-scooters

and was told it was not.

Coun. Pete Luciani said he supported the report's suggestion not to proceed with joining the trial.

Coun. Bob Parsons said he has seen e-scooters being ridden after dark, and with two people on it. He suggested parental supervision is needed.

"It's very dangerous from what I'm seeing," he said.

Gilvesy encouraged parents to research some of the injury data, adding that there have been people killed. She also said Toronto Sick Kid's Hospital has a significant

amount of data on head injuries. Gilvesy said the suggested motion doesn't preclude the use of e-scooters in the future, but for now safety is the priority.

Parker agreed, saying, "We need to keep a close eye on it in order to make the correct decision. Right now, there's no safety data."

Spencer said the use of e-scooters on Broadway is a concern.

"It's very difficult to ride a bike down there, more or less a scooter," she said.

Council's motion was not to opt into the pilot and to have a report back in a year.

Town to apply for alternative funding for ball diamonds

CONTINUED FROM FRONT

The topic started with an overview from Development Commissioner Cephas Panschow, who has been overseeing the initiative. He said a report requested at the last meeting to delve into the details of the parkland dedication is still underway. Panschow said a more detailed report on the feedback received was coming at a future meeting.

Gilvesy started by asking whether there should be direction to apply for funding, saying she heard time is of the essence with Ontario Sport and Recreation Infrastructure Fund applications.

Spencer put forward the motion, which council passed after debating its content, to not proceed with development on the Annandale diamonds. Speaking to the motion, Spencer said she had heard from many people about the importance of green space.

"We have grown substantially; if we can protect green space, we should," she said.

Coun. Chris Parker suggested if the funding application was time-sensitive, it should be part of the motion. However, it ended up being a separation motion.

Deputy Mayor Dave Beres suggested an amendment to the proposed motion to add the words "residential development" in case there was a proposal to build a burger stand, for example, in the middle of the diamonds if baseball diamonds remained there.

Spencer countered the motion contained "at this time," adding, "I don't think we should add a burger stand in the middle of what we're dealing with."

"I just hate to leave no development on there because I think if something like that comes up, I think it would be welcome," Beres said.

Spencer agreed to add residential, as well as industrial and commercial.

Gilvesy said the Ontario Sport and Recreation Infrastructure Fund was just released, and asked whether that should be addressed, but Spencer said funding for the new land could come from land sales elsewhere or community sponsorship.

Gilvesy questioned the words "at this time" in the motion, and the intent.

Spencer said it means at this time, and even if there was a bylaw, a future council could overturn it.

Coun. Bob Parsons also questioned "at this time," saying, "At this time tells me it's going to come back someday."

Although Spencer offered to take "at this time" out, it remained in the final motion.

Protecting parkland from development

At the end of the meeting, Gilvesy put forward a notice of motion to debate a motion at the next council meeting directing staff to prepare a report outlining options "for a parkland protection bylaw that would

safeguard subdivision parkland dedication from future development or disposition."

A bylaw to protect all donated parkland was suggested at the final public meeting.



GILMORE GIRLS

(JEFF HELSDON PHOTO)

With 'Hello Fall' in the air, the Downtown Tillsonburg BIA's Late Night Thursdays have switched to themes for the monthly evening shopping experience. The theme for September was Gilmore Girls. Betty's Marketplace turned to its artisans to create Gilmore Girls-themed items, including owner Lindsay Rennie, left, and daughter Paisley Rennie, who are holding the items they made.



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EVERYONE HAS A STORY TO TELL

ROBIN KRAFFT

Tillsonburg Post Columnist

In his first few days of life, a young nurse nicknamed Darryl Carter 'The Miracle Baby.' He was born with Cerebral Palsy and wasn't breathing on his own. The prognosis wasn't good, and his parents had him christened in the hospital, but 12 days later, he was on his way home.

Darryl had been labeled as 'mentally challenged' (accepted terminology in the 1960s), but his parents did everything they could to support his development.

"My parents took me to an orthopedic surgeon in hopes that surgery would help my twisted leg," Carter said. "The surgeon said 'No, I will send him to the Rotary Centre where they help children.' By age two or three, I was crawling and walking. The people at the Rotary Centre were interested in my development and I continued going there for 10 years."

At five years of age, Darryl had a seizure and was di-

agnosed with epilepsy.

"I went to school, then I was out," Carter said. "I went to SickKids. They said I'd never ride a bike, but Dad got me a bike and put a hockey helmet on me, before kids wore helmets. I eventually learned."

"When I was younger, I would try to make my parents laugh," Carter said. "It would occur when I would see sadness in their eyes, the look that said, 'if only'. It was hard to make friends. I could hear other kids talking about me. I couldn't do the stuff they could do."

In his teen years, when his peers were getting jobs, Darryl felt left behind again. His handwriting wasn't legible, and he couldn't drive.

"At 17, we discovered that the CP moved to the opposite side of the brain after another EEG," Carter said. "My left side was affected after functioning normally for 17 years. I now had the shakes. Restaurants nor pizza outlets would not hire me."

He went to Laurier University and got his BA in French, but the student experience made it clear that his wish to become a teacher wasn't feasible either.

At 35, his parents became ill and Darryl became their caregiver. After his father passed, he looked after his mother. He later bought the Hickory Hills house his aunt and uncle had lived in and moved to Tillsonburg.

Darryl had been caregiving for years, and he thought he might be able to help people here, too. Residents often see him helping neighbours with tending their gardens, taking out the garbage, or delivering newspapers. He has

been recognized as an outstanding volunteer by his community, but for him, contributing just feels good.

"I deliver the Tillsonburg Post when they drop them off, 240 papers," Carter said. "Some people are shut in, so I just do it. I figure why not do it all. People pop out and say hi and they thank me for checking in on them. I know what that feels like, to be alone. I'm surprised I can do so much, especially when I was told I couldn't do anything."

Darryl is also the custodian at St John's Anglican Church. He remembers attending church as a child for Easter and Christmas.

"I enjoyed it," Carter said. "There was a sense of calm and peace. With what was going on in my life, it was a comfort. Now it provides guidance, community, and connection."

Darryl has also dealt with the way CP has affected his speech for decades. He was afraid people would make fun of him for his stutter and pauses, so he spoke quietly. Reading the Bible in church and acting in plays at Hickory Hills has helped with his confidence. Being quiet is a hard habit to break, but those who know him would say that his actions speak much louder than his words.

"It was a struggle, but I'm much happier now," Carter said. "I never gave up. As much as people made fun of me, some greater power said I'll give you the ability to breathe, so there must have been some purpose for me."

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What is a Museum?

TILLSONBURG CULTURE AND COMMUNITY

JASON PANKRATZ

Tillsonburg Post Columnist

I got thinking the other day, what is a museum? I mean, we all know, but what is the official definition or designation for one?

According to the International Council of Museums (2019): “Museums are democratising, inclusive and polyphonic spaces for critical dialogue about the pasts and the futures. Acknowledging and addressing the conflicts and challenges of the present, they hold artefacts and specimens in trust for society, safeguard diverse memories for future generations and guarantee equal rights and equal access to heritage for all people. Museums are not for profit. They are participatory and transparent, and work in active partnership with and for diverse communities to collect, preserve, research, interpret, exhibit, and enhance understandings of the world, aiming to contribute to human dignity and social justice, global equality and planetary wellbeing.”

People have always saved, preserved, displayed contents for others to view. But it took into the mid-late 1700s for urban communities to establish places for the public to see these artifacts. Prior to this, they were usually large or small private collections, only available to the wealthy and socially connected.

The British Museum in London was opened in 1759. The Louve in Paris went from being a fortress to a palace to a museum by 1793. The Smithsonian Institution in the United States was established in 1849. The Geological Survey of Canada opened its doors in Monreal, focusing on minerals, flora and fauna, and would move to Ottawa in1881. The contents would move again by 1912 to a newlybuilt site that looked like a castle. This museum was Canada’s first public museum to display the bones of a full dinosaur; it would become the Canadian Museum of Nature. It would also be the place where Canadian Government sat between 1916 to 1920, after the fire at the Parliament Centre Block. The National Gallery formed in 1880, and The Canadian War Museum in 1942.

In all cases, museums were/are places for five main purposes: to collect, to preserve, to research, to educate and to display.

Annandale House fulfills all of these requirements and responsibilities as well. The Tillsonburg Museum was first established in 1973 through a student-grant process. Items were collected and catalogued. They were stored and displayed in the “Evergreens Dance Hall” on Lake Lisgar where the “Summer Place” building is today. The building was the original armoury location for the Oxford Rifles during the war years.

The restoration of Annandale House began in 1983. It took some time for the new addition to be built appropriately to store the artifacts, for the house to be renovated and for contents to be transferred and displayed. Tillsonburg Museum was officially relocated and open to the public in 1989 through Annandale House, the stately home of our first Mayor E.D. Tillson. And it was designated as a National Historic Site in 1997 because of “its interior, decorated during 1883-1887 according to principles promoted by Oscar Wilde, is one of the best surviving illustrations (and private residences) in Canada

of the Aesthetic Movement.”

So, is Annadale House a museum or is it an artifact? This is a beautifully circular conversation. It is both. The historic house is the main attraction and is preserved and acts as an interactive experience. Additionally, the historic house obtains the contents of the museum collection as well as displays them throughout. The Pratt Gallery provides annual changing themed exhibits. The quarter-ceiling room on the second floor and the third-floor tower room do the same, but within the house. They offer themed contents from the collection that change throughout the year and add to the experience of touring the interior. You can experience the grandeur of the house that was built in the 1880’s and imagine what it was like to live there.

Behind the scenes, the museum staff and volunteers complete the preservation, collection management, work social/historical events, and fulfil research and educational requirements. The general public often does not understand or witness the true running of a museum. It is technical, political, economical and socially interactive. Every museum has its own needs and visions. Tillsonburg Museum or Annandale National Historic Site, whatever you call it, is about preserving and educating.

Lastly, even though I promote Annadale House, I also encourage you to visit other local museums. As the fall comes, some close for the winter seasons. Locally, take a look at the Otterville Railway Museum, The Otterville Mill, The Ingersoll Cheese Museum, The Edison, Vienna and Area Museum, the Norwich Museum as well as the Woodstock Museum National Historic Site. They all have fantastic history, knowledgeable staff, buildings, displays and collections to explore.

Dr. Jason Pankratz is a local historian and published author of several articles and books, including Tillsonburg at 200.

Town increases support for golf course event centre

JEFF HELSDON

Editor

The town’s support for a new events center planned at The Bridges golf course through its Community

Improvement Program grew after a presentation at the Sept. 14 council meeting.

Cierra Huigenbos spoke to council as a deputation, saying she chose to stay in Tillsonburg when many young people left.

“I stayed because I love the community; I love our seniors are valued here; I love the culture of youth sports that fill our arenas, soccer fields and baseball fields. I love walking into the grocery store and recognizing familiar faces,” she said.

But she noted that loving a town means having the courage to speak up when it's headed in the wrong direction. She pointed out generous people in the town have supported the town’s hospitals, charities, and sports teams. She said the owners of the Bridges pro-

posed an events center, which could be a wedding and event venue the town didn’t have.

“The money spent here stays here,” she said. “It circulates through our economy, it creates jobs, it strengthens the community we all say we want to build.”

The town previously approved the Community Improvement Plan support for the events centre at the high level, not the strategic level. Huigenbos said this was reduced by council because work on the project started before a building permit was issued, which was addressed through the enforcement process.

“The purpose of the incentive is to encourage growth, not address matters that were already resolved,” she said.

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Town increases support for golf course event centre

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 4

The high level of support in the Tax Increment Grant Back Program provides a 50 per cent rebate of the tax increase from the development (not the entire taxes for the property) for the first six years, which then decreases by 10 per cent annually until year 10. The strategic level has 100 per cent relief from the tax increase from the development, which then decreases by 20 per cent per year until year 10.

Huigenbos said she wasn't asking to be above the rules, but was asking for respect. She asserted there is a perception of a lot of red tape associated with building in Tillsonburg, including waiting and paying for permits.

"You're going to be sent from one process to another. Eventually, some people decide that isn't worth it," she said, adding that a young person wanting to build a home or business should be excited, not wondering if their business should be taken elsewhere.

Coun. Kelly Spencer told Huigenbos she appreciated the conversation and said it was spectacular that a young person brought this forward.

"Retention and attraction of young people is essential to this town," she said.

Deputy Mayor Dave Beres agreed and asked the clerk what the procedure would be to reconsider the decision.

He was told someone who voted in favour of the original motion must put a motion to reconsider on the floor. If accepted, an alternate motion can be brought forward.

The original motion was then brought forward, and council defeated it. Beres then brought forward a motion that the town support the events centre at the strategic level. Mayor Deb Gilvesy suggested an amendment to the motion, which was accepted, that staff complete an internal review of the planning process to shorten timelines. This motion passed.

Parking requirements for new developments increased

JEFF HELSDON

Editor

New developments in Tillsonburg must provide more parking spaces per unit after the town approved a change to its zoning bylaw.

At their April 13 meeting, council members directed planning staff to increase the number of parking spaces per residential dwelling unit from 1.25 to 1.5 spaces. Oxford County planner Amy Hartley presented council with a report at the Sept. 14 meeting on the issue.

The report suggested changing the requirement to 1.5 spaces per unit for developments with fewer than 10 units, while keeping developments with more than 10 units at 1.25, but adding a requirement for a visitor parking space for every 10 parking spaces.

For instance, Hartley provided the example that a 30-unit development would require 38 parking spaces at 1.25 spaces per unit, 41 with the new visitor parking requirement, and 45 at 1.5 per unit.

The policy also clarifies parking-related matters, such as electric vehicle charging spaces not counting toward the total, but accessible parking spaces do. The policy will apply to existing developments that did not request a parking reduction and haven't yet filed for a building permit.

The only recently approved application that would be impacted is at 75 Hale Street, and the policy would require one

more parking space to be added.

Coun. Bob Parsons, the town's representative on the Downtown Tillsonburg BIA, said the organization's comments suggest less parking may be required in the downtown core. He asked if that could be accommodated.

Mayor Deb Gilvesy noted that Woodstock only requires one space per residential dwelling unit in the downtown. She also pointed out the comparison accompanying the report shows many other centres, such as Norfolk County, Ingersoll and Woodstock require more than 1.5 spaces per unit.

Deputy Mayor Dave Beres asked if it's appropriate to change the suggested motion to add only one space is required in the BIA area.

Hartley answered that the BIA area isn't defined in the zoning bylaw, but a specific exemption could be added for the CC zone.

Coun. Chris Parker fears the town will be seeing more on-street parking because there isn't enough parking in residential developments.

"I don't think it does enough to alleviate the on-street parking issues we currently have," he said.

Parker also didn't agree with one visitor per unit, pointing out that it means only one person can visit at a time per 10 units.

The policy passed with an alteration requiring only one space per unit in the CC zone.



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TERRY FOX RUN

(STUART BLOWER PHOTOS)



Arthur Goossens on blades with his uncle at the Terry Fox Run.



Victoria Sergeant (right) and daughter Victoria Goossens at the Terry Fox Run.



Trudy and Steve Brescia, with baby Felix, at the Tillsonburg Terry Fox Run on Sunday.



Joshua Doyle and Elliott Hewitt from STUNT perform at the Tillsonburg Terry Fox Run on Sept. 20.



Savannah Fitch lends a helping hand to Merideth and Riley at the Tillsonburg Terry Fox Run.



Brett Ferguson and daughter Brenna were doing the 5-km Terry Fox Run route in Tillsonburg, starting from the Tillsonburg Soccer Club.

Town recreation survey has some surprises

JEFF HELSDON

Editor

The town's recreation survey produced some surprising results and sparked discussion among councilors about the importance of listening to what residents want.

One would think that a recreation survey would put the arena at the top of the list of facilities that are 'important/most important', but that was not the case. Outdoor trails were the top facility listed by as important/most important by 92 per cent of those who filled out the survey. The indoor pool was a close second at 91 per cent. Playgrounds came in third at 82 per cent, while the arena and Lake Lisgar Waterpark tied for fourth at 80 per cent.

The survey, which closed in May, netted 464 responses. Providing an overview of the report at the Sept. 14 meeting, Director of Recreation, Culture and Parks Andrea Greenway said staff will use the survey as a planning tool.

Coun. Bob Parsons noted 56 per cent of respondents lived in town.

"Did we focus on Tillsonburg residents, these are our ratepayers," Parsons said. "It's nice to know that our neighbours are using our facility."

Greenway said the survey focused on all users, and reminded council that out-of-town users pay a surcharge.

Parsons replied that the important thing

is what the town's ratepayers want.

"Are they getting what they want? I understand what you're saying that other users want to express an opinion," he said. "We're the ones, the ratepayers of Tillsonburg, that pay for the infrastructure and pay the lion's share of all those services."

Mayor Deb Gilvesy questioned why swimming lesson registrations open at 5 a.m., saying she heard there is a 'mad dash' to get in. She questioned why it was so early.

Greenway said there is no good time because of shift work.

"We do want to do a little more digging on that. I agree it's early, it's a mad dash, but we got feedback when we started at 8 that people were already at work," she said.

Coun. Kelly Spencer said mornings are wild for families with kids, and asked if there is a priority for Tillsonburg ratepayers.

Greenway said there is no priority, adding some municipalities have registration for ratepayers the day before.

Coun. Chris Parker pointed out the registration is based on postal code, which may capture some out-of-town residents, not addresses, and asked if this was being looked into. He was told this had been discussed.

Council accepted the report for information.

What's good for the goose...

JEFF HELSDON

Editor

Tillsonburg council waded into an issue plaguing many municipalities when it discussed issues associated with burgeoning Canada goose problems.

Coun. Kelly Spencer put forward a notice of motion at the last meeting calling for town staff to look at potential solutions to the number of geese on Lake Lisgar. The motion directed the Director of Recreation, Culture and Parks to prepare a report looking at methods to deter the geese from entering roadways and the neighbouring properties.

Spencer spoke to the motion, citing problems with geese on roadways, birds being hit, and children being chased.

"I'm wondering if something that can mitigate the migration onto the road," she said. "I'm just asking for a report to see what we can do for the geese safety, as

well as the residents."

With the motion mentioning the goose excrement on the docks, Coun. Chris Parker said the docks are already supposed to be cleaned on a day-to-day basis.

Coun. Chris Rosehart suggested adding something to the motion telling the public not to feed the geese.

"The more they feed them, the more they're coming," she said. "You can go by at 5:30 in the morning and there's people there feeding them."

Mayor Deb Gilvesy suggested coyote decoys would work if staff moved them around.

Coun. Pete Luciani added a little humour to the debate, asking whether these were fake decoys or a person in a coyote outfit, as one of the other councillors referenced Wile E. Coyote. Gilvesy assured she was talking about decoys.

The motion passed as it was originally presented.

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COMMUNITY UPDATE

Notices

Voting is Convenient and Accessible

The Town of Tillsonburg will once again use Internet and Telephone Voting for the 2026 Municipal Election. Eligible voters can vote using a computer, tablet, smartphone, or telephone from wherever is most convenient.

Voting is available 24 hours a day throughout the voting period and is designed to be secure, private, and accessible.

Learn more at www.tillsonburg.ca/election.



Loose Leaf Collection Begins October 12

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.

September 21 - October 2

All areas East of Participark and South of Concession St.

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.



Leash Up Tillsonburg!

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

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



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



Indoor Volleyball for Ages 8-12

Get ready to bump, set and spike your way into fall! Our NEW Indoor Volleyball program for ages 8-12 introduces participants to the fundamentals of volleyball while providing plenty of opportunity for gameplay in a fun and supportive environment. Through engaging activities, skill-building drills and team play, children will stay active, make new friends and build confidence on the court.

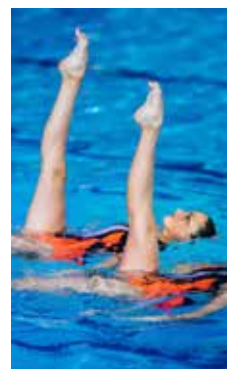
Register today at www.tillsonburg.ca/guide.



Artistic Swimming

Make a splash this fall with Artistic Swimming! Designed for ages 8-13, this exciting program introduces participants to the fundamentals of a unique sport that blends swimming, dance and gymnastics. Participants will develop confidence, coordination, creativity and aquatic skills while learning synchronized routines set to music.

Classes run Thursdays from 6:30 to 7:30 PM Interested in trying it out first? Attend a free trial class on September 17 and discover if artistic swimming is right for you. Register today at www.tillsonburg.ca/guide.



Culture Corner

Tillsonburg Graveyard Tours: Symbols & Stones

Step back in time and discover the stories etched into Tillsonburg's historic cemetery. Join us on Thursday, **September 24 or Saturday, September 26 at 1:00 p.m.** for a guided tour exploring the fascinating symbols, artwork, and history found on local gravestones.

Learn the meanings behind motifs such as weeping willows, doves, and clasped hands, and uncover what they reveal about the lives, beliefs, and memories of those who came before us. You'll also explore how gravestone designs have changed over the years, reflecting evolving attitudes toward life, loss, and remembrance.

Tillsonburg Cemetery | 193 Simcoe St., Tillsonburg
Cost: By donation



COUNCIL BRIEFS

New communication strategy

Tillsonburg has a new communication strategy and a separate social media policy.

Council adopted the three-year communication strategy after reviewing policies and procedures. Its goals included enhancing access to municipal information, strengthening internal communications, and increasing community engagement and public participation.

"This is a living, breathing document that will be updated on a yearly basis," said Manager of Legislative Services/Clerk Trisha McKibbin.

The social media policy provides guidelines for social media use by both staff and council members.

Both policies were accepted as information, and later passed as bylaws.

Physician assistance provided

Tillsonburg council approved \$5,000 in extra funding to assist with the costs of a new physician who joined one of the existing practices on Sept. 1.

The physician moved in from out of province to join one of the existing practices and replace a retiring doctor. Under the town's Shared Physician Recruitment Incentive Support Model, new physicians receive an incentive of \$30,000, and \$35,000 if they moved to Tillsonburg from out of province. The individual in this case moved from out of province and was a locum at the hospital before starting with the physician's office.

Town to search for clock tower repair funding

Although details were scant, council will be looking for other funding sources for scheduled repairs to the Rotary Clock Tower.

Council discussed the matter in April, when a report found the clock tower was in worse shape than originally thought. The budget included \$200,000 for brick repairs, but an examination found the interior walls were saturated and the windows, doors, and roof needed to be replaced. The total estimate was \$394,000. A motion was passed to proceed with the work and apply for a provincial grant to cover up to a third of the cost.

Council heard the grant application was unsuccessful. Coun. Kelly Spencer suggested the town's sponsorship policy could assist.

Coun. Chris Rosehart referred to a discussion that had taken place in closed session on the matter, and a motion was brought forward for council to go into closed session to discuss external grant funding for the repairs.

"This is a heritage part of our town," said Coun. Chris Parker. "This is something that has been sitting there and becoming an eyesore over the last little bit. The project needs to get done, - delaying it any further I don't see any benefit."

The final motion passed was for staff to look for other funding sources such as grants or sponsorships.

Push for playground in Potter's Gate

A report on the town assuming land for a utility corridor in Potter's Gate led to a discussion about the need for playground equipment in parkland within the subdivision off Potter's Road.

Mayor Deb Gilvesy asked if the playground equipment, which was previously approved, had been ordered.

Director of Recreation, Culture and Parks Andrea Greenway explained that the utility corridor could influence the park's location.

Gilvesy wanted to ensure the park would be done before year-end.

Changes to bylaw enforcement

Part-time bylaw enforcement in Tillsonburg will be ramped down next month as complaints slow with winter.

A report to council outlined the complaints, the present working hours of the two full-time bylaw officers, and provided options for part-time staff going into fall. The report showed that 89 percent of bylaw complaints come in before 4:30 p.m., and that complaints slow down in the winter.

Council decided to discontinue the enhanced service model that provides enforcement in the evening and on weekends, move to evening hours only during the busier season from May to October, eliminate two vacant part-time positions, and extend the contracts of two seasonal bylaw staff.

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

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Ontario 

How Great Cow Art the latest museum exhibit

JEFF HELSDON

Editor

The latest exhibit at Annandale House National Historic Site brings together curator Kate Bakos fascination with both art and agriculture.

How Great Cow Art opened on Sept. 20 in the Pratt Gallery and runs until Oct. 25.

The name is reference to what Bakos called “a playful exhibition that explores the broader relationship between agriculture art and the community.” It builds on this year’s past exhibits celebrating the 145th anniversary of Annandale Farm.

“We thought this would be another way to bring light to the culture that springs forth from agriculture,” Bakos said. “It asks the visitor to think about agriculture not only as a commodity, aubt also as creativity, identity and community.”

Born and raised on an area tobacco farm, she understands the importance of agriculture locally. Bakos left the farm to earn a Master’s in Art History and Visual Culture from the University of Guelph.

“I always had a tenderness towards agriculture art and pastoral themes,” she said. “It’s the collision of my fine arts degree and rural roots.”

Prominent in the display is a mural that fills one wall

and began at the Cows Come Festival at Annandale earlier this summer. Youth in the museum’s summer program finished it.

“The greater Tillsonburg area completed this mural,” Bakos said.

Another piece shows vignettes of various Tillsonburg icons, including the tobacco auction exchange. Local artists Helen Shearing, Clara Mansfield and Audrey Stilwell interpretations of the Annandale Farm barn are also part of the exhibit.

Cows, of course, are front and centre in the exhibit. Famed artist Ross Butler, who was from Norwich, has several cow paintings in the exhibit. He was also known for his butter sculptures. The Butler Gallery in Woodstock loaned paintings and cow sculptures from the exhibit.

Harriet Tillson, the daughter of Annandale House builder E.D. Tillson, has a painting of a farm scene in the exhibit; it is in the museum’s collection.

The exhibit also includes a painting of tobacco kilns by the late Nellie VanGastel, an Otterville-area artist.

“They’re disappearing from our landscape,” Bakos lamented. “You’d be remiss to do an art show about Tillsonburg agriculture without putting tobacco in it.”

Fans of renowned artist Peter Snyder, who painted Amish scenes, will want to check out one of his originals in the show.



(JEFF HELSDON PHOTO)

Community members completed this large mural at the When the Cows Come Home Festival, and youth in the museum’s summer program helped finish it.

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Work collaboratively with community partners to connect people experiencing homelessness with appropriate resources, including the Downtown Safety Ranger program.

**RESPONSIBLE TAXATION**
Respect taxpayers by carefully considering spending, prioritizing essential services and seeking opportunities for efficiencies and outside funding.

**SUPPORTED FOR LOCAL ECONOMY**
Supported BIA initiatives to drive more foot traffic downtown. Tabled a motion in 2025 to support local businesses by supporting the Buy Canadian movement and help for businesses dealing with tariffs. Supported commercial and industrial expansion.

Kelly Spencer
FOR MAYOR

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**SpencerforMayor.wixsite.com/2026**

Authorized by Kelly Spencer.

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Dedicated off-load nurse to support ambulance turnaround at Tillsonburg District Memorial Hospital

Patients arriving by ambulance at Tillsonburg District Memorial Hospital (TDMH), a site of Rural Roads Health Services, will benefit from enhanced support in the Emergency Department through the introduction of a Dedicated Off-Load Nurse (DON).

With support from Ontario Health and Oxford County Paramedic Services (OCPS), TDMH has received a one-time, two-year grant to establish the DON role. The initiative is designed to improve the timely transfer of patients from ambulance crews into the care of the Emergency Department team, while helping paramedics return to the community sooner.

The Dedicated Off-Load Nurse will receive ambulance patients upon arrival, complete an initial assessment and triage, facilitate their transfer to an appropriate care space within the Emergency Department, and provide nursing care as required. By supporting this transition, the DON will help improve patient flow and reduce the amount of time paramedics are required to remain at the hospital after arriving with a patient.

"By dedicating off-load nurse support to Tillsonburg, paramedic crews will be able to transfer care more quickly," said Ryan Hall, Director of Paramedic Services for Oxford County. "Most impor-

tantly, it helps ensure our paramedics can return to the community sooner and be available to respond to the next emergency."

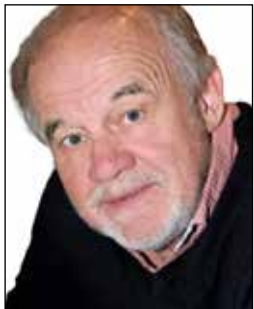
"We are incredibly grateful for this funding, which will make a meaningful difference for patients, our Emergency Department team and our paramedic partners," said April Mullen, Chief Nursing Executive and Vice President of Clinical Services. "Having a dedicated off-load nurse means patients arriving by ambulance can be assessed and transitioned into the care of our Emergency Department team more quickly. This supports better patient flow while reduc-

ing pressure on both paramedics and hospital teams."

"This investment is an important example of what can be achieved when healthcare partners work together to address the needs of our community," Mullen added. "We sincerely thank Ontario Health and our OCPS partners for recognizing this need and supporting an initiative that will benefit patients, families, healthcare teams and the broader community."

The Dedicated Off-Load Nurse initiative will be in place for two years, providing additional capacity to support ambulance off-load and patient flow at TDMH.

Flying Pants



**LIVING
RETIRED**

GARY CHALK

Non-Pulitzer Prize Winning Columnist

When Jan and I go on a vacation that involves flying, I wing it: I don't wear pants. I don't like it, Jan loves it; but she has no skin in the game. On our recent trip to the British Isles this is how my problem pants went down...

"Jan, have you seen the pants you got out for me to wear on the plane?"

"Gary, what do you mean? You are wearing them."

I looked down at myself. I didn't see

pants. All I saw was a plethora of pockets! There were the usual two front pockets. But below those two front pockets were two more, larger pockets. These pockets had zippers. AND, below those pockets down beside my knees were two more pockets — even larger, with more zippers. That was SIX POCKETS just on the front — no wonder I couldn't see my pants! The pockets continued with the usual two back pockets, these had Velcro closures. And, you will never guess what's inside all of these pockets: smaller hidden pockets!

I wasn't buying it. "Jan who is kidding who? I am wearing pockets that are sewn together to make it look like a pair of pants. Don't try to tell me these are pants. These are not pant pants, they are pocket pants."

"Gary, those pants are made specifically for traveling. They are casual, comfortable, and lightweight. They won't crease sleeping on the plane. You look good in them. And besides when we take excursions off the cruise ship you need to have places to put stuff."

I shrugged and put my hands in my pockets. Well, I tried. There are so many pockets I didn't know which pockets to put my hands in. Unfortunately, I started at the two front pockets with Velcro. It was like trying to get my hands into Fort Knox — IMPOSSIBLE. I couldn't rip the Velcro open!

Next, I tried slipping my hands in the pockets with zippers down beside the knees. Guess what? You need both hands AND hold your leg at the right angle AND drop everything in your hands to finagle the zipper open!

I wouldn't give up. Finally, I got my hands in the two front pockets that have no closures. But this is where I realized that these pockets had smaller pockets in them. I didn't like the feel of my hands inside pockets that were inside my pockets. Jan stared at me in disbelief. "Gary, what are you doing with your hands in your front pockets? You're moving them around — well let's say it you shouldn't be doing what you're doing."

Two hours later Jan and I were at the

airport about to go through Security. It's a bottleneck of travellers hoisting carry-on luggage into bins on a moving conveyor belt. Everybody is asking two questions: "Do I have to take my iPad out of my backpack?" and "Do I have to take my shoes off?" This when it happened...

"Please remove everything from your pockets." OMG!

Here is what my pocket pants produced: passport, pen, pencil, paper, paperclip, pills, and pocket lint. I was peed off!

On the other side of the metal detector, I gathered the plethora of pocket paraphernalia into my pocket pants.

Here's the thing: my travel pants have almost as many pockets as my suitcase has zippers. Don't get me started.

Living Retired is written by Gary Chalk and published throughout Canada and USA. To receive *Living Retired* by email each week, or to book Gary to bring his unique sense of humour to your service club, corporate event, or retirement party contact Gchalk@me.com

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OCL BOOK TALK

KATELYN BENNETT

Literacy Program Specialist,
Oxford County Library, Tillsonburg branch.

Every year, the Ontario Library Association runs a Canada wide reading program called the Forest of Reading.

This program highlights books written exclusively by Canadian authors. With a total of nine children's and teen categories, including three lists dedicated to French-Canadian readers, and one dedicated list for readers 18-plus, this Canadian reading program offers book selections for all ages. All children and teens are encouraged to vote for their favourite nominated book during the month of April, while the adult Evergreen program continues into September.

As we transition into the cool autumn weather, Oxford County Library encourages all adult readers to cozy up with one of the Evergreen nominees and add all nominated titles to their "to be read" list. Check out this year's nominated titles listed below.

All the Parts we Exile written by Roza Nozari

An in-depth memoir following Nozari's life in Canada. Roza, born in Canada after her parents' emigration from Iran, feels a sense of longing for her Iranian roots. As Roza gets older, she discovers more about herself, her queer identity, and the true story of her parents' departure from Iran.

Fall-osophy written by Ardra Shephard

After her MS diagnosis in 2003, Ardra Shephard writes a brilliantly, witty memoir of her before and after diagnosis story. This book brings you into the mind of a woman in her early 20's still "figuring life out". From dreading an office job, having the not-so-certain boyfriend, to following a musical passion of someday becoming an opera singer. Ardra humorously walks you through her life experi-

ences, including her blunt inner dialogue when "Dr. Poker Face" blankly reveals her Multiple Sclerosis diagnosis at age 23. Ardra recollects her post-diagnosis experiences, including the physical symptoms of optic neuritis, and social challenges of forming her "young ones" MS support group before the time of mainstream phones and internet. She even navigated taking a, what was meant to be relaxing, tropical vacation with the "bartender", only to learn that heat can accelerate MS symptoms. As she gets older, Ardra proves she is a not defined by her diagnosis. She approaches battles of pricey medications, to worsening symptoms in her mid-thirties, with a sense of optimism and tenacity.

Horsefly written by Mireille Gagné

An ecological horror with a dual timeline. This thriller follows young French-Canadian entomologist, Thomas, who is recruited for a top-secret military mission on a remote island in 1942. 60 years later, connected mayhem breaks out in Quebec when aggressive horseflies swarm the city. With a unique twist on perspective, this novel explores the dangers of humans neglecting nature.

Everything is Fine Here written by Iryn Tushabe

Set in Uganda, 18-year-old Aine struggles with the truth that her sister is gay. Everything is Fine Here is a bilingual story, weaving together predominantly English with Ruchiga, an authentic Ugandan dialect. This story explores the battles between anti-homosexuality laws, religious beliefs and family connection.

It Must Be Beautiful to be Finished written by Kate Gies

A beautifully written memoir exploring the harmful effects of medical interventions and plastic surgery at an early age. When Kate Gies was 4-years old, a plastic surgeon told her he could "make her right again" by giving her a synthetic ear. This memoir highlights societal pressures to look a certain way and the psychological trauma it can cause. Gies also explores the long-lasting effects of this trauma into adulthood and the societal standards put upon women.

Seventhblade written by Tonia Laird

T'Rayles, an indigenous female warrior, returns to the city of Seventhblade to search for her son's killer. With powerful forces and

an inherited sword, she fiercely navigates the power shifts in a now colonized city. T'Rayles risks everything to find answers and fight for justice. Seventhblade presents a fantasy adventure through a powerful Indigenous lens.

The Tiger and the Cosmonaut written by Eddy Boudel Tan

A beautifully written story that intertwines themes of immigration, cognitive health, self-identity and family dynamics. This story follows Casper Han, son of Chinese-Canadian immigrants, living in Wilhem – a fictional town set in rural British Columbia. Now an adult, Casper lives in Vancouver. One morning, he is woken by a phone call with news that brings his estranged family members back together in Wilhelm.

Waiting for the Long Night Moon written by Amanda Peters

An emotional and compelling collection of short stories exploring Indigenous experiences throughout history. A debut novel for Amanda Peters, portraying traditional Indigenous life, culture and battles with systemic racism. Carrying heavy emotions, Peters reminds readers of grief, resilience and healing of Indigenous peoples.

What I Know About You written by Éric Chacour

Set in 1960 Cairo, What I Know About You follows Tarek, a Levantine Coptic doctor. Tarek's "prescribed" life path as a well-renowned doctor and family man is flipped upside down when he begins a secret, forbidden romantic relationship with Ali, a patient's son. Fast forward to present day, an anonymous writer sends Tarek letters, revealing what they know about his forbidden past. Combining historical elements and themes of family exile, this book will keep you intrigued with its unique second-person narrative.

Where the Jasmine Blooms written by Zeina Sleiman

Palestinian cousins, Yasmine and Reem, embark on a journey to Lebanon after receiving a mysterious letter stating that Yasmine's father may still be alive. Exploring the political history of Lebanon, war, grief and even romance, Where the Jasmine Blooms will have you emotionally invested from beginning to end.

Oxford County Library has all nominated titles available in both print and eBook formats. Search our catalogue at ocl.net to place your next hold, today! Voting for the Forest of Reading Evergreen program is open until September 25th, both online at ocl.net and at our local Tillsonburg Branch. Don't miss your chance to vote!

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Thunder hope to storm into 2026-27 season

JEFF HELSDON

Editor

The Thunder will hit the Tillsonburg ice for the first time this weekend with some exciting additions, plus the return of team veterans.

The bench will see bigger changes after the former head coach stepped down shortly before training started.

Brantford resident Terry Corbin will be head coach and brings with him experience gained on the bench in Slangton, St. George, Port Dover, and with Simcoe Gunners.

"I saw a posting that they were looking for a head coach and where I was going to coach, they didn't have the numbers (for a team)," Corbin said. "Because this rolled out quickly, it was an easy decision."

Joe Ryan, who started as assistant coach three seasons ago and then went to Stoney Creek last year, will be general manager.

Asked why he stepped up, Ryan answered, "I was just a part of it on the sidelines for many years and wanted to step into more roles."

President/owner Mike Holly said the team is much improved this year, and the changes behind the bench and to player ranks bring experience. His focus is on "a trophy at the end". Last year, the Thunder moved to the Ontario Elite Hockey League and lost to Saugeen Shores in the A final.

Veteran player Mike Findlay will skate again in a Thunder shirt. He hit 400 games with the team last year, and has been there since the team started.

"He's our veteran of all veterans," Findlay said.

Justin Abraham will be returning as captain. Braden Roberts, who was a scoring leader last year, will also be back. Andrew Oosterveld has an interesting story – last year was his first year in coordinated ice hockey, but he played roller hockey with Team Canada. He was third for points last



(JEFF HELSDON PHOTO)

The men behind the Thunder took a moment out for a photo during a recent strategy session. Left to right are: Mike Holly, president/owner; Terry Corbin, coach; and Joe Ryan, general manager.

year. Braden Roberts will also be back.

"We really strengthened up the D to start," Ryan said of this year's roster. "We strengthened on the back end between the netminding and defence."

Elaborating on the goaltending, netminder Ben Blacker, who played in NCAA Division 1 for Western Michigan University, will be between the pipes as the number one goaltender. His number two will be Tyler Bouck, a local who played the last four years with the Woodstock Navy Vets before signing with the Thunder this year.

"Tyler's going to learn off Ben," Ryan

said. "To play in front of your family close to home, it's fantastic."

The team also signed Harlan VanWynsberghe, another Tillsonburg player, as well as Matt Montgomery, who played for a Stratford team that folded.

The team currently has 24 players signed, which is where Holly wants it so there is flexibility to add to the roster through the season.

"Players want to play here; we get huge support," he said.

The team started the season with two practice skates in July, one in August, then weekly since the beginning of Sep-

tember.

Tillsonburg and Tavistock will again start their seasons with a home-and-home series, with the winner decided on total score between the two games. The Tavistock game is Sept. 19, and the Tillsonburg game is Sept. 26. The home opener of the regular season is Oct. 19.

The regular season again has regular feature nights like Veterans Night (Nov. 14), Student Day (Nov. 22), Teddy Bear Toss (Dec. 12), and First Responders Night (Dec. 19).

Tickets are \$5 for ages 6 to 15 and \$15 for ages 16 and over.



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Tillsonburg Slo-Pitch is winding down



DAVE WEAVER

Post Columnist

We are winding down as all but Division 2 in Tillsonburg Men's Slo-Pitch have or will be starting their finals at the beginning of the week.

Ladies A

The Ladies finally kicked off their finals getting games in on both Monday and Wednesday nights!

Cooks Concrete Jays were given a scare in the opener as Sunspace/Bill Klyn Carpentry lost by just one. Cooks dominated the second winning by fourteen.

Game 1 - Final
Cooks Concrete Jays 9, Sunspace/Bill Klyn Carpentry 8

Cooks: Brandi Cook 3-3, Kayla Bond 2-2

Sunspace: Nicole Morgan 3-3, Tammy Griswold 3-4

A six-run fourth turned the game around in the Jays' favor erasing most of Sunspace's early lead.

They took over the lead in the sixth on Kayden Thornton's two-run triple. Sunspace went down in order in the seventh. Cooks hit a plethora of singles in the game.

Game 2 - Final
Cooks Concrete Jays 18, Sunspace/Bill Klyn Carpentry 4

Cooks: Brandi Cook 5-5, Hillary Stoop 4-4

Sunspace: Amanda Stubbs 2-3, Missy Falkins 2-3

Cooks' offence was on display early as they scored four in the first, and followed that up with a three-run rally, Hillary Stoop hit a bases clearing triple in the second. Brandi Cook had a pair of doubles and scored five runs. The top four in their batting order accounted for 15 of their 18 runs.

Ladies B

Wildcats, coming off playing in Provincials, took game one against a Resting Pitch Face squad who had not seen action in over a month.

Resting rebounded on the Wednesday mercy-ing Wildcats in five.

The series continues on Monday and Wednesday as it needs to go at least four games.

Game 1 - Final
Wildcats 8, Resting Pitch Face 2

Wildcats: Tracey Coderre 3-4, Krystal Sivyer 4-5

Resting: Hailee Beckett 3-3, Katie Pittock 3-3

Wildcats, despite playing with nine, put the game out of reach scoring three and two runs respectively over their final two at-bats. Wildcats' pitcher Tracey Coderre helped her own cause reaching and scoring three times.

Game 2 - Final
Resting Pitch Face 22, Wildcats 4

Resting: Martina McCallum 4-4, Sara Sohm 4-4

Wildcats: Bridgette Homenuik 3-3, Ling Wong 2-3

Resting seemed to have shaken the rust off as everyone in their order scored at least one run. Sara Sohm and Martina McCallum each reached and scored four times.

Men's Division 1

The Mill completed their sweep of second place Hit N Run winning in a slugfest 31-26.

The other series went to a fifth and deciding game after 1,2 Seal Insulation Hawks came from behind in the seventh to win by two.

The fifth and deciding game was played on Friday at Annandale 3 and if you didn't arrive early enough you weren't finding a parking spot! All of the bleachers were full to capacity. Other fans opted for rows of lawn chairs behind home plate area and down the first baseline.

Cobra Chickens were full value for the win belting out six homers and producing two seven-run innings. It will be a rematch of last year's final as they will take on The Mill.

Game 3 - Semifinal
The Mill 31, Hit N Run 25

The Mill: Darren Pace 6-6, Steve Byron 5-6, Josh Stubbs 2HR, Greg Roth HR, Bryan Deblaire HR, Tim Morgan HR, Caleb Martin HR

Hit N Run: David Klassen 5-6, Peter Klassen 5-6, Martin Klassen 3HR, Johnny Unger HR, Jakob Klassen HR

The Mill trailed by six entering their final at-bat. Their offence exploded plating 14 runs and allowed Hit N Run just three to close the door on the series. Greg Roth homered twice and scored five runs to lead the winners. Darren Pace had six hits and also scored five times.

Game 4 - Semifinal
1,2 Seal Insulation Hawks 30, Cobra Chickens 28

Hawks: John Klassen 5-5, Evan Bueckert 5-6 2HR, Martin Klassen 2HR, Ben Bueckert HR, Johnny Epp 2HR

Cobra: Wyatt Blatz 5-5 3HR, Brian Dyck 6-6, Fred Froese HR, Johnny Froese HR, Matthew Reimer HR, Marcus Peters HR

The Hawks were down to their last at-bat trailing by one and they made the most of it plating 11 runs. No lead was a sure thing though as Cobra didn't lie down, rallying for seven, but in the end they came up two runs shy.

Evan Bueckert homered in both the sixth and seventh innings for the winners but in the end it took some solid base hits and speed on the bases that were key in the big rally. Brian Dyck hit three triples in a losing cause while Wyatt Blatz belted three round trippers.

Game 5 - Semifinal
Cobra Chickens 24, 1,2 Seal Insulation Hawks 13

Cobra: Caleb Reimer 5-5 3HR, Ethan Froese 4-5, Wyatt Blatz HR, Ethan Fehr HR, Nick Blatz HR

Hawks: Martin Klassen 3-4, Jake Klassen 3-4, Ben Bueckert 2HR, Johnny Epp 2HR, Evan Bueckert HR

Cobra Chickens led from start to finish. Second baseman Caleb Reimer homered in his first three trips to the plate and scored five runs. Ethan Fehr was a triple shy of hitting for the cycle and everyone in the winner's lineup crossed at least once.

Men's Division 2

Second place Dave's Variety Mavericks find themselves without their starting pitcher and without a win in their series with At My Playground/IQT Logistics.

AMP took the opener by eight and doubled up the Mavericks in the second game of their best of five.

Sticky Bandits surprised the first-place Pelicans in the lid lifter easily winning by nine. Pelicans rebounded on Friday winning by two in a close affair.

Game 1 - Semifinal
At My Playground/IQT Logistics 18, Dave's Variety Mavericks 10

AMP: Logan Savoy 4-5, Duncan McLean 4-4 HR, Brandon Balazs HR

Dave's: Doug Falkins 4-4 HR, Ryan Sinden 3-4

AMP made the most of their at-bats scoring runs in every inning but the fourth. Brandon Balazs led the winners with a homer and a triple. Duncan McLean homered, doubled and scored three runs.

Game 2 - Semifinal
At My Playground/IQT Logistics 10, Dave's Variety Mavericks 5

AMP: Marshal Baker 3-4, Logan Partlo 2-3

Mavericks: Matt Carrier 2-3, Lukas Wheeler 3-3

Logan Partlo 's two-run run-scoring triple highlighted AMP's four-run sixth.

Game 1 - Semifinal
Sticky Bandits 17, Pelicans 8

Bandits: Bowen Thiessen 4-4, Kurtis Friesen 4-4

Pelicans: Chris Parker 4-4, Adam Jensen 4-4, Steve Leacock HR

A big six-run first vaulted Sticky Bandits into a quick early lead. They scored in every inning but the fifth. Austin Reddekopp, Bowen Thiessen and Tyson Krahn all scored three runs.

Game 2 - Semifinal
Pelicans 14, Sticky Bandits 12

Pelicans: Matt Summers 4-4, Steve Leacock 3-3, Jeff Cadotte HR

Bandits: Nicky Knelsen 3-4, Connor Friesen 4-4 2HR

Pelicans' five-run fifth helped them pull ahead, Jeff Cadotte hit a two-run homer in the rally. They added a much-needed insurance run in the seventh as the Bandits scored two in their half to pull to within two. TJ Neville made two sparkling catches in right center in the second and fifth innings both times with Bandits having two runners on base.

Men's Division 3

It will be the first-place Sluggers taking on the Beer Bombers in the best of five final.

Bombers completed their sweep of the second-place Sandy Shore Brew Jays on Tuesday night.

Sluggers came back from a two-game deficit winning the fifth and deciding game on a walk off homer by Nick Wells over the vastly improved Wolfpack squad.

The Beer Bombers took the first game of the Finals on Friday night as Sluggers were unable to field a team.

Game 5 - Semifinal
Sluggers 10, Wolfpack 5

Sluggers: Tyler Rowe 3-3, Cole Seaton 2-3, Nick Wells HR

Wolfpack: Ryan Copping 3-3, Matt Pitt 2-3

CONTINUED TO PAGE 16

WEEKEND QUIZ

by Jake Grant

1. Who was the first emperor of Rome?

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

3. How many brains does a leech have?

4. What is the longest-running American sitcom?

5. Where did mahjong originate?

6. What was the first billion-dollar movie?

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

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

9. What type of acid gives grapefruit its tartness?

10. What is the national animal of New Zealand?

This week's answers are found on pg. 26

All Season Estate Bandits take home provincial title

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 15

This was an unusually low-scoring game played on Kiwanis.

Nick Wells was the game and series homer as he walked it off for the Sluggers. They had tied the game in the bottom of the sixth.

Game 3 - Semifinal
Beer Bombers 18, Sandy Shore Brew Jays 12

Bombers: Kaleb Kloepfer 5-5, Adam Van-Dyk 5-5, Nathan Murphy 2HR, Kyle Brezaslki HR

Sandy Shore: Doug Vanderwyngard 2-2, Josh Knoflock 3-4

Bombers scored seven in the first and never looked back.

Kaleb Kloepfer and Kyle Brezaslki each scored four runs and Brezaslki hit for the cycle.

Men's Division 4
R.L.P. Melanie Luksys upset second place Brickhouse Boys in four games advancing to the Final against regular season champion N.I.M.

They surprised N.I.M. in consecutive nights as they are one win away from capturing the championship.

Game 1 - Final
RLP Melanie Luksys 24, NIM 22
RLP Luksys: Braeden Redling 6-6, Blake Ash 6-6

NIM: Jordan Friesen 5-5, Jeff Wheeler 5-5
Braeden Redling had a big night at the plate reaching all six times and scoring five runs for the winners. Blake Ash scored four runs.

Game 2 - Final
R.L.P. Melanie Luksys 19, N.I.M. 5
RLP: Jeremy Tannahill 4-4, Jax Vanes 4-4
NIM: Jake Denobriga 4-4, Brodie Earls 4-4
It was no contest in this one as RLP scored early and often plating runs in every at bat. Jeremy Tannahill crossed four times in four plate appearances.

Provincial championships highlight exciting weekend

A couple weekends ago, it was one of the more exciting weekends of the slo-pitch calendar.

Several teams from our Tillsonburg Leagues and individual players converged on Niagara Falls for the PlaySlopitch Provincial Championships.

The team that was the most successful was the All Season Estate Care Bandits from Division 2 in Tillsonburg Men's Slo-Pitch who captured the Men's E Provincial Championship going undefeated over eight games. They battled hard the entire weekend winning some really close games.

Anita Dahl, a member of Simmonds Mortgages of the Ladies Slo-Pitch League, was a member of the Ladies B Prospects who went undefeated capturing the title.

The Quackheads made it to Sunday and ended up finishing in 17th spot losing their elimination match by just two runs.

Pelicans also made it to the Final day and ranked 31st out of the 60-team field.

Maddi Obar and Cayden Thornton from Cooks Concrete Jays of Ladies Slo-Pitch finished third in Ladies A playing with SIS Sensor Health Six Three Kitchen Lynx.

Jeremy Roy and Logan Kloet's Canucks finished seventh in Men's A, while Nathan Boldt, Peter Epp, Alex and Dallas Dalby were members of the ninth-place Weed Store Smoke.

The Wildcats finished 13th of 22 teams in Ladies E. The Bombers ranked sixth out of 16 in Men's B.

Men's Division 1
1,2 Seal Insulation Hawks narrowly staved off elimination winning by one over Cobra Chickens.

In the other series The Mill were one win away from advancing after a two-run decision over Hit N Run.

Game 3 - Semifinal
1,2 Seal Insulation Hawks 7, Cobra Chickens 6

Hawks: Jesse Hiebert 3-3 HR, Martin Klassen 3-4, Johnny Epp HR, Jake Klassen HR

Cobra: Nathan Froese 2-3, Caleb Reimer 2-3, Wyatt Blatz HR

Johnny Epp hit a two-run sixth-inning homer to give the Hawks the lead. They retired Cobra Chickens in order in the seventh.

Game 2 – Semifinal
The Mill 17, Hit N Run 13

The Mill: Bryan Deblaire 3-3 2HR, Logan Kloet 3-4 HR, Josh Stubbs HR, Ryan Black HR

Hit N Run: Peter Klassen 4-4, Martin Klassen 4-4 HR, John Wiebe HR, Jacob Klassen 2HR

A four-run fifth by The Mill gave them the win. Bryan Deblaire homered in his first two at-bats for the winners and scored four runs along with Jeremy Roy.

Men's Division 2
We finally determined the semifinal matchups after Pelicans and Dave's Variety Mavericks each won their series on a Tuesday night.

The battle of the Bandits took place Thursday night before a big crowd at Annandale 3 in a highly contested fifth and deciding game. The Sticky Bandits dominated from the second inning on as they outscored All Seasons Estate Care Bandits 13-1 utilizing their speed and power.

The first-place Pelicans will face the Sticky Bandits in a series where the two teams have never faced each other on the diamond as Sticky Bandits forfeited both meetings.

Dave's Variety Mavericks take on At My Playground/IQT Logistics in the other semi.

Game 3
Dave's Variety Mavericks 11, Quackheads 8

Mavericks: Nick Dovsek 3-4, Ryan Landry 2-3

Quackheads: Bob Long 4-4, Jim Long 3-3

A big six-run first propelled Dave's into a four-run lead after one. Quackheads battled the whole game but couldn't pull even. Doug Falkins, Ryan Sinden and Ryan Landry each scored two runs.

Game 5
Sticky Bandits 19, All Seasons Estate Care Bandits 6

WEEK OF SEPT. 13 STANDINGS
MEN'S DIVISION 1
SEMI FINAL THE MILL - 3 HIT N RUN - 0 COBRA CHICKENS - 3 1,2 SEAL INSULATION HAWKS - 2
FINAL COBRA CHICKENS VS THE MILL
MEN'S DIVISION 2
SEMI-FINAL AT MY PLAYGROUND/ IQT LOGISTICS - 2 DAVE'S VARIETY MAVERICKS - 0
SEMI-FINAL STICKY BANDITS - 1 PELICANS - 1
MEN'S DIVISION 3
SEMI-FINAL BEER BOMBERS - 3 SANDY SHORE BREW JAYS - 0
SEMI-FINAL SLUGGERS - 3 WOLFPACK - 2
FINAL BEER BOMBERS - 1 SLUGGERS - 0
MEN'S DIVISION 4
FINAL R.L.P. MELANIE LUKSYS - 2 N.I.M. - 0
LADIES A-FINAL
FINAL COOKS CONCRETE JAYS - 2 SUNSPACE/ BILL KLYN CARPENTRY - 0
LADIES B-FINAL
FINAL WILDCATS - 1 RESTING PITCH FACE - 1

Bandits: Tyson Krahn 4-4 3HR, Jeff Heide 3-3, Jordan Weibe HR

CONTINUED TO PAGE 17

Overheard at the Coffee Shop

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Curling season is fast approaching in Tillsonburg



ON THE BROOM

NORA PETER

Tillsonburg Post Columnist

Curling season is fast approaching, and clubs are busy putting their ice in, setting up their calendar for the season and planning events. Tillsonburg Curling Club has already opened membership registration with two nights held in the club September 22 and 23 and now open anytime on-line.

For those interested in “trying curling” Introductory Week will be held October 13-16. These nights are open for anyone to get on the ice to try the game, practice and hone your skills, learn something new and

get ready for the opening of League play which begins on Monday October 19th. During Intro week, Tuesday to Thursday night, FREE curling skills instruction is offered for those interested in trying the game and/or becoming members. Instructions for how to slide or use the delivery stick (also known as an extender this tool allows for an upright walking delivery of the stone), deliver a rock (curling turns) and sweeping. All equipment will be supplied with participants being asked to wear loose-fitting clothing and bring a clean (not worn outside) pair of running shoes or curling shoes. Pre-registration is required so that we have enough equipment and instructors available.

Instruction will be offered for adults 7-8:30 Tuesday and Thursday night. Pre-register at curltillsonburg.com. Club members will have one dedicated sheet of ice for those wishing to get on the ice from 7-9 p.m.

On Wednesday, the night will be devoted to the Tim Horton's Youth Try Curling from 6-7:30 p.m. Again, instruction is

FREE for kids 8-18 years of age who will learn to slide, deliver the rock and sweep. This is a great opportunity to try the game, get on the ice and learn something new. Please pre-register at gocurltillsonburg.com/events/registration. Again, club members will have access to a single sheet from 7-9 p.m.

On Friday night things turn to fun!! Time to get a look at the social side of curling and Brooms and Brews will give you a taste. From 7-9 the club hopes to be rocking with a night of fun curling. Bring your friends, neighbours, and whoever to try curling – no experience required. With music on and off the ice all night long rocking is expected. Pre-registration is needed and gives you four ends of fun curling, a free brew, snacks for \$25 per person (19+) – register early to guarantee a spot. [Curltillsonburg.com/events/registration](http://curltillsonburg.com/events/registration)

A reminder that your membership needs to be paid before you can start League play and your registration helps League conveners prepare team draws for the first draw of the season starting October 19th.

Our club offers curling for all ages and skill levels from Youth to Seniors, Men, Women, Mixed, Choose your Own, Triples, fun events, bonspiels. Curling is a safe, winter sport which will get you out of the house and active all winter. Take this opportunity to try it - you just might get ‘swept up’ in the game!

For those of you who followed local curler Jayden King and his team last season, here's an early season update for them. Team King began their season Labour Day weekend with a semi-final finish in the KW Fall Classic. The following weekend at the Stu Sells Tankard in Oakville they failed to reach the quarter finals. As of September 15, their World Team Ranking is 15th. The new Canadian Team Ranking won't come out until October 1st, so they are listed as 6th currently. Their next event is October 8-12 at the Stu Sells Toronto Tankard. They can be watched on YouTube usually. Look for Team King live and the event name.

Jayden tried curling and now we're watching him on TV! Curling Rocks!

tillsonburgpost.com

Collis releases last book in Holly Cottage series

JEFF HELSDON

Editor

A local author is planning a book release party for the third book in her series.

Norma Collis' Holly Cottage book series tells tales of adventures from when she and her husband, David, ran the Holly Cottage Bed and Breakfast near the Bruce Peninsula, between Meaford and Owen Sound. It was an 1878 stone farmhouse.

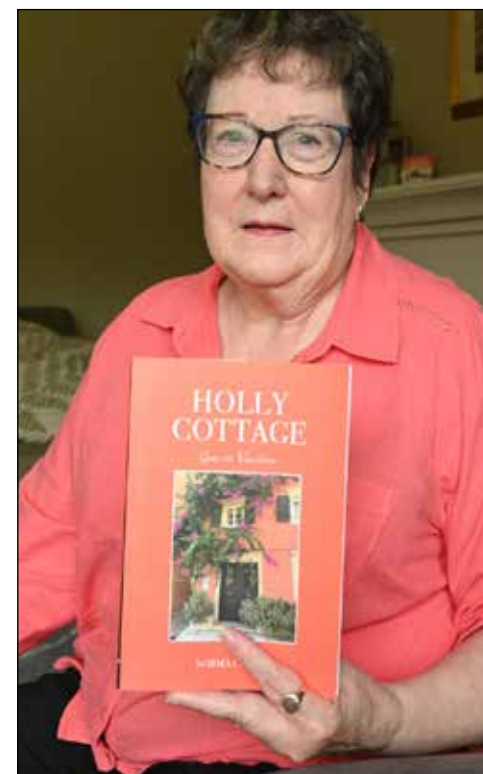
“The whole time we had the bed and breakfast – 15 years – something funny would happen, and I thought that's worth remembering,” Collis recounted. “In between cleaning toilets and changing beds, I just scribbled down notes.”

Often people asked her when she was going to write a book. Then, after she moved to Tillsonburg and the Covid lockdown occurred, she figured it was time.

“I said to David, no more excuses, I'm going to pull this together,” she said.

Also a columnist for the Tillsonburg Post, Collis' column focuses on her 11 years in Tillsonburg and her background as the daughter of St. Paul's minister, O'Glen Taylor. She attended Rolph Street Public School and Annandale High School.

Collis' initial vision was one book, but the reception to the first book was positive enough Return to Holly Cottage followed. The third book, Holly College Goes on Vacation, will be released at a launch on Sept. 30 in the Friendship Room at St. Paul's United Church, from 7 to 9 p.m.



(JEFF HELSDON PHOTO)

Tillsonburg author Norma Collis will be releasing her new book at a launch event on Sept. 30 at St. Paul's United Church from 7 to 9 p.m.

The third book will be a combination of untold stories that were extreme enough “where we looked at each other and said we need a break,” as Collis related it, and vacation stories.

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Doghouse Rose returns to Tillsonburg with new album



MUSIC CORNER

BEN ANDRESS

Tillsonburg Post Columnist

After more than a decade of touring, recording and building a reputation as one of Ontario's hardworking punk-rock bands, Doghouse Rose is returning to Tillsonburg with a newly released album titled 'Born To Break Even.'

The Toronto five-piece will headline Paddy's Underground on Saturday, September 26 alongside local band The Lexington Cure. The band will be bringing their energetic blend of skate punk, power-pop hooks and new-wave influences back to a community that holds a special place in the band's history.

For bassist Jefferson Sheppard, Tillsonburg is a place connected to his own past including the early days of his musical

journey.

"As for Tillsonburg we always love playing there. Priming tobacco my first season paid for my first real bass," Sheppard recalls. "I'm home baby and cigarettes are back in a big way."

That connection to the community makes the upcoming performance particularly meaningful, but Doghouse Rose is also arriving with plenty of new material to share.

The band released its third album for Stomp Records titled 'Born To Break Even' on July 31. The 10 songs on this effort were produced, mixed and mastered by Scott Komer, whose previous work includes Boys Night Out and Silverstein. The new record captures a band reflecting on more than 10 years of friendship, touring, setbacks and perseverance.

While Doghouse Rose remains committed to the high-energy punk sound that helped establish its following, the new album also represents a more vulnerable chapter in the band's evolution. Some of the songs explore grief, anger, depression, frustration and self-reflection while still balancing emotional honesty with the catchy melodies and humour that have become part of the Doghouse Rose's identity. That willingness to explore more personal

territory has also changed the relationship between the band and its audience.

"Just give me a minute and I will find something to complain about," Sheppard says with a laugh. "It is the punk way. We are just getting better at it as we go. It is encouraging to be able to scream it in people's faces."

Jefferson agrees that the conversations taking place between the band and its fans have become increasingly personal over the years.

"Our dialogue with the audience has developed and the conversation has grown more personal," Sheppard says. "If these trends continue one can only wonder what our next album will bring."

That connection is a major part of what Doghouse Rose brings to the stage. The band aims to create an atmosphere where everyone can let loose and find common ground.

"Punk music is a perfect vessel to blow off steam and there is no template for the kind of person who needs this," Sheppard explains. "We have enjoyed playing to folks of many different ages. We dare people to come out and remember what it is like to have a great time."

The band was found by best friends Sarah Beth on vocals and Jefferson Sheppard

on bass. Doghouse Rose is rounded out by guitarist Gregory Laigne, drummer Jordan Zagerman and guitarist Garrick Zagerman.

Over the past decade, the band has toured extensively across North America and Europe, performing everywhere from packed clubs and festival stages to community halls, dive bars and even prisons. Along the way they have shared stages with established punk acts including Lagwagon, Strung Out, Teenage Bottlerocket and The Real McKenzies.

Despite the personal themes explored on the record the band's message is ultimately one of gratitude and friendship. After more than a decade together Doghouse Rose is not looking to abandon its roots.

You can catch the band this Saturday, September 26th at Paddy's Underground located at 20 John Pound Road in Tillsonburg.

Doghouse Rose will perform at Paddy's Underground on September 26 with The Lexington Cure. Tickets are \$15 and available at The Mill and online at www.eventbrite.ca. Tickets are also available the night of the show when doors open at 8 p.m. This event is 19+. You can visit Doghouse House at this official website at www.doghouserose.com

UPCOMING SHOWS IN TILLSONBURG

SEPTEMBER 24 - COTY ROBINSON
The Copper Mug
Free Entry - 8 pm

SEPTEMBER 25 - RIPCORDERZ W/ THE MCBAINS, JOHNNY TERRIEN & RAPID TENSION
The Copper Mug
\$20 - 7 pm

SEPTEMBER 26 - DOGHOUSE ROSE W/ THE LEXINGTON CURE
Paddy's Underground
\$15 - 8 pm - 19+

SEPTEMBER 26 - SUGAR KINGS
The Copper Mug
Free Entry - 8 pm

OCTOBER 8 - HAILEY ECKER
The Copper Mug
Free Entry - 8 pm

OCTOBER 9 - KICKIN KOUNTRY
The Copper Mug
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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Harvard pilot brings experience with Buffalo Airways, Air Canada

JEFF HELSDON

Editor

The Canadian Harvard Aircraft Association's newest pilot, Jamie MacDonald, was inspired to fly by a relative who flew on a Second World War Royal Canadian Air Force plane.

"My goal started off when I learned more about my great-grandfather's war efforts as he was a rear air gunner on the Lancaster bomber," she said in between flights at the recent Wings and Wheels event.

In Grade 10, she completed a project on her great-grandfather and learned more about him. She moved away from planes and flying, planning on becoming a teacher. However, a strike changed her plans after she took an introductory flight as a pilot.

"And after that, I was hooked," she recounted.

She studied to be a pilot at the Brampton Flight Centre.

"I then ended up moving to Yellowknife to fly for Buffalo Airways, which a lot of people know from Ice Pilots," she said.

Flying the C-46 Commando and DC-3s, she flew cargo into remote villages in the Northwest Territories, often landing on gravel airstrips. These villages would be inaccessible by road

in the summer. Buffalo Airways was featured in the television series Ice Pilots, but it ended in 2014, and MacDonald started there in 2018.

"Supplies, food, a lot of stuff that is very easily accessible for us, but not quite for them," she said of her cargo. "A lot of the time we would be bringing in building supplies, whether that'd be lifts of lumber or drywall, what have you. We brought in generators to communities whose generators had gone due to winter storms. Those are quite frequent up there. If you could think of it, we probably brought it up there."

The DC-3 holds about 7,500 pounds of cargo, and the C-46 almost 15,000 pounds, depending on the fuel load cap. The Northwest Territories has only six paved runways, all of which MacDonald landed on.

Moving to Yellowknife was an eye-opener for the Toronto native.

"It takes only about 10 minutes to get from one point of town to the other," she said. "The winters are definitely harsher up there; they're colder; they're windier. There's not as much snow because minus 40, the temperatures start to not allow for snow to be falling as frequently as it would be here, for example."

Mercury dipping to -40°C was common in January and February, and MacDonald said she even saw -50C.

However, MacDonald never forgot her initial goal "to become a Lancaster pilot." After moving back to Toronto in 2022 to work for Air Canada, she learned about the Canadian Harvard Aircraft Association and applied to become a pilot.

"And my end goal is to use the Harvard as a stepping stone to get me onto the Lancaster," she said.

MacDonald said the Harvard makes pilots "honest" and referred to its reputation. The Harvard was the primary trainer for the British Commonwealth Air Training Plan in the Second World War, and the Royal Canadian Air Force used it for years after.

"Throughout its time, it has been known as the pilot maker, and it just really shows that you always have to be on top of your toes to be able to fly one of these, and I'm very honoured to be able to fly one, continue to fly one, and be a part



(JEFF HELSDON PHOTO)

Pilot Jamie MacDonald stands in front of the Harvard she was flying during Wings and Wheels. The newest addition to the Canadian Harvard Aircraft Association's pilot ranks, she flew for Buffalo Airways in the Northwest Territories before joining Air Canada.

of CHAA's mission to preserve all the aircraft that were in the British Commonwealth Air Training Plan," she said.

But getting back to her original goal, the only Lancaster flying in Ontario is owned by the Canadian Warplane Heritage Museum at Hamilton Airport.

MacDonald recently met with the CEO of the Warplane Heritage Museum and is hopeful her end goal may be in sight. In the meantime, she plans to keep flying Harvards.



(JEFF HELSDON PHOTO)

Cockpit open, Jamie MacDonald taxis down the runway for a flight.

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Tillsonburg council candidates speak about themselves

JEFF HELSDON

Editor

Why do you want to run for council?

This basic question was posed to council candidates this week, as well as another, on if they live in town, and how long they have lived in town. They were given an 18-word limit on the first question to discuss their background, and 75 words to explain why they are running for council.

Here's what they had to say, in alphabetical order:

Mayoral candidates

Deb Gilvesy – Yes, raised on local farm, in town since 2012, deep roots as my grandparents built Hillcrest Motel in 1950. I am not done giving back to the community. I have truly enjoyed this journey and want to continue serving Tillsonburg. I want to see the next phase of our industrial park come to fruition and continue the momentum we have built in industrial growth. There is still important work ahead, and I believe my experience, commitment and knowledge of our community can help move these priorities forward.

Kelly Spencer - Yes, I have lived in Tillsonburg for over 50 years, building my business, family, and community life here. I'm running because Tillsonburg deserves experienced, accessible and collaborative leadership that listens to residents and gets things done. I'm rooted in this community, having spent my life serving it as a business owner, volunteer, former nurse and council member. I want to build on that experience to support responsible growth, a strong local economy and effective municipal services. I believe everyone deserves to feel welcomed, safe and included in our downtown and proud to call Tillsonburg home.

Councillor candidates

Lindsay Ambrus-Mejaski - Yes. I was born and raised in Tillsonburg, moved away for university in early adulthood, and returned to raise my family here. I am running because I love Tillsonburg and want to help protect what makes our community such a special place to live. As a mother of three young children, I would bring a perspective currently missing at council. I believe young families deserve a voice at the table. Through my very-involved family, small business and community volunteer experience, I want to bring a practical, collaborative perspective focused on responsible spending, safe streets, recreation, thoughtful growth and the services our community needs.

Dave Beres – Yes, I moved here in 1976 where I owned what is now called Beres Butchery and Catering on Broadway. Tillsonburg is entering a new chapter. Fresh ideas matter and so does continuity. When first elected several years ago, our grandkids were yet to be born but I was looking ahead and now, they appreciate the decisions I made. These are big picture items like roads, infrastructure and jobs. No one has certainty on what the future brings but experience helps when tough decisions arise.

Clayton Curtis – Yes, my family tree is rooted in this

town, and has been for the better part of two centuries. I am running for town council to take action that will affect positive change in our community. I need to represent the future of our town and act in the long-term best interest of our whole community. I have the tools, the drive, and the commitment to offer my time and a crucial perspective/purpose to this town council. I feel that I must take action, and I know I can make a difference to better this community for us all.

Katherine Englander – Yes, I moved to Tillsonburg in 1985. I'm running because I love Tillsonburg. I've been involved in this community for many years, and I believe I have experience that can contribute at the council table. I'm a listener, a problem-solver and someone who believes in bringing people together. I want to see Tillsonburg grow, but grow thoughtfully and responsibly. I want to be a strong voice for residents, businesses, families and seniors, and I want council to focus on practical solutions, fiscal responsibility and a positive vision for our future.

Ron Gasparetto - Yes, I have lived in Tillsonburg for 23 years but have been active in the community since 1993 (33 years). I am running for council because I believe in giving back to the community that has provided so much to my family and me. Vibrant communities are built by people who care and are willing to contribute their time, experience, and energy. After 33 years in public service, I would be honoured to bring my knowledge and experience to council. I love Tillsonburg and want to help ensure it continues to flourish as a community we are proud to call home.

John Gilvesy – 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.

Stephen Molnar – Yes, I was born, raised and consider it a privilege to live in Tillsonburg with my wife Colleen. My decision to seek election to the position of Councillor is based on my personal commitment to every resident of Tillsonburg that I will once again accept the responsibility with all the time and energy I have demonstrated in the past, including four terms as Mayor. Tillsonburg deserves experienced commitment for sustainable results. By working together, we can ensure that Tillsonburg can be the "Place to Build Your Future."

Felix Nzemeka – Yes, I have lived in Tillsonburg for approximately six years, working in housing support and operating Fex Health Care Inc. I believe public service begins with listening, caring, and working together. I want to contribute my community service, pastoral care, and

business experience to help build a healthy, safe, caring, and economically strong community. My focus is responsible growth, supporting seniors and families, strengthening local businesses and agriculture, protecting taxpayers, and ensuring residents have a strong voice in decisions affecting our town.

Chris Parker - Yes, born and raised in Tillsonburg. Tillsonburg is my home, and I care deeply about its future. I am running for town council because I want to continue serving residents, being their voice, and helping shape the decisions that impact our community. I believe strong infrastructure and well-maintained recreation facilities are essential to Tillsonburg. My goal is to help ensure Tillsonburg remains a great place to live, work, play, and raise a family.

Chris Rosehart – Yes, I have lived in town for 55 years but have always lived in the area and called Tillsonburg home. I feel I have lots to offer as a business owner and a long-time resident. Tillsonburg needs all kinds of business, small and large, to support everything that we have and want to have. It takes tax dollars to do that but it needs to be done carefully as a business owner for over 48 years I have experience doing just that. I care deeply about Tillsonburg and the people and families in it.

Kim Sage - Yes, I live at the North end of Tillsonburg, and was born and raised on a tobacco farm in Guysborough. I am running for council to give back to a community that has given so much to me. I want to be sure Tillsonburg stays amazing enough for my grandchildren and their children.

Dee Tosto - Yes, my family lives in Tillsonburg, and moved here in 2023. What started as a move, has quickly become home. I got involved, met people, joined local organizations, and started listening to what matters to the people who live here. Many of the people who call Tillsonburg home were once new to town too. Fresh ideas and new perspectives deserve a place at the table. At the same time, I have a deep respect for the history, traditions and people who have built this town. I want to bring both perspectives to council and help shape where Tillsonburg goes next.



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EXPECT MORE.

SEPTEMBER

SEPTEMBER 24 THE 172ND HOUGHTON FAIR Hall in Fairground

Admission \$5. The parade begins at 11 and opening ceremonies to follow. There are games, crafts, food vendors, music, log sawing, tobacco tying, car, truck, tractor show, face painting and competitions. All are Welcome!

SEPTEMBER 25 | 1 - 4 PM KEN LIGHTHEART AND THE NORTHSHORE RAMBLERS Tillsonburg Legion, 16 Durham St, Tillsonburg, ON

Only \$7 cash at the door. All Welcome! Cash bar available.

SEPTEMBER 25 | 5 - 6 PM ROAST BEEF SUPPER Tillsonburg Legion, 16 Durham St, Tillsonburg, ON

While quantities last. Only \$18 per plate includes mashed potatoes, vegetables, gravy, buns, dessert, coffee, and tea. Cash bar open. All welcome!

SEPTEMBER 28 | 9 - 10 AM FREE CLASS/OPEN HOUSE AT OTTER VALLEY TAI CHI St. John's Anglican Church, 46 Ridout St. W., Tillsonburg

Email: ottervalley@canadiantaichiacademy.org, Phone: 519-688-9779

SEPTEMBER 29 | 7 - 9 PM SWOX CANDIDATES MEET & GREET Mount Elgin United Church 324105 Mount Elgin Road, Mount Elgin, Ontario

All residents of South-West Oxford are welcome to attend. Come out, meet the candidates, ask your questions and have your voice heard about the future of South-West Oxford.

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 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>

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

A New Fall Introductory Session began September 8th. For more information. Email: tillsonburg@canadiantaichiacademy.org. Website: canadiantaichiacademy.org. Everyone welcome. Improve your health.

3RD TUE. OF MONTH | 6:30 - 8:30 PM CAREGIVER CONNECTION Revel Realty Woodstock, 111 Huron Street (Virutal/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 plattsvalldistrictheritage@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.

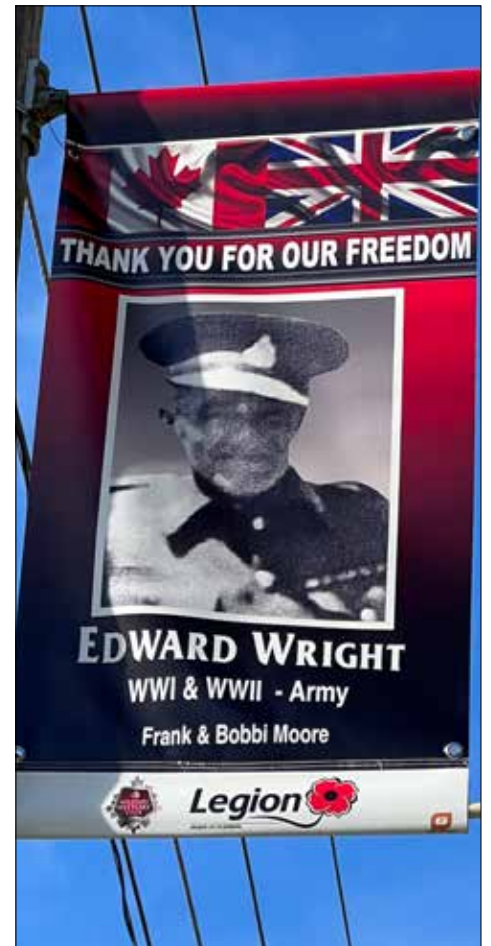
VON Oxford Supportive Care Programs offer assistance for grief stemming from various circumstances, such as the death of someone, caregiving, serious illness diagnoses, and life transitions. Through education, connection, and compassion, our programs create a safe space for individuals to explore their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

GUNNER/PRIVATE EDWARD WRIGHT

Edward was born in London England on January 29, 1885. After migrating to Canada he joined the military in 1907 and was a career soldier serving with the Army Service Corps for approximately five years. Reenlisted at Valcartier Quebec on September 23, 1914 where his certificate of medical examination was signed by John McCrae who authored the poem "In Flanders Fields". He served overseas as gunner with the Canadian Field Artillery (CEF) in both Britain and France. He was demobilized in England in 1919 and returned to Canada at his own expense. Reenlisted in 1921 and served with the Royal Fusiliers and the Royal Canadian Horse Artillery. In 1940 he transferred to the Ordnance Corps taking up caretaker duties at Fort Henry Kingston. Occupied the caretaker quarters inside the fort along with his family and was authorized to draw \$.35 per diem. A daily routine for Edward was firing the noon day gun, a breach loading 14 pounder a replacement for the muzzle-loading 18 pounder which was discontinued due to having too many accidents. He served when the fort became camp 31, a Prisoner of War camp for enemy, merchant marines, soldiers, sailors and airmen. He was awarded the Long Service and Good Conduct Medal. Edward passed while in active service in 1942.



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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.

911
Emergency Call

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



POPPY SPONSOR

(JEFF HELSDON PHOTO)

When the goal is to knit a few thousand poppies to cover a 20 by 30-foot drape, it takes a lot of wool and volunteers. Tillsonburg Legion President Tom Brown, right, was glad to see Kelsey's come on board as the corporate sponsor for the poppy drape to cover the cost of the wool. He showed his appreciation to Kelsey's General Manager Reece Woon. The poppy drape will be on the anti-aircraft gun in front of the Legion from Oct. 24 to Nov. 11, and then on the stage for the veteran's dinner.

tillsonburgpost.com

ALL CANDIDATES FORUM

2026 Municipal Election



Tuesday, September 29



Lion's Auditorium
45 Hardy Ave, Tillsonburg



6:00pm - 9:00pm



Open to all

Co-hosted by:



RIDDLES

I saw my math teacher with a piece of graph paper yesterday.

I think he must be plotting something.

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

Zero.

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

Seven.

What do you call a bear with no teeth?

A gummy bear.

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

A stapler.

What kind of ship has two mates but no captain?

A relationship.

SUDOKU

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

Solutions on Page 26

Level: Beginner

PET OF THE WEEK



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

WORD SEARCH

HUNTING & FISHING

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

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

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



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