

Tillsonburg POST

NOVEMBER 13, 2025

VOLUME 2 • ISSUE 9

FREE



COWARD PHARMACY
PharmaChoice
Part of Tillsonburg's
Independent Spirit Since 1874

Find our weekly flyer at
cowardpharmacy.ca
519-842-4081
165 Broadway, Tillsonburg

STORE HOURS:
MONDAY TO FRIDAY 9AM TO 9PM
SATURDAY 9AM TO 5:30PM
SUNDAY 12PM TO 4PM



YOUR DESTINATION FOR WINTER TIRES
GREAT SALE PRICING • INSTANT REBATES • NATIONWIDE WARRANTY

**THOUSANDS OF TIRES & RIMS IN STOCK
AND NO CHARGE EXPRESS
DELIVERY ON SPECIAL ORDERS**

SHOP & BOOK YOUR APPOINTMENT ONLINE @ CANADIANTIRE.CA OR CALL US AT 519-842-5926

248 BROADWAY, TILLSONBURG • CANADIANTIRE.CA



TDMH emergency department enhanced by nurse practitioner

JEFF HELSDON

Editor

Nurse Practitioner's Week had an extra special meaning at Tillsonburg District Memorial Hospital (TDMH) with the success of a year of the Rapid Assessment Fast Track (RAFT) program under Nurse Practitioner (NP), Krista Wright.

Nurse Practitioner's Week is November 10 to 14, a little more than a year after RAFT program was launched at TDMH in September 2024. The aim of the RAFT program was to reduce wait times, optimize team members satisfaction, optimize space utilization, and significantly im-

prove overall patient flow, efficiency, and experience. It has checked the boxes in these areas to date.

The TDMH emergency department operates on a one-physician model, with the dedicated local doctors covering shifts and shifts filled from Health Force Ontario doctors. The ED does see a large number of patients with less acute conditions; these overall contribute to longer wait times for everyone that visits the ED. The introduction of the NP as part of the RAFT program has improved the wait time of patients with less acute conditions; and thus improved overall ED wait times.

CONTINUED TO PAGE 2

Santa Claus is coming to town

JEFF HELSDON

Editor

Saturday night's Santa Claus parade is traditionally looked at as the start of the Christmas season in Tillsonburg.

Starting Saturday, Nov. 15 at 6 p.m., this marks the third year of a night parade. The switch from a daytime parade to a nighttime event has been a success, with 93 parade entries last year and more than 8,000 people estimated to have viewed the parade.

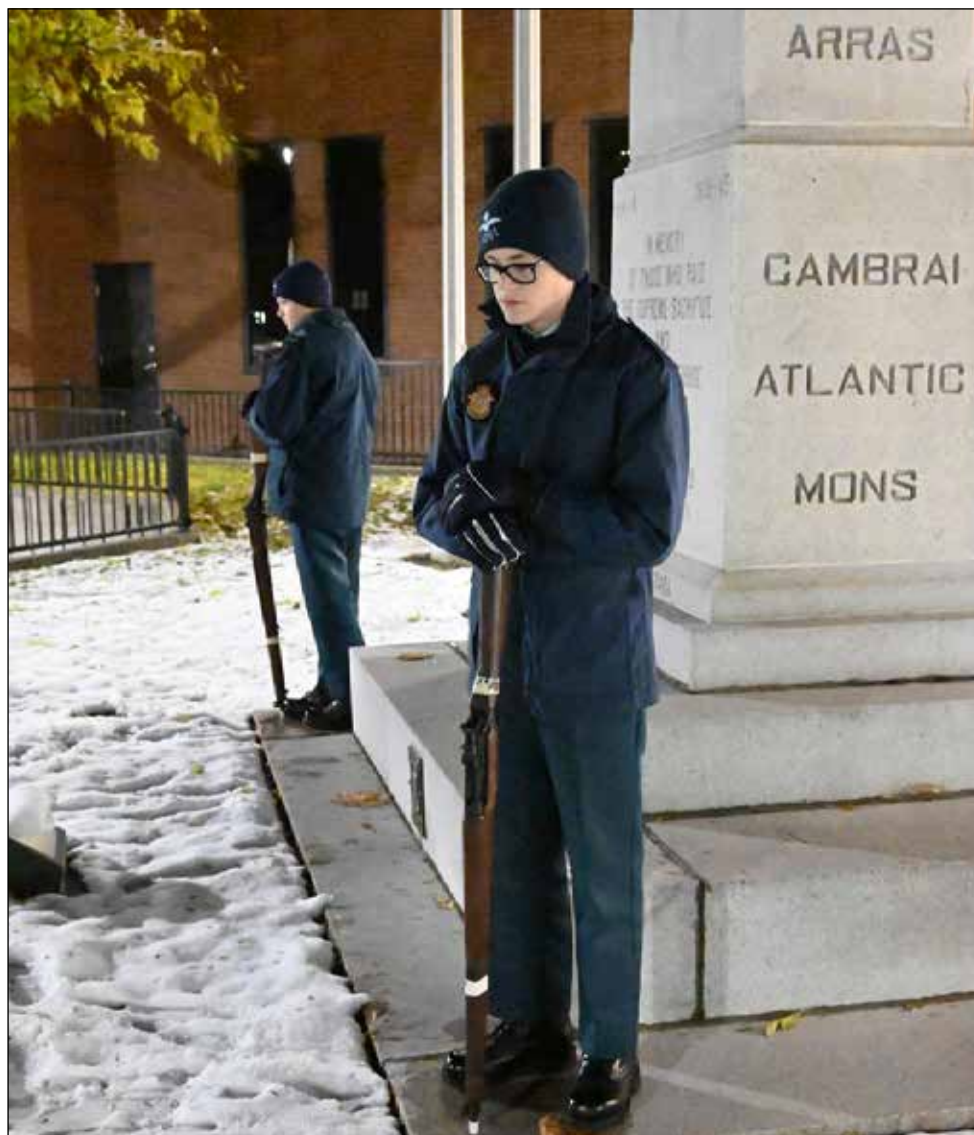
"Last year was astronomical, it blew the top off anything the parade has done in the

past," said Tillsonburg and Area Optimist Club President Michelle Wegg. "We are looking forward to providing the same level of entertainment and Christmas joy we have provided in past years."

She had accolades for last year's parade co-chairs, Lindsay Munroe and Holly Vallee, but said they had to take a step back from running the parade this year. Wegg and Catherine White are co-chairs of the event this year.

The parade route will be the same as last year, passing by Maple Manor, Tillsonburg Retirement Residence, near Woodingford Lodge and the hospital.

CONTINUED TO PAGE 5



SILENT VIGIL

(JEFF HELSDON PHOTO)

Members of the Branch 153 Varnavair Air Cadets held a silent vigil at the cenotaph from 8 p.m. Monday night until 8 a.m. Tuesday morning. Each cadet stood guard for an hour in two 30-minute increments as they rotated through the night. Cadet Lucas Fehr, left, and cadet Souton Abbasi took their turns in the early hours of the vigil on Monday night. See next week's paper for more photos of Tillsonburg's Remembrance Day ceremonies.

T.L. WILLAERT REALTY LTD., BROKERAGE



Terry Willaert
Broker of Record



Jacqueline Ayres
Realtor



Marcel Van de Hoef
Realtor



Tom Sage
Realtor



Robert Abbott
Broker



Kassandra Way
Realtor



Dave Chromczak
Realtor

TOGETHER WE GET YOU HOME!

• Office: 519-688-0234 • 67B Simcoe St., Tillsonburg, ON, N4G 2H6 • www.willaertrealty.com



First year of RAFT program in emergency department a success

CONTINUED FROM FRONT

Ministry of Health, Pay for Results program funding allowed the RAFT program concept to move forward at TDMH. April Mullen, Chief Nursing Executive & Vice President Clinical Services, explained a time and motion study of ED visits was completed prior to the program launch to inform the service.

"Based on our data, we thought that if we could have the RAFT program operating when the highest volume occurred, then we would have an effective program," Mullen said.

The RAFT program operates Monday to Thursday from 10 a.m. to 6 p.m., and Friday from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m.

Wright, who is from Windsor, worked 10 years as a Registered Nurse (RN) in London before returning to school to complete her Masters and Nurse Practitioner course. Her preceptor for her placement was Dr. Carroll Harder, who is now TDMH's Chief of the ED. Wright worked for a year as a nurse practitioner in London before seeing the opening in Tillsonburg.

"I come from a fast-paced background," she said. "Intensive care is fast paced. I liked the idea of having autonomy and still having back up."

The system was set up for the RAFT program to see 10 to 12 patients per day. Wright usually sees 15 to 20.

"As we celebrate Nurse Practitioners Week, I want to express my appreciation for the incredible work our NP does every day," said Dr. Carroll Harder, ED Chief. "Our RAFT program has been an outstanding success this past year — improving patient flow, reducing wait times, and ensuring high-quality, compassionate care for every patient who comes through our doors. Krista's leadership, expertise, and dedication have set a remarkable standard for our department. I'm truly proud of what we've accomplished together and excited to see how we can continue to provide excellent care for our community."

The model used in Tillsonburg is unique. Wright only knows of nurse practitioners working in EDs in Windsor, Sarnia, and

Goderich in Southwestern Ontario.

When a patient comes into the TDMH ED, they register and are triaged. At this point, they are given a Canadian Triage Assessment Score (CTAS) score. Wright only sees patients with a low to moderate acuity triage score.

"I look at the patient list and see what might be appropriate for the RAFT," she said, adding she looks at it several times through the day.

NP have an extended scope of practice that includes diagnosing prescribing medication, and ordering diagnostic tests. Examples of medical concerns Krista may care for include sore throats, stitches, applying a cast, upper respiratory conditions, ordering tests, prescribing antibiotics, ear infections, measles and gastro-intestinal conditions.

"If they're more complicated, I consult with the ED physician and we go from there," she said.

Patients entering the RAFT area will notice it looks different than the remainder of the ED department. Along with the two beds, there are three chairs.

"We have included chairs so I can see more people," she said, explaining people with low to moderate acuity issues don't always need to lie in a bed.

That doesn't mean that she hasn't found some serious health issues in the last year. She has found people who came for other issues who had cancer and heart conditions, and has had to support admitting people.

The RAFT program is not to provide care for ongoing conditions, or to renew prescriptions. Wright said those people should visit their family doctor or the clinic for unattached patients led by the Ingersoll NP led clinic located in the Roulston's Pharmacy

So how do patients like the new care model in the Tillsonburg ED? Mullen said they have results from patient experience surveys, and "They're glowing, people love Krista. They love the time spent with Krista and they leave understanding their



(JEFF HELSDON PHOTO)

Nurse Practitioner Krista Wright heads up the Rapid Assessment Fast Track program in Tillsonburg District Memorial Hospital's Emergency Department. The program has been successful in relieving pressure off the ED.

condition and next steps in care."

The numbers also tell a positive tale. The year before the RAFT system was implemented, the average wait time to be seen by a physician over the entire year was 2.3 to 2.8 hours. Since RAFT has been in place this time has been reduced to 1.7 to 2.4 hours.

"These achievements are a direct reflection of the dedication and collaboration of the ED team, who embraced this innovative model to serve patients and families better," Mullen said. "The past year clearly demonstrates how innovation, teamwork, and a commitment to excellence can drive meaningful impact in emergency care."



Rob Koppert
Broker of
Record/Owner



Brandon Koppert **



Dane Willson **



Linda Goldham **



Crystal Ketchabaw *



David Bennett **



Bob Arppe *



Taylor Thoonen *



Samantha Hamilton *



Scott Hamilton *

Realty Team ONE



R.E. Wood Realty
Brokerage

Independently owned and operated



Explore our
current listings!

SCAN ME



Derrek de Jonge *



Eva Krahn *



Deepanshu Pal *



Jennifer Dalley *



Samuel Koppert *



Breanna Averink *



Grant Sumler *



55 Brock St. E
Tillsonburg ON N4G 4H5



519-842-8418



woodrealty.ca

** Broker * Sales Representative

EDITORIAL

Repaying a debt to the community that embraced her



**EVERYONE
HAS A
STORY
TO TELL**

ROBIN KRAFFT

Tillsonburg Post Columnist

Energetic Elizabeth Czomba grew up in Hungary, and as a child she knew no other way of life. Her mother was a librarian, and she developed an early love of reading. Books became her window on the world and later gave her a glimpse of the freedoms and possibilities available in Western countries.

"I grew up in a communist system, but I was always eager to experience what I read about," Czomba said.

Elizabeth explained that they had had a good life in Hungary; they had education and healthcare, and plenty of food, but she said that "it was illegal not to work, and people worked on Saturdays for free and the government lived off the people. You couldn't get ahead."

There was daily propaganda, praising Russia and singing and celebrating the "liberation" of Hungary. Learning the Russian language and biased history lessons were part of their curriculum, and there was a Russian star in every classroom.

With friends leaving for Austria, and craving adventure, she left at the age of 19, ostensibly on a three-day shopping trip, but not planning to return.

"If you didn't come back, you were considered a deserter, and you would go to prison," Czomba explained. "It was very emotional leaving everyone behind."

For their own safety, she couldn't tell her family where she was going or what she had planned.

Arriving in Austria, their passports were taken and they were quarantined for two weeks in an old Soviet era bar-

racks with refugees from war-torn countries and security guards with dogs and guns.

"The rooms contained 50 to 60 people with single beds and bunks," Czomba said. "We used bed sheets and put them up for some privacy."

They were then sent to Linz to stay at a hostel, where they were expected to apply for residency in another country.

Although she completed applications for several countries, her uncle, former mayor Andy Balazs, lived here in Tillsonburg and sponsored her. She took a job in a restaurant, and kitchen staff helped her learn English. Her uncle had four daughters and a son, and she was often introduced her as his fifth daughter.

"He was the one who encouraged me and advised me," Czomba said. "I carried those lessons throughout my life."

The church community of St. Mary's was also integral to her life.

"They were so wonderful. I'm always going to be grateful. I love this town, and I never thought of moving anywhere else. No matter where I turned, people were helping me and embracing me. I feel a debt."

Elizabeth met her husband Steve here, and they built a life together. She noted that Tillsonburg is central to cities and amenities, but she always appreciated returning to its serenity.

"It was a safe community for raising my daughter, Jessica," she said. "Everyone knew everyone."

Elizabeth embraced the freedom to use her drive and diligence in her professional life. She is a Food Safety Inspector for OMAFA, but her passion for adventure led her to start a business as a travel agent, serving clients globally and closer to home.

"I love interacting with people, I find it so rewarding," Czomba said.

Elizabeth is always looking for things she can do to help others. In the early days of the pandemic, before masks were readily available, she mobilized a group of volunteers who sewed and distributed over 1,000 masks and surgical caps for local hospitals, long-term care facilities



Frosted colour.

(JEFF HELSDON PHOTO)

and isolated seniors.

In 2023 she created a new social group, Women of Tillsonburg.

"My vision was to create a space where women can get together, be themselves and share each other's company in a very relaxed atmosphere," Czomba said. Activities include monthly meetings, special gatherings, supporting local businesses and philanthropy.

She has certainly seen the town grow over the years, and she applauds the atmosphere of diversity.

"If we can put aside all our differences and just be together as people, helping each other, any obstacle can be overcome. The town will flourish from people's knowledge and abilities; they bring so much with them. This town's future is bright."

COVID-19, High-dose* & Regular Flu Shots available!

Walk-ins Welcome!
Call, or book online at
shoppersdrugmart.ca/flu

Think Pharmacist.

**SHOPPERS
DRUG MART**

200 Broadway, Tillsonburg
(519) 842-3521

*High-dose flu vaccines are recommended for people 65 and older.



*Have something to say?
Submit your Letter to
the Editor here:*

info@tillsonburgpost.com

The legend of local collector Ernie Simmons



**THE
STAGE
IS THE
WORLD**

LAUREL A. BEECHEY

Tillsonburg Post Columnist

I've love learning about 'characters' known in or around Tillsonburg over the years. Even though they have been long gone from this earth, their name today still incites an immediate response.

Two that might be remembered by some could be Murray the Milkman or Lucy. When you say: "Ernie Simmons", eyes still light up as they remember his mammoth junkyard and/or his mammoth estate sale.

This project was suggested by a friend who had two yellowed, slightly tattered and brittle 1970 newspapers, and six old, typed pages, listing 518 items for auctioneer Dan Murray to sell. Both the 1970, July 18th the London Free Press, and Aug. 18th Kitchener-Waterloo Record, gave a full page to the upcoming sale. The Record headlined with "Private Air Force to be Auctioned Off."

There was so much to sell three days were scheduled. The sale information for Thursday, Sept. 3rd, listed five brass beds, sideboards and cupboards, chairs, jars, ta-

bles, deep freeze, crock, 57 guns: 15 handguns, 42 rifles and shotguns, 128 cars from 1940s-60s, 15 army trucks and many other items. The Friday, Sept. 4th items included 107 Motorcycles from 1917 & up, Harleys, Indians, Hendersons, Royal Enfield and many others plus parts. Let us not forget two steam engines & parts; 40 tractors and parts, 26 gas engines and 15 Bren gun carriers! Saturday was the big-ticket items - 41 antique cars, trucks and parts; 42 aircraft from Ferry Swordfish biplanes to Yale training planes, plus 30 engines as well as miscellaneous aircraft tires new and use and parts.

Collectors came from two continents to purchase from this amazing collection. People still love talking about that auction today, wishing they could have gone.

But what about Ernie the person? Who was he?

His grandparents were John Simmons and Margaret VanValkenburg. They had five children and everyone received a wage for their labour, including son John Edward [Ed] born in 1875. Ed stayed on the farm making \$2 for his labour. In 1901 at 25, Ed married 15 year-old old, Grace Stillwell, spinster. Their only child, John 'Ernest' Van Simmons, was born April 27, 1912, on the farm in the same bedroom he would die in.

Young Ernie worked the fields with his father but when he became an adult, they began dealing in scrap items, purchasing much at the time from the government's surplus of war machines from WW1, and later WW2. As they received items, Ernie and his father laid things out on one of their fields. Soon all was surrounded overgrowth or impaled by growing trees.

The Simmons family farm was just east of Mabee's Corner by 4.5 miles at RR6 Tillsonburg. A very long lane led through a forest and fields filled with his precious junk or treasures to an old simple wood cabin in

the middle of about 700 acres.

Even as a boy, Ernie had had a reputation as a loner. As the years passed, his privacy became an obsession. Absolutely no one, including long-time friends and relatives were ever allowed in the house. Ernie's mother, Grace, would sometimes chat with visitors on the porch. Ernie was living like a hermit and caring for two increasingly senile parents.

In 1946 the 34-year-old bachelor was still with his parents on an isolated farm near Mabee's Corners. He had always been inclined towards things mechanical. He made his own gas and acetylene for welding, and another project involved successfully adding a third barrel to a double-barreled shotgun. His father was quite a collector, and Ernie followed in his footsteps. That same year Ernie, purchased, 39 Yale Trainers from the Canadian government believing they would buy them back for WW3. They were put in rows in his fields and Ernie would turn them on regularly to keep them from seizing up.[1]

Ernie wasn't much on social skills. He never married, claiming he was far too busy for such things. He'd only go into town when absolutely necessary, to deal, or to pick up bulk supplies. He and his mother were both inveterate diary keepers and they kept it all. They wrote down everything, on any available writing surface..... notepads, old envelopes, pieces of cardboard from boxes, whatever was handy. Every little detail of day to day life, what they did, a record of the plate numbers of cars that came in the drive, what medicines they used for their ailments, and, of course, the government and its many plots against the common people.

Watch for more on Ernie Simmons in my next column.

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

**GRANT
HAVEN
MEDIA**

*Restoring small-town
journalism, one community
at a time!*

Tillsonburg POST

Publisher

Stewart Grant • stew@granthaven.com

Editor

Jeff Helsdon • jeff@granthaven.com

Graphic Design / Sales Inquiries

Stacie Eden • info@tillsonburgpost.com

Business Development

Heather Dunbar • heather@granthaven.com

Administration

Jen Gaetan • jen@granthaven.com

Contributors

Jeff Tribe, Laurel Beechey, Debbie Kasman,
Paul Knowles

36 Water St. St. Marys, ON, PO Box 2310 N4X 1A2
info@tillsonburgpost.com | 519.655.2341 | granthaven.com



Funded by the Government of Canada
Financé par le gouvernement du Canada



Editor's Note: Talented writers wanted

Writer's Corner is a new feature in the Tillsonburg Post, featuring the talent of our local writers.

Author Norma Collis has graciously provided material to launch this new column, but features are welcome from other local writers.

Submissions should be 600 to 800 words in length.

Submitted material doesn't need to be about Tillsonburg, but a connection to the town is a bonus. Topics are diverse, but should not be business promotion or political opinion pieces.

E-mail editor Jeff Helsdon at jeff@granthaven.com with any questions.

Tillsonburg POST

Guiding Principles

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

Santa Claus is coming to town

CONTINUED FROM FRONT

Wegg said the parade will see the return of crowd favourites, such as the Tomato Soup Band, Tim Hortons, Kinsmen and Kinettes, and the Shriners. Local businesses, service clubs, and churches will also have entries. Stilt walker Doug Hunt will again be at the parade.

Local rising country singer Olivia Mae Graham will return, this time with the excitement of the release of her first album.

"There's something truly special about being home for the holidays, and the Tillsonburg Parade is one of my favourite traditions," Graham said. "It always reminds me why I love this community so much."

She and her elves will have candy canes with QR codes for a giveaway. Graham will also be hyping her album release party on Dec. 7 at the Hungarian Hall.

The parade will also feature many collections that have helped the community in the past. These include firefighters collecting non-perishables for the Helping Hand Food Bank, Canada Post collecting letters for Santa, Nature's Choice Lawn Care & Irrigation collecting items for the Salvation Army, Kinettes and Kinsmen collecting hats and mittens for the Salvation Army, and Stauffer Motors Limited collecting for the Salvation Army Toy Drive.

Entrants are encouraged to register ahead of time. The registration link can be found on the Tillsonburg and Area Optimist Club Facebook page, or send an email to tillsonburgoptimistclub@gmail.com to get the link.

Lighting up the hospital

In conjunction with the parade, Tillsonburg District Memorial Hospital Foundation is launching its Angels of Giving – Light the Hospital event. People are invited to watch the parade from the hospital and enjoy hot chocolate and goodies from Chrissy's Catering from 5 p.m. to 7 p.m.

Lindsay Tribble, foundation development assistant, explains, "The lighting of the hospital this year is a new addition to our usual year-end Angels of Giving Campaign. This year we will light up the hospital and wreaths in memory, or in honour of loved ones and friends, for our entire community to enjoy. When the Christmas parade approaches its turn onto Bridge Street from Bidwell heading towards Rolph Street, we will begin the countdown to shine the light on the hospital."

The event will also feature unveiling of the updated donor wall and the launch of the Angels of Giving campaign.

Letters to Santa

Tillsonburg Town Centre and the Tillsonburg BIA will host an event from 11 a.m. to 1 p.m. on parade day, allowing youth to write letters to Santa. Paper, stickers and markers will be provided to create letters. The intent is the letters can be handed to Canada Post workers during the parade.

The event will take place in The Spot on the second floor of the mall.



VETERAN'S CROSSWALK COMPLETED

(JEFF HELSDON PHOTO)

Tillsonburg roads crew staff completed the veteran's crosswalk in front of the Tillsonburg Town Centre last week. Crews started painting the stripes on the road, beginning at 3 a.m. Thursday. They then finished with the wording and soldier decal on Friday, starting at 3 a.m. Heavy equipment operators Angela Hughes and Rob Tracey removed the cones protecting the black paint on Friday at 8 a.m.



(JEFF HELSDON PHOTO)

Legion Padre Paul Robinson, Mayor Deb Gilvesy and Legion President Tom Brown cut the ribbon on the new veteran's crosswalk in front of the Tillsonburg Town Centre Monday morning while Legion members and town council watched. After the ribbon cutting, the colour party marched across the crosswalk.

SOURCE FLOORING
UP TO 75% OFF
BLACK FRIDAY DEALS
RIGHT NOW!

99¢
STARTING FROM /SF

**LAMINATE
12MM CLICK**

\$139
STARTING FROM /SF

**CLICK VINYL
PAD ATTACHED**

99¢
STARTING FROM /SF

**BACKSPLASH
STONE & GLASS**

\$159
STARTING FROM /SF

**PORCELAIN TILE
MANY STYLES**

\$199
STARTING FROM /SF

**HARDWOOD
3/4" THICK ENG.**

\$49⁹⁹
EACH
STARTING FROM

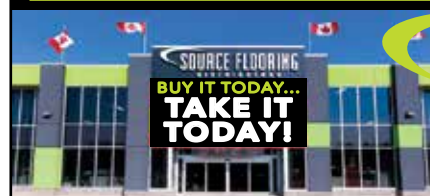
**VINYL STAIR
TREADS & RISER**

99¢
STARTING FROM /LF

**BASEBOARDS
MANY STYLES**

\$99
STARTING FROM

**7x10 AREA RUGS
PLUS NO TAX
OVER 1000 IN STOCK!**



SOURCE FLOORING

**SHOP ONLINE 24/7
SOURCEFLOORING.COM**

**1362 VICTORIA STREET NORTH KITCHENER
MONDAY-FRIDAY 8AM-8PM SATURDAY 9-6 SUNDAY 10-5**

Tillsonburg Angels launch campaign to help children

JEFF HELSDON

Local Journalism Initiative Reporter

A local trio of women known as the Tillsonburg Angels is hoping to bring a smile to more children's faces this Christmas.

Organizing what they call the Tree of Hope, the intent is to collect gifts for children in the community whose families may be facing tough times.

"With our economy now, with everyone not knowing what's happening, we're thinking kids will be suffering, so we're hoping we can make their Christmas better and more normal," said Deb Corrigan, who came up with the idea.

She wasn't sure how to organize a campaign and approached Kelly Spencer, owner of Indigo Lounge.

"Within five minutes, she said 'Let's do it,'" Corrigan recounted.

Corrigan enlisted the help of Dee Tosto, who has a background in graphic design, and came up with the logo and designed the promotional material. The pair both contributed to collecting backpacks through the Women of Tillsonburg and have been friends since Tosto moved to town.

The concept of the program is that people can drop off a gift, or gift card, for a child at Indigo Lounge. In return, they will receive a wooden angel Christmas tree decoration, on which they can write their name and hang it on a tree in Indigo Lounge. Donations can also be made via e-transfer to tillsonburgangels@gmail.com, and the angels will purchase a gift.

Spencer is hopeful that donors will involve their own children in the program.

"Hopefully, they will get their kids involved and show the spirit of giving," she said.

Corrigan added she hopes this will put a smile on the face of the donor's children as well.

Corrigan, who painted all the angels, said she has 150 angels and it's her goal to see them all hanging on the tree. The campaign started on Nov. 12, and runs until Dec. 15. At that time, they will turn the donated gifts over to Julie Avery, who runs the Community Kitchen program at St. Paul's United Church.

"She's in the school and knows all the kids," Corrigan said.



(JEFF HELSDON PHOTO)

The Tillsonburg Angels are organizing the Tree of Hope campaign, collecting toys for children in the community whose families may be facing tough times. Left to right are: Dee Tosto, Deb Corrigan, and Kelly Spencer.

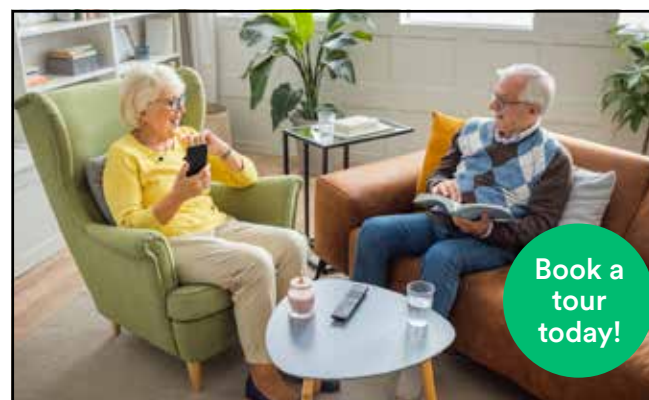
Although there are other programs to help youth at Christmas in the community, Spencer said there can never be enough.

"We have awareness of other campaigns out there, but the more the merrier," she said. "Deb's initiative is a grass-roots initiative and people need to get involved."

The Tillsonburg Angels are promoting the Tree of Hope

through their Facebook page. They are encouraging donors to take photos of the donation and post them on the page. Tosto then plans to put together a slide show at the end of the campaign to post on the page.

Although the Tree of Hope is in its first year, donations had already begun before its official launch. The Tillsonburg Angels are hopeful this will be a continuing tradition.



Book a
tour
today!

Thinking about retirement living?

We offer different living options where you'll be comfortable in our stylish, spacious suites. Experience the warmth of our vibrant community.

For more information call 1-866-959-4848

Aspira
Harvest Crossing
Retirement Living

15 Harvest Ave, Tillsonburg, ON

aspiralife.ca



Hear your best
& experience the joy of sound.

Service is our Specialty

- Complete Hearing Test by Candice Vande Wetering HIS B.A. (Hons)
- Hearing Aid Sales, Services and Supplies
- Registered with Ministry of Health ADP
- Servicing VAC, WSIB, NIHB and ODSP

Call today for a **FREE Hearing Check-Up** at a clinic conveniently located near you

TILLSONBURG
51 Simcoe Street
Unit A2
519-842-5500

PORT ROWAN
1009 Bay Street
519-586-9500

NORWICH
32 South Court
(Norwich Medical Centre)
519-842-5500

DELHI
96 King Street
519-582-2300



Candice Vande Wetering
Hearing Instrument Specialist
B.A. (Hons)

AHAC Alternative Hearing Aid Clinics

Family owned and operated since 2009
alternativehearing.ca

Yes, it's that time again —
Christmas is coming fast!

Share the Spirit of Christmas with the

Tillsonburg POST

Get a head start on the season with the **Tillsonburg Posts's Christmas Greetings**, publishing **December 18** — a great way to wish the community a Merry Christmas and thank your customers for their support.

A portion of proceeds will be **donated to Tillsonburg District Memorial Hospital Foundation**, helping provide care and comfort to local families.

Don't wait — reserve your greeting today!

heather@granthaven.com
226.261.1837 | granthaven.com

**GRANT
HAVEN
MEDIA**



Otter Creek Kitchen Designs provides affordable 'one-stop shop' services

Otter Creek Kitchen Designs specializes in 'transforming everyday environments into uniquely beautiful and highly functional spaces.'

Co-owners Shelley Miller and Dennis Vandevyvere launched Otter Creek Kitchen Designs in February 2025 at 39 Broadway in Tillsonburg with several spacious showrooms to showcase cutting-edge modern kitchens and cabinets, accessories, bathrooms, laundry rooms, and custom closet products and designs.

"Opening this was an opportunity to support Tillsonburg," said Miller. "Being local, we wanted to give them something affordable. That was our focus, our whole premise was to be an affordable one-stop shop."

"It's all about community for us," she added.

"We just saw the need for another kitchen location," said Vandevyvere, who has been doing kitchen renovations for the past six years through his local construction company.

At Otter Creek Kitchen Designs you can create a setting that 'reflects your style and meets your needs - all within your budget.' The kitchen showrooms reflect that.

"I love the blue kitchen in the front," said Vandevyvere, noting they have many colour palettes available, including paint-look and wood colours.



Otter Creek Kitchen Designs co-owners Dennis Vandevyvere and Shelley Miller launched their business at 39 Broadway in February 2025.

"Or if you just want an update, we can replace cabinet doors or handles, too. These get all the wear-and-tear. The cabinet box doesn't, it's usually fine."

It all starts with consultation and planning. Otter Creek Kitchen Designs has a full-time designer, and they offer free in-home consultations.

Samples can be taken home to see what they look like in a customer's home.

"Everyone has a style or function preference, a colour," said Miller.

"The designer will take measurements and get to know your style as to what you are looking for. She does a 2D/3D design and it can be tweaked. It's unique - and the in-home consultation just makes it comfortable."

"Renovations can be so

overwhelming, you see all the selections there are..." said Miller.

"And for a lot of people, it's their first time," said Vandevyvere. "It's pretty cool - a lot of people say 'Wow, I can visualize my kitchen now.' It makes a world of difference."

Using products from trusted industry partners, Otter Creek Kitchen Designs constructs your project, and offers delivery and installation services. Customers also have the option of using their own contractors or even installing it themselves.

"They can all be installed by Otter Creek Construction, but we do work with other contractors," said Miller. "Some people loving doing it, they want to be part of their renovations."

"If they also need renovations with that - new flooring

or the backsplash - we do all of it," said Vandevyvere.

Showcased appliances are from Willaert Appliances in Tillsonburg, and the on-site appliances are replaced at Otter Creek Kitchen Designs whenever new technology is introduced.

"We were looking to support the community - there is a lot of great industry here that we can work with," said Miller, noting they also have a partnership with Verne's Carpet One Floor & Home. "We're just providing options... affordable, quality options."

Otter Creek Kitchen Designs' services are available to both renovators and home builders.

"There is a lot of growth happening in Tillsonburg that we would like to be part of, for sure," said Miller.



- Kitchen • Bath
- Laundry • Custom Closets

519-842-8080

ottercreekkitchendesigns.com

39 Broadway St, Tillsonburg

FALL PORTRAIT SPECIAL

Mini Sessions from \$150

Please contact us for dates and times available

HELSDON
photography

519-983-3947

info@helsdonphotography.com



55 Broadway St. Unit B

Contact Lori at

rainorshineplaycentre@gmail.com



Come see us for parts and service and all your mattress and appliance needs

519-688-3464 | 1-866-688-3464

hurleys.appliance@gmail.com

STORE HOURS

Mon-Fri: 10:00 am - 5:00 pm

Sat: 10:00 am - 4:00 pm



15 Oxford St., Tillsonburg
hurleysappliance.com



Interior Renovations
Exterior Upgrades
Residential and Commercial

ottercreekconstruction.com
519-983-2008 | dvan.occ@gmail.com
7 McGuire Cres, Tillsonburg



FENCES & DECKS

• Build • Maintenance • Repair

519-550-5207

contactbox@use.startmail.com

Oxford County expands Source Water Protection Program initiative

Oxford County is enhancing efforts to protect local drinking water with the installation of new Source Water Protection signs across the region.

These signs are designed to raise awareness about the importance of safeguarding municipal water sources and to remind residents and visitors that activities in these areas can directly impact the quality of the water.

Oxford County relies on groundwater for its drinking water. Wellhead protection areas (WHPAs) and contributing zones have been mapped and evaluated according to their vulnerability to contamination. Threats to drinking water, such as handling of fuels, fertilizers, pesticides, or agricultural source material, are regulated under the provincial Clean Water Act, 2006, and managed through local Source Protection Plans using tools like risk management, prohibition, and policy frameworks.

The new signage complements existing Source Protection strategies, including property owner outreach, risk assessments, and an incentive program for landowners within a WHPA. Residents within identified vulnerable zones

may receive direct communication and, when required, site visits by Risk Management Inspectors and Officials to confirm risk levels and advise on best practices.

New Source Water Protection signs have been installed in the following locations:

- Near Tillsonburg Wells 4 and 5 located along Brownsville Road in the Township of South-West Oxford;
- Near Otterville Wells 3 and 4 located along Highway 59 in the Township of South-West Oxford;
- Near Woodstock Wells 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 8, 11 and 12 located along Sweaburg Road in the Township of South-West Oxford;
- Near Innerkip Wells 1 and 2 located along Oxford Road 4 in the Township of East Zorra-Tavistock; and
- Near Thamesford Well 1, 2 and 3 located along Allen Street in the Township of Zorra.

For more information about Source Water Protection in Oxford County and to view maps showing the locations of WHPAs, visit oxfordcounty.ca/source-waterprotection

Driver facing impaired charges after traffic complaint

An individual from Ingersoll is facing impaired driving related charges following a traffic complaint.

On Nov. 3, 2025, at approximately 6 p.m., the Oxford Ontario Provincial Police (OPP) Detachment were dispatched to a report of a possible impaired driver, on Broadway in the Town of Tillsonburg. Officers patrolled and subsequently located the vehicle.

David Dews, 67-years-old, of Ingersoll, has been charged with Operation while Impaired - Blood alcohol concentration (80 plus).

A 90-day Administrative Driver's

License Suspension (ADLS) and a seven-day vehicle impoundment was initiated as per statute.

The accused was released from custody and is scheduled to appear before the Ontario Court of Justice in Woodstock on Dec. 16.

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

Two Tillsonburg men charged with impaired

An individual from the Tillsonburg is facing impaired driving related charges following a proactive traffic stop.

On Nov. 9, at approximately 3 a.m., the Oxford Ontario Provincial Police (OPP) Detachment were conducting general patrol around Plank Line and Quarter Town Line, in the Town of Tillsonburg. A traffic stop was conducted after a vehicle was observed driving erratically.

Linh-Duy Nguyen, 62-years-old, of Tillsonburg, has been charged with:

- Operation while Impaired - Alcohol
- Operation while Impaired - Blood alcohol concentration (80 plus)
- Dangerous Operation

A 90-day Administrative Driver's License Suspension (ADLS) and a seven-day vehicle impoundment was initiated as per statute.

The accused was released from custody and is scheduled to appear before the Ontario Court of Justice in Woodstock on Dec. 18.

In an unrelated case on Nov. 1, an individual from Tillsonburg is facing impaired-driving related charges follow-

ing a traffic complaint.

On Nov. 1, 2025, at approximately 7 p.m., the Oxford Ontario Provincial Police (OPP) Detachment were dispatched to a report of a possible impaired driver, on Broadway Road in the Town of Tillsonburg. Officers patrolled and subsequently located the vehicle.

Daryl Pittock, 59-years-old, of Tillsonburg, has been charged with:

- Operation while Impaired - Blood alcohol concentration (80 plus)

A 90-day Administrative Driver's License Suspension (ADLS) and a seven-day vehicle impoundment was initiated as per statute. The accused was released from custody and is scheduled to appear before the Ontario Court of Justice in Woodstock on Dec. 30.

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

Shop with us for all your grocery essentials

- Grocery
- Bakery
- Floral
- Fresh Seafood Counter
- Meat Department
- Salad Bar
- Hot Deli
- Mealtime and Sandwich Program
- PC Express
- Pharmacy
- Garden Centre (seasonal)



400 Simcoe St, Tillsonburg • 519-842-9031
Open Mon-Sat: 7 a.m. - 9 p.m., Sun: 8 a.m. - 9 p.m.

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

Contact Lisa Roberts
Marketing Media Specialist
lisa@granthaven.com | 416.455.4687

GRANT HAVEN MEDIA

.....



St. Marys Independent The Paris Independent The Wilmet-Tavistock Gazette STRATFORDTIMES Woodstock Ingersoll Echo Goderich Sun
Tillsonburg Post SIMCOEADVOCATE NORFOLK FARMS BRANT FARMS NIAGARA FARMS INDY

Kinsmen launch gift basket fundraiser

JEFF HELSDON

Editor

The Kinsmen's new Christmas fundraiser will provide another option for Christmas gifts while supporting local businesses.

The Holiday Gift Basket Fundraiser offers baskets of local goods at three different price points, \$50, \$70 and \$100.

"We were going to do meat again but talked about people giving away baskets at Christmas," said Kinsmen member John Danbrook, who came up with the idea.

He and a committee with three other members are organizing the fundraiser.

The \$50 basket features products from Coyle's and Picard's. Moving up to the medium-sized basket, Country Road coffee from Delmer, honey made by Zach Buchner and Hayes maple syrup are added to the basket, as well as Rachel's butter tarts from the Country Table. The large basket features a combination of all the products

found in the two lower tiers, plus more.

Ordering of the baskets will be done online through the web site tillsonburgkinsmen.com. Once the web site is reached, click on order form to reach the basket orders. Orders will be taken until Nov. 30.

The target date for delivery is Dec. 15 to 20.



(JEFF HELSDON PHOTO)

The Tillsonburg Kinsmen fundraising committee is working on a fundraiser selling gift baskets for Christmas. Left to right are committee members: (front row) Matthew Thompson, Geoff Cork, (back row) Bill Irwin and John Danbrook.

True partnership, made from the Ring of Fire

There's an area in Northern Ontario rich with critical minerals. By partnering with Indigenous leaders to develop the land, we will create lasting benefits for all Ontarians.

Learn more at ontario.ca/RingOfFire
Paid for by the Government of Ontario



PROTECT
ONTARIO

Ontario





Cellular Magician

Buy • Sell • Repair
Ontario's Most Advanced Cell Phone
and Device Repair Solutions!

(226) 298-0795
8 Washington Grand Ave,
Tillsonburg, ON
cellularmagician.ca

THE
MANCAVE
- BARBER LOUNGE -

**NOW ACCEPTING
WALK-INS
OR
BOOK
WITH US ONLINE**

 (226) 231-2283
CAVE

 18 OXFORD ST. TILLSONBURG, ONTARIO



Our boutique style shop carries many fabulous local and international artisan cheese and cured meats, along with many accompaniments and treats.

Two Girls and a Cheese Shop
20 Brock St. W., Tillsonburg, ON
twogirlsandacheeseshop.com

WINE + BEER
wine + beer studio '93

Tillsonburg's Finest Wine Crafting Experience
Crafting Quality Beverages With YOU in the Heart of Downtown Tillsonburg

Tillsonburg Wine & Beer Studio
69 Broadway Street, Tillsonburg, ON
519-842-2337
wineandbeerstudio.ca

THE NAUGHTY LIST **HOMETOWN Holiday Hop**

Snap, Sip & Win! Take a photo enjoying your festive drinks and share it on social media for your chance to win a \$100 Downtown Tillsonburg Gift Card! Be sure to tag @downtowntillsonburg in your post to be entered. Draw takes place December 19, 2025.

	CANDY CANE ESPRESSO MARTINI
	MISTLETOE MARTINI
	CHRISTMAS MULE
	BISCOFF COOKIE ESPRESSO MARTINI
	FROSTY THE SNOWMAN

AVAILABLE EXCLUSIVELY ON
NOV. 15, 20, 27 • DEC. 4, 11, 18

DOWNTOWN TILLSONBURG

LATE NIGHT THURSDAYS:

HOLIDAY EDITION

Shop, stroll, and soak in the holiday spirit in Downtown Tillsonburg!
Participating stores will be open late from 5 - 8 PM.

NOVEMBER 20 | 27 DECEMBER 4 | 11 | 18

Downtown will be bursting with extra Christmas cheer on December 11th.
Enjoy music, twinkling lights, and holiday surprises around every corner!
(participating locations)

HOMETOWN Holiday



Learn more at downtowntillsonburg.com

SIXPENCE & Sage
DRESS SHOP & BRIDAL BOUTIQUE



Photo: Danielle Cargill Photography

Canadian owned and operated, proudly working with a selection of Canadian and European bridal and formalwear lines.

Life is Beautiful – Dress for it

19 Alice Street Waterford
164 Unit 10 Broadway Street, Tillsonburg
226-387-8551 | sixpenceandsage.ca

TRINKETS GIFT SHOPPE

CHRISTMAS GALA

It's time to celebrate all things Christmas!! It's our annual CHRISTMAS GALA & BIGGEST GIVEAWAY WEEKEND EVER!! Thousands of dollars in prizes and giveaways! Everything will be sparkling! Special guests too! Yummy samples & refreshments! You won't want to miss it!!

FRIDAY NOVEMBER 14TH 10-6
SATURDAY NOVEMBER 15TH 10-4

149 Broadway Street Tillsonburg

betty's
MARKETPLACE



Where local and thrifted come together

We are a passionate team committed to supporting local business, giving new life to previously loved items and creating a unique shopping experience both in store and online.

87 Broadway Street, Tillsonburg, Ontario
226-970-3697
bettysmarketplace.com

dande
COLLECTIVE

Retro-inspired shop selling fun and kitschy vintage, apparel, home decor, and local artisan products



**147 Broadway Street
Tillsonburg, ON**
shopdande.square.site
shopdandecollective@gmail.com



New position to assist with plotting town's future, finding efficiencies

JEFF HELSDON

Local Journalism Initiative Reporter

Tillsonburg's new manager of innovation and strategic initiatives is hoping to help chart the course for the future of the town while keeping economic constraint in mind.

Peter Raji started in the newly-created position on Sept. 29.

"My job is to look ahead, spot opportunities, and turn good ideas into real results in alignment of those strategic goals," he said. "That means improving how we deliver services, strengthening partnerships, while building new ones, and finding innovative ways to grow our local economy."

Much of what he will be exploring is part of the town's 10-year strategic plan. Raji will be trying to find ways to implement the plan, while keeping fiscal constraint in mind.

"My role is for us to look ahead and do more with less," he said. "This role is really about helping the town get the most out of what we already have. It's about spotting ways to work smarter, reducing reliance on external consultants, making the most of grant opportunities, and finding better, more efficient ways to get things done."

His background is in program management strategy and process improvement.

"I'm used to trying to do more with less, that's why I'm excited to come to town," he said. "The leadership here is engaged, they're passionate, which I love."

Raji is aware the plan, and direction of council, is to maintain the town's small-town feeling while growing. However, he said this comes with challenges. One of those challenges is attracting medical professionals to town.

After town council recently passed a motion to explore

concepts to bring medical professionals to town, including the model used in Colwood, B.C. where the town is the manager of the doctor's office, Raji will oversee this investigation. He promised this would be thorough and he would look at all possibilities to attract doctors to town, including examining the successes and failures of what other Ontario centres have done.

Raji came to Canada from Nigeria in 2006, hoping to work for RIM after schooling in computer science. He worked for a web development firm in Waterloo, then for Rogers for 14 years in different roles, and most recently for Wellington County.

A resident of Oxford County, he was excited by the possibilities with the Tillsonburg position.

"I'm somebody who is always looking for a new challenge," he said. "I've been to Tillsonburg quite a few times. The spirit of the town is infectious. It's a community that is growing, but still has the fabric of a smaller community – everyone still says 'Good morning'."

(JEFF HELSDON PHOTO)
Peter Raji recently started as the town's manager of innovation and strategic initiatives. He brings a wealth of experience with him, working in other municipalities and Rogers trying to find efficiencies.

tillsonburgpost.com

Worship
With Us



**Avondale
United Church**
60 Harvey St.
(519) 842-5532

**Sunday Service
10:30 a.m.**

All are Welcome

*"Inspiring people
to know Christ"*

The Ingersoll 50+ Activity Centre presents our annual...

BELLS AND BOWS CHRISTMAS BAZAAR

Bake Table
-delicious baked goods
Dasher's Deli
-homemade meat pies, cabbage rolls, preserves, and more!
Fresh Greens
-outdoor arrangements in pots and indoor centre pieces
Santa's Attic
-Christmas yard sale items
Silent Auction
-unique items to bid on
Advent Pull
-\$20/pull, guaranteed win
Lunch Room
-sandwiches, soups, and desserts
12 Days of Christmas
-12 wonderful baskets to win
Mrs. Claus' Closet
-ladies wear, jewelry, home decor items
Vendor Sales
-variety of items from local vendors
Artisan's Alley
-hostess gifts, handmade items from our woodshop

**Saturday, Nov. 22nd
9am to 2pm**

INGERSOLL SERVICES FOR SENIORS

250 Ingersoll St S Ingersoll
519-485-3869 ~ info@ingersollseniors.com

TillsonburgGLASS
WINDOWS • DOORS • GLASS

**Commercial & Residential
Windows • Doors • Glass**

213 Tillson Ave, Tillsonburg
519-842-5932
tillsonburgglass.ca

SALE!
BLACK FRIDAY
NOVEMBER 27 - 28 - 29, 2025

REGAL SELECT
The Standard for Excellence
Trusted by generations for durability and beauty

\$5 Off
Regal® Select Interior

Benjamin Moore

My Paint & Decor
Tillsonburg - 142 Simcoe St. 519-842-2833
Simcoe - 519-428-4066
mypaintanddecor.com

Benjamin Moore



Live Fully at Cedarview

At Cedarview Retirement Living, we believe the best chapters are still being written — a place where purpose, joy, and freedom come together so you can live each day fully, on your own terms.

Why Cedarview?

- Beautifully landscaped grounds
- Daily prepared meals
- Bi-weekly housekeeping
- Community Bus
- Weekly activities & entertainment
- Onsite salon
- Designed for comfort, wellness & independence at every stage

Book a Tour Today!



519-602-0282

511 Finkle Street Woodstock, ON
N4V 0C4 CA



CEDARVIEW



BAND CONCERT

(JEFF HELSDON PHOTO)

Glendale High School's music program held its Fall Fare on Nov. 4 in the school gymnasium. The junior guitar ensemble presented three numbers they completed, followed by the choir singing two numbers. The evening also featured performances by the junior band, jazz band, senior guitar ensemble, senior band and a vocal solo.

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



BRODY'S MECHANICAL
KEEP YOU IN COMFORT ZONE



YORK®

Heating and Cooling Solutions
SOLD, INSTALLED, AND SERVICED HERE

NO PAYMENT | NO INTEREST
6 MONTHS & UP TOO \$400US REBATE

5 Third Ave., Simcoe, ON

brodysmechanical.com

(519) 428-4102

24/7 EMERGENCY SERVICE

Come see us for parts and service and all your mattress and appliance needs

 **Hurley's**
MATTRESS & APPLIANCE

BRANDS WE CARRY

Whirlpool

MAYTAG

Sealy

GE APPLIANCES

FRIGIDAIRE KitchenAid

MARATHON

Huebsch

Electrolux

DREAMSTAR

Beautyrest

... and many more!

518 Broadway St, Tillsonburg ON N4G 3S7

www.hurleysappliance.com

519-688-3464 | hurleys.appliance@gmail.com

Store Hours: Mon-Fri: 9:00 am - 5:30 pm | Sat: 10:00 am - 4:00 pm

Lamprey control program a part of saving Great Lakes fishery

JEFF HELSDON

Local Journalism Initiative Reporter

Sea lamprey have been called the vampires of the Great Lakes.

This invasive eel-like species' purpose in life is literally to suck the lifeblood out of fish to sustain itself. Since Great Lakes fish haven't evolved to cope with this invasive species, it has caused enormous havoc before control programs began decades ago.

Astute observers of the Otter Creek noticed it flowed bright green for a few days last month. Bright green isn't typically thought of as a healthy colour for Ontario rivers, but in this case, it was part of the lamprey control program run by the bi-national Great Lakes Fishery Commission.

Fisheries and Oceans Canada lamprey control crews started treatment of the Big Otter Creek on Oct. 17. The initial application of 3-trifluoromethyl-4-nitrophenol (TFM) was on the Otter Creek where it crosses Cornell Road near Otterville. Also known as lampricide, TFM concentrations are boosted where the Otter crosses Middleton Road and County Road 13, in Tillsonburg, near Coronation Park, and at the Eden Line.

"As it moves downriver, it loses concentration, so we have to boost it, said Shawn Robertson, treatment biologist with Fisheries and Oceans Canada.

A week later, crews were nearing com-

pletion of their work, but were still testing the Otter's TFM concentrations in Vienna. The goal is to have TFM concentrations at a level to kill larval sea lamprey. The crews tested the pH of the water, as lamprey are more sensitive to the acidity of the water than native fish. The other goal is not to kill non-target species.

Aquatic technician Kevin Sullivan's job was to travel down the river in a kayak, observe for kill of non-target species and ensure there were no backwater areas or inlets where the larval lamprey can escape.

"Just to make sure they don't have fresh water to go into," he said.

Lamprey larvae live three to four years as larvae in rivers, feeding on algae and dead plant material. Then, as they transform into adults, they move towards the mouth of the river and spend 1.5 years feeding on fish as adults. Having a lamprey attached often kills fish, and one adult can kill up to 40 pounds of fish in its life. The adults return to the river, making a horseshoe-shaped depression in the gravel substrate, spawn, and die.

Typically, the Big Otter is treated in the spring, but water levels were too high this year.

"The snow melt had gone, and we got a bunch of rain, so it was too high," Robertson recounted. "And it was too cold. If it's too cold, it affects the way the lampricide works."



(JEFF HELSDON PHOTO)

Kevin Sullivan, left, and Shawn Robertson of Fisheries and Oceans Canada test the pH of the water from the Big Otter Creek at Vienna to gauge the concentration of TFM to control sea lamprey.

The Big Creek treatment did proceed in the spring.

One of the first invasive species

The buzz around Great Lakes invasive species grew when zebra and quagga mussels colonized the lake starting in the late 1980s, but the sea lamprey has been around much longer than that.

Sea lamprey reached Lake Ontario via the Hudson River and Erie Canal in the 1800s, contributing to the demise of Atlantic salmon in the lake.

However, Niagara Falls stood in the way of sea lamprey reaching further into the Great Lakes for decades. Then, the commercial fishery for lake trout and whitefish in Lake Erie mysteriously began declining in the 1920s and 1930s. The decline coincided with the expansion of the Welland Canal, which started in 1919 and was completed in 1932. The commercial fishermen of the day were perplexed, and the scientists didn't have any answers.

The first recorded lamprey found in Lake Erie was in 1921, when a commercial fisherman pulled his nets and found one attached to a whitefish. Six years later, another was reported on the American side of the lake. Then, in 1937, several youths

exploring a river in Lake Michigan found it swarming with lampreys and reported the discovery. Lamprey populations in the lower four Great Lakes exploded from there.

As a result, the commercial catch of lake trout dropped from 2.2 million pounds in 1940 to 760,000 pounds in 1946.

Fisheries scientists and politicians started to take notice. Research began at the Ann Arbor, Michigan, U.S. Bureau of Fisheries lab in the late 1940s to find a solution. The first challenge was identifying the life cycle of the sea lamprey, which little was known about at the time.

Barriers and dams were experimented with, but these also stopped the passage of spawning fish. Research then focused on identifying a chemical that would kill lampreys without harming native fish.

"Killing fish is not that difficult," said Dr. Marc Gaden, executive secretary of the Great Lakes Fishery Commission. "There are chemicals out there that will kill fish effectively. What is difficult is killing exactly the fish that you want to kill and not harming the fish you want to leave in the river or lake."

After five years of looking for such a chemical, TFM was found in 1957.

CONTINUED TO PAGE 15

Why Wait?



**All In Stock Available
and Free Delivery In
Time For The Holidays**



OPEN MON TO FRI 10 TO 5 • SAT 10 TO 4 • CLOSED SUN

JOSEPH'S FURNITURE

"We Sell The Best For Less Guaranteed"

137 BROADWAY, DOWNTOWN TILLSONBURG • 519-842-8747



Lamprey was the catalyst for the formation of Great Lakes Fishery Commission 70 years ago

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 14

Another mystery was solved in the 1950s – why lamprey took a century to pass through the Welland Canal, which opened in 1829. The early canal was not much more than a ditch and was fed from water that came from the middle of the Niagara Peninsula. There was no flow from one lake to the other. When the canal was upgraded in the 1920s, it used water from Lake Erie, and lampreys look for current. Essentially, the upgrade transformed the canal into a river.

The Great Lakes Fishery Commission

With the demise of the Great Lakes fishery, political pressure grew for a solution involving both Canada and the United States. The formation of the Great Lakes Fishery Commission in 1955 served as a catalyst for advancing fisheries science and implementing the sea lamprey control program.

Efforts for international cooperation date back to shortly after it was recognized there was a sea lamprey problem in Lake Ontario in the 1890s. A treaty was proposed in 1908 that established a bi-national committee to address lamprey and fisheries issues. Canada implemented the treaty's recommendations, but the U.S. didn't, causing Canada to cease following them. The treaty was dead by 1911.

By 1954, the decimation of fish by lamprey was dire enough in the Great Lakes that Canadian and American pol-



(JEFF HELSDON PHOTO)

This small lamprey is in the transformer stage and would enter Lake Erie in the coming months. It was discovered by Kevin Sullivan in the Otter while kayaking the river as part of the treatment assessment.

iticians came together again with the intent of intensifying work on the Great Lakes fisheries and lamprey control. After trying more than 40 times over the last six decades for international cooperation on fisheries, the United States and Canada signed the 1954 Convention on Great Lakes Fisheries. The following year the Great Lakes Fisheries Commission (GLFC) was established.

Since that time, the GLFC has evolved to assist with other scientific endeavors to protect fisheries, such as research on invasive quagga and zebra mussels, and a risk assessment of the Asian carp invasion.

Other control methods for lamprey have also advanced since the 1950s. An inflatable dam on Big Creek is timed to block the passage of lamprey but is deflated to allow spawning fish to pass. Other dams have been installed on smaller tributaries, such as Little Otter Creek, which fish can jump over but lampreys cannot.

Today, the Great Lakes fishery has rebounded, and combined commercial and recreational fisheries are worth \$7 billion to the economies of the Great Lakes states and Ontario.

"We brought lamprey under control, probably beyond the wildest dreams of the people who set up the commission," Gaden said. "The sea lamprey population was reduced 95 per cent."

As for eradication, Gaden said that with each female lamprey laying 100,000 eggs, it's nearly impossible to eliminate the last mating pair using current technology. The commission and other researchers are looking at genetic manipulation to have lamprey produce all offspring of one gender, thereby thwarting reproduction.

"Eventually, you could use genetics as a control technique," Gaden said, estimating it would take 60 years for eradication.



(JEFF HELSDON PHOTO)

An adult sea lamprey attached to a Lake Erie steelhead. After attaching and feeding on the blood of the fish, the lamprey will move on to another fish. One lamprey can kill up to 40 pounds of fish.

PROTECT YOUR VEHICLE FROM ITS WORST ENEMY, RUST.

KROWN

The ultimate vehicle rust protection since 1986.

BOOK YOUR RUST PROTECTION APPOINTMENT TODAY!

TIRECRAFT M&J Tirecraft
Helping Canadians Get Ahead 327 Simcoe Street, Tillsonburg
519-842-3321 | tirecraft.com

M&M FOOD MARKET

WING NIGHT. TONIGHT.

No reservations needed.

Fully Cooked Chicken Wings
Choose from 7 varieties.

INCREDIBLE PRICE **save \$7**

12.99

Honey Garlic, Crispy Breaded, Buffalo

BETTER VALUE NEW SIZE 680 g

BUY 1 GET 1 50% OFF Regular price \$17.99 each

Party Packs
21-46 PIECES
430 g - 740 g

Asian, Indian, Sauce included

save \$9

MIX AND MATCH

CHOOSE FROM 5 VARIETIES.

To view the full flyer, scan the QR code or go to mmfoodmarket.com

Over 80% of our products are Made in Canada with Domestic and Imported Ingredients.

ALL PRICES IN EFFECT THURSDAY, NOVEMBER 13 TO WEDNESDAY, NOVEMBER 19, 2025 UNLESS OTHERWISE STATED.

All discounted prices of products are exclusive to members of the M&M Food Market Rewards program. Simply present your membership card, or sign up for a free membership in store or online, to take advantage of these exclusive offers. M&M Food Market Express and other non-traditional stores offer a limited range of products; therefore special pricing and promotions are not valid there. We reserve the right to correct any errors. ©2025 M&M Meat Shops Ltd.

EnviroHaul
Experts in Waste Management

519-544-4285 • envirohaul.ca

From dumpster bin rentals to flat bed deliveries. We have the solution for you.

SPORTS



wiltshire
REALTY INC. BROKERAGE

We Are Helping Your Friends & Family

519-544-HOME

67B Tillson Ave., Tillsonburg
www.wiltshirerealty.ca



Bryan Wiltshire**
519-318-0736



Amanda Wiltshire*
519-777-8801



Brianne Guralski*
519-983-7885



Cam Hughes*
519-852-5431



Craig Todt*
519-550-5212



Melissa McDonald*
519-688-6916

** Broker of Record * Sales Rep.

STONETOWN TRAVEL

ST. MARYS • NEW HAMBURG

Travel
made easy.

519-284-2332

Rayse Meyer closes out 2025 Bone Stock season with Pumpkin Smasher victory

JEFF TRIBE

Echo Correspondent

Given the name his parents picked, it's only so much of a stretch he ended up in a stock car.

"I didn't have much of a choice," said Tillsonburg's Rayse Meyer about his moniker. "Can't really complain about it either."

His enthusiasm for vehicular speed emerged early, his entry into a QRC cart coming at the age of three.

"I was driving that in the backyard until I could control it well enough to race against real people."

Meyer debuted the following year at the age of four, green-lighting a progression up the division's ranks featuring a pair of series titles, until finishing one tier below the 500cc models at QRC's apex.

After a couple of years off, Meyer had the opportunity to test drive a friend's vehicle raced at Delaware Speedway, a half-mile asphalt oval west of London. Meyer did well enough to move on to an actual event at the Flamborough Speedway. He was running well, 'passing about 20 cars' in that race before a mechanical malfunction ended his day.

"But that was enough to convince my dad we should get back into the racing stuff."

Admittedly, it may not have been a hard sell to Terry Meyer, whose own racing history is backed up by his brother Jason (Rayse's uncle), who competed in the Ontario Sportsman stock car series.

Rayse's 18-year-old racing re-entry would be in the Bone Stock division, essentially a four-cylinder front wheel-drive



Tillsonburg resident Rayse Meyer celebrates his first Bone Stock division victory.

(CONTRIBUTED PHOTO)



(CONTRIBUTED PHOTO)

Terry Meyer (left) joins 19-year-old son Rayse in the Delaware Speedway's Victory Lane following his Bone Stock victory in the 2025 Pumpkin Smasher.

vehicle taken straight off the road. Its conversion to racing includes removing the dashboard and installing a racing seat and roll cage for safety.

"And pretty much take it out on the track and see what you do."

The Meyer family found a 'good deal' on a Chevy Cobalt Coupe Bone Stock conversion, purchasing it in February, 2024. The Delaware Speedway season begins at the end of April/early in May says Rayse, running through to early October. Preliminary ten-lap heats establish position for features running between 25 and 50 laps.

"The main thing is, keeping your tires under you," said Meyer, alluding to controlling temperature through proper angle and speed on the turns. Failing to do so means tires can heat up, losing their grip.

That, along with avoiding 'big wrecks' underpins Meyer's strategy.

"It's a weird feeling, that's for sure," he said of his - to date - trio of group collisions. "The cars are built safe, but you can never see it coming. You're hitting the brakes, holding on and hoping for the best. "Everything happens so fast."

Races are contested at 80 miles per hour said Meyer, whose year-one experience included an education in big wrecks and mechanical failure. His learning curve continued through his second season, admittedly a 'tough one.' But with continued support from his family, sponsors (M&J Tirecraft, BSG Tunes, The Keg Cambridge and London, William Dowds and Sons Electric, Castrol Oil and Herc's Heavy Truck Repairs) and support staff, Rayse looked to Delaware's final race of the season, the 13th Annual Pumpkin Smasher. The signature event was held Saturday, October 4th.

He had competed in 13 of 16 Delaware Speedway races, 16 overall, but was not in contention for a series points title. Looking to close out the season on a positive note however, Meyer qualified in tenth position, moving up to ninth for the start of the 40-lap 'smasher.' The car was 'hooked up' he said, set up and running well.

"We decided we'd head out and give it a shot."

In his first lap, Meyer aggressively moved up to fourth position.

"From there it was chasing down the other three."

Around the midway point he took over second place and began

to reel the leader in. With the car running well, Meyer saw his chance with ten laps remaining.

"Made the move down to the bottom. I was able to overtake him and run away with it."

By his final circuit, Meyer said he had roughly a half-lap lead, catching a glimpse of the checkered finish flag as he headed out of the final corner.

"It was a surrealistic feeling for me," he said, capped as the flag celebrated his first victory. "It was just pure excitement at that point, pure excitement and joy."

His dad Terry joined him in the track's victory lane, an encouraging moment in his young career. Realistically, only a single Ontario driver makes a full living driving stock cars says Rayse, but he would like to move up both in his current division and beyond. Next year, he looks to keep progressing, adding races beyond his series events as part of his extended goal.

"Love for the sport, that's pretty much it," he summed up. "My family's done it for years, I've been doing it for years."

"For me, there's nothing more fun than sitting in a car, driving it in circles and trying to go faster than everybody else."

Source for Sports 7-0 in Club Oxford B Division

JEFF GWYN

Post Contributor

Source for Sports is on top of B Division with an enviable 7-0 record in Club Oxford.

A Division

ReMax 6, Apple Shack 2

ReMax was able to get their scoring going in the second and had six different scorers. They are dangerous every rush and pounced on their chances. Apple Shack was hanging in there, but a couple penalties slowed their momentum. They had scoring chances, but couldn't cash in.

Ben Sharp had three points for ReMax. Brandon Lawler had a goal for Apple Shack.

Fody's 5, Health Hut 0

Fody's seemed to be in control all game, but had a strong middle of the second to win this one. They work well together every shift it seems. Health Hut couldn't get much going through the neutral zone, then when they did, Fody's netminder Tommy Lee turned them away. A frustrating loss for Health Hut.

Jeremy Hilliard had three points for

Fody's. Tommy Lee had the shutout.

B Division

Source 1, Airmount 0

Source had some chances on rushes, but couldn't cash in. They didn't allow Airmount much on chances all night. Airmount did well to hang with the top team. They play similar styles, so there was a lot of broken up passes and outlet rushes.

Jason VanThuyne had the goal for Source. Brady Silverthorn had the shutout for Source.

B-Line 1, Glass 1

B-Line had some solid rushes all night, but couldn't get the bounces to go their way. They played a tight defensive game. Glass did well to keep the high scoring B-Line under control. Glass didn't give in and fought hard to earn the tie tonight.

Wade Kirby had the B-Line goal. Adam Matthews had the goal for Glass.

Carquest 4, Prouse Mortgages 3

Carquest has found a way to keep pushing at the end of games. They pressured all night, but finally broke through late in the

second. Prouse Mortgages looked like they could fend off the late charge, but just got hemmed in their own zone. They made a push at the end, but just couldn't get a goal.

Brad Henderson had two goals for Carquest. Kyle Underhill had a goal for Prouse Mortgages.

Royal LePage 3, RND 3

Royal LePage was able to find some scoring tonight. They didn't get frustrated and that helped them earn the tie tonight. RND was able to play their game and use different players to score. They were able to hold off a late charge and got the tie.

Mitch Ryksen had two points for Royal LePage. Justin Rowles and Matt Snow had two points for RND.

November 5

B Division

Prouse Mortgages 2, RND 0

Prouse Mortgages came out strong in this one, they had the pressure in the first. They held off a push by RND in the second with their defence. RND let some frustration get to them, which cost them momentum late in the game.

Ryan Jamieson and Jeff Prouse had goals for Prouse Mortgages.

Source 4, Carquest 2

Source looked a step behind in the first, but rebounded quickly in the second. They are very good at breakout passes and finding the hole through the neutral zone. Carquest has a good start in this one, with plenty of pressure. They had trouble in the second when Source started at a faster pace. A tough loss as they looked to be in control in the first half.

Nate Bisschop had three points for Source. Dana Kobayashi had a goal for Carquest.

Glass 2, Royal LePage 1

Glass worked hard in the offensive zone tonight. They also played well defensively by keeping the rebounds to a minimum. Royal LePage had some speed in this one, but had no puck luck. They had trouble with getting second chances and that stifled their offence.

Stephen Schafer and Adam Matthews had goals for Glass. Brendan Briggs had the goal for Royal LePage.

CLUB OXFORD A DIVISION	GP	W	L	T	PTS
REMAX REALTY	6	5	1	0	10
FODY'S AUTOMOTIVE	6	4	2	0	8
THE HEALTH HUT	6	2	4	0	4
THE APPLE SHACK	6	1	5	0	2

CLUB OXFORD B DIVISION	GP	W	L	T	PTS
SOURCE FOR SPORTS	7	7	0	0	14
TILLSONBURG GLASS	7	3	1	3	9
B-LINE TRUCKING	6	3	1	2	8
CARQUEST AUTO PARTS	7	3	3	2	8
JEFF PROUSE MORTGAGES	7	3	2	2	8
RND CONSTRUCTION	7	1	4	2	4
AIRMOUNT FARMS	6	1	4	0	2
ROYAL LEPAGE	7	0	6	1	1

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

Weekend Quiz

by Jake Grant

1. According to the Bible, which Apostle was a tentmaker?

2. What city is home to the Spanish Steps?

3. "Heaven is a Place on Earth" by Belinda Carlisle was released in what year?

4. What do you call a word that sounds like what it describes?

5. What is the sum of angles in a quadrilateral?

6. At what time of day

did guns fall silent on November 11, 1918?

7. Who is the main character in The Lego Movie?

8. What kind of species can live on both water and land?

9. World War One officially ended with the signing of which treaty?

10. Which company introduced "Comet" cleanser back in 1956?

This week's answers are found on pg. 30

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

PEDLAR'S QUAY

Since 1987

A shopping destination for over 35 years

Gifts • Tabletop • Home

20 Ridout St. West in Downtown Tillsonburg

519.842.6993 www.pedlarsquay.com

Established 1961 • Locally Owned

Your local, full-service heating, ventilation, and air conditioning technicians

Servicing residential communities and industrial businesses in the Tillsonburg, Delhi, Aylmer, Ingersoll, and surrounding areas.

"We give you comfort"

oldridge@execulink.com

www.oldridgeheatingcooling.ca

519-688-2947

Top-ranked teams in town for Tobacco Belt Cashspiel



**ON
THE
BROOM**

NORA PETER

Tillsonburg Post Columnist

As we have moved into November, the Tillsonburg Curling Club has lots happening.

The different leagues are well under way with the Monday Mixed league expanding to 10 teams and choosing to go to six-end games and two draws, the Thursday Men have expanded to 10 teams as well and are doing two draws starting at 6:15 and 8:30. The Ladies who curl Thursday mornings at 10 a.m. have

grown and are curling with three sheets going. All these leagues have room for more curlers so don't be shy, come give them a try.

The first euchre night was a successful fundraiser for the club. Another major fundraiser is underway as members are selling tickets for Jolly Jackpot. Only 1,000 tickets will be sold for \$10 a ticket which gets you in a draw for cash prizes of \$2,000, \$500, \$100 plus an early-bird prize of \$250 (Nov. 28) which will be drawn Dec. 19. Tickets are available from members, or at the club. The club is also introducing a season-long 50/50 draw with tickets available in club at the bar with proceeds going directly to the club's capital expenditures. The draw will be on March 28.

The first Broken Broom Tobacco Belt Cashspiel happened last weekend with 14 world ranked men's curling teams coming to town for a three-day competitive bonspiel. Our local club member Jayden King whose team is ranked 29th in the

world, was one of the featured teams. As I write this, I don't know the outcome of the event.

On Nov. 22 we will host a Classic Fall Mixed bonspiel sponsored by Zeplyn Enterprises Inc. and E. & E. McLaughlin Ltd. This event is open to teams from in-town and out-of-town, and features two draws, fun, meals and prizes. Information can be found on the club website at tillsonburgcurl.com. Currently there is room for more entries, and the deadline is Nov. 15th.

Wednesday, Nov. 26, the club features the Community Service Bonspiel a popular community fun event. This bonspiel, sponsored by Good Redden Klosler, is in its 68th year and has \$3,500 in "prizes" to give away to the charity, community project or organization of choice. The emphasis is on fun and interacting with people from our community and a friendly competition on the ice. There are still two openings for teams in the two eight-team draws. Contact Les Pe-

ter at LNPETER.CURL@GMAIL.COM OR 519-688-2328 if interested.

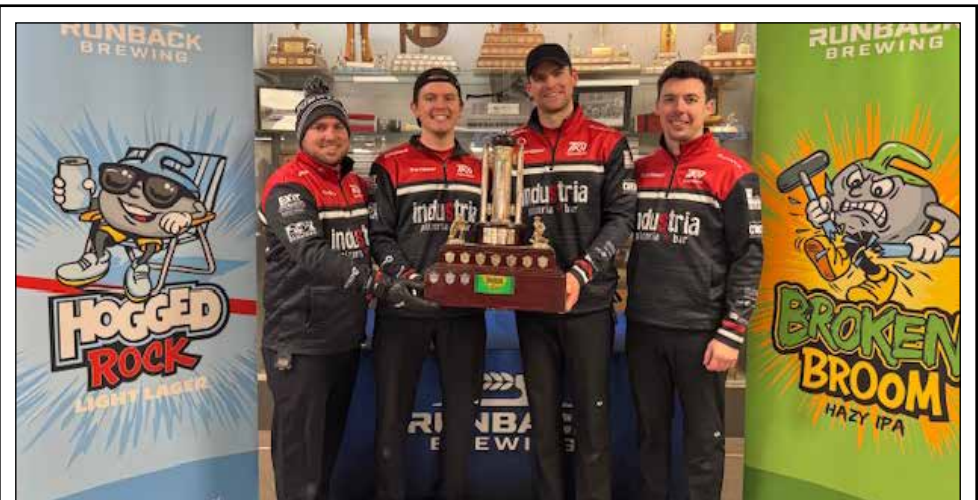
Curlers should be looking forward to the Canadian Olympic Curling Trials which start on Nov. 22 in Halifax, Nova Scotia and will choose our men's and women's representatives for the 2026 Winter Olympics in Italy. TV coverage will start on Nov. 22 at 1 pm on TSN. The top eight teams in the country will compete in a full round robin tournament with the top seed moving straight to the finals and the second and third going head-to-head in the semi-finals. For the women's side, my bet is on Team Homan who has been curling lights out so far this season but for the men's side it's hard to choose. I find many of the men's teams have "older curlers" who have been around for a while and maybe we need some younger blood in the game. Having said that I think maybe Jacobs or Dunstone are the ones to look for in the final.

See you on the ice or at the club!



(JEFF HELSDON PHOTO)

This weekend's Broken Broom Tobacco Belt Cashspiel attracted top notch curling talent. Amongst the 14 teams were a team from Switzerland, pictured here, a team from Newfoundland and teams from across Ontario.



(JEFF HELSDON PHOTO)

Team Keen from the Woodstock Curling Club were the winners of the Broken Broom Tobacco Belt Cashspiel. Left to right are: Mark Kean, Brady Lumley, Matt Garner, and Spencer Dunlop.

Thunder remember Remembrance Day with veterans from Tillsonburg Legion

MICHAEL HOLLY

Post Contributor

Last Saturday night was the annual Remembrance Day Honor Guard from Tillsonburg Legion Branch 153 at the Thunder Game. The players and fans were extremely responsive to impressive display put on by the honour guard. The playing of the Last Post, was followed by a moment of silence created a somber mood in the arena.

This was quickly dispelled once the puck dropped. The Aeros scored quickly at the 11-second mark to take the lead. They added another at 9:42. The Thunder fought back at the 2:44 mark but Andrew Oosterveld from Bandon Roberts on a beautiful snipe shot to the top corner. Theo Morrison from Justin Abraham muscled one in at 1:43 to even the score. However, at 1:13, the Aeros took the lead on the power play.

The second period saw Oosterveld from Derek Slaght and the tender Ben Blacker even the score at 13:59 on another top-shelf snipe.

The third period saw the intensity explode with the game go back and forth until a scramble in front to the Thunder net saw one slide in with only 1:47 left. An empty net goal at 0:21 sealed the deal for the Aeros.

The Thunder's next game is this Sunday at 3 p.m. This is the annual Student Night game. We hold it early so the younger fans can enjoy the game, and not mess up bed time. The Thunder will be providing all students with free tickets in their school this week. If a student does not get a ticket, come anyway/ We will let all students in for free.

The Thunder will also be in the Tillsonburg Parade this Saturday. We will give every student a ticket for the game on Sunday, just in case they did not get one.



(CONTRIBUTED PHOTO)

Legion Branch 153 provided an honour guard prior to Saturday night's Thunder game. This coming Sunday is the annual student game, starting at 3 p.m.



Copper Mug: where everybody knows your name

Although the food is great, the Copper Mug is more than a restaurant. The iconic Broadway eatery is the oldest surviving restaurant/pub in town.

Walking into the Copper Mug is like taking a walk back in time. It has the ambience of a classic bar, but the food of a fine restaurant where everything is made from scratch. The brick walls are likely original Tillson bricks and the bar is original from when the location opened as Carey's in the 1980s.

Kim Sage and Daryl D'Hondt purchased the restaurant from former owner Doris Weiler on Aug. 15, 2023. Weiler and late husband Tim purchased the restaurant in June 1995, and renamed it the Copper Mug in January 1996.

Sage and D'Hondt both worked there. D'Hondt, a graduate of Niagara College's culinary management course, worked in the kitchen for years. Sage, who has years of previous experience as a waitress and was owner of Matteo's, started about three years ago. Somewhere in the ensuing time, they became a couple.

"I was here a year-and-a-half then Doris approached me to talk to him," Kim said of the first talk of the couple buying the restaurant.

Neither imagined they would end up owning the establishment, and it started with Weiler joking about it.

"Even when we started talking about it, we were a little hesitant," Sage recalled.

One thing led to another and the couple ended up owning the restaurant four months later.

The largest change they made was rewriting the menu.

"It's fresher, a lot of it's more in-house and home-made," D'Hondt said.

He smokes pork for the pulled pork sandwiches, makes his own bacon, cuts his own fresh fries, makes chicken fingers from fresh chicken, makes his own lasagna noodles and grinds roasts into hamburger for the burgers.

The couple kept all the same staff, including Martha Cook, who has been a waitress/bartender for more than 50 years in Tillsonburg. She works one day per week.

"We have the iconic bar and the iconic bartender," Sage said.

"I call it the Cheers of Tillsonburg," D'Hondt added, saying the good food, friendly staff, cold beer, and ambience create a sense of nostalgia.

When D'Hondt and Sage bought The Mug, as regulars fondly call it, the posters that were the décor on the wall were from Seinfeld and Molson Canadian promos more than two decades old. These have all been switched out, save for the poster of Seinfeld's Kramer, which Sage said she will hold on to. In place of the older art work, posters from more recent concerts, signed photographs of entertainers who have appeared, and sports memorabilia are now hanging on the walls.

With the modernization in the décor, there is an emphasis on trying to attract younger patrons. Music is a part of this and there are bands playing regularly. D'Hondt said the emphasis is on local bands where people know the



performers and come to listen.

"Not a lot of bars will give people a chance," he said.

"We try and stay local," Sage agreed. "London is the farthest we would go for entertainers."

Amongst the locals who have performed are Chase Beres and Elle DeClark.

Other events include karaoke for teenagers and bus trips to sporting games in surrounding cities. The Copper Mug has hosted numerous fundraisers for local causes ranging from special Olympians to those needing assistance with medical issues and people who lost their home in a fire. In November and December, the Copper Mug has a program where patrons can

purchase a stocking for \$5 to assist the Salvation Army Christmas Appeal. A more recent addition is euchre nights.

One area the Copper Mug is looking at expanding in the future is providing food on location. They were the sponsors and organizers of the beer tent/entertainment at the Tillsonburg Fair.

Sage and D'Hondt welcome everyone into their restaurant. Although there have been changes, there are regulars that stop into The Mug several times per week, on certain nights or for special occasions. These people come for the food and because, as is said in Cheers theme song, "You wanna go where everybody knows your name."

Celebrating 29 years of locally family owned business.



Fresh made foods, in house smoked meats and lot of love, just like Mom used to make.

- Live Entertainment
- Karaoke
- NTN Trivia
- Fundraisers
- Birthdays
- Anniversaries
- Meetings • & More

**79 Broadway St, Tillsonburg
519-842-6227**



**The heart of
West African Cuisine
in Tillsonburg**



**#3 - 145 Simcoe St,
Tillsonburg, ON**

416-688-5545

snackriteca.com

Your Korner for Coffee & Comfort.



**101 Broadway, Tillsonburg
Tue to Sun: 8 am to 2 pm, Mon: Closed**

**CHRISSY'S
CATERING**



**(519) 688-1700
25 Brock St. W, Tillsonburg, On**

**CHUCK'S
ROADHOUSE
BAR AND GRILL**



**671 Broadway, Tillsonburg
chucksroadhouse.com**

From baked goods to minced meat: There will be no shortage of holiday spirit in Tillsonburg

ALEX HUNT

Post Contributor

Curious art and food seekers are invited to indulge in holiday festivities and support the community at the many Christmas craft markets and bazaars planned for Tillsonburg.

Vendors are invited to apply for the Station Arts Centre's Holiday Arts Market. Applications close on Nov. 21, and interested vendors can submit their application on the website.

The Holiday Arts Market will run from Dec. 5 to Dec. 18, Monday to Saturday, from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. Customers can expect to see a variety of local handmade art and holiday decor.

The St Mary's CWL (Catholic Women's League) is bringing back the 'Mistletoe Magic' Christmas Bazaar at the St. Mary's Church Hall and Father Langan Parish Centre on Nov. 15, from 9:30 a.m. to 1:30 p.m. The market will feature baked goods, a penny table, Christmas decor, greenery, and handmade craft items.

CWL President Kathy Holly said that the organization has been hosting the market for 20 years. A new addition this year will be a soup and sandwich luncheon, which will cost \$10 for adults and \$5 for children 10 years old and under. The market will also have a silent auction as well as 50/50 split tickets.

"The most rewarding part is seeing all the people at the bazaar, everybody who joins us all leaves happy at the end of the day," said Holly. "There are so many good deals, and we make sure that there is something for everyone. I love that I get to work with my faith sisters, and I really enjoy that. I get to see and talk to so many people; it's a lot of fun."

St. John's Anglican Church will be holding a Christmas Vendor Market on Nov. 22 from 9 a.m. to 2 p.m. Fifteen vendors will be selling items such as woodworking designs, skin care products, and clothing. Minced meat and bake tables will be available along with a lunch provided by the congregation.



(FILE PHOTO)

St. Paul's Frosty Fair Bazaar is always a busy day for those looking for Christmas crafts and baking. Scheduled for Nov. 23 this year, the show is one of many bazaars planned for this month.

"With the variety of vendors that we have, the hope is to attract more people to come in and see what they have to offer and provide our guests a wide range of products to select from," said Tena Tobias, coordinator for the Christmas Market. It's very special getting to set up the event and we make it welcoming space for all community members."

The UCW (United Church Women) of St. Paul's United Church are hosting the

Frosty Fair Bazaar on Nov. 23 from 9 a.m. to 1:30 p.m., with a luncheon costing \$10 from 11:30 a.m. to 1 p.m. The market will have a bake table, crafts, Christmas Décor and sewing items.

Hickory Hills Recreation Centre will be the site of a Christmas Bazaar and Tea Room on Nov. 22, from 9 a.m. to 2 p.m. The event will feature handcrafted items, raffles, baked goods, games and a silent auction.

Glendale High school will have their Holiday Market on Nov. 29 from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. The market will feature over 25 local vendors and will include free entry and a door prize.

For those looking for seasonal music, the Tillsonburg Senior Centre Singers annual concert is on Nov. 25 at 1:30 p.m. in the senior centre auditorium. Tickets are \$12, and are available from the senior's centre.

**Give us a call to start the
process on your next project**

BRONWIL
CONSTRUCTION
Residential/Commercial Contractors

226-970-1823

office@customlivingsolutions.ca



SERVING TILLSONBURG FOR OVER 50 YEARS

**TIME FOR MAINTENANCE OR NEW TIRES?
COME CHECK OUT OUR NEWLY RENOVATED BUILDING!**



Why Choose Tillsonburg Tire?

- We use the latest equipment for repairs and maintenance.
- We are a Signature Tire dealer - Offering great value on new tires and wheels.
- Our team of experienced staff and technicians are up to date and ready to serve your needs.
- We offer hometown service in a convenient location near the downtown core.
- Convenience. Wait in our comfortable waiting room, or use our complimentary drop off and delivery service.

**Tillsonburg
Tire & Service**

**55 BROADWAY,
TILLSONBURG, ON**
tillsonburg-tire.ca | 519-842-5943

MUSIC CORNER

From Wilco to Blue Rodeo: Bob Egan brings his songs and stories to Tillsonburg



BEN ADDRESS

Tillsonburg Post Columnist

When Bob Egan takes the stage at Paddy's Underground this Friday, Nov. 14, music fans in Tillsonburg will be treated to far more than a concert. The former member of Blue Rodeo and Wilco will bring with him a lifetime of songs, stories and the wisdom of a musician who has lived the dream and found meaning far beyond the awards and spotlight.

Egan's life has been one of constant reinvention.

Raised in a working-class family as one of seven kids, his early lessons in grit and adaptability carried him through an extraordinary journey. Bob attended Illinois State University between 1981 and 1984 earning a Master's degree in Industrial Organizational Psychology, which was followed by various careers in the past four decades, including building the largest volume guitar repair business in North America to joining two of the most beloved bands in North American roots music.

"I have had the incredible fortune to play in several of the most amazing bands for over 25 years here in Canada and down in the States," Egan says. "One of the common threads is that performing is connecting and engaging with the audience to move them. I have been a part of this process over a thousand times with bands performing their music. The solo shows I'm doing now are a chance to engage

the audience with my own music and share the stories of the adventures I experienced on my journey."

Now based in Kitchener, Egan's latest chapter sees him performing solo and speaking publicly about creativity, resilience and community. His performances are part concert, part conversation and are intimate affairs that remind audiences why music connects us in the first place.

"The payoff for a gig of any size is the connection," Egan explains. "What I love about the smaller rooms is how much more immediate and deeper and meaningful that connection can be. Before I began playing the 'big stages' with Wilco, I played a thousand shows in rooms just like Paddy's, so the smaller rooms have that rootsy, homecoming vibe for me that I know well and love. In many ways I prefer them. In fact, the greatest show of my life with Blue Rodeo was in a room with a few dozen people."

Looking back, there has been no shortage of unforgettable moments, including recording with The Sadies and Blue Rodeo under the watchful ear of legendary engineer Steve Albini, to earning a Single of the Year Juno Award in the year 2000 for playing lap steel guitar, pedal steel guitar and mandolin on The Tragically Hip's 'Bobcaygeon.' However, for Egan the most profound memories are often quiet ones.

"There was one night about four years into my tenure with Blue Rodeo," Egan recalls. "I was recording with the Sadies at Greg Keelor's farmhouse and the late Steve Albini was engineering. After a couple of satisfying overdubs, I walked outside to gaze up at the most amazing star-filled summer sky and was overcome with awe and joy and deep, deep gratitude. It dawned on me I was literally living my childhood dream, creating music with my friends and doing this

for a living. I felt humbled and honoured as I realized this is what I was put on earth to do. It was such a spiritual and affirming moment that I was this fortunate."

That humility and gratitude run through Egan's performances today. For Egan, the stories and songs are less about nostalgia and more about finding light in challenging times.

"I thought long and hard over many months about how to construct these shows. One thing I have learned from my public speaking career is that it is not about me, it is about the audience and what they need. Considering the turbulent, disruptive state of the world today, I think what we all need is lightness, hope and a sense we will survive and be better for it," Egan reflects. "And in my life as a musician, I have been incredibly fortunate to have received words of wisdom, comfort and inspiration from musi-

cal icons like Johnny Cash and Gord Downie to name just a few. I will be weaving these stories into my songs to create a community atmosphere that we are all in this together and there is a brighter day on the horizon."

If you are a fan of music, or just need some words of encouragement to get motivated, then this show is the perfect one to attend. Expect an evening of honest storytelling and heartfelt songs from one of Canada's most quietly remarkable musical lives. Bob Egan performs Friday, Nov. 14 at Paddy's Underground, with opening act Ethan Wall. Advanced tickets are \$15 and available online at www.eventbrite.ca and at The Mill. Tickets are also available the night of the show at the door for \$20 limited to availability. Doors open at 8 p.m. for this all ages event. For more information you can visit Bob Egan on his official website at www.bobegan.com

UPCOMING SHOWS

NOV. 13 - MO DNGER LIVE W/ DAVID MILTON
The Copper Mug
No Cover - 8pm

NOV. 14 - BOB EGAN (OF BLUE RODEO) W/ ETHAN WALL
Paddy's Underground
\$15 - 8 p.m. - All Ages/Licensed

NOV. 14 - DAN PRICE, SHAWN "CREAMCORN" HUGHES AND DALTON PUHR
The Copper Mug
No Cover - 8:30 p.m.

NOV. 15 - GUILHEM & THE BAMBOO BONES W/ DOUBLE EXPERIENCE
Paddy's Underground
\$15 - 8 p.m. - All Ages/Licensed

NOV. 15 - BLIND DOG JOE
The Copper Mug
No Cover - 9 p.m.

NOV. 16 - 1962
The Copper Mug
No Cover - 5 p.m.

NOV. 20 - AUTOPILOT W/ THE HALF SMOKE
Paddy's Underground
\$10 - 8 p.m. - All Ages/Licensed

NOV. 21 - MUSIC TRIVIA
The Copper Mug
No Cover - 8:30 p.m.



20 John Pound Road
Tillsonburg
Live Music • Comedy • Pub



• Live Entertainment • Karaoke • NTN Trivia
• Fundraisers • Birthdays • Anniversaries
• Meetings • & More

Fresh made foods, in house smoked meats and lot of love, just like Mom used to make.

79 Broadway St, Tillsonburg
519-842-6227

PUT YOUR MONEY WHERE YOUR HOUSE IS

Keep your dollars in Canada to strengthen communities and support local businesses, including your local newspaper.

News Media Canada
Médias d'Info Canada



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

Tickets on sale for Tour of Homes

JEFF HELSDON

Editor

While most home owners have just put their Halloween decorations away, participants in the Tour of Homes have likely been up to their arm pits in Christmas decorations for some time to prepare for the Tour of Homes on Nov. 22.

The annual tour features five personal homes and two businesses. It will run from 4 to 9 p.m.

"We don't like to make it too big because we want everybody to take their time," said Tabitha Verbuyst, executive director of the Station Arts Centre and event organizer. "We don't want to make it so overwhelming that participants don't get through all the homes."

Which homes will be part of the tour? That's a closely-guarded secret that Verbuyst won't reveal, but is printed on the tickets.

"They're amazing homes, you won't be disappointed," she promised. "The people that are a part of it are big decorators, so I'm sure they will go all out for the tour."

Verbuyst said that the various homeowners always have different styles

showcased, ranging from eclectic to traditional. She did ask people to respect the homeowners' rules.

"Each home will have their own guidelines," she said. "It's their own home, whether it's removing your shoes or not going past certain barriers."

The businesses on the tour are Annandale House and Tillsonburg Garden Gate.

Verbuyst said Annandale House is always decorated differently, with different roles.

"They do go all out on their Christmas décor," she said. "It's a nice opportunity for people to see it after hours, all lit up."

While there was no insight into how Garden Gate would decorate, Verbuyst did know that the business was offering all participants a 10 per cent discount that could be used for purchases in the store.

Tickets for the Tour of Homes are \$15 each and are available for purchase at the Station Arts Centre. There are only 250 tickets available, and they sell out quickly.

"It's a nice way to get out and explore Tillsonburg, meet people and get in that holiday spirit,"



(FILE PHOTO)

The annual Holiday Tour of Homes will take place on Nov. 22, and tickets are now available. This photo from last year's tour shows some of the décor by one of the participating homeowners.

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

SAME OWNERS!
SAME FLOORING EXPERTS
NEW LOOK!

Floors
Now
Tillsonburg
is now

END OF THE ROLL™

FLOORING CENTRES

Hardwood | Laminate | Area Rugs | Luxury Vinyl | Carpet | & More!

Tillsonburg 612 Broadway St endoftheroll.com f @



(CONTRIBUTED PHOTO)

HONORARY FOOD DRIVE

The residents of Baldwin Place held a food drive from Oct 27 to Nov 3 in recognition of one of their food bank volunteers, Murry Dawson, who recently passed away. During the week, Baldwin Place residents deposited their donations at the rec centre. The donations were loaded into three vehicles and then delivered to Helping Hands Food Bank on the morning of Nov 4. Total weight of the donations registered at 518 lbs.

**GRANT
HAVEN
MEDIA**

Given any thought of showcasing customer success stories or testimonials in a regular feature? This can improve your brand and demonstrate customer satisfaction. I can help.

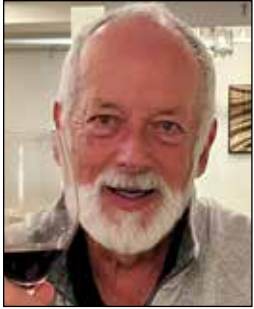


heather@granthaven.com

226.261.1837

St. Marys Independent The Paris Independent The Wilmet-Tavistock Gazette STRATFORD TIMES Woodstock Ingersoll Echo Goderich Sun
Tillsonburg Post SIMCOE ADVOCATE NORFOLK FARMS BRANT FARMS NIAGARA FARMS INDY

You can visit The Roaring Lion, any time you like



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

PAUL KNOWLES

Tillsonburg Post Columnist

Everyone has been following the story of the huge jewel heist at the Louvre Museum in Paris. I have watched with special interest, relieved that the name “Knowles” has not appeared among the suspects. Because we were at the Louvre only a few days before the theft took place. But I’m innocent, I tells ya, innocent!

There is something a bit surreal about having been on the spot shortly before such a major crime occurred. As you may know, the authorities have arrested and charged a number of people, but as I write this, they have not recovered any of the missing jewels.

I thought about a couple of weeks after we were at the Louvre, because we were in another great city – this one in Canada – and were enjoying a visit to a significant Canadian work of art, one that was also stolen in recent years (actually, not long after we visited the site...hmmm...) but which was found, returned, and restored to the spot from which it vanished. And it’s an iconic artifact that you can visit, free of charge!

The piece of art? Yousuf Karsh’s famous photographic portrait of Winston Churchill, signed by Karsh, which hangs in Zoe’s Lounge in the Chateau Laurier hotel in Ottawa. It’s there because Karsh lived and worked at the hotel for 19 years.

The story of this photo is fascinating.

In Karsh’s own words: “My portrait of Winston Churchill changed my life. I knew after I had taken it that it was an important picture, but I could hardly have dreamed that it would become one of the most widely reproduced images in the history of photography. In 1941, Churchill visited first Washington and then Ottawa. The Prime Minister, Mackenzie King, invited me to be present. After the electrifying speech, I waited in the Speaker’s Chamber where, the evening before, I had set up my lights and camera. The Prime Minister, arm-in-arm with Churchill and followed by his entourage, started to lead him into the room. I switched on my floodlights; a surprised Churchill growled, ‘What’s this, what’s this?’ No one had the courage to explain. I timorously stepped forward and said, ‘Sir, I hope I will be fortunate enough to make a portrait worthy of this historic occasion.’ He glanced at me and demanded, ‘Why was I not told?’ When his entourage began to laugh, this hardly helped matters for me. Churchill lit a fresh cigar, puffed at it with a mischievous air, and then magnanimously relented. ‘You may take one.’ Churchill’s cigar was ever present. I held out an ash-tray, but he would not dispose of it. I went back to my camera and made sure that everything was all right technically. I waited; he continued to chomp vigorously at his cigar. I waited. Then I stepped toward him and, without premeditation, but ever so respectfully, I said, ‘Forgive me, sir,’ and plucked the cigar out of his mouth. By the time I got back to my camera, he looked so belligerent he could have devoured me. It was at that instant that I took the photograph.”

It was Churchill’s stern facial expression that caused the portrait to be named “The Roaring Lion”. It became an instant symbol of wartime resistance. The photographed photograph – taken in 1941 – was donated to the hotel by Karsh and his wife in 1998, four years before Karsh’s death. It hung in the lounge – alongside



Your faithful reporter, entirely innocent at the Louvre.

several other wonderful Karsh portraits, including one of Albert Einstein – until sometime between December 25, 2021 and January 6, 2022.

That’s when a thief removed the photo from the wall on which it hung, replaced it with a reproduction, and fled. Remarkably, even though the phony photo was in an entirely different frame, no one noticed the substitution for about eight months! Then, the hunt was on. Eventually, the stolen, signed Karsh found its way into an auction; it was purchased by a collector in Italy, who had no idea it was a hot item. When the story of the theft unfolded, the purchaser returned the photo. It was turned over to Canadian authorities in September, 2024. It was back on display at Chateau Laurier in December of last year. The crook was caught, by the way.

It’s reported that security has been greatly increased around the photograph. In small measure, when we were there

(PAUL KNOWLES PHOTO) in October, that was obvious because several entrances to the lounge are blocked by planters and furniture, and you can only get in past the greeters’ desk. I’m sure there is other, more sophisticated security in place, as well.

But the thing I like about all this is, anyone can visit the repatriated Karsh portrait. Just tell the staff member at the host desk you want to see the piece, and you will be welcomed in. And there you will find the Roaring Lion, Winston Churchill, with his personality on full display!

I recommend this short stop as part of any visit to our nation’s capital. And it’s a lot handier – and less expensive – that going to the Louvre.

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



(PAUL KNOWLES PHOTO)

Appropriately, the Parliament Hill statue of Sir Wilfrid Laurier overlooks the famous hotel that bears his name.



A sculpture of Yousuf Karsh stands beside the Chateau Laurier. (CHELSEA BELIVEAU PHOTO)

THE HOLIDAY HIT CONTINUES CELEBRATE WITH ANNIE UNTIL DECEMBER 14!

WHERE LAUGHTER AND SONG MAKE THE SEASON SHINE

CRITIC'S PICK
"SUREFIRE HIT"

THE GLOBE AND MAIL

"VERY LIVELY AND
EBULLIENTLY
CHOREOGRAPHED"

CHICAGO TRIBUNE

"CROWD-PLEASING"

THE NEW YORK TIMES

**DON'T WAIT 'TIL TOMORROW — SECURE YOUR SEATS TODAY AND
MAKE THIS MAGICAL MUSICAL PART OF YOUR HOLIDAY TRADITION.**

Stratford
FESTIVAL

ANNIE

BOOK BY **THOMAS MEEHAN** | MUSIC BY **CHARLES STROUSE** | LYRICS BY **MARTIN CHARNIN**

ORIGINAL BROADWAY PRODUCTION DIRECTED BY **MARTIN CHARNIN**

BASED ON "LITTLE ORPHAN ANNIE"® BY PERMISSION OF TRIBUNE CONTENT AGENCY, LLC

2025 SEASON SPONSOR: OPHELIA LAZARIDIS

PRODUCTION CO-SPONSORS: ROBERT & MARY ANN GORLIN, RIKI TUROFSKY & CHARLES PETERSEN AND PETER & CAROL WALTERS

PRODUCTION
CO-SPONSOR



SWOX NEWS



SWOX residents to receive green bins this fall

Green bin containers for organic waste collection are being distributed to homes in the Township of South-West Oxford and City of Woodstock this fall ahead of the program start in these communities on Jan. 5, 2026.

One 45-litre green bin for setting out at the curb, along with a 7-litre kitchen container for food scraps, will be delivered to 24,000 residences across the two municipalities throughout October and November. Each bin contains a sorting guide and information sheet along with samples of acceptable compostable bin liners or bags if residents choose to use these.

Bins are being distributed to single-detached, semi-detached, townhouses and apartments with five units or less along existing garbage collection routes. Larger multi-residential units and apartment buildings in Woodstock and South-West Oxford will be eligible to join the organics collection program later in 2026, but property owners must first complete the online enrollment form opening Nov. 1, 2025, at www.oxfordcounty.ca/multi-res.

Green bins will be collected along with regular household garbage on a rotating six-day collection cycle. This type of schedule moves the collection day forward one day from week to week, skipping weekends and holidays. Collection schedules will be posted online and mailed out with Oxford County's Wasteline newsletter in November. The collection schedule will also be included in the Woodstock City Services Calendar and the SWOX Talks e-newsletter.

If you are a resident of South-West Oxford and haven't received your green bin by November 30, please contact Oxford County at info@wasteline.ca or 1-800-755-0394, ext. 3159.

Green bin organic waste collection and six-day collection cycles start in May 2027 for Blandford-Blenheim, East Zorra-Tavistock, Norwich, Ingersoll, Tillsonburg and Zorra.

For more information on upcoming program changes visit Speak Up, Oxford! at www.oxfordcounty.ca/new-waste-collection.

Quick facts

- Organics, or green bin, programs collect food scraps and other biodegradable waste, excluding leaf and yard waste. Only Oxford County-issued green bins can be used for organic waste collection. Bag tags are not required for organic waste set-out.
- Beginning in January 2026 in all Oxford County municipalities, blue box recycling collection will move to a new province-wide recycling program operated by Circular Materials. For more information for your municipality, including potential changes to what goes in the blue box, watch for future updates at www.circularmaterials.ca/city-of-woodstock or www.circularmaterials.ca/south-west-oxford
- Small businesses, commercial properties, and not-for-profit and public sector organizations will not be included in the new provincial program when it fully launches in January 2026. To fill this gap, Oxford County is starting a new curbside recycling collection program for these groups. To learn more or register your business, visit www.oxfordcounty.ca/business-recycling.
- Multi-residential buildings in Tillsonburg, Norwich and the remaining municipalities that would like to register for organic waste collection starting in 2027 can fill out the online enrollment form beginning Nov. 1, 2025.



HISTORICAL TRICK OR TREATING

(JEFF HELSDON PHOTO)

The tradition of trick or treating at Annandale National Historic Site continued this year after being a success last year. Visitors went to seven different stations through the site and were given a variety of 'treats' before reaching volunteer and local author Jason Pongracz, who was handing out the candy. This year saw more than 250 trick or treaters come through.

HearingLife

4.7 ★★★★★ nps.today 51,300+ reviews in Canada.¹

BLACK FRIDAY SAVINGS

OUR BIGGEST SALE OF THE YEAR

up to
\$2,100
off the latest
hearing aids*

**+ 0% financing
for 12 months***

No credit checks or hidden fees*

“When paired with comprehensive hearing care, today's advanced hearing aids are typically small and discreet, while being able to improve auditory experiences and restore meaningful connections.”

Katie Koebel, Audiologist, M.Cl.Sc., Reg. CASLPO

Get started with a FREE hearing test*

Proudly serving the community for over 10 years!

Tillsonburg
114 Broadway St
1-888-344-9822

Port Dover
697 Highway 6 W, Unit 1A
1-888-485-0782

Simcoe
216 West St, Unit 100
1-888-344-9986

Ingersoll
120 Thames St N, Unit 9
1-888-485-1801

St. Thomas 24 First Avenue, Unit 5
1-888-327-9904



Mention code: **NSP-BKFD-TPST**

Book online **HearingLife.ca/2100**

*A comprehensive hearing assessment is provided to adults ages 19 and older at no cost. The results of this assessment will be communicated verbally to you. Depending on the province you're located in, an administrative fee may apply if a copy of an Audiological Report is requested. Child hearing tests are conducted at select locations for a fee, please contact us for more information. Offer not applicable for industrial hearing tests. Up to \$2,100 off offer expires on 01/31/2026. Information within this offer may vary or be subject to change. Interest rates starting at 0%. Deposit may be required. Borrower must be age of majority and have a Canadian bank account. Financing is available on select core-brand hearing aids and at select HearingLife locations. Some conditions apply, see clinic for details. Offers not valid in Quebec. [1]Source: review.nps.today/r/HearingLife-Canada. This coupon cannot be combined with other promotions. Limit one coupon per client per transaction. Value not redeemable for cash. See clinic for details.

SWOX NEWS



SWOX Township signs parkland lease agreement with developer

DEBBIE KASMAN

Post Correspondent

At its regular council meeting on Oct. 7, South West Oxford Township (SWOX) council authorized the mayor and the CAO/deputy clerk to sign a lease agreement with the developer, 1000182281 Ontario Inc., for the Mount Elgin Community Centre Parkland that was swapped with the developer on Sept. 19 in exchange for parkland on the west side of Mount Elgin.

This land swap included the exchange of nearly 3 acres of township-owned land from the east side of the Mount Elgin Community Centre with nearly three acres of subdivision land on the west side of Mount Elgin to facilitate the development of a new, larger park in the subdivision. The terms of the lease are from Sept. 19, 2025 to Dec. 31, 2031.

According to the lease agreement, the township will continue to operate and maintain the Mount Elgin Community Centre Parkland, which includes the

baseball diamond, multi-purpose court and associated green space (with no rental fee payable) until future development proceeds on the community centre parkland property.

The township is permitted to keep any rental income generated through community use of these lands to support ongoing operations and maintenance.

The township is also responsible for all day-to-day operations, upkeep, and maintenance of the community centre parkland and will maintain \$5 million

general liability insurance naming the developer as an additional insured.

The lease may be terminated by the developer with 90 days' written notice.

Other provisions include indemnity, compliance with laws, environmental responsibility and notice.

The rental agreement ensures the community will continue to have access to the parkland and recreational facilities at the Mount Elgin Community Centre until development on that property proceeds.

SWOX Council proceeds with construction management selection process for new municipal office, child care facility and library; cost soars to \$14 million

DEBBIE KASMAN

Post Correspondent

At its regular council meeting on Nov. 4, South West Oxford Township (SWOX) council voted to proceed with a construc-

tion management approach for its new municipal office, child care facility and library located west of Highway 19 on Mount Elgin Road. The new rough estimate, from design through to construction, is estimated to reach \$13,966,212 plus HST.

The estimate includes allowances for 10 per cent design contingencies and 10 per cent construction contingencies, acknowledging that the project is still in the concept design phase and several elements will continue to be refined as the design progresses.

Updated concept drawings show a two-story model with a 2,350 square-foot library located on the north end of the lower level, a daycare on the south end of the lower level, and the municipal office with council chambers on the second floor.

A construction management approach allows the township to maintain control over design decisions, manage costs, and ensure that any savings achieved through competitive trade pricing are returned directly to the township.

Under the township's purchasing policy, a formal Request for Proposal (RFP) process is required for the purchase of goods or services valued at more than \$50,000. In accordance with this requirement, the township's selection of a construction manager will need to follow a competitive RFP process.

AEC Developments and WalterFedy, both located in Kitchener, Ontario, will assist the township in preparing an RFP for the pre-qualification of construction managers. This will allow the township to

shortlist the top three to five firms based on experience, insurance, relevant project portfolios, and demonstrated expertise in construction management. AEC Developments and WalterFedy will also assist in preparing a second RFP for the shortlisted firms. This second round will focus on fees and hourly rates.

Once a construction manager has been selected, that firm will be contracted to work closely with the township and the design team throughout the remainder of the project.

The construction management services, including detailed design development, costing refinement, tender coordination, and project oversight, are anticipated to total up to \$420,000 plus HST.

Staff recommend the construction management portion of the project be funded from the township's Working Capital Reserve in 2026. This will support the development of accurate scope and costing before the township commits to construction. Once the detailed design phase is complete and final construction drawings and specifications are prepared, staff will return to council with a more refined project cost estimate and proposed financing strategy. Staff will also look into and pursue funding opportunities that may be available in 2026, including programs geared toward energy efficiency, low-carbon construction, and community infrastructure.

It is anticipated the full project cost will be funded through a combination of township reserves, sale of the existing municipal office, debenture financing, and, where possible, external grant funding.

We Have Moved!

Join Us at Our Christmas Open House for some Sips & Snacks

Friday, November 14, 2025
3:00 p.m. - 8:00 p.m.
67B Tillson Ave., Tillsonburg (Next to Tillson Pizza)





We Are Helping Your Friends & Family

519-544-HOME

67B Tillson Ave., Tillsonburg

www.wiltshirerealty.ca


Bryan Wiltshire**
 519-318-0736


Amanda Wiltshire*
 519-777-8801


Brianne Guralski*
 519-983-7885


Cam Hughes*
 519-852-5431


Craig Todt*
 519-550-5212


Melissa McDonald*
 519-688-6916

** Broker of Record * Sales Rep.

tillsonburgpost.com

COMING EVENTS

LET'S FALL INTO COUNTRY MUSIC WITH THE INGERSOLL COUNTRY MUSIC JAMBOREE

at the Masonic Hall, 190 Thames St., Ingersoll, 1-4 p.m. every other Friday. November 14 & 28, and December 5. Join us. Walk ins welcome. Qualifications, love 50-70's country music, perform, listen, dance, and enjoy.

'MISTLETOE MAGIC' CHRISTMAS BAZAAR

Saturday, November 15: 9:30 a.m.-1:30 p.m. St. Mary's church and the Parish Centre, Rolph St., Tillsonburg

Please join us for our annual bazaar, with two locations to serve you. In the Parish Centre you will find the Penny table. Handmade for you; all things local and made by hand, greenery for all your outdoor decorating needs, and limited quantity of ready made wreathes, yummy home baked items, including a small quantity of delicious meat pies, as well as fresh produce and preserves. In the church hall you will find a silent auction, indoor and outdoor Christmas decor, and Timeless Treasures; jewelry, select clothing, puzzles, and many surprises. Back by popular demand is the Bistro. Both St. Mary's church and the Parish Centre are fully accessible, and admission is free. Please bring a bag or two to carry home your purchases.

FREE SENIOR DIGITAL LITERACY CLASSES

Thursday, November 20: 10 a.m. - Noon Multi-Service Centre
Encompassing Facebook, Zoom, Google Maps, YouTube, and Microsoft Suite.
Call 519-842-9000 x.266 to register.

ST. JOHN'S CHRISTMAS MARKET

Saturday, November 22: 9:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m.

St. John's Anglican Church
46 Ridout Street West. Tillsonburg
Vendors Market with a variety of Christmas Creations, Greenery, Woodworking, Clothing, Skincare and more! Bake table, Famous Mincemeat, Nativity scene displays, "Candy Guess" and lunch is available. Admission \$2.00.

CHRISTMAS BAZAAR AND TEA ROOM

Saturday, November 22: 9a.m.-2 p.m.

Hickory Hills Recreation Centre, 48 Wilson Ave, Tillsonburg.
Handcrafted Items, Raffles, Baked Goods, Books, Puzzles, Games and Silent Auction. Find a gift for that special someone. Enjoy lunch in our Tea Room. Hope to see you there!

COMMUNITY PRAYER SERVICE

St. Andrew's prayer group invites you to join us on Saturday, November 29 from 10-11 am for this special service at Tillsonburg St. Andrew's, 46 Brock St. W. All welcome.

CHRISTMAS WITH COMMUNITY LIVING

Friday, December 5 – Free will donation. St. John's Anglican Church, 46 Ridout Street West, Tillsonburg, Ontario
Join us, with our friends from Community Living, to start the Christmas season off with Christmas music and a good old Carol Sing. Christmas treats for all.

TILLSONBURG SENIOR CENTRE SOUNDS OF THE SEASON

December 6: 7 p.m.
Lion's Auditorium, Tillsonburg
An all ages Christmas concert with the country music stylings of Crystal Gage accompanied by Rick Loucks, Charlie Agro, Doug Johnson, & Fred Lewis. Call 688-2520 to get your tickets

The Bayham Beachgest Committee invites you to the PORT BURWELL CHRISTMAS PARADE

December 6: 6 p.m.

Meet Santa after the parade at the Marine Museum. Grab a candy bag from the Vienna Swans and enjoy a hot chocolate or cider courtesy of the Port Burwell Historical Society. Floats are to arrive at the Legion at 5:30 p.m.

AND TO ALL A GOOD NIGHT

December 6: 10 a.m. - noon

St.Paul's United Church, 88 Bidwell St. Tillsonburg
It's a pajama party as Messy Church celebrates "And to all a good Night." Christmas crafts and lots of fun plus a hot lunch. We ask that children be accompanied by an adult.

TILLSONBURG ANNUAL SCARF BOMB

December 6
Drop off at Tillsonburg Sobeys or Tillsonburg Zehrs
We are looking for donations of gently used or new, hats, mittens, scarfs, snow pants, boots, and coats. We accept socks in sandwich bags.

MODERN SQUARE DANCING IS FOR YOU!

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! At Thames Valley Dance Club, we dance on Monday nights from 7 - 9 p.m. 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. Hope to see you on Sept 8th at the Ingersoll Pipe Band Hall!

INTERESTED IN BRIDGE?

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

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.

OXFORD GRIEF CARE:

FREE Monthly Grief Support Group

Register at: oxford.griefsupport@von.ca or 519-539-1231 Ext 6299 or 6296

TILLSONBURG

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

INGERSOLL

WHEN: 4th Tuesday of every month
WHERE: Ingersoll Public Library 130 Oxford St., Ingersoll
TIME: 10:30 a.m. –12 Noon

WOODSTOCK

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

MEMBERS GENERAL MEETING

1st Wednesday of every month
Starting at 7 pm
Not a member contact us to join
The Wagner Memorial Teeterville Legion Branch 526. 3890 Teeterville Road, Teeterville, Ontario. For More Information Call, the Legion 519-443-5588
<https://www.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, Ontario
You do not need to be a member to Volunteer, Just contact the legion and leave your name and number and purpose of your call. Someone will get back to you as to where you might be needed. Students and Adults welcome. Open hours. Wed.-Fri. 3 pm-10 pm, Sat.1 pm-10 pm, Sun.1 pm-6 pm. For More Information call, the Legion at 519-443-5588 or teetervillelegionbranch526.ca

OXFORD PHILATELIC SOCIETY

Meetings: 2nd Tuesday (2-4 p.m.) and 4th Tuesday (7-9 p.m.)
September to May
Church of the Epiphany, 560 Dundas Street, Woodstock Ontario N4S 1C7
If you have never belonged to a stamp club, now's the time. Meet new friends, grow your knowledge and collection. Contact: Don Eaton dhfe@silomail.com
Website: <http://www.rpsc.org/chapters/oxford>

TILLSONBURG SENIOR CENTRE WEEKLY PROGRAMS FOR 50+

Scrabble Tues mornings, Drum Fit Wed afternoons, BINGO Fri afternoons, Karaoke second Fri afternoon of month, and many more! Over 35 programs a week! Call 688-2520 for details.

UPCOMING EVENTS AT THE WAGNER MEMORIAL,

TEETERVILLE LEGION BRANCH 526
3890 Teeterville Road, Teeterville, Ontario
For More Information call the Legion at 519-443-5588 or check out our website at [teetervillelegionbranch526.ca](https://www.teetervillelegionbranch526.ca)

PROGRESSIVE EUCHRE

Friday, November 14 & December 12

Registration at 6:30 p.m., Starting at 7:00 pm
Everyone is Welcome.

THE BIG GAME (GREY CUP)

Sunday, November 16, Starting at 4:30 p.m.
Come and join us to watch the Big Game. Snacks and Light Meal.

LEGION CHRISTMAS CRAFT & VENDOR SHOW

Sunday, November 23, 11:00 a.m.- 3:00 p.m.
Free Admission. Space still available! Want to book a space?
To book contact the legion and leave your name and phone number, or pop in during business hours. Cash only, we do not have debit, or ATM. Wed.-Fri. 3 pm-10 pm, Sat.1 pm-10 pm, Sun.1 pm-6 pm.

WINGS & THINGS PUB NIGHT

Friday, November 28, Starting at 5:00 p.m. (Until Sold Out)
Cash only, we do not have debit, or ATM.

EXPERIENCE FANSHAWE AT OPEN HOUSE

All locations are open from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. on Saturday, November 29
Meet faculty and current students from all areas of Fanshawe. Drop-in and ask about your program interests, career options and becoming a Fanshawe student. Hear from college experts on student life, admissions, financial aid, and more! Explore our campuses at London, Woodstock, Simcoe, St. Thomas, Clinton and Tiverton

INGERSOLL DOWNTOWN BIA EVENTS:

LIGHTING OF THE LIGHTS “A CANADIANA CHRISTMAS”

Thursday, November 20, Ingersoll Pipe Band 6:45 pm, Tree Lighting at 7 pm
Heritage Park, Gazebo – Thames St., Ingersoll
Stores Open Late – offering special sales/promotions, Santa and Mrs. Claus photo ops, Poutine Mobile Truck, the Lion's Club is offering free hot chocolate, apple cider, and s'mores. Donations Welcome. Join our local businesses as we kick off the holiday season in true Canadian style. Wear your Canadian colours, whether red and white or buffalo plaid, perhaps moose or beaver print is your style, toques, snowshoes, the choice is yours. Let's show our Canadian pride! Stroll downtown and visit the local businesses that have their windows dressed in true Canadian splendor and vote on the best display on our new website <https://www.downtowningersoll.ca/>. Shop Canada, Shop Local, Shop Ingersoll!

CHRISTMAS MADNESS IN DOWNTOWN INGERSOLL

Thursday November 20 - November 22
Visit our amazing downtown businesses during these crazy days of Christmas promotions and deals. For individual business promotions and deals check our new website for the Downtown business directory. Enjoy a stroll downtown and view the local businesses with windows dressed in true Canadian splendour, then vote for your favourites on our new website <https://www.downtowningersoll.ca/>. Shop Canada, Shop Local, Shop Ingersoll!



A GENEROUS WOLF PACK

(JEFF HELSDON PHOTO)

Samantha Hamilton, coordinator of the Helping Hand Food Bank, gives a high five to the Westfield Wolf after the Westfield Wonderful Wolf Pack Leaders collected three times their goal in a food drive. The wolf pack is a leadership group with Grade 7 and 8 students, who organized the food drive. The goal was to collect 1,000 items, which was met in four days, with a total of 3,624 items collected. The group also leads spirit days and a monthly spirit assembly.



MAPLE MANOR RESIDENTS HELP

(JEFF HELSDON PHOTO)

Maple Manor residents' council collected food and \$1,540 in cash that was donated to the St. Vincent de Paul Food Pantry from staff and families. The pantry helps families in town, and those who wish assistance can call 519-9842-3224, ext. 5. Left to right are: resident Marie Webb, resident Margaritha Froese, Maple Manor program assistant Crystal Vandenbroek, resident council president David Martin, St. Vincent de Paul vice-president Corrie Gosso, resident Al Wittet, Maple Manor recreation manager Lindsay Varro, resident Kay Cowenberg, and resident Sonya Rutherford.

MEET THE PEOPLE OF THE MEMORIAL VETERAN BANNERS



John Elvin (Mel) Gamble

It is with pride and love, the family of John Elvin (Mel) Gamble shares this story. He served as a Captain in the Royal Canadian Army Chaplain Corps during the Second World War. His initial years after graduating from theology at the University of Toronto led him and our mom to Port Rowan where he served as the United Church minister. At the start of the war, he enlisted and left Port Rowan for service in Europe. On his return, he was diagnosed with tuberculosis. His recovery was difficult, and following the advice of his physicians, he did not return to active church work. Once again, he enrolled at U of T and earned his Master's degree in social work. Dad and mom then moved to London where he helped to establish the Social Work Department at the Ontario Hospital for psychiatric in patient care. Dad remained as director of that department until his retirement.

CLASSIFIEDS

TREES

Hundreds of shade trees, fruit trees, apples, pears, peaches, plums, sweet and sour cherries, apricots, nectarines, blueberries, haskapp grapes, raspberries, elderberries etc. Lots of spruce, pine, cedars for windbreak and privacy hedges. Sizes 1-8 ft. in containers ready to go. Flowering shrubs and much more. Mon-Sat 7:00am to 6:00pm. Martin's Nursery, 42661 Orangehill Rd Wroxeter, ON N0G 2X0 (1 Conc. North of Wroxeter on Belmore Line)

SHOP LOCAL. SAVE LOCAL



Support the local businesses that keep your community and its newspapers thriving.

ADVERTISE LOCAL News Media Canada Médias d'Info Canada

GROW WITH US

Truck and Backhoe Operator

Competition 2025-97 Highland patrol – Permanent full-time | \$31.10/hour

This role includes maintaining culverts, roads, roadsides and safety devices, and performing winter control activities, including snow plow operation. Valid Class D license with Z endorsement is required.

Apply by November 18, 2025, at 4:00 p.m.

Resumes are only accepted via email at hr@oxfordcounty.ca. Please include the competition number in the subject line.



Full job description and qualifications: oxfordcounty.ca/careers

OxfordCounty Growing stronger together

BUSINESS DIRECTORY

ACCOUNTING

Need to catch up and file several years of income tax returns?

David Simmonds

MBA CPA CGA

Call me at

519-842-4279

- Agriculture
- Construction
- Manufacturing
- Transportation
- Professionals

AUTOMOTIVE

**HARM'S
AUTOMOTIVE
AUTO REPAIR AND PARTS**

406 ON-19, Tillsonburg, ON

519-409-1555

harmsaautorepair@gmail.com

CANDLES

COUNTRY HOME CANDLE
6 Middleton Church Rd, Delhi



MADE IN NORFOLK COUNTY

60+ AMAZING FRAGRANCES

COUNTRYHOMECANDLE.COM

CLEANING

Service Team

**Professional Air
Duct Cleaning**

Call Steven Beausoleil

519-688-2557

CUSTOM WINDOW COVERINGS



Blinds • Shutters
Rollers • Automation

17 BROCK ST E,

TILLSONBURG

519-550-6770

SHADES3.CA

Free In-Home Consultations

FISHING & TACKLE



359 SIMCOE STREET, TILLSONBURG

ERIEANDCREEKTACKLE.CA

FACEBOOK OR INSTAGRAM:

@ERIEANDCREEKTACKLE

MORTGAGE SPECIALIST

Earn 8% to 1.3% interest investing in private mortgages secured by real estate.



David Simmonds MBA CPA CGA

Mortgage Agent Level 2 - Brokerage License 12728

519-403-5020

david@davidsimmonds.ca

RESTAURANT



101 Broadway,
Tillsonburg

Tue to Sun:

8 am to 2 pm,

Mon: Closed

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

TAILORING

TILLSONBURG TAILORING
Your One-Stop Shop for Style and Fit!

Located at 230 Lisgar Ave,
Tillsonburg, we offer:

- Expert Alterations
- Suit Jacket Sales & Rentals
- FREE Alterations with Suit Jacket Purchase

Contact: (519) 409-1050
Hours: Mon-Fri: 9 AM - 6 PM
Sat: 10 AM - 3 PM

AUTO REPAIR

**GEORGE'S
AUTO REPAIR
INC.**

**Tire Services | Oil Changes
Maintenance & Repairs**

519 842-7058 • GEORGESAUTO.CA

10 Bridge St W., Tillsonburg

OPEN MON TO FRI: 8 AM - 5 PM



CONSTRUCTION

**OTTER CREEK
CONSTRUCTION**

Interior Renovations
Exterior Upgrades
Residential and Commercial

ottercreekconstruction.com

519-983-2008 | dvan.occ@gmail.com

7 McGuire Cres, Tillsonburg

ORANGE DOOR ACRES



A destination
for Families and
Foodies alike!

- Pasture Raised Chicken
- Highest Quality Seafood
- Local Cheese
- Ready-Made Meals
- Preserves, and more!

323804 Mt Elgin Rd, Mount Elgin
orangedooracres.ca

SNOW REMOVAL



**Residential Snow Removal
2025/2026 Season**

- Fast & Reliable
- Ice Management Included
- Per Snow or Full Season Pricing

haulitforward.ca

519-550-6350 Call/Text
Haulitforward@outlook.com

PAINTING



**CONTEMPORARY
PAINTING AND DESIGN**

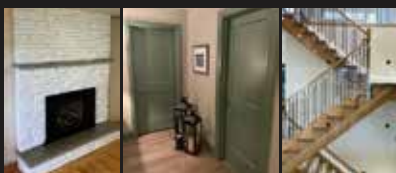
Chris Imhoff
Owner

Main:
(548) 788-1189

Mobile:
(905) 325-1189

ContemporaryPaintingandDesign.com

Chris@ContemporaryPaintingandDesign.com



VINYL WINDOWS



4 North St. Courtland • 519-688-2162
www.courtlandvinylwindows.com

**Tillsonburg
POST**

**PUT YOUR
MONEY
WHERE YOUR
HOUSE IS** 

Keep your dollars in Canada
to strengthen communities and
support local businesses, including
your local newspaper.

News Media Canada
Médias d'Info Canada



QUIZ ANSWERS

1. Paul
2. Rome, Italy
3. 1987
4. Onomatopoeia
5. 360°
6. 11:00 a.m.
7. Emmet
8. Amphibians
9. The Treaty of Versailles
10. Procter & Gamble (P&G)

SUDOKU

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

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

**GRANT
HAVEN
MEDIA**

**WE ARE
HIRING**

**JOIN OUR TEAM AS A
NEWSPAPER ADVERTISING
SALES REPRESENTATIVE!**

Are you a motivated self-starter with a passion for sales and marketing? Do you thrive in a flexible work environment where you can set your own schedule? If so, we have the perfect opportunity for you!

Location: Work from Anywhere!

Schedule: Your Own Schedule

Type: Commission

About Grant Haven Media: At Grant Haven Media, we are committed to delivering top-quality news and information to our readers. As a leading newspaper company, we take pride in our dedication to journalistic excellence and community engagement. As we continue to grow, we're looking for enthusiastic individuals to join our dynamic sales team.

If you are interested, contact
Heather Dunbar at:
heather@granthaven.com



0%

PLUS, FOR A
LIMITED
TIME GET



\$1,000
BLACK
FRIDAY
BONUS[^]

FINANCING ON ALL REMAINING MODELS

ON LIMITED TERMS*



*0% Finance offer applies to all new remaining 2025 Chevrolet, GMC and Buick vehicles. \$1,000 Black Friday Bonus on purchase/lease OAC of new in-stock 2026 and remaining 2025 models. Term lengths vary by model and are valid until Dec 1st, 2025. Conditions and limitations may apply.



Degroote Hill Chevrolet
270 Hwy 3 East Tillsonburg ON
Sales: 226-909-0606
Service: 519-842-9026



Find your next vehicle with us

Maurice J. Verhoeve Funeral Homes

262 Broadway, Tillsonburg & 40 Queen Street, Langton



MAURICE J. VERHOEVE FUNERAL HOMES

Burial and Cremation Services Inc.

Do you have a funeral plan to ensure your family knows your final wishes? If not, we're here to help.

Call 519-842-4238 today.

The Verhoeve family has been serving the Langton and Tillsonburg communities since 1958, we welcome new residents of the area and we serve all ethnic groups and religions, we are 100% family owned and operated with the goal of putting your family first.

THE FUNERAL

Helps confirm the reality and finality of death. Provides a climate for mourning and the expression of grief. Allows the sorrows of one to become the sorrows of many. Is one of the few times love is given and not expected in return. Is a vehicle for the community to pay its respects. Encourages the affirmation of religious faith. Is a declaration that a life has been lived as well as a sociological statement that a death has occurred.



PROUDLY INTRODUCING OUR NEW FAMILY WE ARE SPONSORING IN INDIA FOR 6 YEARS



Why was this family selected?

Prepared by SAFP field staff in India

Aswathy is a strong and determined single mother who is doing her best to raise her daughters after her husband abandoned them. To support her family, she has taken on a housekeeping job nearby, but unfortunately, it does not provide enough income to meet their daily expenses and support her daughters' education. As a result, she is constantly concerned about their living conditions and struggles to provide them with sufficient food and clothing. To make matters worse, her husband's alcohol addiction has resulted in a significant amount of debt that she must now repay. Despite these challenges, Aswathy remains unwavering in her efforts to improve their situation and give her family a better life.

With your ongoing support, your partner family will have the chance to take part in our

Six year plan

Funds will be deposited directly into the family's bank account.

Your family will also receive support from our local staff, which includes:

- Regular visits from our field coordinators
- Regular meetings with other partner families
- Training on poverty-related issues
- Support to start a small business initiative
- Help apply for benefits from the local government



SAVE A FAMILY PLAN
IN INDIA SINCE 1995

Maurice J. Verhoeve Family Funeral Homes
262 BROADWAY ST
TILLSONBURG, ON N4G 3R7

2025-10-06

Your SAVE A FAMILY PLAN No.: 9029961

Say hello to your new family!

Dear Friends,

Thank you so much for supporting a partner family in our Family Development Program! Your partner family's photo and application have been enclosed.

Your support will help this family make significant progress in their lives. Through starting a business, education, learning about health, nutrition and other essential life skills, families become healthier, more confident and are empowered to work toward the change required to improve their lives and create stronger communities.

Please do not hesitate to contact me if you have any other questions. Thank you again for your generous support.

Sincerely,


Elizabeth Larabee
Office Administrator