

Woodstock Ingersoll Echo

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Multi-day heat event expected for Oxford, Perth and Wilmot

LEE GRIFFI

Editor

Much of the province is in the midst of a multi-day heat event with daytime temperatures reaching over 30 degrees Celsius and humidex values in the low 40s.

A heat warning has been issued for the Echo's readership area based on criteria established by Environment and Climate Change Canada (ECCC). It is expected to pose an elevated risk of heat-related illnesses, such as heat stroke or heat exhaustion. The warning will be in effect until at least Friday but check your local forecasts for the latest information.

Summer camp season has just started and a health promoter at Southwestern Public Health said there are several steps children can take to minimize the effects of the heat.

"Especially with children, ensuring they are very well hydrated before, during and after any physical activity is really important. Seek shade wherever you can, take breaks in air-conditioned spaces, all of these can reduce health risks," explained Michelle Alvey.

While extreme heat can affect everyone's health, the risks are greatest for older adults, infants and young children, people with chronic illnesses, people who work in the heat and the homeless.

Some seniors live alone without air conditioning, something Alvey said is cause for concern.

"We ask everyone to check in regularly on family and neighbours, especially older adults and people with chronic health conditions, as they are more vulnerable to extreme heat. Where people don't have air conditioning, even spending a few hours in a public space with it can help reduce the risk of illness."

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(KYRAH SMITH PHOTO)

BARN DANCE FUN IN INGERSOLL

Guests learn a variety of line dances during the Ingersoll Museum's much-loved Barn Dance event. Story on page 6.

Opposition growing against Oxford Road 2 reconstruction in Thamesford

LEE GRIFFI

Editor

Thamesford residents and businesses are organizing a campaign to force Oxford County to take another look at the proposed construction project in the town.

The county is planning improvements to the Thamesford downtown corridor (Oxford Road 2/ Dundas Street) in Zorra Township to respond to increased traffic volumes from ongoing and future development in the area.

Resident Noah Witte said the most significant concern is the removal of on-street parking and the push towards increased traffic flow rather than traffic mitigation.

"The consensus seems to be that many residents feel that the commercial truck traffic is getting louder over time and it is becoming harder and harder to enjoy our town. The concern is that the proposed plan doesn't address the long-term needs of Thamesford and is appearing to move forward despite significantly unanswered questions from the community."

CONTINUED TO PAGE 2



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Residents and businesses organize to make changes to project

CONTINUED FROM FRONT



(OXFORD COUNTY PHOTO)

The intersection of Highway 2 and Road 119 is part of the planned reconstruction project for the Thamesford corridor. Some residents want the county to slow down and talk about the concerns of many town residents

He added many residents are worried about pedestrian safety, access for local businesses, the impact on the downtown, future growth, and whether the proposed design simply accommodates more traffic rather than providing a long-term solution for the increased noise and traffic.

"There is also concern that alternatives, including a truck bypass or other traffic management options, have not been thoroughly explored. Perhaps the greatest frustration is that many residents feel their questions have not been answered in a clear or meaningful way throughout the consultation process."

Witte said he started a petition after speaking with many residents who shared similar concerns.

"The response has been overwhelmingly positive. We reached more than 50 signatures very quickly, and support continues to grow. More importantly, the conversations we've had while collecting signatures show that many residents feel they haven't been adequately represented throughout this process and want Council to pause and reconsider before moving forward."

Witte explained he has attended a public meeting, submitted questions, spoken with county staff and elected officials, and communicated directly with members of council.

"While I appreciate that opportunities for engagement have been provided, responses to specific questions have been broad and haven't directly addressed the concerns being raised. This has left many residents feeling that their questions are not being addressed and voices are not being heard."

Witte and his supporters said their immediate goal is to present the petition to Oxford County Council and respectfully ask the project to be paused until residents have received meaningful answers to their questions.

"We also want to continue encouraging residents to engage with their elected representatives and participate in the process. This isn't

about stopping progress. It's about ensuring the final decisions are informed by genuine community input and reflect the long-term needs of Thamesford."

He added the issue has brought together people from across our community and while everyone may not agree on every detail, there is a shared desire to ensure Thamesford's future is shaped thoughtfully and transparently.

"We're not asking council to abandon the project. We're asking them to slow down, answer the community's questions, and work with residents to find the best long-term solution. We all want the same outcome: a safer, stronger, and more vibrant Thamesford for future generations."

The county said the project improvements are based on recommendations from a comprehensive corridor study. Proposed changes include the installation of a two-way left-turn lane along Dundas Street, removal of on-street parking and safety improvements for all road users.

It also includes intersection and crossing improvements, including the installation of new traffic signals at George Street, and the relocation of the George Street pedestrian crossover to Stanley Street. Pedestrian and safety improvements include upgrades at key locations and streetlighting improvements.

"The support from our community has been incredible, and every signature helps show that Thamesford residents want action and long-term solutions," said Witte in a social media post.

He is encouraging supporters to contact Oxford County and Zorra Township councillors.

"Share your concerns and ask them to support meaningful, long-term improvements for our community. Personal stories make a difference. If you haven't signed the petition yet, there's still time. Every signature strengthens our voice. Thank you for standing together to help build a safer, stronger future for Thamesford," he added.

Multi-day heat event expected for Oxford, Perth and Wilmot

CONTINUED FROM FRONT

She added a library or a recreation centre are often available for people to cool off in, and added people need to be aware of the signs of heat-related illness, such as heat stroke.

"Heat exhaustion is another risk. You want to watch for headaches, nausea or vomiting, dizziness or fainting, along with rapid breathing and extreme thirst from dehydration. Heat stroke is a medical emergency, and you are going to want to call 911 immediately if you have a very high body temperature, confusion, dizziness and hot red skin."

Alvey added drinking cool liquids, especially water, before you feel thirsty to decrease your risk of dehydration is important. It is also a good idea to re-schedule or plan outdoor activities for the cooler parts of the day and wear loose-fitting, light-coloured clothing made of breathable fabric.

"If you don't need to go outdoors during those peak hours, then stay inside," added Alvey.

Other tips to beat the heat include taking cool showers or baths, preparing meals that don't need to be cooked in the oven, and keeping curtains or blinds drawn during the day.

Pollution levels also tend to be higher on hot days. The Air Quality Health Index (AQHI) can be used to determine local air quality and help you make decisions to protect your health and is available at www.airqualityontario.com/aqi.

You can follow Environment Canada's weather forecasts at www.weather.gc.ca so you can plan to stay safe in hot and humid weather. You can also receive weather and air quality alerts from "EC Alert me" by signing up at <https://ecalertme.weather.gc.ca/>.



Weekend Quiz

By Jake Grant

1. What is the birthstone of July?
2. What is the fictional island in Mamma Mia called?
3. What is the capital city of Australia?
4. What do you call a beginner surfer?
5. What is the Italian name for ice cream?
6. What 80s girl band sang "Cruel Summer"?
7. What summer seafood is now a delicacy but was once considered "poor man's protein"?
8. Which Harry Potter character died on the beach?
9. The person in charge of officiating a baseball game is called what?
10. What is the standard distance for Olympic target archery?

This week's answers are found on pg. 35

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LETTER TO THE EDITOR

SEND YOURS TO INFO@THEECHO.CA**Who Should Decide Local Issues? An Open Letter to MPP Rob Flack**

Minister Flack,

Bill 100 has now become law. The debate at Queen's Park may be over, but for many citizens across Ontario, the most important questions are only beginning to be asked.

For nearly two years, Stand4Oxford has been engaged in what should have been a straightforward exercise in local democracy. We asked questions about public expenditures. We attended meetings. We delegated before council. We submitted petitions. We filed freedom-of-information requests. We followed every process available to us as citizens seeking accountability from our local government.

What we discovered was troubling.

Again and again, the distance between residents and decision-makers seemed to grow. Questions became procedural exercises. Requests became endless rounds of clarification. Timelines became delays. Transparency became increasingly difficult to obtain. Over time, we realized our concern was no longer limited to a single issue, a budget line, or a particular initiative. Our concern has become something much larger: accountability itself.

That is why Bill 100 concerns us so deeply.

We have experienced firsthand how difficult ac-

countability can become when citizens are separated from those making decisions. We therefore struggle to understand why Ontario's response is to move authority even farther away from local communities. If accountability is already difficult to achieve, how does concentrating more authority in appointed leadership strengthen democracy? How does it bring government closer to the people it serves?

Citizens across Ontario are increasingly being asked to trust decisions they did not make, processes they cannot influence, and authorities they did not elect. Bill 100 may be presented as government reform, but many residents see it as part of a broader trend. School boards have seen authority reduced. Conservation authorities have been restructured. Strong Mayor powers have expanded. Now appointed regional leadership has become law. Each change is defended on the grounds of efficiency. Yet viewed together, the cumulative effect is unmistakable: **authority moves upward while accountability moves out of reach.**

We are repeatedly told that these changes are necessary to make government work faster. We understand the appeal of efficiency. But efficiency is not the highest principle of democratic government.

Accountability is.

This is why many Ontarians are uneasy. The concern is not merely Bill 100. The concern is, when decisions move away from the people, accountability

moves with them.

As the minister who introduced and championed this legislation, you owe Ontario residents clear answers. The democratic implications of Bill 100 deserve public scrutiny, not merely legislative approval.

Why should citizens accept less local control today than they possessed yesterday?

Why should appointed authority be preferred over elected accountability?

And perhaps most importantly, how does Bill 100 strengthen local democracy rather than weaken it?

Stand4Oxford therefore calls upon you to publicly explain and defend the democratic implications of Bill 100 to the residents of Oxford County and to municipalities across Ontario.

Because democracy is more than the right to cast a ballot every four years. It is the ability of citizens to meaningfully influence the decisions that shape their daily lives. When authority is continually centralized, elections remain – but local self-government slowly disappears.

Ontario does not need stronger chairs.

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Bring Decisions Back Home.

Sincerely,

Stand4Oxford

Oxford County, Ontario



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Woodstock Ingersoll Echo

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8. Newspapers should be locally-owned and operated

Large crowd expected for public information meeting on Homelessness Support Centre

LEE GRIFFI

Editor

Oxford County is hosting a much-anticipated public information meeting on the future Homelessness Support Centre in Woodstock.

The county said the goal is to share details, answer questions, and listen to feedback about the project, one that comes with a \$4.55 million price for the purchase of the former YMCA. The centre's annual operating costs, estimated at \$2.4 million, will be funded in part through Ontario's Homelessness Prevention Program. Currently, the county allocates approximately \$1.9 million in provincial funding each year for shelter services and homelessness support. The cost of renovations at the building is not yet known.

The consultation is taking place on Wednesday, July 15, from 6 p.m. to 8 p.m. in the Boughtflower Room at the South Gate Centre at 191 Old Wellington Street.

"We tried to find a facility that would be big enough for a lot of people. Obviously, we don't know what the attendance is going to look like, but we are expecting a large amount of the population," explained Rebecca Smith, the county's director of human services.

"The meeting will allow residents and businesses located in the area of the new shelter, 808 Dundas Street in Woodstock, as well as other members of the community, to give input and ask questions on operational aspects of the support centre, safety and security, and other considerations. It will include a presentation and a question-and-answer period," said a county press release.

Residents and businesses in the area will receive a direct notice for the public meeting and will be notified again in advance of the County Council report. The Homelessness Support Centre, expected to open in spring 2028, will serve residents from across Oxford County who are unhoused or at risk of becoming homeless.

Smith said the county has already heard from those on both sides of the issue.

"It is mixed. I will say we have heard from several community partners we work with who wanted a facility of this nature, so there are positive aspects of that. There are also some positive comments from the community. Then also we have the concerns from neighbouring property owners, which is fair in terms of what they will expect from the facility going forward."

She is encouraging people to show

up to the session, have their questions ready, and county staff will try to deliver answers as best they can.

"It's an opportunity for staff to share more details, and it is important to note that we do have shelters running in Woodstock currently. This isn't new in terms of the operational components. It's just different in terms of the location and also having everything within one 24/7 facility. We are certainly open to clarifying and providing more information. Any questions can be on the table. We're open to answering anything that we can."

The county's Speak Up Oxford page is also open to anyone looking to have a question answered before the session and those unable to attend. Details are posted at www.oxfordcounty.ca/speakup.

"The centre will offer a single-location 24/7 emergency shelter model with 55 beds, meal areas, safe storage for personal belongings, on-site laundry, day programs, and on-site security. It will also offer on-site professional staff to help unhoused people find employment, mental health and addictions support, permanent housing and other services. Office space will also be made available to other community agencies," added the release.

The new centre will offer on-site support services that are flexible and focused on transitioning individuals out of homelessness. It is expected to open in the spring of 2028.

The support centre will adopt a "low barrier" model, meaning more flexible stay requirements to provide immediate shelter access to vulnerable individuals. The centre will also take a housing-first approach, which prioritizes moving unhoused people rapidly from the street or emergency shelters into stable and long-term housing with appropriate supports.

It will work closely with Woodstock's new Homelessness and Addictions Recovery Treatment (HART) Hub/Wellness Centre. It is a voluntary treatment and recovery facility and is temporarily operating at 369 Huron Street in Woodstock until its permanent location opens at 16 Graham Street, the former Hydro One/Woodstock Hydro building, in 2027.

Oxford County's Homelessness Response Strategy identifies the main factors contributing to homelessness in Oxford as mental health, substance abuse and domestic violence. The county's records show the majority of unhoused people using Oxford County services are from Woodstock, with the remaining from other locations in Oxford County.



Meet your water meter!

Information night for Woodstock residents

Oxford County is planning for new water meter installations in Woodstock taking place between 2027 and 2029. This is a planned replacement of meters used in homes now that are nearing the end of their working lifecycle.

Learn more about the different features that will be available with the new advanced meters and share your feedback at the information night.



**Tuesday,
July 28, 2026**

Drop-in 6:00-8:00 p.m.



**Oxford County
Administration Building**

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Topics covered will include how home water meters work, how your water bill is calculated, how Oxford County uses information from water meters and more.

Learn more at www.oxfordcounty.ca/speakup

Public information meeting

Future Homelessness Support Centre

Oxford County is hosting a public information meeting about the future Homelessness Support Centre in Woodstock.



**Wednesday,
July 15, 2026**

6:00 - 8:00 p.m.



**South Gate Centre –
Boughtflower Room**

191 Old Wellington St. S., Woodstock

The meeting will include a presentation on the new centre, which will offer emergency shelter in addition to other services that help transition people out of homelessness and into stable housing. It's also your chance to ask questions and share input on operations, safety and security.



Learn more at www.oxfordcounty.ca/hsc

A summer tradition continues at Ingersoll's semi-annual barn dance

KYRAH SMITH
Echo Correspondent

Residents of Ingersoll dusted off their cowboy boots and hats on June 22 as the Ingersoll Cheese and Agricultural Museum brought back its much-beloved Barn Dance for a third year in a row.

Originally held in July and August, the museum decided to move this year's event to June in hopes of finding a better fit on the community calendar.

"October's too busy between Pumpkinfest and Mystic Market, and in August everyone is gone. Then July is just so hot," laughed Olivia Sidwell, Collections Coordinator at the museum. "So, we're trying to see what works."

The skies were clear for the 19-plus pay-what-you-wish event, which ran from 7 p.m. to 10 p.m.

The evening featured live local music by Gregory Szabo. A cash bar was provided by the Ingersoll Lions Club, and food was available for purchase thanks to P.B.'s Fries.

Similar to last year, museum staff rallied those willing to participate into the barn and taught

attendees a variety of line dances, allowing both seasoned dancers and newcomers to show off their skills, drinks in hand. As the evening went on and guests grew more comfortable, the music picked up, with "Cotton Eyed Joe" proving to be a crowd favourite.

In addition to dancing, attendees had the chance to relax outside and enjoy lawn games, including bean bag toss and Jenga, among others. As the sun began to set and the event drew to a close, the music slowed, inviting several couples onto the dance floor for a final slow dance.

"Thank you all so much for coming," announced Museum Manager Stephanie Conron. "And we hope to see you at the next Barn Dance in September!"

With music, dancing, and plenty of community spirit, the Barn Dance once again proved to be a favourite tradition that keeps residents coming back year after year.

For more information regarding the upcoming Barn Dance or other community events, you can visit the museum's social media page @ingersollcheesemuseum.



Local musician, Gregory Szabo, performing various covers at this year's Barn Dance. (KYRAH SMITH PHOTO)

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Share your 2027 budget priorities by **August 31, 2026**, at:
www.oxfordcounty.ca/speakup

POLICE BRIEFS

Oxford OPP briefs

LEE GRIFFI
Editor

Oxford collision claims life

Police are investigating a single fatal motor vehicle collision.

Police, along with fire and paramedic services, responded to a single motor vehicle collision involving a pickup truck on Mount Elgin Road just west of Dereham Line in South-West Oxford on the morning of June 22.

It was determined that a pickup truck left the roadway and collided with a concrete bridge embankment. The driver, a 73-year-old from Tillsonburg, suffered serious life-threatening injuries and was pronounced deceased on scene.

OPP West Region Traffic Incident Management Enforcement Team is assisting with the investigation. Mount Elgin Road was closed between Cullogen Line and Dereham Line for several hours.

Provincial Police say risky behaviours continued during ‘Stop. Look. Live.’ campaign

Members of the Ontario Provincial Police West Region have concluded the "Stop. Look. Live." campaign, conducted from

June 15 to June 21.

Officers engaged in targeted enforcement and public education initiatives aimed at reducing high-risk driving behaviours at intersections.

“Despite these efforts, officers continue to observe a concerning number of motorists failing to comply with traffic laws designed to prevent serious and fatal collisions,” explained Sgt. Ed Sanchuk.

During the campaign period, police laid 354 charges and issued 126 warnings across West Region. Offences primarily included failing to stop at stop signs, failing to stop for red or amber lights and failing to yield the right-of-way.

“These behaviours remain among the leading contributing factors in intersection-related collisions. Collision data recorded during the campaign further underscores the ongoing risks at intersections,” added Sanchuk.

Police investigated a total of 46 intersection-related collisions, one of which resulted in a fatality. There were also 15 collisions resulting in injuries and 30 with damage to vehicles.

“Each of these incidents reflects the significant and often irreversible consequences that can result from a momentary lapse in judgment behind the wheel,” Sanchuk said.

Staff Sergeant Julie McLeod is with the

West Region OPP Traffic Safety and Marine Unit and said the behaviours police continue to see at intersections are both concerning and preventable.

“Every failure to stop, every missed observation, and every decision to rush through an intersection carries the potential for devastating consequences. These are not just traffic violations-they are choices that can result in serious injury or loss of life. We are asking all drivers to take that extra moment to stop, look, and ensure it is safe before proceeding.”

Police said intersections continue to be one of the highest-risk environments on Ontario roadways and they are reminding all motorists that safe and attentive driving is essential at every intersection, every time.

Drivers are urged to come to a complete stop at stop signs, obey all traffic signals, yield the right-of-way when required and remain alert and focused at all times.

Police asking for public’s help to solve Norwich Pride flag vandalism

Police are again asking for the public’s help to identify those involved in multiple Pride Flag mischief and theft incidents in Norwich Township.

Since June 1, there have been multiple incidents reported to the Oxford detachment

of the OPP. Officers and West Region Major Crime and West Region Community Street Crime Units are continuing to investigate.

Police have established a secure method for members of the public to submit photos or videos of people or vehicles they believe may be involved with these incidents.

“Investigators are seeking to gather video surveillance footage of suspicious activities in Norwich Township between June 1 and today,” said a press release. “Police are looking for evidence of suspicious people or vehicles between the hours of 9 p.m. and 6 a.m. in the vicinity of Emily Stowe School, Norwich United Church, East Oxford Public School, and Stover Street North and Jerdon Street.”

The OPP urges community members to remain vigilant and promptly report suspicious activity to police.

Police are urging anyone with information to contact Oxford OPP at 1-888-310-1122.

If you wish to remain anonymous, you can contact Crime Stoppers at 1-800-222-8477 (TIPS) or www.oxfordcrimestoppers.com.

Video footage or photos can be securely submitted at <https://ontarioprovincialpolice.ca/evidence.com/axon/community-request/public/rm26162508>.

Woodstock Police Service briefs

LEE GRIFFI
Editor

Charges laid after vehicle theft and unauthorized credit card use

received a report of a wallet being stolen from a vehicle parked at a business on Houser’s Lane in Woodstock on the morning of June 21.

An investigation determined that an individual had allegedly entered the vehicle and removed a wallet containing cash, bank cards, identification, and other personal items.

Police were able to identify the accused and arrested a 46-year-old Woodstock male in the area of Peel Street and Wilson Street and charged him with theft under \$5,000 from a motor vehicle and use of a credit card.

He was released with a future court date.

Assault at city business leads to charges

Police were contacted regarding an assault that had occurred at a business on Dundas Street in Woodstock on June 25.

Police say a male attended the front entrance, despite previously being trespassing from the property. The suspect allegedly became aggressive toward an employee who had asked him to leave and allegedly kicked and spat at the employee and struck them with a metal sign.

A 40-year-old Woodstock male has been charged with entering a premises when prohibited, assault and assault with a weapon. The accused was released on an undertaking with conditions.

Drug possession charge laid following traffic stop

An officer conducted a traffic stop on a rental vehicle on College Avenue on June 25, which led to the arrest of a 38-year-old Woodstock man.

Police identified a passenger in the vehicle and determined he was wanted on outstanding warrants held by other police services. During the arrest, officers searched a bag and located a quantity of suspected crystal methamphetamine.

The male was charged with possession of a Schedule I substance and was released pending a future court date.

Motorcyclist Charged Following Collision in Woodstock School Zone

Police responded to the area of Warwick Street and Cambridge Street for a reported motor vehicle collision involving a motorcycle on June 27.

Multiple people witnessed a motorcycle travelling on Warwick Street at a high rate of speed in a school zone. The driver lost control near a bend in the road and crashed onto the lawn of a nearby residence.

Police said following the collision,

the driver allegedly attempted to leave the scene with the motorcycle but was stopped by residents in the area. Police arrived and arrested a 29-year-old Woodstock male and charged him with dangerous operation, failure to stop after an accident, and driving without a license.

Impaired Driving Charges Laid Following Citizen Report

A 49-year-old male faces charges after

police responded to a report of a vehicle being driven erratically in the area of Norwich Avenue and Pattullo Avenue on June 29.

Officers located the vehicle a short time later parked at a residence on Caen Avenue with a male in the driver’s seat who appeared to be asleep. The Woodstock man was charged with impaired driving and dangerous operation.

The accused was released with conditions and is scheduled to appear in court at a later date.

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George Klosler appointed as Ward 3 councillor in SWOX

DEBBIE KASMAN

Echo Contributor

At its June 16 meeting, South-West Oxford (SWOX) council voted to appoint George Klosler as Ward 3 councillor, replacing Valerie Durston who passed away in April.

A by-election was not possible since the deadline for one in an election year has passed and appointing a next-place finisher from the last municipal election was not an option as Durston was acclaimed. Council called for applications for appointment to fill the vacant seat in May.

Klosler is recently retired from a career spanning 35 years in the agricultural finance sector, holding the position of Senior District Director with Farm Credit

Canada for 13 years before retiring.

He is a recipient of the Queen's Diamond Jubilee Medal for community service contributions, a member of the Canadian Association of Farm Advisors, past president of the Canadian 4-H Council, a current member of Dereham and District Lions Club and Lions International, and president of the Mount Elgin community hall board.

Klosler will hold the seat until the municipal election in October and has filed nomination papers to run for Ward 3 councillor in October.

He said he is eager to apply his knowledge of community development, financial oversight, and public engagement to serve the municipality. He is particularly interested in addressing key issues such as agricultural development, communi-

ty services, financial constraints, public engagement, and the development of the new municipal building and park.

Klosler beat out John de Bruyn and Aaron Lonsberry who also applied for the position.

De Bruyn is a past president of Oxford County Junior Farmers and Oxford County Pork Producers, a past member of the County of Oxford Land Division Committee, a former chair of the Salford Landfill Liaison Committee, and a member of the College of Veterinarians of Ontario. Lonsberry works as a traveling service technician, is a firefighter in Mount Elgin, and a local farmer.

Klosler will be sworn in at the July 14 meeting.

Both Klosler and de Bruyn plan to file nomination papers to run in October's

municipal election. It is not known at this time which wards they plan to run in. Candidates do not have to live in a specific ward to run for councillor in that ward.

The township approved new ward boundaries last July, but these boundary changes will not take effect until the new council is organized after voting day on Oct. 26.

Nomination papers have currently been filed as follows: Paul Buchner for Ward 1, Pete Ypma for Ward 2, William Van Lagen for Ward 3, Isaiah Friend for Ward 4, David (Dave) Mitchell for Ward 6, and Craig Gillis for mayor.

Mary Holmes is the only candidate to put her name forward to date for school board trustee. Holmes is running for trustee of the London District Catholic School Board.

Gillis running for mayor of SWOX

DEBBIE KASMAN

Echo Contributor

Craig Gillis, Ward 6 councillor for South-West Oxford (SWOX) Township, has filed his papers to run for mayor of the township.

When asked why he decided to run for mayor, Gillis said, "Why not?"

He is currently completing his second consecutive term as councillor.

After graduating from the University of Guelph in 2002, Gillis began working as a herdsperson for Wilmarlea Farms Ltd. in Embro. He moved to Beachville shortly after and married his wife, Tanya, in 2006. In 2009, he joined the SWOX Fire Department at the Beachville Station and was elected Beachville Fire Association President in 2011 and Ward 6 councillor in 2018.

"I feel I've learned a lot about the

municipal process over the past two terms and I'm capable of taking on a larger role," Gillis said. "I've always enjoyed working with others as a team and hearing about their perspective on things."

There are several projects Gillis wants to see to completion.

"Finishing our broadband-Internet project" so that it's available "to every premise in SWOX will be satisfying when completed," he explained. "Not just business needs quality Internet service anymore. People working from home, school and education programs, agriculture, and many more need steady Internet connection in today's world."

Gillis is most proud of his work on the Beachville Museum Board.

"Getting our museum more noticed and used for community events and

engagement within the area has been great to see. A small museum doing big things is a great mantra they have."

When asked what he thinks the big issues or challenges facing SWOX will be over the next term he said financial costs for infrastructure, equipment and projects will have to be looked at more carefully to be sure funds are being used in the most efficient way.

"Also the ever changing provincial goals and policies, such as building and the conservation authorities, will have to be navigated over the next few years," he added.

When asked if there any decisions he has made on council that he regrets, he says there are none. "I feel I've been confident in the choices that I've made in the past."

So far, none one has filed nomination papers to run against him.

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Children's Aid Society honours Fred Freeman with the 2026 Jack Ross Memorial Award

STAFF

Woodstock Ingersoll Echo

The Children's Aid Society of Oxford County has announced Ingersoll resident Fred Freeman as the recipient of the 2026 Jack Ross Memorial Award, recognizing his outstanding commitment to the well-being of children, youth, and families throughout Oxford County.

"Through decades of volunteerism, leadership, and community service, Freeman has made a profound and lasting impact on Oxford County. His dedication, compassion, and unwavering commitment to helping others reflect the very spirit of this award," said a press release from the organization.

As a long-serving member of the Board of Directors of the Children's Aid Society of Oxford County, Freeman has shared his time, wisdom, and leadership in support of the Society's mission. His thoughtful guidance and steady presence have helped strengthen the organization's ability to serve vulnerable children, youth, and families across the region.

"His contributions extend far beyond his work with the Society. A respected real estate professional and dedicated municipal leader, Fred served three years as an Ingersoll Town Councillor and 16 years as Deputy Mayor, helping guide the growth and development of the community," added the release. "Throughout his public service, he championed initiatives that enhanced opportunities for children, youth, and families. He also played an integral role in the creation of the Fusion Youth

Centre, helping establish a safe and welcoming space where young people could connect, learn, and thrive."

Freeman's commitment to building a stronger community is reflected in both his local leadership and his decades of volunteer service. Through his work on initiatives such as the Safe Cycling Committee, participation on numerous community organizations, and his long-standing involvement with Rotary, he has consistently demonstrated a dedication to improving the lives of others. A Charter Member of the Rotary Club of Ingersoll since 1990 and a three-term President, most recently from 2022 to 2024, he has exemplified Rotary's guiding principle of Service Above Self throughout his life and career.

"His generosity has also been felt in quieter but equally meaningful ways. For more than 25 years as a mentor with Big Brothers, Fred provided guidance, encouragement, and stability to young people in need. During the COVID-19 pandemic, he delivered meals to community members facing isolation and hardship, exemplifying the compassion and reliability that have defined his life of service," added the release.

The Jack Ross Memorial Award has been presented annually to an outstanding Oxford County individual since its inception in 1985. The award reflects the commitment and community contributions of the late OPP Constable Jack Ross and celebrates individuals who have made an exceptional contribution to the lives of children and families in Oxford County.



(CONTRIBUTED PHOTO)

Fred Freeman, left, was recently presented with the Jack Ross Memorial Award by Tina Diamond, CEO of the Children's Aid Society of Oxford County.

Fred Freeman's life and work embody these values fully.

"Fred's leadership has been defined not only by service, but by heart," said Tina Diamond, CEO of the Children's Aid Society of Oxford County. "His humility, steady commitment, and genuine care for children, youth, and families have strengthened both our organization and

our community. We are deeply grateful for all he has given."

The Children's Aid Society of Oxford County is honoured to recognize Fred Freeman as the 2026 recipient of the Jack Ross Memorial Award and to celebrate his extraordinary contributions to both the Society and the broader Oxford County community.

Oxford County Council approves Climate Action Plan

STAFF

Woodstock Ingersoll Echo

Oxford County Council has approved a new Climate Action Plan that sets a five-year roadmap to help the community adapt to the local impacts of climate change and strengthen long-term resilience.

The plan focuses on climate adaptation, preparedness and sustainability, with actions aimed at reducing risks to residents, infrastructure, the local economy and the natural environment.

Informed in part by the 2026 Oxford County Local Climate Hazard Assessment, the plan addresses the most significant climate-related risks facing southwestern Ontario, including extreme heat and heavy precipitation, which are already occurring and expected to worsen. The plan also aligns with the Oxford County Community Safety and Well-being Plan and Southwestern Public Health.

Oxford County Warden Marcus Ryan said he's proud that one of the three pillars of the 2023-2026 Strategic Plan is a commitment to environmental sustainability, with a strong focus on climate mitigation

and adaptation.

"Our Climate Action Plan reflects that commitment through broad, interdisciplinary initiatives developed in collaboration with community stakeholders. By acting now, rather than waiting to react, we are taking meaningful steps to build a more sustainable and resilient future for the county."

He added the county is already experiencing the impacts of climate change, including extreme heat, heavier precipitation, and increasingly frequent freeze-thaw cycles.

"Under both moderate and high-emissions scenarios, these pressures are expected to intensify. That is why our Climate Action Plan is rooted in proactive leadership. Preparing today, reducing risks where we can, and working together to protect the well-being of our communities for years to come."

Key themes in the plan include heat response strategies, flood resilience, water conservation and air quality management. Implementation will be supported by external funding opportunities, community engagement and ongoing evaluation to keep actions feasible, effective and re-

sponsive to changing needs.

The Climate Action Plan supports Oxford County's 2023-2026 Strategic Plan, including its commitment to enhancing environmental stability through climate change mitigation, adaptation and the preservation of the natural environment.

The county is aiming to foster a culture of preparedness, resilience, and sustainability through comprehensive, adaptable initiatives that address climate risks and community needs over the next five years. Learn more at www.oxfordcounty.ca/publications.

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Theatre Woodstock's AGM reflects on 25/26 season success, looks ahead to future

EMILY STEWART

Echo Correspondent

Theatre Woodstock held its annual general meeting at the Market Square Theatre on June 16, where the Board of Directors presented their reports reflecting on the past 2025/2026 season and looked ahead to the upcoming season ringing in 80 years of community theatre.

"As we look ahead to our 80th anniversary season, as well as hosting the Western Ontario Drama League Festival next spring, I can barely contain my excitement. We have so much to celebrate and so much to look forward to," said President Emil Wijnker. "Theatre Woodstock holds a very special place in the fabric of this community not only in Woodstock but within Oxford County as a whole."

There were a lot of accomplishments in the 2025/2026 season, which featured *Deadline*, *Little Women*, *Jesus Christ Superstar*, *39 Steps*, and *The Addams Family Musical*. Throughout the season, 5,785 tickets were sold; a boost in ticket sales compared to the 2022/2023 year that sold 3,342 tickets. Theatre Woodstock's run of *Jesus Christ Superstar* sold out its initial run and added two additional performances that also sold out.

They also received new moving lights and a projector, along with additional microphones as needed. While a performance of *Deadline* was cancelled amid an unprecedented power outage, patrons could either see another performance or receive a Theatre Woodstock gift certificate.

The *Little Women* production had an award-winning performance in Hanover, Ont.



(EMILY STEWART PHOTO)

Ben Shalley (left), pictured with technical director Chloé McGregor, received the Red Young Award for his contributions to the STAGES youth theatre program, most recently directing *The Music Man Kids* production.

during the Western Ontario Drama League (WODL) Festival. Awards were presented to Rendall Lackenbauer for Outstanding Performance in a Major Role for his role as Laurie, Katie Raymond and Allison Enns for Outstanding Performance in a Supporting Role for portraying Amy March and Aunt March, and Karen Trick and Jeff Major for the parrot. Lauren Tucker also received a nomination for Outstanding Performance in a Major Role for portraying Jo March and Alyssa Dutton received a special adjudicator's award nomination for best newcomer for her portrayal of Meg March.

Jesus Christ Superstar also earned the WODL Outstanding Sound Design and Execution award for Pete Dunbar, Michael Henley-Dunbar, and Nelson Simard's work. The production also received nominations for Outstanding Ensemble, Outstanding Musical, Outstanding Light Design (Pete Dunbar),

Outstanding Costumes (Kristin Smit-Klein), and Outstanding Direction (Chuck Baxter, Lara Larmour, and Tanya Thompson).

"These recognitions are a testament to the extraordinary talent, creativity, and dedication found at our organization. Whether on stage, backstage, in the booth or behind-the-scenes, our members continue to demonstrate the high standard of excellence that Theatre Woodstock is known for," said Shannon Wijnker, artistic director. "Beyond the performances themselves, this season was a testament to the countless volunteer hours, creative energy, and collaborative spirit that makes community theatre possible."

The evening concluded with awards presented to Ben Shalley, Tanya Thompson, and Maria St. Laurent for their dedication and contribution excellence to Theatre Woodstock.

The STAGES summer camp production of *Madagascar: A*



(EMILY STEWART PHOTO)

Tanya Thompson (left), seen here with vice president and past-president Susan Robinson, earned the Edwin and Lee Bennett Award for her dedication to Theatre Woodstock in various on-stage and behind-the-scenes roles. Thompson also receives lifetime achievement as part of the award.



(EMILY STEWART PHOTO)

The Award of Excellence was presented to Maria St. Laurent (left), pictured with President Emil Wijnker, for her volunteerism in both Theatre Woodstock and STAGES productions.

Musical Adventure for Kids will begin on Aug. 4 and will run for three weeks before taking the stage from Aug. 21 to 23. Theatre Woodstock will kick off its 80th season with *Dracula: A Chamber Musical* from Oct. 16 to 25.

Auditions for *A Christmas Story* were held on June 21 and 22

and Avenue Q auditions went on June 27 and 28.

More information about Theatre Woodstock, including season subscription packages, can be found online by visiting theatrewoodstock.com. The latest updates can be found on the Theatre Woodstock Instagram and Facebook pages.

Arpan Khanna Appointed Conservative Shadow Minister for Justice and Attorney General of Canada

STAFF

Woodstock Ingersoll Echo

Conservative Leader Pierre Poilievre has appointed Arpan Khanna, Member of Parliament for Oxford, as the Official Opposition's Shadow Minister for Justice and Attorney General of Canada. Khanna will also continue to serve as the Conservative Party's National Outreach Chair.

As a former lawyer, Khanna brings legal experience and a strong record of advocating for common-sense justice reform. In Parliament, he introduced the

Jail Not Bail Act, championing tougher measures to keep repeat violent offenders behind bars and restore accountability to Canada's justice system.

Over the past eleven years, Liberal justice policies have left too many Canadians feeling less safe, while victims have too often been treated as an afterthought. Conservatives believe Canadians deserve a justice system that protects victims, upholds the rights and freedoms of law-abiding Canadians, and ensures violent criminals face meaningful consequences.

"I am deeply humbled by the trust that Pierre Poilievre has placed in me to serve as Shadow Minister for Justice and Attorney General," said Khanna.

"I look forward to getting to work with our Conservative team on behalf of Canadians. Our message is simple: Canadians deserve a justice system that protects the innocent, supports victims, respects the rights of law-abiding Canadians, and puts public safety first. We are ready to do the work to restore confidence in our justice system."

"At the same time, my commitment to

the people of Oxford remains unwavering. It is the honour of a lifetime to represent our community in Parliament, and I will continue fighting every day for the families, workers, farmers, and businesses that make Oxford such a great place to call home.

As Shadow Minister, Khanna will lead the Conservative team in advancing practical reforms to restore safe streets, defend constitutional rights and civil liberties, support victims, and hold the Liberal government accountable for the state of Canada's justice system.



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Indigenous culture on display in the Friendly City

On Sunday, June 14, community members gathered at 1033 Pattullo Avenue in Woodstock to take part in an afternoon of culture, learning, and connection hosted by Two Row Creations. The event marked another meaningful step in the organization's ongoing work to establish a dedicated Indigenous cultural and community space in Woodstock, Ontario. Founded by grassroots Indigenous ambassador Rebecca Neepin, Two Row Creations has been steadily building momentum across the region. While the permanent storefront and cultural hub are still being finalized, the organization has continued to operate dynamically throughout the

community—offering workshops, ceremonies, and collaborative opportunities that uplift Indigenous voices, artists, and knowledge keepers. The gathering brought together families, youth, Elders, and allies for an afternoon that reflected the heart of Two Row Creations' mission: creating a safe, welcoming space where Indigenous culture can be shared, celebrated, and strengthened. Guests took part in conversations about the upcoming cultural hub, learned about current initiatives, and connected with local makers and educators who are helping shape the future of the space. The atmosphere was warm, collaborative, and rooted in community

spirit. In recent weeks, the organization issued open calls for Indigenous authors, beadwork artists, crafters, and makers interested in showcasing and selling their handmade creations once the new location opens. Attendees heard updates on upcoming sessions and the growing interest from families across Oxford County. Two Row Creations also highlighted its ongoing role in facilitating smudging ceremonies, drumming circles, and memorial gatherings in public spaces such as Museum Square. These events have become important touchpoints for community healing, cultural expression, and intergenerational learning. (RON YUZARK PHOTOS)



Rooms were filled to capacity with attendees present to celebrate the opening of the new Indigenous Hub.



Rebecca presented the vision and reach of the goals of the new Indigenous Hub.



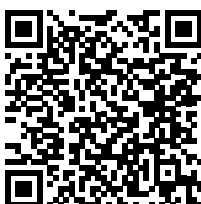
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The Upper Thames River Conservation Authority (UTRCA) welcomes tenders for the Agriculture Leases for the 2027-2031 period.

A list of the properties as well as tender applications are available online at: <https://thamesriver.on.ca/about-us/contact-us/bid-opportunities/>. Hard copies can be picked up at: Watershed Conservation Centre, 1424 Clarke Road, London, ON N5A 5B9

Tender applications must be submitted online, dropped off in person or delivered and received by regular mail to the Watershed Conservation Centre by 3:30 p.m. on Friday, July 31, 2026. In fairness to all applicants, late applications will not be opened or considered.

If any questions should arise, please contact Jason Belfy, Land Management Supervisor Jason Belfy at: 519.451.2800 ext. 280 or belfryj@thamesriver.ca.



Oliver, Brittany and Sadie browsed the many cultural items on display to purchase.

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Pride on display at Gunn's Hill

The Cheesy Family Pride Day event was held on Saturday, June 20, at Gunn's Hill Artisan Cheese, welcoming attendees from 11 a.m. to 3 p.m. The free gathering offered family oriented activities and highlighted the diversity of Norwich Township and neighboring communities. Participants enjoyed a relaxed afternoon of fun and food, with a focus on inclusivity and community pride. Organizers reported steady attendance throughout the day and positive engagement from families who came out to show support. The event successfully provided a cheerful, welcoming space for residents to connect and celebrate local diversity. (RON YUZARK PHOTOS)



Organizing the event was Colleen with husband Shep and son Willem pitching in.



Taking Pride in the afternoons event were volunteers Krista, Katie, Maja, Ali, Michaela, Justice and Stephanie.



Supporting the Cheesy Family Pride Day were Sharryn and Jamie.

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Strawberries on display at church supper

St. Paul's Presbyterian Church welcomed guests from across the community on Thursday, June 25, for its annual Strawberry Supper, a cherished local tradition that combined fellowship, good food, and the taste of summer. From 5:00 to 6:30 p.m., the church hall filled with laughter and conversation as families, friends, and visitors enjoyed a hearty meal and homemade desserts featuring fresh Ontario strawberries. The evening's menu offered a comforting hot plate of baked ham, scalloped potatoes, brown beans, coleslaw, and a dinner roll, followed by a generous helping of strawberries with cake and ice cream. Coffee, tea, and juice were served throughout the

event, ensuring that every guest felt warmly welcomed. Both eat in and take out options were available, allowing attendees to enjoy the meal in the hall or bring it home to share. Organizers reported strong attendance, with adults, children, and families turning out in support of the church's ongoing community programs. Children five and under were treated to free meals, while older guests contributed through ticket purchases that helped fund local outreach initiatives. Volunteers worked diligently behind the scenes to prepare, serve, and clean up, ensuring that the evening ran smoothly from start to finish.

(RON YUZARK PHOTOS)



A long line up of hungry guests each waited their turn to have their plates filled.



Special guests at the supper were members of Ingersoll Pipe Band who had the honor of piping in the dinners.

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Glassford Chrysler Dodge Jeep Ram is celebrating six decades of car sales and service in Ingersoll

LEE GRIFFI

Editor

Glassford Chrysler Dodge Jeep Ram was established in 1966 as a Chrysler dealership by Jack and Margaret Glassford in downtown Ingersoll. The dealership served the growing communities of Oxford County during a period when automobile ownership was expanding rapidly.

Hard work and family led Jack from his humble beginnings as an auto technician to a Chrysler District Manager and then to a Chrysler Franchise owner.

After retiring from the CFL in 1982, John Glassford, son of Jack and Marg, joined the dealership and eventually took over Glassford Chrysler. He was later joined in 2016 by his nephew John Millman Jr., and they formed Glassford Auto Group in 2022. The company includes Sarnia Hyundai, Subaru of Sarnia, Glassford Chrysler and FreshAuto.

John Millman Jr. is also no stranger to football as he laced up for the University of Western while obtaining a degree from the Richard Ivery School of Business.

A major milestone came in 1997, when

Glassford Chrysler Dodge Jeep Ram relocated from its downtown site to a purpose-built dealership at 30 Samnah Crescent, adjacent to Highway 401. The move gave the dealership much greater visibility and room for expanded sales and service operations.

The dealership has continued to invest in its facilities over the years with a 2,400-square-foot detailing addition in 2012 and an 8,000-square-foot used car dealership, FreshAuto, as the business continued to grow.

Glassford Chrysler Dodge Jeep Ram is a proud supporter of the community, spon-

soring and supporting Rotary, the Chamber of Commerce, Salvation Army, local arenas and sports teams.

"We are thankful for all the great customers and wonderful staff that have supported the business and made 60 years possible. We are looking forward to continuing to be a proud member of the Ingersoll and Oxford County community and a great employer," said Millman Jr.

The business is holding a community event and sale on Saturday, July 11, with free food, games for kids, and a massive customer appreciation sale on all makes and models.

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High schools recognize athletic best of the best of the best

JEFF TRIBE

Echo Correspondent

The question “What do you do in your spare time?” was meant to be rhetorical.

In that sense, a student running cross country, playing basketball, hockey, swimming, softball and track might not have a whole lot of it.

“Get caught up on school,” smiled Woodstock CI Red Devils Grade 10 female athlete of the year Jillian Trepanier.

Oxford’s high schools honoured their best - and busiest - athletes from the previous school year as it came to a close. Following is a compilation of honourees who combine athletic excellence with their studies.

Woodstock CI Red Devils

Zack Molinaro took Grade 12 male honours for a year, including point guard on the basketball team, shortstop on the baseball team, setter on the volleyball team - and Thames Valley Regional Athletics (TVRA) All-Star appearances for each - as well as a Western Ontario Secondary Schools Athletics Association (WOSSAA) championship in senior boys’ javelin.

Molinaro was also one of three finalists for the TVRA SPECTRA Award and Scholarship, a prestigious board-wide program recognizing graduating students for sportsmanship, participation, excellence, character, teamwork, respect and achievement. Schools nominate one male and one female candidate based on a combination of high-level performance and character.

Molinaro, who is also Student Athletic Council president, combined athletic prowess with an 87 per cent academic average and 250 hours of community service, based on two years of coaching with the Oxford Attack basketball program. He plans on taking a gap year following graduation, a tactical decision to improve his positioning toward a hoped-for NCAA baseball scholarship.

Looking back over his high school career, an Ontario Federation of School Athletic Associations (OFSAA) gold medal and OFSAA A basketball silver medal stand out amongst four highly productive and enjoyable years.

“It was probably all a highlight,” he said. “All four years, all the seasons we’ve had as a team.”

Addison Trepanier took Grade 12 female honours, playing basketball, finishing 14 milliseconds off an OFSAA swimming appearance in the 50-metre freestyle, qualifying for WOSSAA in shot put and discus for the first time, and finally, sharing in WOSSAA AA silver medals with the girls hockey team. Her high school hockey experience started on a roster without a goalie, finishing up in the regional championship game.

“It was kind of cool to see that much of

a change in the four years,” said Trepanier of her seasonal highlight. “And the fact we were that close, even better.”

Eden Fraser was named Grade 11 female athlete of the year, with a busy season including playing post on the basketball team, defence on the hockey squad, third base and shortstop with the fastball team, girls doubles in badminton and finishing sixth at OFSAA in senior girls javelin, with a personal best throw in the 38-metre range.

“Hopefully 40 next year,” she said. “We’ll see.”

Ben Barlow was named male Grade 11 athlete, recognizing a year including soccer, boys doubles tennis and two seasons in his ‘happy place’, running, the 1,500, 3K and steeplechase during the track and field season, and a second-place WOSSAA finish in cross country and resultant OFSAA qualification.

“Don’t think a lot, just run,” said Barlow, who will have the opportunity to return in his Grade 12 year.

Aiden Silos also kept busy during his Grade 10 season as a basketball guard, left winger in hockey, boys doubles badminton player qualifying for WOSSAA, and opposite hitter for the WOSSAA AA championship junior boys volleyball team.

“Winning WOSSAA was huge for the volleyball team,” said Silos, who enjoys keeping busy and ‘having fun’ with sports.

Jillian Trepanier’s Grade 10 award reflected a year including a WOSSAA AA hockey silver medal, trips to OFSAA both in swimming and cross country (WOSSAA team silver medal) and an OFSAA bronze medal in javelin.

Trepanier was sitting sixth before her final throw, emptying the tank with a roughly 34-metre performance.

“It’s not going to hurt me,” she recalled thinking, “I’m just going to chuck it.”

Tyler Gravis took Grade 9 male honours for a season including soccer, badminton, reaching OFSAA West Regionals in track (300 hurdles, 1,500 and pole vault) and also a 12th place finish at OFSAA cross country.

“Top five next year, that’s the goal,” he said.

Adriana Tamburi earned the nod for Grade 9 female, playing basketball, badminton, soccer and track, where she qualified for OFSAA in the 100-metre dash, finishing fifth at WOSSAA and 4th at OFSAA West Regionals.

“I like being active,” understated Tamburi, who also plays in the Ontario Player Development League out of Hamilton.

Woodstock College Avenue Knights

Devin Baker earned top senior male honours as a volleyball left-side hitter and track and field athlete, competing in high jump, triple jump and long jump, finish-



(JEFF TRIBE PHOTO)

WCI Athletes of the Year, from left, are Zack Molinaro and Addison Trepanier, Grade 12 Male and Female; and Aiden Silos, Grade 10 Male; Jillian Trepanier, Grade 10 Female; Adriana Tamburi, Grade 9 Female; Tyler Gravis, Grade 9 Male; Eden Fraser, Grade 11 Female; and Ben Barlow, Grade 11 Male.



(JEFF TRIBE PHOTO)

From left to right are CASS’s Athletes of the Year: Julia Baer, Senior Girls; Devin Baker, Senior Boys; McKenzie Howard, Junior Girls; and Greyson Padfield, Junior Boys.

ing second at TVRA and WOSSAA in the latter, and sixth at OFSAA.

It was a good finish to a high school career, said Baker, in which he had a great time, appreciated the coaches and the opportunity to compete.

“So wonderful and made so many friends along the way.”

Baker is headed for the Brock University kinesiology program next year, looking forward to continuing to compete with that track and field team.

“I’m excited.”

Julia Baer was recognized as top senior female athlete, a force on both the volleyball (middle hitter) and basketball (post) courts.

“A lot of great memories,” said Baer, who as a Grade 11 student, looks forward to making more next season with the Knights.

“Win more games,” she said of her goal, looking to move up the senior girls basketball ranks. “I think we can finish top three.”

McKenzie Howard competed in junior girls volleyball and varsity fastball, capping the latter season with a TVRA championship walk-off two-run home run.

“It was a good way to finish,” she

smiled.

Junior male athlete Greyson Padfield was a middle hitter in volleyball and smooth-shooting forward who could also be effective inside for the Knights WOSSAA AA championship basketball team.

“Going as far as we did in basketball and winning it all felt like a complete season,” said Padfield, whose longer-term goal is continued improvement toward a potential OFSAA berth in the sport.

Woodstock Huron Park Huskies

Grade 12 male athlete of the year Gavin Jansen is a five-sport athlete who qualified for WOSSAA in golf, was the setter on the Huskies senior boys OFSAA volleyball team, assistant captain on the hockey team and also competed in ultimate frisbee. Beyond his athletic ability, his impact and leadership were valuable components to his overall game, said Huron Park Athletic Director (AD) and coach Eryn Orr.

“Every coach wishes they had a kid like him on their team.”

Sophie Pullen was named Grade 12 female, a ‘super talented’ athlete who competed in cross country, track and also was

CONTINUED TO PAGE 19

High schools recognize athletic best of the best of the best

CONTINUED FROM 18

the fastball team's pitcher, a quiet leader who led by example.

"She always gives the extra effort," credited Orr.

Ema-Leigh Hamilton received Grade 11 female honours for participation in basketball and rugby, adding team MVP in the latter.

"She is a superior athlete naturally who also works at it," said Orr.

Rohn Cowan was named Grade 11 male, a five-sport (ultimate frisbee, track and field, badminton, basketball and volleyball) athlete who is a humble, quiet leader who started on the volleyball team in his first year of senior.

"I don't think he understands how talented he is," said Orr.

Grade 10 male Alro Minnaar played volleyball, basketball, badminton and soccer, a 'super competitive' leader whose approach might be summed up in one word.

"Engine," said Orr. "He is just constantly going."

Reagan White received Grade 10 female honours, playing both basketball and rugby, which she also plays outside of school.

"She's wise and mature beyond her years and a great leader," said Orr.

Finnigan McKee was named Grade 9 male for his efforts in volleyball, track and field and badminton, a great competitor and individual, Orr said.

"No matter what he is doing or playing."

Hannah Bast rounds out Huskie awards as the choice for Grade 9 female, playing field hockey, fastball and hockey, where she was named team MVP despite being a first-year player.

"Which speaks to not only her skill but how other players look up to her," said Orr.

Ingersoll DCI Blue Bombers

IDCI recognizes one male and one female athlete across the school year, who

can be selected from any grade. Both Blue Bombers award winners this year are graduating students.

Noah Cann has always been a good runner, said IDCI Athletic Director Chris Adkins; however, in what he termed a great mental approach, Cann elevated himself from being on the bubble to advance to OFSAA, to doing so in both cross country and track.

"He set goals for himself," said Adkins, noting previously, 'if the top four runners got to go, he'd be in fifth.'

This year, having won the senior boys TVRA cross country race, Cann had a huge lead heading to the finish line at WOSSAA, where the funnel had not yet been opened. Running past what would have been the finish, he mentally processed the situation, circling back to officially finish fourth, qualifying for OFSAA in the process. Although a committee decision confirmed final placings, Adkins said the runner who technically finished in first gave Cann his gold medal.

"That's a story in itself about what high school sports is about."

Competing at OFSAA, Cann had one shoe 'spiked' and come off, meaning he ran the final two kilometres in one shoe and one bare foot, incredibly still managing to finish in the top 30.

Cann also swam for the Blue Bombers said Adkins, qualifying for OFSAA in the pool.

"No medals, but all personal bests. That's the type of guy he is. His swimming just got better and better."

Cann was on track for a strong finish in the 1,500 metre, 3,000 and steeplechase events before suffering an injury in the latter, which hampered his performance at OFSAA. However, beyond winning at TVRA, he was top three at WOSSAA, said Adkins.

"He's gone from being seventh, eighth, ninth, tenth, bubble position to the podi-



(CONTRIBUTED PHOTO)

Huron Park's Athletes of the Year, from left to right: Rohn Cowan, Grade 11 Male; Ema-Leigh Hamilton, Grade 11 Female; Gavin Jansen, Grade 12 Male; Sophie Pullen, Grade 12 Female; Finnigan McKee, Grade 9 Male; and Hannah Bast, Grade 9 Female. Grade 10 Male Alro Minnaar and Grade 10 Female Reagan were absent from the photo.

um," he credited.

Cann, whose average is in the 90 per cent range, also finished in the top 10 in national U20 cross country championships. He will be attending the University of Windsor in the fall, looking forward to continuing to compete in both cross country and track.

Adkins' position as AD coincided with the naming of Cameron Adkins as IDCI female athlete of the year.

Cameron was able to employ transferable strategy from experience as an out-of-school field lacrosse midfielder to four years with the Blue Bombers field hockey squad, earning MVP honours there both for her on-field presence and as a 'rookie recruiter.' Cameron also expanded upon enjoyable summer tennis with friend Charlotte deWit to doubles competition in that sport, losing to the eventual TVRA champs.

Cameron played centre back on the IDCI girls soccer team and added 6:30 a.m. swimming practices to an already busy schedule, qualifying for WOSSAA in the process. She also made the decision to transition from volleyball to hockey for her graduating season. Shifting from her regular U18 community hockey position as a winger, she moved to centre against the opposition's strongest line.

"She was able to put points on the board and help us defensively," said Adkins.

Named MVP for that team as well, Cameron was thrilled to share in a team's progression from below .500 the previous season to WOSSAA AA bronze medalist.

Like Cann, she also received the IDCI Neil Desborough Graduates Award, given to a minimum two-sport male and female athlete with the highest academic average.

Adkins was a proud father, "for lots of reasons," including Cameron's maturity of thought around choosing to embrace a variety of sports and teams while maintaining academic and other responsibilities. "That's what you want to see in your kid."



(CONTRIBUTED PHOTO)

Noah Cann, left, and Cameron Adkins, right, were recognized as IDCI male and female athletes of the year, respectively, along with Neil Desborough Graduates Award (highest academic average among minimum two-sport athletes).

Cameron is attending Western University's kinesiology program this fall.

Woodstock St. Mary's Warriors

The Woodstock St. Mary's Warriors named twins Aliyah Anthony and Leyah Anthony as their co-Grade 12 Female Athletes of the Year, a male honour enjoyed solo by Kingston McPherson. Hunter van den Akker earned Grade 11 Male Athlete, with Jillian Brearley and Oriana Belmonte sharing female accolades.

Melinda Jayasekera was tagged as the Junior Girls winner, with Joshua Morgan and Tristan Manalo sharing the Grade 10 Boys podium. Jewelle Mensah and Jakub Mazurkiewicz were named Female and Male Rookies of the Year, respectively.



(CONTRIBUTED PHOTO)

Clockwise, from top left, are St. Mary's Warriors athletes of the Year: Kingston McPherson, Grade 12 Male; Hunter van den Akker, Grade 11 Male; Jakub Mazurkiewicz, Male Rookie; Melinda Jayasekera, Grade 10 Female; Joshua Morgan and Tristan Manalo, Grade 10 Male; Jillian Brearley and Oriana Belmonte, Grade 11 Female; and Aliyah and Leyah Anthony, Grade 12 Female.

Woodstock soccer player raising money for trip of a lifetime

LEE GRIFFI

Editor

Hayden Bond will soon be doing something most teenagers could only dream of – playing the sport they love at a high level in another country.

The 15-year-old striker will be making his way to Croatia as a member of the London Dinamo U15 Football Club and is offering prepaid yard work services to raise money.

“I’m expecting a more professional, classy type of game than what I am playing right now. I am looking forward to seeing how they play over there. I want to get more serious about the game, train more often and work towards something bigger.”

Hayden will be able to pursue opportunities next year, including attending prospect camps where scouts, including college recruiters, evaluate future talent.

The trip comes with a price tag of \$4,200, not a bad figure considering it starts on July 30 and runs for two weeks.

“The team has done a very good job of fundraising,” explained his mother, Claire. “Another mom and I worked with the team manager to find unique fundraisers we could do, and I’ve done a few extra on the side.”

Hayden’s started doing yard maintenance last summer to help pay for the increased cost of playing more competitive soccer,

which includes more tournaments and increased travel.

“I feel this is something I deserve and I want to work towards. I don’t want to be someone who sits back and lets everyone else do the work.”

Claire explained her son has worked hard both on and off the pitch.

“He’s a hard-working kid, and he’s putting up with late-night games and practices and some long drives, but he managed to get great grades. He’s one of four kids, so our house is busy and all over the place. He’s a great big brother and little brother.”

The teenager also volunteers his time at a sports camp to help others improve their game. Claire said her son’s yard work has helped them meet people in the community they likely would never have met otherwise.

“It takes a village for sure, and we appreciate everyone who has stepped forward for us.”

Hayden explained he’s never been outside of Ontario or been on a plane but is looking forward to the trip. Claire has no worries about her son travelling to Croatia.

“My biggest concern is that he washes his socks. The coaches, technical director, team manager, and a handful of parents are making the trip for one or both weeks. In our research, Croatia is a very sought-after vacation destination. It’s very safe and beautiful.”



(CONTRIBUTED PHOTOS)

15-year-old Woodstock resident Hayden Bond is fundraising to help pay for a soccer trip to Croatia where he and his teammates will not only play games, but also watch elite-level soccer.

Ingersoll mini-putt hoping for a visit from local hockey star

LEE GRIFFI

Editor

The three students working at the Ingersoll Key Putt have set a lofty goal for this summer – a visit from Canadian hockey superstar and local Ella Shelton.

The facility is owned and operated by the Kiwanis Club of Ingersoll, and it is managed by 17-year-old Arjen Voorn, who said the idea came from other locally themed holes such as one paying tribute to astronaut Jeremy Hansen and Beachville, where the first-ever game of organized baseball was played.

“We were in a meeting one day with our committee with people from the Kiwanis Club and me and the two other employees. We were just kind of bringing up ideas, and they wanted to get some of the younger people’s opinions, and someone brought up Ella. Since our focus is on younger people at the course, we wanted to have an obstacle focused on that.

The Shelton cutout was introduced last week and the feedback has been very positive so far.

“We had an event recently with the Chamber of Commerce of Ingersoll. And they all loved it a lot. It’s a good way of like showing the pride of Ingersoll,” he added.

The next step is waiting to hear from Shelton’s manager, who was totally on-board with the idea.

“Her manager sent us the photo of her, and we got permission from her to use it. We’re going to reach out again and see if she might want to come down and maybe sign it or like take a photo with it.”

A Key Putt social media post encourages people to play a round, take a photo with Shelton, and share it on social media while tagging the Olympian.

“Let’s see if we can get Ella to visit the course and check out the obstacle celebrating her incredible accomplishments,” it added.

The course held a tournament last weekend, thanks in part to a ParticipAction grant. Some of that money was used to purchase prizes for competitors. Voorn, who is heading to Wilfred Laurier University in September to study social work, explained he and his co-workers love seeing people from the community enjoy the facility.

“I love seeing returning faces come down. We had a seven-year-old boy have his birthday party with us this year. It’s great seeing him come back, and he always has so much fun. Just getting involved with the community is just what we love to do.”

The Key Putt has three sponsors this season who contribute money for free golf days for the public.

“Those are usually our busiest days, and it’s just a lot of fun.



(CONTRIBUTED PHOTO)

Ingersoll Key Putt employees Kingsly Voorn (left) and Jordyn Ferguson, both 15, pose with the life-size cutout of women’s hockey star Ella Shelton. The goal is to have the local superstar come for a round this summer.

Organized football on the rise in Woodstock

LEE GRIFFI

Editor

The Woodstock Wolverines organization has wrapped up the 2026 competitive season has come to an end but there is plenty of football to come.

The U18 team finished with a record of 3 wins and 4 losses, while the U16 squad, in their first-ever season, finished with 4 wins and 3 losses.

Even when we were indoors way back in February and March, when we started the camps and tryouts, it looked good. But again, it's hindsight, you know, you look good against yourself," said the club's executive director Joe Brown.

"It's the real test is when you go against other centers. And really right out of the gate, we looked great. The kids are bought in, the coaches are bought in. That U16, I'm really excited about. We've got a few of the kids from our original development league that we restarted are now playing at that age level. Now we're seeing that the fruits of our labour kind of come through," he added.

Brown added the U18 team has struggled somewhat as player commitment has been an issue, but they are persevering.

"It's kids that are working. They're pretty much adults and it's different attitudes, it's a different work ethic. But at the end of the day, we're still trying to instill hard work in them. Put the work in and we will win. So that's been a really resilient group. We've had a few players quit for jobs."

Despite the challenges, Brown said the season was very rewarding for the organization, and he is grateful for everyone involved in minor sports.

"Not just for me, but a lot of volunteers have put in a lot of hard work. It's a full-time job to run a not-for-profit youth sports organization. And really, my hat goes off to all our volunteers in Woodstock and Oxford County who are involved

in some kind of youth sports. It is a grind. It is a full-time job. And really, I don't think a lot of people understand the commitment you put into this to ensure that these kids have a program that they can play football in or really any sport and give them that opportunity."

The Wolverines had U12 and U14 travel teams before the pandemic, but COVID wiped out the entire program before the decision was made to ramp it up again.

"We put in a good three years of doing the development league of the young kids, making sure that we had a core of really good coaches and started developing the kids again. Then we felt, okay, now's the time that we can go start offering these travel teams and kind of see how we did. And as you said, we're up against centers that have been doing this 30, 40, 50 years. They have that foundation well installed and are cranking out athletes, putting together championship teams," explained Brown.

"We're definitely the underdogs coming into this, and we teach our players that it's just mindset. You have to have the attitude and the thought process that we're going to do well. And from an administrative standpoint, we know it's a building process. We know it's going to take time to get to those championships. But what we try to do is build that through culture."

Brown added the Wolverines have great people involved, including coaches passionate about teaching the game.

"I think all of the pillars are there in place. We just have to continue to build."

The club's attention has now turned to the upcoming flag football season, a program it has run the last few years. Registration is now open for males and females from ages 6 to 18, with co-ed and all-female leagues available. Registration is \$250 and players receive an official NFL Flag Jersey. The season runs from September to November with games on Saturday afternoons between 1 p.m. and 4 p.m. and registration closes Aug. 17.



(CONTRIBUTED PHOTO)

The Woodstock Wolverines have wrapped up their 2026 competitive season. The focus now shifts to its flag program in the hopes of getting more kids involved in the program.

Brown said the next step off the field is to take a look at the competitive season that was.

"We're going to get together with all of the coaches, the board of directors, volunteers and parents, and basically have a town hall meeting to discuss what's next. Do we add another travel team? Do we move up a division? Do we add more coaches? Do we do more fundraising to get better equipment? We're also talking about trying to get a scoreboard out at Cowan Park there for our guys."

Brown added he has many people to thank for the growing Wolverines program.

"I'm super, super fortunate to have the coaches that we have. I'm feeling really blessed with this season how it's come together, and the kids are enjoying their time. It's a bright future for football in Oxford County."

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One last Great Cycle Challenge for Ingersoll's Henrietta Mulder

EMILY STEWART

Echo Correspondent

After 10 years, Henrietta Mulder of Ingersoll will be doing her last Great Cycle Challenge to support children battling cancer and their families.

"Everything has a life span, so it's time to pack it in," she said.

Mulder aims to raise \$15,000 towards the SickKids Foundation as she cycles for 300 kilometres in August. She raised \$5,138 of that goal by June 30, the day of the interview with the Echo. During the fundraisers in 2023, 2024, and 2025, Mulder raised \$15,000.

There were a few reasons why she decided the 2026 Great Cycle Challenge would be her last, including finding it was the same people and organizations who were donating.

"The support has been really great, but at some point, you just kind of think 'Ehn, you know what? Maybe it's time to not ask,' even though when I say that to them, they'll say 'Oh but we don't mind,' because they all seem to like what I do and I've had great success," she said.

Her age was also a factor.

"Cycling at this point is not as much fun. Traffic is busier. You get older, and you feel less secure on the road, so that's part of it," Mulder said. "Honestly, the cycling was never the big part really for me any-

ways. The fundraising is what matters. That's where you can make a difference."

Mulder began fundraising to support those facing childhood cancer after losing her own daughter Arlene Mulder Papaioannou to colon cancer in 2018. Although her daughter was an adult when she died, Mulder always said she was still her child.

"Everybody is somebody's child," she said.

Mulder is grateful for the community's support over the years.

"It's been a great ride, but like I said, everything has a life span, and I know I had said last year it was going to be my last year, and people have commented about that to me like, oh yeah, you said that last year and you'll probably do that again. Well, January rolled around, registration opened up, and I don't know, before I knew it, I was registering again. I've made it very clear that this is my last year."

After she retires from the Great Cycle Challenge, Mulder encourages her supporters to continue donating to other participants part of the Great Cycle Challenge anywhere in Canada.

"Last year, I think we had over 11,000 riders, so there will always be somebody that you can click on their name and make a donation because the need always exists," she said.

Mulder is also having spin-the-wheel



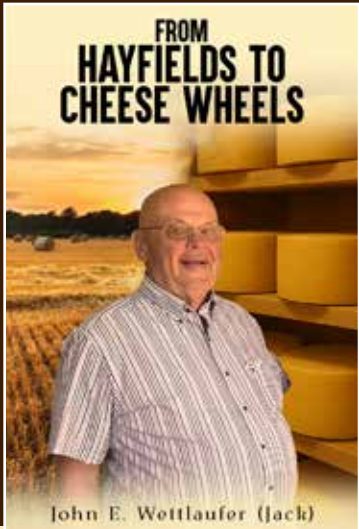
(HENRIETTA MULDER PHOTO)

Ingersoll resident Henrietta Mulder has participated in the Great Cycle Challenge over the years to raise money for the SickKids Foundation and support children facing cancer and their families. She will be retiring from the fundraiser after this year.

events where donors could win either tickets to the Bulls and Bike Rodeo on July 11 and/or a Southwest Oxford Plus tourism package with vouchers to explore Makkink's Flower Farm and Clovermead

Adventure Farm, as well as take an eco flight tour with the Tillsonburg Airport.

More information can be found online by visiting <https://greatcyclechallenge.ca/riders/HenriettaOlthoffMulder>.



DROP BY FOR A CASUAL BOOK SIGNING AND SAY HELLO!

Whether you've already read the book or are just curious, I'd love to see you, chat and sign a copy. No speeches or formal program. Just great conversation and friendship.

Location: Oxford County Naval Veterans Association (Woodstock Navy Club)
959 James Street, Woodstock ON

Date: Tuesday, July 14

Time: 4:00 pm to 7:00 pm

All proceeds will be donated to the Woodstock Hospital

Bring your own copy or purchase one at the event. I hope to see you there! -Jack

In this candid and deeply human memoir, Jack (John E. Wettlaufer) recounts his journey from a young farm boy armed with grit and determination to the founder of Bright Cheese House, Canada's largest independent cheese company. Along the way, he shares the lessons he learned through hard work, risk-taking, loyalty, and the steady support of family and community.

Set against the changing landscape of the Canadian dairy industry, this book offers a rare behind-the-scenes look at entrepreneurship done the right way. Jack writes openly about earning trust with employees and suppliers, navigating industry consolidation, making difficult decisions, and ultimately facing the most challenging choice of his life: letting go of the family business he built from the ground up.

Throughout the story are moments of humour, humility, and warmth. From unforgettable employee stories and fishing adventures to thoughtful reflections on marriage, parenthood, leadership, and giving back, this is not just a business story, but a life story.

Honest, reflective, and often laugh-out-loud funny, this book is a tribute to resilience, integrity, and the importance of never forgetting where you came from.

Whether you are an entrepreneur, a business leader, or someone who simply enjoys a well-told life story, this memoir is a reminder that success is measured not only by what you build, but by the people you lift along the way.

theecho.ca

Lions Club Car Show

The Thamesford Lions Club wrapped up a successful Father's Day Car Show today, Saturday, June 20, welcoming a steady stream of spectators and vehicle exhibitors to Thamesford Lions South Park. Running from 8 a.m. to 2 p.m., the show featured dozens of cars, with early arrivals earning one of the 100 limited edition dash plaques. Admission for

spectators was free, and vehicle entry was set at \$10, with all proceeds directed toward community programs supported by the Lions. Attendees enjoyed break-fast and lunch prepared by the Lions BBQ Masters, along with access to the park's playground, splash pad, shaded seating, and accessible washrooms.

(RON YUZARK PHOTOS)



All day there was a steady stream of spectators and vehicle exhibitors.



Checking under the hood of his 1949 Mercury, Garth ensured all was in order.



The Vodden and Smith family viewed the interior of this classic camper vehicle.



Proudly showing his latest acquisition of a 1936 Chevy Pickup was Brian.

ROUTE TO THE PAST

HISTORY

And ACTION!

SCOTT GILLIES

Echo Contributor

A small paragraph in an April 1917 issue of The Ingersoll Weekly Chronicle and Canadian Dairyman newspaper led to the discovery of another fascinating story connected to our past. The following is the rest of the story.

Bryant Wilkins Fryer was the son of Joseph and Lilian Fryer. He had been born in 1896 while his father was manager of an iron foundry in Galt Ontario, but Joe was later employed in Ingersoll at the massive Noxon Company on Thames Street South during the Great War, so the Fryer family was well-known in town.

Bryant was identified as a 20-year-old artist when he enlisted in July of 1916 with the Canadian Field Artillery (CFA). He served in Canada, England and France, with the Reserve Brigade of the CFA, the 3rd Division Ammunition Column, the 11th Brigade CFA, the 8th Brigade CFA and the Canadian Artillery Regimental Depot, until he was seconded for duty with the Royal Flying Corps as an Air Observer in March 1917. In April of 1917, a paragraph in The Ingersoll Chronicle reported on this transfer to the RFC.

His decision to change from artillery to air corps may have been influenced by the injury he suffered during the attack on Neuville St. Vaast in France

on January 21, 1917. He was knocked down and rendered unconscious due to the explosion of a nearby shell. He was subsequently admitted to No. 20 General Hospital in France and then to Roland Gardens Hospital in the South Kensington area of London England for further treatment of shell shock.

By March of that year, he was back in school, training with the Royal Flying Corps at Reading England and by July he graduated as a Flying Officer (Observer). He served out the duration of the war with the RFC and was discharged from the service on December 19, 1918.

As an aspiring artist, he had been educated at the Ontario College of Art in Toronto. Following his return home, he continued his studies in New York, London England, and the esteemed Académie Julien in Paris.

An artist and illustrator by trade, Bryant became involved in the motion picture industry as an assistant in the production of more than 50 short films in the 1920s. He was particularly interested in animated productions featuring the use of puppets and marionettes. Several of these short films made use of stop-motion and silhouette production techniques.

By the mid 1920s, Fryer was back in Canada working on his own creations that were called "Shadow Laughs". He was also working for the British-based

company Cranfield and Clarke which produced the WWI-themed drama "Carry On, Sergeant!", an hour and a half silent film which was directed by the well-known war-time humorist and cartoonist Bruce Bairnsfather.

Work on this film led to future prospects and the creation of such short films as Jack the Giant Killer and Bye Baby Bunting and Sailors of the Guard. According to the Canadian Film Encyclopedia, these latter, six-minute length films, may be the first of their kind to have original musical scores.

When neither of these endeavours panned out, Bryant began teaching at his OCA Alma Mater and switched to commercial art to help pay the bills. Nevertheless, the lure of motion pictures still lingered, and he moved to California where he found work briefly as an artist and actor in Hollywood. Like most want-to-be actors, his dreams were unfulfilled, so he returned to Canada to work as an art director with a Montreal firm.

During the Second World War, Bryant Fryer returned to the service; this time with the Royal Canadian Air Force. He was appointed second-in-command of the Art Section of the Directorate of Information of the RCAF, designing panoramas for the visual link trainers, or mock-up cockpits of aircraft used to train pilots throughout Canada. He also supervised the production of designs,



(CONTRIBUTED IMAGE)

settings, equipment and costumes for the RCAF Entertainment Unit overseas.

In the early to mid-1940s Fryer was back in the motion picture business, this time writing, producing and directing films for the Royal Canadian Air Force.

Following the war Bryant resumed his work in the production of privately funded films until his death in 1963. He was survived by his wife, Enid Bryant (née Keighley), sister of his former business partner.

route2thepast@gmail.com

Ingersoll train station boarded up by VIA

LEE GRIFFI

Editor

The town's train station might be off limits for the public, but VIA wants to assure residents its passenger service in Ingersoll will continue.

"VIA informed the town on June 23 that it was going to close the station temporarily and relook at options in the fall regarding health and safety concerns they had been dealing with over the last couple of years," explained Mayor Brian Petrie. "They had previously removed seating and locked the washrooms. They said it would not affect the current schedule of trains that stop at the station."

Petrie said he was told the following statement would be posted on the VIA website regarding the move.

"The Ingersoll station building is temporarily closed. Trains will continue to stop at Ingersoll as scheduled. Passengers will not have access to the station building or its amenities until further notice."

The Echo was unable to find the statement, just a notice the station is closed, but we did receive a statement from VIA.

"Over the past few years, the Ingersoll VIA Rail station has been the target of repeated acts of vandalism despite ongoing repairs and maintenance. After the station entrance was damaged again, VIA Rail made the decision to temporarily board up and close the facility as a precautionary measure to protect the health and safety of our



(FACEBOOK PHOTO)

Repeated acts of vandalism at the Ingersoll VIA Rail station have led to the building being boarded up and off limits for travellers.

passengers and the public. This temporary decision will have no impact on train service schedules in Ingersoll."

The statement added VIA is currently reviewing the situation and will determine the appropriate path forward in due course.

"We remain committed to serving the Ingersoll community."

Ingersoll is served by VIA Rail's Québec City–

Windsor Corridor, specifically the Toronto–London–Windsor route. It is one of the smaller stops and receives limited service compared with larger stations such as Woodstock and London.

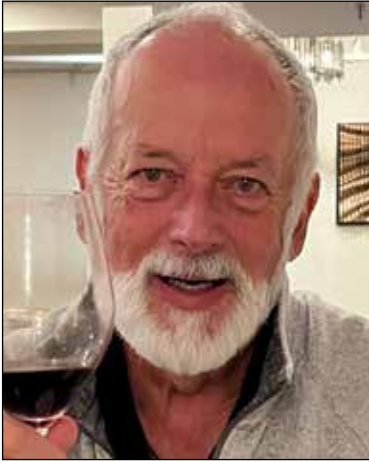
The original historic station was demolished in 2020. Today it consists of a small shelter with basic amenities, a wheelchair-accessible platform, washrooms, telephones and a small parking area. There is no ticket office or baggage service.

Ingersoll had a much grander railway station dating to the late 19th century when it was an important stop on the former Great Western and later Grand Trunk Railway. As passenger traffic declined after VIA Rail took over intercity service in 1979, the large station became unnecessary. A simple shelter replaced it in the early 1980s, and the vacant historic station was demolished in December 2020.

OH, THE PLACES WE'LL GO!

TRAVEL

Learning on the job at a chef's table in Grenada



PAUL KNOWLES

Echo Contributor

Chef Janice hands me an apron, a large, very sharp knife, and a cutting board. "Chop this onion," she says.

Fast forward a few minutes. Chef Janice examines my work... and I fail. "No, chop it much finer than that." Lesson learned.

I was standing behind the chef's table at the Mount Cinnamon Beach and Wellness Resort in St. George's, Grenada. I was invited to Grenada as a member of an eight-person group of Canadian travel journalists.

To tell the truth, I probably should not have been included on the trip. Because places like Grenada do like to introduce new travel media to their destination, and when it comes to this wonderful island in the east Caribbean, I am not new. This was my third visit to Grenada, and I hope it won't be my last.

In my job, one should be focused on new, international destinations, I suppose. But there is a short list of amazing places that I would love to return to, again and again. Ireland, for example. The southern tip of Italy. South-west England. And Grenada is defi-

nately on that list.

So, when they invite me, I go. But while there, I figure that I should do my best to find new and different experiences to write about.

Being a sous-chef to Chef Janice fit that category perfectly.

Food is an increasingly important element of travel, anywhere in the world. More and more people are building travel itineraries around opportunities to enjoy local cuisine. Others may not make food number one, but still want to experience local food and drink.

It's the opposite of what may still happen in large, all-inclusive resorts, where they offer food they think their guests – especially Americans – are comfortable with. I don't want "comfort" – I want "authentic".

When our group arrived for our visit to Mount Cinnamon, the chef's table was set for the eight of us. But when our host asked, "Would anyone like to assist the chef?", two of us immediately raised our hands, and were designated sous – or maybe something lower than "sous" – chefs for the duration.

We stood behind the chef's table, which was spread with an amazing array of ingredients. Some were obvious – large, freshly caught filets of fish (which turned out to be Mahi Mahi), the aforementioned onions, garlic, tomatoes, lettuce. But then there were the many ramekins, filled with colourful and aromatic spices.

That made sense. Grenada brands itself as "the spice of the Caribbean." Later in our visit, we toured the Belmont Estate, known for fantastic chocolate, but where our guide, Kelly, began at a table laden with about three dozen kinds of fruits, nuts and spices, all



The author with Chef Janice.

(PAUL KNOWLES PHOTO)

grown commercially on the estate.

Just as the national symbol for Canada is the maple leaf, Grenada's symbol is nutmeg, the signature spice of the island.

So while my colleague and I were assigned the more easily identified elements – onions, garlic, tomatoes – Chef Janice added a delicious and mysterious mix of spices to the food we were preparing.

After I was released – we won't say "fired" – from my culinary duties, and had enjoyed the amazing meal we had prepared, I checked out the menu in the adjacent restaurant. The list of ingredients in the various dishes was mouth-watering: toasted coconut, rosemary, chives, chili oil, ginger, passionfruit, citrus, capers, thyme, cilantro, lemon, turmeric aioli, lime, tamarind chutney, mango, mint, parsley, basil, cinnamon, and more. Virtually all fresh from the island. And these

are just the seasonings that accent the main ingredients!

The meal I – well, mostly not I – eventually served started with a very tasty Callaloo Soup (Callaloo is a leafy plant; the green soup included coconut milk, garlic, onion, chili peppers and pinches of sundry amazing spices from the magic ramekins.)

The main course was grilled Mahi Mahi garnished with tomato, onion and pineapple salsa, sauteed local vegetables (including chunks of yellow pumpkin), and twice-baked potatoes. I was involved in all of this... but, shall we say, my learning curve was a factor. I was cautioned not to over-stir the vegetables, and when it came time to plate the meal, I forgot to start with the lettuce leaf that was supposed to be under the veggies. So... I got that one. A victim of my own incompetence.

Although as I enjoyed every single bite of an amazing meal fea-

turing fresh, local Grenadian ingredients and unique tastes, I did not feel at all victimized. Mostly, I felt lucky.

Local spices, fruits, vegetables and seafood are in evidence everywhere in Grenada, from the restaurants and pubs to the stalls in St. George's Market to the hill-sides where what might appear to be forests are actually orchards where foods like nutmeg or papaya grow on trees that shelter the soil beneath them, where other foods and spices grow.

There are lots of reasons to visit Grenada – more about this in coming months – but for any visitor, the amazing local cuisine should be high on your list.

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.



A spice seller in the St. George's Market.

(PAUL KNOWLES PHOTO)



Nutmeg, the signature spice of Grenada, "the spice island."

(PAUL KNOWLES PHOTO)

Riddles

If athletes get athletes foot then what do astronauts get?
Missle-toe.

Why was the clock in the cafeteria always slow?
Because every lunch it went back four seconds.

What is the hardest thing to hold that even the strongest person in the world has difficulty with?
Your breath.

What did the duck say to the waiter?
"Put it on my bill".

Where does a 600 pound gorilla sit?
Anywhere he wants.

What did the doctor say to the rocket ship?
"Time to get your booster shot".

What did the Nerds Candy want to be when it grew up?
A Smartie.

What did the bread say to the man?
Nothing, bread can't talk.

What did the bee say to the naughty bee?
"Bee-hive yourself".

Sudoku

by PeterS 2026

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

Pattern
Solution found on page 31

*** **

Featured Pet

*** **



KODA & SHELDON

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

Word Search

JUNE NEWS HIGHLIGHTS

R	V	R	F	I	C	R	J	N	A	R	I	F	U	X	J	B	R	V	G
I	K	E	B	Y	R	V	D	O	E	V	T	L	B	U	G	I	E	T	A
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- SCREWWORM FLY
BACKROOMS MOVIE
SPACE X IPO
TRILLIONAIRE MUSK
- IRAN NEGOTIATIONS
NY KNICKS
CAROLINA HURRICANES
KEIR STARMER RESIGNS
- GAVIN MCKENNA
VENEZUELA EARTHQUAKE
WORLD CUP
JONATHAN DAVID
- STEPHEN EUSTAQUIO
LIONEL MESSI

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COMING EVENTS

JULY

JULY 6 | 4:30 - 7:30 PM
FOOD TRUCKS AT GRACE UNITED CHURCH TAVISTOCK
116 Woodstock St. S. Tavistock
Siggi's, Los Rolling Tacos, Berlin 95
Donations to Camp Bimini

JULY 6-10 | 9 AM - 12:30 PM
BASKETBALL POWER CAMP
Huron Park Baptist Church, 199 Berwick St,
Woodstock, ON N4S 7L6
Ages 5 to 14. Please call 519-421-4722 for more information.

JULY 12 | 1 - 4:30 PM
THE INGERSOLL AND DISTRICT HORTICULTURAL SOCIETY IS PLEASED TO ANNOUNCE THE 2026 PARADE OF GARDENS
Go to the gazebo downtown Ingersoll from 11:00am - 2:00pm for information and the location of gardens available to tour.
All are welcome to attend! There is no cost to attend.

JULY 13 | 4:30 - 7:30 PM
FOOD TRUCKS AT GRACE UNITED CHURCH TAVISTOCK
116 Woodstock St. S. Tavistock
SWAT, Pablas Street of India, Beavertails
Donations to Grace United Church

JULY 19 | 9 AM - 2 PM
REV UP YOUR SUNDAY! THE SOUTH GATE CENTRE STREETFEST CRUISE IS BACK!
Downtown Woodstock
Join us in downtown Woodstock for a day packed with incredible rides, great music, delicious food, and community fun. Whether you're showing off your pride and joy or just love classic wheels, there's something for everyone! Bring the whole family out for a classic summer day. See you on the streets!

ONGOING CLASSES, CLUBS & ORGANIZATIONS

EVERY OTHER FRIDAY | 1 - 4 PM
SPRING INTO THE INGERSOLL COUNTRY MUSIC JAMBOREE



WEEKLY SPECIALS
EVERY

Monday



\$13.99
Crispy's Famous Fish & Chips

Tuesday & Wednesday



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194 Springbank Ave N, Woodstock Phone: 519-290-8800

Masonic Hall, 190 Thames St. S. Ingersoll
Join us, walk ins welcome. Qualifications - love 50-70's country music. Perform, listen, dance & enjoy! May 15 & 29, June 5 & 19.

3RD TUE. OF MONTH | 6:30 - 8:30 PM
CAREGIVER CONNECTION
Revel Realty Woodstock, 111 Huron Street (Virtual/ hybrid options available)
Are you worried about your child or youth? Parents and Caregivers for Mental Health (PCMH) is here to listen, support, and walk alongside you on this journey. Our free Caregiver Connection peer support groups offer parents and caregivers a community of support. Can't make it in person? Join one of our virtual or hybrid groups! **Visit family.cmho.org or email oxfordcounty@pcmh.ca for more information.**

EVERY FRIDAY | 1 PM
TILLSONBURG DUPLICATE BRIDGE CLUB
Tillsonbur Senior Centre, 45 Hardy Ave, Tillsonburg
Don't have a partner? Come anyway and we will match you up with someone. For more information, visit their Facebook page: TburgBridge.

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

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

3RD WED. OF MONTH
COLOURING THROUGH GRIEF
Caring Hearts Support Network: St. David's United Church, 190 Springbank Ave., Woodstock ON
One time fee of \$15. Registration is required. Call 519-536-3370. Check out website www.caringheartssupportnetwork.com

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

VON OXFORD SUPPORTIVE CARE PROGRAMS
Navigating any form of grief can feel overwhelming; however, with the right support, guidance, and education, individuals can discover a pathway to healing. VON Oxford Supportive Care Programs offer assistance for grief stemming from various circumstances, such as the death of someone, caregiving, serious illness diagnoses, and life transitions. Through education, connection, and compassion, our programs create a safe space for individuals to explore their emotions and learn effective coping mechanisms during the grieving process
Contact us today to learn more about VON Oxford Supportive Care Programs. Email: oxford.griefsupport@von.ca, Phone: 1-888-866-7518. All Programs are Free-of-charge.

4TH WED. OF MONTH | 1 - 2:30 PM

GRIEF SUPPORT FOR MAID RELATED LOSS
Thamesford Library, 165 Dundas St., Thamesford
This monthly in-person grief support group for loss related to Medical Assistance in Dying (MAiD) offers a compassionate, safe space to explore this unique loss. The group will meet the **4th Wednesday of the month from 1 – 2:30 p.m.** at the Thamesford Library, 165 Dundas St., Thamesford. The group is free of charge and pre-registration is requested. To register or inquire about an evening group, contact Deb McKay at 519-866-3016 or email faye@compassionategriefsupport.ca.

OXFORD COUNTY DIABETES EDUCATION PROGRAM
Are you looking for support with your Diabetes? Our Team of Registered Nurses, Registered Dietitians and a Social Worker is here to support YOUR goals. We can help with medication adjustments, lifestyle and diet changes, stress management, weight reduction strategies and more. Appointments are available at Alexandra Hospital Ingersoll and Tillsonburg District Memorial Hospital and by phone. **SELF REFERRALS ARE WELCOME.** Please call 519-485-9611 to book an appointment. Let's work together!

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

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

OXFORD COUNTY BRANCH OF ONTARIO ANCESTORS
Are you looking to start a summer pastime? Are you interested in your family history? Oxford Branch has an extensive collection of family history and genealogical resources that can help you.
Come visit our Resource Centre at 82 Light Street, Courthouse Square, Woodstock. We are open Tuesdays to Thursdays 10:00 am to 4:00 pm
Volunteers are ready to help you get started or help you research for missing information. You can also connect with us on the web at https://oxford.ogs.on.ca. We are dedicated to supporting and promoting genealogical research in Oxford County. Hope to see you through the summer!

BEACHVILLE LEGION EVENTS: 434852 ZorraLine, Beachville

WEDNESDAYS | 7-8 PM
GENTLE CHAIR YOGA

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

THURSDAYS | 7 PM
EUCHRE

FRIDAYS | 8 PM
DARTS, FREE POOL

JUNE 11 | 7 - 8 PM
LINE DANCING

JULY 3 & 10 | DOORS OPEN 6 PM - BINGO STARTS AT 7 PM
OXFORD COUNTY FELINE WELLNESS BINGO

COMING EVENTS

JULY 4 & 11 | 1 - 4 PM
THAMES VALLEY BLUEGRASS AND OLD TIME COUNTRY PICKERS
Open Mic (acoustic only). Come enjoy the music!

JULY 8 | 4:30 - 6 PM
OX ON THE RUN MOBILE LIBRARY

JULY 10 | 5:30 PM
BBQ BURGER OR BALLPARK HOTDOG, BAKED BEAN AND SALAD DINNER
Call to order 519-423-6363

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

**MONDAYS
CLOSED**

**TUESDAYS & THURSDAYS
DARTS**

**FRIDAYS (EXCEPT JULY 10) | 7 - 9 PM
COUNTRY LINE DANCING**

**FRIDAYS (EXCEPT JULY 10) | 7:30 PM
CRIBBAGE**

**JULY 4 | 3 PM
MEAT DRAW**

**JULY 9 | 11:30 AM - 12:45 PM
SOUP N SANDWICH**

JULY 14 | 7 PM
EXECUTIVE MEETING

JULY 15-18
CHRISTMAS IN JULY (YARD SALE)

JULY 18 | 4:30 - 6 PM
WING NIGHT
Call or email for details at rclbranch55@rogers.com or 519-537-3112

JULY 26 | 5 - 6 PM
HAMBURGER'S & CORN ON THE COB DINNER
With dessert per person 5-6pm, per order and pay by July 22nd. Call or email for details at rclbranch55@rogers.com or 519-537-3112

NO GENERAL MEETING THIS MONTH

**SATURDAYS | 7 - 11 PM
EVENING ENTERTAINMENT:**

JULY 4TH - MIKE THORPE

JULY 11TH - 50-60 BROS

JULY 18TH - RANDY THOMAS

JULY 25TH - 2 FOR THE ROAD

**SEPTEMBER 19 | 11 AM - 4 PM
OPEN HOUSE**
Celebrating our 100th anniversary. We will be selling our tickets for our Gala event in December this day.

CROSSWORD

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	56					57		58						59	
				60				61							
					62							63			

CLUES ACROSS

1. __ chat
5. Statue near the Pyramids
11. A process to change the look
14. Herb
15. Think about excessively
18. Bass vocal part
19. Supreme Allied Cmdr. of NATO
21. A major division of geological time
23. New Zealand parrot
24. Cognitive contents
28. Lump of yarn
29. Atomic #109
30. Let go of
32. Indian title of respect
33. Whereabouts unknown
35. Electronic data processing
36. Drivers' licenses count
39. Snakelike fishes
41. They precede C
42. Popular personal computers
44. Intermediate community stage in ecological succession
46. Wings
47. Indicates position
49. Pleasantly smooth or soft
52. Jeweled headdress
56. In slow tempo
58. __ Falls
60. Reassertions
62. Eras
63. Hyphen

CLUES DOWN

1. Corporate executive
2. A plant used for flavoring food
3. Opinion or belief
4. Sheep in their second year
5. Intensities of sound
6. Indicates support for
7. Expression of laughter
8. OJ trial judge
9. Pointed ends of pens
10. True bugs genus
12. Lawyers argue theirs
13. Body parts
16. Closes tightly
17. World Heritage site in Nigeria
20. Islamic calendar month
22. Commercial
25. "Westworld" actor Harris
26. They __
27. Religious guilds
29. Woman (French)
31. Parts per billion (abbr.)
34. Brew
36. Spiritual leader
37. Indigo bush
38. Burn with a hot liquid
40. Older citizen
43. Scad fish genus
45. Morning
48. Line passing through the center (abbr.)
50. Double S-shaped curve
51. Small, thin person
53. Older
54. Mars crater
55. Humanities
57. Word element meaning ear
58. To the __ degree
59. Residue
61. It cools your home

Solution found on page 31

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Remember when **Google** provided free pizza to your child's soccer team when they won the championship?

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Local businesses live here. They play here. They invest here. They need our support, now more than ever.

OBITUARY

RODNEY DALE BELL



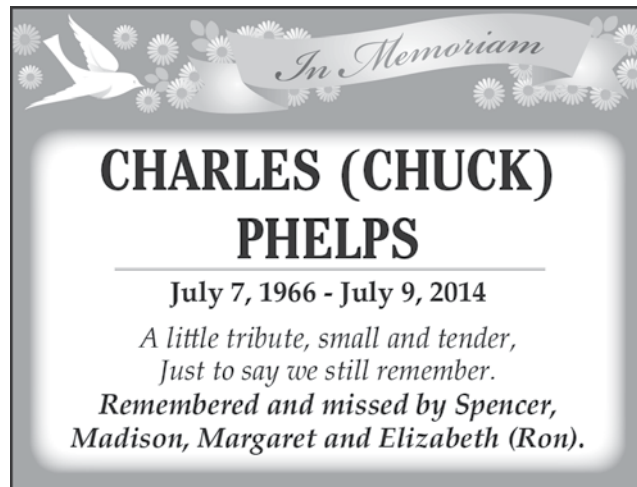
Rodney Dale Bell, 88, a long-term resident of Ingersoll passed away on June 16, 2026. Born in Manitoba, but as a preschooler, he moved west with his parents, C.L. and Doris Bell, and settled in Saskatoon. In 1970, Dale and his own young family relocated to southwestern Ontario. He was a teacher by profession, but he was also very much an avid reader, theatre actor and director, tennis player, golfer, curler, and dancer. After graduating from Nutana Collegiate in 1955, he went on to Saskatchewan Teacher's College, where he was President, 1956-1957. Dale joined the swim team while completing his degree in Physical Education at the University of Saskatchewan in 1964. By 1968-69, Dale was Chairman of Saskatchewan Teachers' Federation in Swift Current. Dale's first teaching, Vice Principal, and Principal positions were in Moose Jaw and Swift Current ("Speedy Creek"), but he quickly learned that he just wanted to be in the classroom. From 1970-1994, Dale's distinguished teaching career spanned multiple middle school subjects from English and Math, and from History to Physical Education at several Oxford County schools including Hickson, Norwich, Harris Heights, Maple Lane, Thamesford, and Victory Memorial School in Ingersoll. In the classroom, Dale consistently exemplified that "Education is not the filling of a pail, but the lighting of a fire" (WB Yeats), and under his tutelage he lit many fires in the hearts and souls of his students. Dale met Pat Hawken in 1955 and they married in 1960, going on to have 2 children, Brian, and Lindsay. The family settled in Ingersoll in 1971, where Dale became the President of the Ingersoll Golf & Country Club, and active member of the Curling Club. The creative side of Dale started with tap dancing lessons at a young age. His interest and progress in dance brought him into the spotlight when a member of the Royal Winnipeg Ballet commented that 'dancers like Dale Bell are what their Ballet company was looking for.' In addition to teaching and keeping physically active, Dale's experience in theatre, which began in high school, amounts to over 100 productions and 50 different roles. Dale's early involvement in the development of the Ingersoll Theatre of the Performing Arts (ITOPA) in 1976 was seminal in laying the foundation for the theatre community for the past 50 years. He paid the rent for the theatre space for two years and served on the ITOPA Board of Directors from 1978-2002 in various roles, from President to Editor of the Newsletter. Dale's energy, creative imagination, and commitment to the theatre community was evident in every production he shepherded through to closing night. As an actor and director, Dale created a multitude of detailed, convincing, and commanding performances for ITOPA, Tillsonburg Theatre, St Mary's, London Community Players, Woodstock Little Theatre, and the Dundalk International Drama Festival, Ireland. He won four Western Ontario Drama League Best Actor awards, including one for his role as C.S. Lewis in Shadowlands. His last production was in 2014, when he directed A Bad Year for Tomatoes, by John Patrick, for ITOPA. Dale is survived by his wife, Pat, daughter Lindsay, and son, Brian, daughter-in-law, Andrea, and grand-daughters, Kasha and Nikola.

OBITUARY

EDWARD JAMES (TED) PALMER

Surrounded by love, Edward James (Ted) Palmer of Kincardine died peacefully on June 19, 2026 in his 85th year. Loving husband of Annetta Bandura. Much loved father of Grant (Anita) of Winnipeg, Tanya (Wade) of Stratford and Christopher (Amanda) of London. Cherished grandfather of Michael (Kelli), Tom, Michelle (Jason), Jacob (Rebecca), Noah (Karina), Rebekkah (Zachary), Bradley (Moumita), Shannon and Nathanael (Samantha) and great-grandpa to several great-grandchildren. Deeply missed by his siblings Patrick (Judy), Lynda (Bob) and Karen (Lorne) and as well as by several nieces and nephews and a number of great-nieces and great-nephews. Remembered with love by members of the Bandura and McConnell families. Predeceased by his first wife, Dianne, his parents the Reverend James and Evelyn Palmer, and step-grandson Thom Welch. Ted taught at high schools in Leamington, Essex, Winnipeg, Stratford, Toronto, Tillsonburg and Ingersoll. With Dianne, he served as a Salvation Army Officer at corps in Toronto and St. Thomas and wrote the book Full-Time Families. The family received friends at the W.G. Young Funeral Home, 430 Huron Street, Stratford on Tuesday, June 23rd from 6 pm to 8 pm. The Funeral Liturgy was held at Holy Trinity Anglican Church, 41 Mornington Street, Stratford at 1 pm on Wednesday, June 24th. Interment followed in Avondale Cemetery. The service was livestreamed at <https://www.holytrinitystratford.ca/podcasts/worship-media>. As an expression of sympathy, donations may be made to the Holy Trinity Chapel and Outreach Center (formerly St. Paul's Anglican Church) through the funeral home. 519.271.7411 www.wgyoungfuneralhome.com

IN MEMORIAM



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C	H	I	T		S	P	H	I	N	X		
R	E	D	E	C	O	R	A	T	I	O	N	
O	R	E	G	A	N	O		O	B	S	E	S
	B	A	S	S	O			S	A	C	E	U
				E	R	A				K	A	K
					I	D	E	A	S		S	L
					M	T		D	R	O	P	
						M	I	A		E	D	P
I	D	S		E	E	L	S		A	B		
M	A	C	S		S	E	R	A	L			
A	L	A	E					M	I	D		
M	E	L	L	O	W			T	I	A	R	A
	A	D	A	G	I	O		N	I	A	G	A
			R	E	S	T	A	T	E	M	E	N
				E	P	O	C	H	S		D	A

QUIZ ANSWERS

1. Ruby
2. Kalokairi
3. Canberra
4. A kook
5. Gelato
6. Bananarama
7. Lobster
8. Dobby
9. Umpire
10. 70meters

SUDOKU SOLUTION

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

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