

Tillsonburg POST

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Development at 155 Wilson back on the table

JEFF HELSDON

Local Journalism Initiative Reporter

An undeveloped Wilson Avenue property with a history of causing controversy appears to again be back in consideration for a townhouse complex.

Zelinka Priamo Ltd, a London-based land use planner, is hosting a community open house on Nov. 5 from 6 to 7:30 p.m. in the Lion's Den at the Tillsonburg Community Centre to provide information about the proposal at 155 Wilson Ave.

The proposal is for a 3.5-story stacked townhouse building with 24 units.

Notice about the meeting states Zelinka Priamo "is the land use planning firm retained by landowner". There is no information as to who the landowner is at present.

Asked about the application, Mayor Deb Gilvesy said, "There's nothing at this point council can do because there's not an application in yet."

The irregularly-shaped property backs on Concession Street West, although the primary access would be off of Wilson Avenue.

The same planner made an application in 2019 on behalf of Peter Retsinas of Tillsonburg Property Corporation for two two-story dwellings with 28 units.

Sources told The Post the 2019 application was turned down for a variety of concerns,

CONTINUED TO PAGE 2



(JEFF HELSDON PHOTO)

WITCHES' NIGHT OUT

All sorts of witches, ghouls and goblins descended on downtown Tillsonburg on Oct. 23 and Oct. 25 for events sponsored by the Downtown Tillsonburg BIA. Thursday night saw 14 downtown businesses participating in a variety of activities from a medium and special sales to local bars offering special drinks. This group of witches, from the left, Nancy O'Hara, Angela Ward, Katie Rooyakkers, Keeley O'Hara and Amanda Hosanna, enjoyed a potion at The Copper Mug. More spooky photos on page 7.

Tillsonburg leads county in predicted growth percentage

JEFF HELSDON

Local Journalism Initiative Reporter

A study on growth analysis shows Tillsonburg leading the county in predicted population growth percentage over the next 40 years.

By 2061, the study predicted Tillsonburg's population would grow by 20,500 people to 39,300, more than doubling the 2021 population. Percentage-wise, the town is forecast to grow by 1.9 per cent per year, which is higher than the county average of 1.4 per cent and the next-highest

municipality, Woodstock, which will grow by 1.6 per cent per year. It should be noted that Woodstock's total growth by 2061 will be 41,600, though.

Oxford County Growth Analysis and Land Needs, being completed by Watson and Associates Economists Ltd., predicts growth in Oxford municipalities decades out to 2061. The purpose of the study is to allow municipalities to prepare their land needs and infrastructure to meet the growth.

Jamie Cook of Watson and Associates explained at the Oct. 14 meeting that interprovincial migration is driving a lot of Oxford's growth.

CONTINUED TO PAGE 2

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Tillsonburg population expected to double in the next 40 years

CONTINUED FROM FRONT

In particular, much of the growth is coming from Waterloo and the western Golden Horseshoe. He further explained the migration is being powered by home affordability, creating pressure in the 401 and 403 corridors. He said the growth is more than has been seen provincially.

The study also predicted employment growth over the study period. Tillsonburg is expected to account for 21 per cent of the county's residential growth and 18 per cent of its employment growth. The two main components of the jobs will be 40 per cent in the employment sector, which includes retail, education, and health care, and the same amount in the industrial sector.

More land needed

Breaking down the predicted residential growth, Cook said it equates to 233 new households per year.

Future employment lands are broken down into those in community areas, such as retail and education, and those in industrial areas.

"We've already identified there is already a shortfall of commercial lands to accommodate the existing base," Cook said.

He stressed the need for more community and industrial land in the future. Cook also reminded council it takes years to develop and service land.

"It's kind of eye-opening when you see

the amount of land needed over the next 20 years to accommodate essential growth," said Coun. Chris Parker.

The push for commercial land

The town's Economic Development Advisory Committee previously had a look at a draft of the study and recognized the shortfall of commercial land. Speaking at the Sept. 22 meeting, committee chairman Jesse Goossens explained that the committee would like to see the percentage of the town's available land that is for commercial use increase from 15 to 30 per cent to address the shortfall.

No decision was made on the request until council had the presentation on the

study. However, Development Commissioner Cephas Panschow updated council at the Oct. 14 meeting, saying the county had increased the future growth percentage for commercial land to 19 per cent. This would add 10 hectares.

"That could support a lot of commercial growth in Tillsonburg," he said.

Based on the four per cent increase, council passed a motion to refer the committee's original request for the increase in the percentage of commercial land back to committee members for discussion.

In a separate issue at the same meeting, council approved a request from E & E McLaughlin Ltd. to include the Norfolk Mall in Oxford County.

Open house being held on townhouse development

CONTINUED FROM FRONT

including access concerns by firetrucks and loss of backyard privacy from existing homeowners.

The report from 2019 outlined numerous applications dating back to 1985 to develop the property.



(CONTRIBUTED IMAGE)

This map from a 2019 application to develop the property at 155 Wilson Avenue shows the property in question. An open house for the public to learn about a 24-unit townhouse is planned for the property on Nov. 5.



(JEFF HELSDON PHOTO)

SMOOTHER ROAD AHEAD

Drivers using what was one of the worst stretches of road in town - Concession Street East between Lisgar and Broadway - will be happy to see the road has been resurfaced. Milling of the existing pavement started on Oct. 17 and final paving was completed on Oct. 24. The work was part of this year's budget with a cost of \$98,000.



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EDITORIAL

Now is not the time for a federal election

Most Canadians agree now is not the time for another federal election.

But are they paying enough attention to know about the possibility of an election?

With Prime Minister Mark Carney's first budget coming next week, there are already musings the budget may not pass from the government. If this were the case, it would be a vote of non-confidence and Canadians would be back at the polls.

The Liberals currently have 169 seats, just three shy of the number needed to form a majority.

Typically, the first challenge of a government is having its throne speech passed. Again, this is usually a confidence vote. The throne speech this year was a bit of an anomaly, not only in that King Charles read it instead of the governor general, but also in none of the parties requested a recorded vote. Without a recorded vote, the speech was deemed as passed.

The second challenge is usually a budget, that in most cases, follows shortly after the throne speech. Not so in 2025, with the budget being delayed more than six months.

The obvious answer, and one most Canadians would like to see, is the Liberal government needs to work with other parties and garner support of enough MPs to pass the budget and continue governing the country.

What could play out is the Liberals may not move, wanting to go back to the polls to secure a majority. This could either be through a non-confidence vote against the budget, or the prime minister pulling the pin on the government prior

to a vote.

Ontario residents went to the polls in 2025 in an election that was unneeded and didn't change the balance of power because Premier Doug Ford wanted a clear mandate to deal with tariffs.

Could this be the logic Prime Minister Mark Carney uses?

He came into office, riding the "elbows-up" movement, and saying he is best to deal with U.S. President Donald Trump. Yet, here we are months later with no deals signed as nations around the globe have signed deals. Many critics say it is now "elbows-down" as Carney dropped the retaliatory tariffs in a bid to secure a deal. Although, to be fair, this may not be a bad thing as retaliatory tariffs add to the costs for Canadian businesses and consumers and the latter group was driven to "Buy Canadian" without any punitive countertariffs.

As this game of political chess plays out in the coming weeks, Canadians need to pay more attention to what is occurring in our country than south of the border.

As it was months ago, there is a lot at stake with Canada negotiating trade with its largest trading partner. Diversification in trade is good, but the fact remains that geography rules the day and the U.S. is our closest trading partner by far. This is particularly true in Southwestern Ontario.

To reiterate, we need a government that is at the table working for the people, not scheming in backrooms about how it can eke out three more seats for a majority.



Rainy Fall day.

(STACIE EDEN PHOTO)

A courageous memoir inspires a meaningful journey



**EVERYONE
HAS A
STORY
TO TELL**

ROBIN KRAFFT

Tillsonburg Post Columnist

Growing up on a farm just outside of Tillsonburg in Delmer, Rosemary Hopper remembers childhood escapades hiking up and down the creek and inventing games in the woods with friends.

"I'm a country person," Hopper said, describing how they rode ponies, skated on a patch of ice, and swam alongside the train tracks, often with her little brother Joe following along behind them.

Her intrepid spirit expanded in her teen years, and in 1958, she took off with three friends in a 1951 Chevy.

"We weren't sure where we were going," she said, "but we stopped at a lot of interesting places and ended up at Graceland just after Elvis went into the army."

They arrived at dusk to closed gates, but as they stood there a golf cart came down from the house driven by Elvis's uncle.

"When he found out we had come all the way from Canada, he opened the gates and gave us a tour of the

grounds, including the famous pink Cadillac and an enclosure of donkeys," Hopper said.

On another adventure, she and a friend drove a VW Bug on a meandering journey through the US. "

It was a fun trip," Hopper said. "We didn't have a tent, just bedrolls and cooking gear. We slept on the ground by the fire."

Their destination was the Seattle World's Fair, and they camped all the way back through Vancouver and the Canadian Rockies.

After she married, she moved to Sarnia in 1965.

"We loved to sit on the riverbank under the Blue Water Bridge and watch the big ocean-going salties pass through," Hopper said, adding that she saw the Edmund Fitzgerald go through.

During that time, she worked for the OPP as a clerk, writing up crime and traffic reports, answering the phone, and typing up briefs for the crown attorney for inquests.

"I loved it," she said. "It was a good job, it was always different every day. I actually had a call one day from a lady who wanted to know how to cook rhubarb, so I told her how. There was crime, of course, but not like it is now."

After six years in Sarnia, she returned to the area, eventually becoming a real estate agent. She also drove a school bus for 27 years throughout the Tillsonburg area, following in her mother's footsteps.

"She was the first lady school bus driver in the county," Hopper said proudly.

She spoke with affection and admiration about her grandchildren and her sons, who live in the area. Hopper lost her eldest son to a tragic, violent attack, but it has

made the family bonds unbreakable. They support one another, celebrate together, and remember together.

Hopper enthused about a recent Alaskan cruise with her granddaughter Cassidy, before sharing the pinnacle of her journeys - a European tour inspired by her uncle, Sgt. Charles D. Kipp, and his memoir of WW2.

She travelled with her friend Lynda Sykes. Lynda had typed and edited her uncle's manuscript, and when several publishers turned it down, she sent the first chapter to Pierre Burton. A year later, Burton's voice spoke from her answering machine, requesting the rest of the manuscript. The book, *Because We Are Canadians*, was published in 2003, and Rosemary shared the story of its title.

"We flew to England and crossed the channel at Portsmouth, landing at Juno Beach. We rented a car and drove all across France, and traced his whole path across Europe, all the way to Germany. That was the trip of a lifetime," Hopper said. When they visited Bergen-op-Zoom, in The Netherlands, they were greeted warmly.

"They remember him, and they treated us like royalty," Hopper said.

The town had been occupied by the German army when Kipp and a young corporal entered the home of Professor Luijten, sheltering in his cellar, who was able to interpret communications between the Canadian and underground forces. After Kipp and Major Lambert laid out plans for the liberation, Lambert departed. Luijten proposed a toast, his hand trembling as he poured three glasses of wine.

He asked them why, when they were about to go into battle, they were so steady. They answered together: "Because we are Canadians."

General Motors shuttering production in Ingersoll

LEE GRIFFI

Local Journalism Initiative Reporter

General Motors is ending the BrightDrop delivery van production at its CAMI plant in Ingersoll.

Employees found out on Oct. 21 via a letter signed by GM Canada's managing director, Kristian Aquilina, and plant director Bill Harkness.

Ingersoll Mayor Brian Petrie said today's news was tough to take. On the positive side, Petrie said the plant isn't closing, but the announcement will have wide-ranging effects on the economy.

"We know that only 10 per cent of its workforce lives in Ingersoll, but there is a reason why this is national news. This affects more than just the town."

In April 2022, the federal government and the province each committed \$259 million to GM's facilities – including the CAMI plant in Ingersoll – to support a large-scale transformation into electric-vehicle production.

The funding was part of a broader \$2-billion investment by GM to convert the CAMI plant and other Ontario facilities for EV production. The facility change was meant to make CAMI the first full-scale commercial electric-vehicle production facility in Canada.

"Obviously tough news this morning for the workers in Ingersoll," stated Innovation, Science and Industry Minister Melanie Joly.

Joly and Oxford MP Arpan Khanna sparred during Question Period the day of the announcement. Khanna said the auto sector has been hit yet again as Canada continues to be hit by U.S. tariffs.

"This adds to the 2,200 job losses in Oshawa and the 3,000 announced in Brampton. The Liberals have sold out our auto workers, so will the prime minister finally admit he has lost control of the wheel and is driving our auto sector off the cliff?"

Joly said she is looking forward to working with Khanna to find solutions and added her government will fight for the jobs of CAMI employees.

"This morning, we were already on the phone with the company to be in solution mode, with Unifor, (Premier) Doug Ford and (Ontario Minister of Economic



(UNIFOR PHOTO)

General Motors has announced an end to the production of the BrightDrop EV delivery vans in Ingersoll. The federal government said it will work closely with all parties involved to find a new vehicle to produce at the facility.

Development) Vic Fedeli. Our goal is to bring back a new model to Ingersoll, and we're on it."

Khanna added he received a call from a CAMI employee Tuesday morning who said he is in dire straits financially.

"He doesn't know how he will pay for his mortgage. He doesn't know how he will feed his family. There is a real sense of anxiety in our community. The Liberals blew millions on EVs and now workers and their families are paying the price."

Joly said her goal is to bring jobs back to Ingersoll and added the government will continue to work with the Americans to eliminate the unjustified tariffs against the auto sector.

Oxford MPP Ernie Hardeman said the provincial government is in close contact with GM and other labour partners.

"I know this is especially tough for our workers in Oxford, and we will be doing everything we can to support them after this disappointing announcement. GM also

knows that its Ontario operations are a big part of its success, and that is why they are exploring new opportunities for the CAMI plant. We have strong safeguards in place to ensure that provincial funding delivers real results, and we will review GM's decision closely to ensure all agreements are respected and enforced."

Despite the announcement of the end of production in Ingersoll, Petrie is optimistic the company will be able to come up with a plan for the manufacturing facility.

"This isn't going to get better tomorrow, that's for sure, but GM is a great partner. When we have conversations, I know they want to be here. They've put a lot of investment into that plant and it's a hard market for them with all the uncertainty. How do you make an announcement on anything right now? It's really concerning."

Unifor, the union representing CAMI employees, is putting the blame south of the border despite the delivery van's slow sales.

"The reality is that CAMI was hit from both directions by Trump as he aggressively acted to undo EV supports and hit Canadian auto assembly plants with a 25 per-cent tariff," said Unifor national president Lana Payne. "Now, more than 1,000 workers and their families are paying the price for Trump's political interference and GM's failure to hold the line."

The announcement affects Unifor Local 88 members currently on layoff after the plant was idled in May. At the time, GM cited slowing commercial-EV demand, but today's decision confirms a full end to the BrightDrop line.

"We have a lot of members with decades of dedication to GM who are now abandoned," said Unifor Local 88 president Mike Van Boekel. "These are highly skilled workers who delivered for this company and this community. They deserve a future at CAMI – not a dead end."

The letter given to employees said GM will work with Unifor to follow the provisions of the collective agreement, which includes full pay for the next six months and additional supports.

Three-hundred employees were set to return to one production shift this month.

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Clarification

In the Oct. 23 edition of the Tillsonburg Post, a photo of Tillsonburg Optimist President Michelle Wegg making a donation to the town for water park enhancements may have falsely given the impression the funding was all from the Optimist Club. Several partners contributed to the initiative.

Those who contributed to the funding were: Cara Voisin, Judy Legg, CathieLyn Ryan, Heather Cnocknaert and Sobey's, Sonya Marshall, Anytime Fitness Tillsonburg, Katelynn Scott, Zehrs and the community members who supported the event.

The Post apologizes for any confusion this may have caused.

Tillsonburg POST

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

Weekend Quiz

by Jake Grant

1. Which monster is said to transform during a full moon?

2. What is a group of witches called?

3. What year did It's the Great Pumpkin, Charlie Brown first air?

4. Which famous Halloween movie features the line "Do you like scary movies?"

5. Vincent Price provides the spooky monologue in which popular Halloween song?
6. What creature is known for being tall, thin, with a featureless white face, long arms, a black suit and is said to teleport?

7. What do zombies eat?

8. What does the Grim Reaper usually carry with him?

9. Camp Crystal Lake features in which horror movie?

10. "Who you gonna call?"

This week's answers are found on pg. 22



CWL RUMMAGE SALE

(JEFF HELSDON PHOTO)

The St. Mary's Church Catholic Women's League semi-annual rummage sale was held in the church basement on Oct. 18. Eager bargain seekers were lined up at the door when the event started.



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ON ALL HALLOWS' EVE, WE TAKE A LOOK BACK AT THE TOWN'S NOTORIOUS PAST ... THE MURDEROUS SIDE OF TILLSONBURG

The schoolhouse murder of John Amberger

LAUREL BEECHEY

Post Contributor

John Amberger was born Mar. 9, 1855 and died Jan. 28, 1870 and was originally buried in the Pioneer Cemetery. He was later moved to the main cemetery.

This story, which is a bit gruesome, is unique because the murder occurred in his school, and was by a fellow student.

Teacher Miss Mary Crowley recounts the incident a year later in the following account.

Blood! There was so much blood! It was terrible, terrible. How could two boys they were boys you know, John was only 15 and Wesley was 16. I know that some are married at 16, but they are still so young. How could one kill the other and in my school room!

It was a crispy winter's morning, when the snow crunches underfoot. John Forney had come to light the fire and warm up the school house and John Thompson Jr. was there early to fix a desk. He saw it happen, he even testified that he saw young John Amberger, there before him. Wesley Darling came shortly after him. But he was busy working and

didn't realize anything amiss until the fighting started. He saw some boys shove John on Wesley who got up and stuck him with a pin, John kicked him for it and it stopped. But not for long, then the boys pushed John into Wesley again, so he kicked John, who picked up a piece of wood and struck Wesley over the head!

The boys then got into a scuffle back in a corner of school house, and John struck Wesley again; Wesley then got the head of John under his left arm and held it there; he then drew a knife and stabbed John with it. He saw him stab John in the thigh. John got away and called for his hat to go to doctor, but then Mr. T. saw the blood spout from John's leg like a fountain! John ran down stairs;

Mr. Furney saw John run out of the schoolhouse and when he got outside he saw John lying at corner of school house lying on the ground bleeding.

The schoolhouse was over on Harvey St. back then so when the children went out screaming the adults knew there was trouble. I heard it too and ran as fast as I could through the snow to get there.

It was terrible. John was laying in a pool of his own blood. Dr. Sinclair got there about the same time as I did and he put his hands over John's leg and pushed down real hard trying to stop the blood. He was still breathing so the doctor and other men that had come conveyed him into the schoolhouse. Someone brought brandy; John swallowed a small quantity, and gasped a few times, but never rallied. He died, right on one of the student benches.

Dr Sinclair put Mr. Elias Burgess in charge of the body, which they removed to John's home. A lot of men went looking for Wesley Darling; I can tell you that I was afraid of what they might do to him.

They found him at his home and the knife. It was his brother's knife and Wes should never have taken it.

Dr. Sinclair did an autopsy and even found that the tip of the knife, which was broken off had chipped the bone.

We did things different back then. There was not waiting for years for things to happen. Everyone thought it was such a clear cut case they didn't hold a inquest right away. They put Wes in jail



(LAUREL BEECHEY IMAGE)

This illustration by Laurel Beechey depicts what might have ensued in a classroom in Tillsonburg more than 150 years ago.

and they went and buried John on Sunday. We all took turns watching the grave as they figured that they'd have to dig him up for an inquest. Well, they did. Things weren't as pretty back then as you have today. No fancy stuff to show the jury, if the jury needed to see the wound, then they would see the wound. So John was brought up from his grave. It was pretty terrible as by then he smelt something awful and didn't look hardly at all like John anymore.

His poor Momma, went crazy, screaming to let her boy rest in peace. At least it didn't take long and he was back in his grave.

Wesley Darling went to trial on April 21st 1870: the court found him guilty of manslaughter. [It was not a hanging offence. The time served is unknown but was likely 3-12 years.]

But John wasn't in his final resting place. No siree, him and his sister Nancy, who had died five years earlier, and his little nephew George, who died four years after, were all dug up and taken to the new graveyard down yonder to be with the rest of the family. But you know. I still come to his grave, here, to take my turn watching over John. I don't rightly know why though.

Tillsonburg's ties to violent crime in the 20th Century

ROBIN KRAFFT

Post Contributor

The tragic story of the murder of John Amberger in 1870 illustrates the fact that violence can occur in any community, no matter how small or friendly. Tillsonburg is not an exception.

Unfortunately, these cases continued, with a handful in the last 60 years.

In October of 1969, the naked body of 15-year-old Jackie English was found in Big Otter Creek near Tillsonburg, a few days after her disappearance. Over time, there has been speculation that she was a victim of a London area serial killer.

"Jackie English's name resurfaced in February 1998, when London police and the Ontario Provincial Police jointly announced 'Project Angel', an ambitious combined forces look at 20 unsolved slayings in London and the surrounding area," said the Toronto Star.

Her story was featured on the reality crime series "To Catch a Killer". The deaths of two other young women who disappeared from London were also linked to the same suspect after their bodies were found in the region. Lynda White was found in 1972 in the woods in Norfolk County and Soraya O'Connell's remains were found in 1973 near Stratford. Further attention was brought to the case by an American crime podcast, inspired by a book called "The Forest City Killer" by Vanessa Brown. Despite ongoing police investigation and media attention, the case remains unsolved.

In December of 1969, Ernest V. Simmons was shot seven times and left for dead at his rural home south of town. The three or four men who broken his home had also cut his phone lines. Despite his injuries, Ernest was able to repair the line and call an ambulance. Although he survived the attack, he left the hospital



(ANHS PHOTO)

John Amberger was originally buried in the Tillsonburg Pioneer Cemetery, but his body was later moved to the main Tillsonburg Cemetery along with his sister.

against medical advice three weeks later but succumbed to complications from pneumonia shortly thereafter and was found in his home. The crime remains unsolved.

Simmons left an incredible legacy behind, a large collection including "100 motorcycles (from 1917 onward), 14 handguns, 42 shotguns and rifles, dozens of farm tractors, 40 cars and trucks from the 1920s to 1930s, 128 cars from the 1940s to 1960s, 45 planes and hundreds of airplane parts." (Oxford County archives) Because he did not have a will or any heir, his assets were auctioned off and are now displayed at various museums across Canada and the US.

In December of 2007, longtime Tillsonburg resident Maurice (Moe) Granat, a well-known mechanic and auto body man, became the victim of serial killer nurse Elizabeth Tracey Mae Wettlaufer, who was charged with eight counts of first-degree murder. Wettlaufer administered insulin to her victims. Seven patients died at the Woodstock location of Caressant Care Nursing and Retirement Home in Woodstock.

In October of 2011, Daniel Villeneuve broke into a Tillsonburg woman's home and slashed her throat with a utility knife and was subsequently found guilty of attempted murder. The victim's name is protected under a court-ordered publication ban. Villeneuve was given an 11-year sentence.

In April of 2018, the remains of a London woman were found west of Tillsonburg off of Hawkins Road. Vanessa Anne Fotheringham was reported missing in February 2012. She was believed to have been murdered, and London police had identified a suspect in 2016, but were unable to locate him. According to a CTV report of the day, "Antonio Valentin Resendez Cortez remains at large. Police believe he was in the London area as a migrant worker and returned to Mexico shortly after Fotheringham died."

Thankfully, there are no more recent additions to this list of murders.



All Hallow's Eve

Ronald F. Turner

Now once a year there comes the time
When acting normal seems a crime
And that's our chance as you will see
To have some fun with fantasy:
To don the fierce and hellish cast
Of some dread thing behind a mask
To lurch and stagger, clutch and roar
And shriek a chant before each door,
The ritual must be complete
And always ends with "Trick or Treat".

It's all in fun I know you claim
And yet-- the ancient tales remain,
So please beware, I do implore
Are you quite sure you locked the door?
And look around if you're alone
Did you hear footsteps, or a moan?
Keep out of basements that are dark
And don't walk through the shadowed park,
For though you try with might and main
There are some things you can't explain.

What is the truth, I'll ask you that
Of ancient curse, and Vampire bat?
Of Witch's Sabbath, monsters bold
And gruesome things with graveyard mould?
Your cross and Bible always keep
And say your prayers, or when you sleep
You'll tumble down some endless street
And ghoulish things will clutch your feet
And then, from out the nightmare sky
Oh God!!- that Three-lobed, Burning Eye!!!

Enough, Enough, I'll say no more
You might not want us at your door,
Cause we just want to make the scene
And wish you Happy Halloween!!



(JEFF HELSDON PHOTO)

Being the greeter at the Tillsonburg haunted house was a busy position with 1,669 people crossing the threshold into the unknown on Thursday, Friday and Saturday. More than \$2,400 was collected for the Tillsonburg Helping Hand Food Bank as admission fees, as well as four shopping carts of non-perishables.



(JEFF HELSDON PHOTO)

Adrian Davie's face tells it all as he was scared while touring the haunted house upstairs in the Tillsonburg Town Centre as part of the Chills and Thrills weekend organized by the Tillsonburg BIA. Thousands of people attended the various events over the three days, with trick-or-treaters visiting participating stores. The volume of participants was seen by Tim Hortons in the Tillsonburg Town Centre going through 500 treat packages in 90 minutes.



(JEFF HELSDON PHOTO)

Medium Linda Milmine delved into the supernatural as the local physic medium communicated with spirits.



(JEFF HELSDON PHOTO)

Witches Night Out took a new form this year, with events spread through the downtown. A scary crew, including Lindsay Rennie, greeted patrons at Betty's Marketplace.



(JEFF HELSDON PHOTO)

Kelly Spencer of Indigo Lounge used the catering endorsement add-on to her liquor license to serve a variety of 'potions' in the BIA's office.

Seventy years of service, visibility and advocacy

ROBIN KRAFFT

Post Contributor

Community Living Tillsonburg held an event at the Tillsonburg Town Centre on Oct. 16, displaying highlights in celebration of 70 years in the community.

Town residents and shoppers stopped to explore and share conversations, stories, memories and milestones. The non-profit organization "works with people with intellectual disabilities to ensure they are included in their community and enjoy active and productive lives." (communitylivingtillsonburg.ca)

Community Living Tillsonburg (CLT) was originally initiated by families in the 1950s who refused to institutionalize their children, which was the common recommendation at the time. Some individuals who endured years of institutional care now live here in Tillsonburg and are supported by Community Living. Board of directors president Doug Cooper said that "they are still dealing with that trauma, some won't even talk about it."

"It's important to share our stories about people with intellectual disabilities for the community to see the struggles they've gone through," Cooper said, "particularly over the last few years and the closing of institutions."

Several organizations, including Community Living Ontario, all worked together to get those institutions closed.

"People were just housed," Cooper

said, "and there are horrific stories of abuse. Children were dropped off, and their families never saw them again. We must never go back, and we're always on guard to make sure that never happens. We have proved that they can contribute to society."

While the name of the organization and its mission statement have changed over the years, its compassionate mandate has never wavered.

"The name has changed to reflect our changing understanding and a more evolved approach to the people we support," Cooper said.

"Building inclusive communities by promoting acceptance" is their current mission statement and the vision is to achieve "a community where everyone is included." CLT's long history of ensuring that people are being seen rather than shut away has had a significant impact on the community.

"Tillsonburg is more tolerant than other communities," Cooper noted, "and the town always raises our flag during Community Living month in May."

Raising awareness is important, but Community Living does so much more, connecting families and individuals with supportive services. As an umbrella organization, it's associated with over 200 agencies. Some of the services offered include: family support services, accommodation services, the Tillsonburg Children's Centre, and community participation.



(ROBIN KRAFFT PHOTO)

Rosemary Couture (left) and daughter Siobhan take in the memories at Community Living Tillsonburg's archival event, celebrating 70 years of service, growth and visibility.

"Services have changed over the years," Cooper said. "We used to have the farm, now we have Enterprise. We have contracts with different companies; we train, and our employees go out and do the work for them. We're one of the largest employees in town and we've had a huge impact on the community."

Vice Chair Rosemary Couture and her daughter Siobhan stopped by to look at all the photos and reminisce. Rosemary pointed out a newspaper clipping about a walkathon fundraiser.

"I remember doing this walk in 1971

and the blisters I had after," she recounted. "That's when it was ARC Industries out in the country. There are a lot of memories here."

Siobhan was involved with mentoring high school students, a program that just started back up called Student Links. She values the opportunity to encourage teens to stay in school and have aspirations for college and careers.

"They belong to the community," Rosemary said. "They are just like you and me. You should never be ashamed of who you are."

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Police officers assaulted during arrest

The Oxford Detachment of the Ontario Provincial Police (OPP) have arrested and charged an individual with multiple offences after being dispatched to a disturbance at an address in the Town of Tillsonburg.

On Oct. 11, at approximately 1:30 a.m., members of the Oxford OPP detachment were dispatched to a disturbance at an address of Trailview Drive, in the Town of Tillsonburg.

Officers attended and formed grounds to arrest the subject of the complaint. While being arrested, the accused assaulted multiple OPP officers. The officers did not sustain injuries. There were no other injuries reported.

Landon Duckworth, 23-years-old, of Tillsonburg, has been charged with:

- Assault a Peace Officer
- Uttering Threats - Cause Death or Bodily Harm
- Mischief under \$5,000
- Being intoxicated in public place

The accused was released from custody and is scheduled to appear before the Ontario Court of Justice in Woodstock on November 18, 2025.

If you have any information that can assist with the investigation, please contact Oxford OPP at 1-888-310-1122 or if you wish to remain anonymous you can contact Crime Stoppers at 1-800-222-TIPS (8477).

Vehicle theft from Tillsonburg results in numerous charges

An individual from London is facing multiple charges stemming from a report of a stolen vehicle, that was recovered in Norfolk County.

On Oct. 15, at approximately 12 a.m., members of the Oxford Ontario Provincial Police (OPP) Detachment were dispatched to Broadway in the Town of Tillsonburg for a report of a stolen vehicle. Police later received a report of a vehicle that matched the description driving erratically.

The vehicle was located Brant County near Maple Grove and Highway 24, where Brant OPP detachment members attempted to stop the vehicle, however, the vehicle fled and failed to stop. The vehicle was later located on McDowell Road in Simcoe. Norfolk OPP detachment members, with the assistance of the vehicle's telematics system, were able to safely stop the vehicle. The driver was subsequently taken into custody.

Robert Gratton, 50-years-old, of London, has been charged with:

- Operation while Impaired - Drugs

- Operation while Prohibited under the Criminal Code
- Dangerous Operation
- Failure or refusal to comply with demand
- Flight from peace officer
- Theft of motor vehicle
- Possession Property Obtained by Crime under \$5,000
- Possession of a Schedule I Substance - Methamphetamine

Also seized was approximately three grams of suspected Methamphetamine.

A 90-day Administrative Driver's License Suspension (ADLS) was initiated as per statute. The accused was held for a bail hearing and has since been remanded into custody.

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

Three people die in collision on Mall Road

Three people are dead following a collision on Mall Road on Oct. 24, at approximately 4 p.m.

Members of the Oxford and Norfolk Ontario Provincial Police (OPP) detachments, paramedic services and fire services responded to the call, between Oxford Road 13 and Middletown Line. Upon arrival, emergency services found a sports utility vehicle (SUV) a pick-up truck had collided.

Both passengers of the SUV, ages 77 and 60 from Princeton, were transported to a local area hospital with serious life-threatening injuries and were pronounced deceased. The 75-year-old driver of the SUV

was airlifted to a London hospital, and was later pronounced deceased. The 27-year-old driver of the pickup truck was transported to hospital with non-life-threatening injuries, and has since been released.

The cause of the collision remains under investigation. OPP West Region Traffic Incident Management and Enforcement Team are continuing to assist with the investigation. Mall Road between Oxford Road 13 and Middletown Line was closed for several hours to allow the investigation, and has since reopened.

Any person with information regarding this collision is asked to contact the Oxford OPP at 1-888-310-1122.

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Veteran's crosswalk to be installed before Remembrance Day

JEFF HELSDON

Local Journalism Initiative Reporter

If everything goes according to plan, Broadway will have a veteran's crosswalk in place prior to Remembrance Day.

Planned for the crosswalk across Broadway in front of the Tillsonburg Town Centre, the design will feature alternating red and white stripes along with an image of a soldier as a way of promoting year-round remembrance. Council initially received a report on the proposal at its July 14 meeting and directed staff to look into it further. A report back at the Oct. 14 meeting recommended proceeding with the change.

During discussion, Coun. Chris Rosehart asked if there

would be confusion at this intersection with it being a busy area, but was told it shouldn't cause a problem.

Deputy Mayor Dave Beres had concerns for the longevity of the paint.

"What do they feel with the quality of this paint, how long will it be before it has to be replaced," he asked, and was told there are no statistics for this yet.

Coun. Pete Luciani raised concerns about potential vandalism to the crosswalk. Carlos Reyes, Director of Operations and Development, said the roads department will be patrolling the area. Beres said he has had several positive comments on the banners on Quarter Town Line and didn't believe it will be a problem.

Coun. Bob Parsons raised concerns about the town paying for the repainting, and pointed out other groups have

had to cover costs for similar projects.

"I would have felt more comfortable if there was a public-private partnership," he said, adding he is strongly for it and if there was a public-private partnership he would personally financially support it. "We're going to hear about this from others who paid their own way."

With the momentum towards passing this, it was expressed the hope was it would be completed before Remembrance Day, which Reyes said should be possible.

The push to get this done was welcomed by Legion Branch 153.

"We're looking forward to seeing the finished product," said Legion Poppy Chair Don Burton. "We're glad they stepped forward to have it done in time for Remembrance Day."

Residents speak against proposed Earle Street development

JEFF HELSDON

Local Journalism Initiative Reporter

apartment building proposed for town-owned land on Earle Street.

The application was for a zone change to Medium Density Special Residential and an official plan amendment to accommodate the building at 31 Earle Street. The Town of Tillsonburg was the applicant for the change, and is completing it in conjunction with Oxford County's Human Services Department.

Council opted to defer the decision until the need to widen Cedar Street and potential issues raised by the five citizens who spoke are considered.

Oxford County Planner Amy Hartley said two letters of opposition were received regarding the development, raising concerns about traffic and the distance to an arterial road. She recommended approval of the application.

Coun. Bob Parsons asked if the points made in the letters were considered.

Saying these points had been considered, Hartley added, "It is our opinion, the proposal still meets the policy."

Mayor Deb Gilvesy wanted to ensure the woodlot wasn't part of the development, which Hartley confirmed.

Resident Tina Foster suggested that the area's trail network

could be expanded. She suggested updating the town's traffic study due to concerns about increased traffic. Foster raised the point of who would pay for expansion of the road and sidewalk, and also mentioned there are already affordable housing developments in the area.

"This proposal overconcentrates affordable housing," she said.

Tillson Street resident Hank Baatje mentioned past issues with property maintenance on the existing, less-than-market properties in the area.

Development Commissioner Cephas Panschow said the new development would be different.

"This one is unique because it's affordable ownership," he said.

Mayor Deb Gilvesy promised to take Baatje's comments back to the county and provide Baatje with a phone number to complain.

Mike Mabee and Sue Bramall of Cedar Street maintain that the proposal is actually high-density and is adjacent to a sensitive, protected woodlot. She said that concentrating affordable housing in one part of the municipality is against the official plan.

"The zoning change is about fitting a square peg in a round hall," she said, adding the town is focused on selling property

to pay for a new town hall.

"I'm concerned about the future impact on our home value if this area gets saturated with affordable housing," said Lynn Mudford.

As a resident of the area for 38 years, Mudford said she estimates the study is underestimating the volume of traffic already present, and there would be a safety concern with increased volume.

She mentioned the protected species found in the woodlot.

"This green space is the only green space in the area, and we would hate to have it taken away," Mudford said.

Verna Drive resident Catherine Arruda suggested the building is going to change the landscape and also pointed out how many residents were in the audience.

Gilvesy questioned the planner further about the density and why it isn't high-density.

Hartley explained that this is due to the building being only four stories.

Panschow said the original proposal was for seven stories and 137 units, which would be high density.

"The idea is to get as much flexibility as possible to get the most affordable units," he said.

The mayor also questioned the need to widen the road.

Director of Public Works Carlos Reyes answered he didn't have enough information to calculate that yet.

Coun. Chris Parker questioned whether a traffic impact study was done and why it didn't address whether the road needs to be widened.

Hartley said the study recognized that the intersection of Simcoe and Cedar Streets was rated a "fail". She didn't believe the proposed development would impact the intersection further.

Parker countered that more traffic will have an increased impact, saying he personally avoids the intersection. After finding out the intersection wasn't part of the ongoing traffic study, he suggested it should be.

The final motion council passed was to defer the application until council could evaluate the need to widen Cedar Street, to ask planning staff to report back with comments on the concerns raised, and to refer the intersection of Simcoe and Cedar Streets to the consultant leading the Transportation Master Plan.



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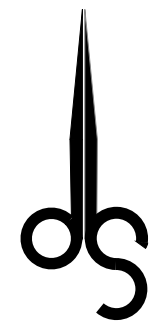
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Proposed Sandy Court sidewalks to be cancelled

JEFF HELSDON

Local Journalism Initiative Reporter

It was one win and one loss for residents of Sandy Court at the Oct. 14 meeting of council.

Two residents of the street, which is west off the northern end of Tillson Ave, spoke to council against a proposed zone change that would allow two semi-detached buildings on a piece of property that was formerly a park.

The application by E & E McLaughlin Ltd. was to change the zoning on the property at 10 Sandy Court. The property would be subdivided into two separate lots in the future.

Karolyn White, speaking on behalf of the residents, questioned when the open space was transferred to E & E McLaughlin Ltd. She also said property values would decrease with the loss of the green space.

Development Commissioner Cephas Panschow said the property went through a public process in 2020 for property sales. This included advertisement in a number of places and notifying neighbours, some of whom commented. The deal was finalized in 2023.

"We did follow the process prescribed by our land disposition process," Panschow said.

Resident Courtney Booth said the lot was smaller than required and the addition of the semi-detached buildings will create parking challenges.

"There is no indication this will provide any public benefit," she said.

Council passed a resolution allowing the zone change.

A win

Navdeep Kaur, a resident of the street who wrote a letter before he spoke to council, asked for reconsideration

of a plan to install a sidewalk on the street as part of plans to install sidewalks across the town.

"We understand the city goals but this project doesn't reflect our needs," he said.

Surveying his neighbours, he found all were against the sidewalk. With no sidewalk for it to connect to on Tillson Ave., he said it would make a Sandy Court sidewalk "incompatible and incomplete".

Kaur also pointed out many courts don't have sidewalks, there would be a loss of green space, it would result in more snow clearing and a cut through driveways will force residents to park on the road.

Saying it was a waste of money for unnecessary work, Kaur asked, "This sidewalk is unwanted and unnecessary, I ask council to pause and reevaluate."

Council granted the request and won't go ahead with the sidewalk.

Battery energy storage project planned for Tillsonburg

JEFF HELSDON

Local Journalism Initiative Reporter

A battery energy storage facility is in the early planning stages for the Town of Tillsonburg.

Matt Kennedy, a director with Skyline Energy, told council about the initiative at the Oct. 14 meeting, describing battery energy storage projects as a shock absorber for the grid, able to store excess energy at off-peak times and release it when needed.

Planned for 500 Highway 3, at the back of the E & E McLaughlin facility and directly across the road from the town's waste depot, the 2.5-acre facility will consist of 45 to 40 shipping containers. Each will contain lithium-iron phosphate batteries and rooftop solar panels.

Kennedy said the proposed site is more than 200 meters from the nearest home. The project will likely be undertaken with an Indigenous partner. As part of any potential agreement, the municipality could receive up to \$30,000 per year in direct funding, plus jobs would be created, and grid reliability would be improved.

Kennedy said the technology used has been proven to be safer than the batteries in cell phones.

"They are proven to have 200 times less chance of catching fire than your local gas station, over a million operating hours," he said.

The shipping containers will be spaced appropriately so that if one catches fire, it won't spread to others. Each container would include a fire suppression system and thermal monitors. Kennedy said if a fire were to start, no harmful fumes would be released.

The provincial drive to expand battery energy storage is currently in the application stage. Kennedy said applicants are expected to hear in the second quarter of 2026 on success, and if successful, construction could start in 2027 for a 2028 operational date.

Deputy Mayor Dave Beres questioned why an urban centre was chosen as a host rather than a rural area.

Kennedy answered there is capacity in the local feeder lines, adding, "There is a big push not to have these systems on farm land, prime ag land."

Beres said he is also concerned about the long-term future

of battery storage amid so much change in the energy sector.

"There could be a brand-new invention, hydrogen whatever, that takes over batter power," he said. "Not saying it will, but if it does, this community could be stuck."

Kennedy assured him the provincial agency that oversees power has announced more battery storage opportunities.

"This opportunity isn't going away anytime soon," he said.

Coun. Chris Parker raised concerns about whether any additional training was needed for the town's firefighters, or if any extra equipment or material is required that the town's fire department doesn't have.

Kennedy answered that no special equipment is needed.

"You just let it burn down with its fire suppression system," he explained.

Mayor Deb Gilvesy asked for particulars about the source of the hydro that is stored, to which Kennedy explained it's pulled off the grid when there is excess supply. He further explained that excess power is currently sold to the United States, and this is an alternative.

The report was received as information by council.

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Gemini seniors down London's Clarke Road in last week's gridiron rematch

JEFF TRIBE

Echo Correspondent

The Tillsonburg Gemini senior boys' football team scored a convincing 28-13 Thames Valley Regional Athletic Association (TVRA) senior boys' football playoff victory during a rematch with the London Clarke Road Trojans, played out Thursday, Oct. 23 at London's City Wide #1 Field.

The victory backed up a 33-28 Gemini regular season-closing win the week before at Glendale. In London, Tillsonburg quarterback Landon Dodsley, running back Dorian Park-Thomas, wide receiver Gavin Wernham and wide receiver Matteo Barnabi

each scored a touchdown, Dodsley adding a two-point convert and the defence a shared two-point safety.

With the win, the Gemini were scheduled to return to London's City Wide field for a Thursday, Oct. 30 semi-final against the London Saunders Sabres kicking off at 2:15 p.m.

A Tillsonburg Gemini junior football touchdown at the end of the second half of a 20-6 TVRA quarter-final playoff loss to the homefield Ingersoll DCI Blue Bombers Thursday, Oct. 23 provided a positive punctuation point to the 2025 season.

Had the Gemini had a little more time at the end of the first half however, they might have

pushed an earlier TD across that could potentially have affected the game's outcome says Tillsonburg coach Jordan Fitzpatrick. The clock ran out on a Gemini possession near the IDCI five yard line.

"I think we get two more tries, we score there and it changes momentum going into the second half."

"I think we would have had more stuff going in the second half," agreed Gemini quarterback Carver Schott.

Tillsonburg got on the scoreboard with 1:05 remaining in the fourth quarter, Schott linking up with wide receiver Haze-kiah Cato for an 87-yard pass-and-run combination down the right sideline.

"I didn't expect him to come to me like that," Cato admitted. "But tried my best and made something out of it."

Gemini defensive halfback Lucas Thompson set up the play with an interception on his own 23, with 1:21 left in regulation time.

"Never give up, keep trying," he said.

Blue Bombers quarterback Rhys Johnson was pressured on the play says Thompson.

"And I was right there."

Tillsonburg tried a little trickery on a two-point conversion gamble, but James Strathern's pass attempt, pressured on the release, fell incomplete. The Gemini played out the string, attempting to recover an onside kick, but IDCI's Tyler Paton recovered to effectively lock up the victory.

The Blue Bombers opened scoring early in the first half on a Jacob Gutierrez TD, converted to a 7-0 advantage on Deacon Janess' point-after-try. Noah Rodgers and Hayden Edwards added IDCI touchdowns, Janess his second PAT to round a 20-0 halftime advantage.

Fitzpatrick praised his de-



(JEFF TRIBE PHOTO)

Gemini left guard/defensive tackle Trevin Patrick (left) chases IDCI's Jacob Gutierrez.

fence for responding to the Bombers' first-half challenge with a second-half shutout.

"Proud of the guys, they always gave us everything they had."

Looking back on a 'really good year', Fitzpatrick pointed to significant progression from a team featuring a significant and 'pretty raw' Grade 9 contingent at the start of the season.

"They learned fast and did a good job doing it. We've got a good group to lead the team next year."

"A very good season," Cato added in conclusion. "We all played the best we could and we all had fun."

"That's the most important thing."

GEMINI SCOREBOARD

Senior Girls Basketball

Thursday, Oct. 23

Gemini 31, St. Thomas Cen-

tral Elgin 28

Junior Girls Basketball

Thursday, Oct. 23

Gemini 39, Central Elgin 30

Tuesday, Oct. 21

Senior Boys Volleyball

Central Elgin 25, 25, 26;

Gemini 16, 14, 24

Junior Boys Volleyball

Central Elgin 25, 25, 19, 25;

Gemini 19, 20, 25, 19

PLAYOFFS

Tuesday, Oct. 28

Senior Gemini basketball girls at Lord Dorchester, 3 p.m.

Central Elgin at Gemini junior basketball girls, 3 p.m.

Gemini senior boys volleyball at Lord Dorchester, 1 p.m.

Gemini junior boys volleyball at Ingersoll DCI, 2:30 p.m.



(JEFF TRIBE PHOTO)

Gemini junior quarterback Carver Schott gets the ball off under heavy pressure from IDCI's Jacob Gutierrez and Logan Walters.

ReMax and Source undefeated in Club Oxford hockey

JEFF GWYN

Post Contributor

ReMax and Source for Sports remain undefeated in their respective divisions.

Oct. 19
A Division

ReMax 4, Apple Shack 3

ReMax looked to be in control through the first. They held on for the victory despite a late push by Apple Shack with a potent offence on every line. Apple Shack was able to get some goals, but couldn't get the late goal for a point. They are finally meshing as a team and will build on this.

Parker Terryberry had two points for ReMax. Brady VanYmeren had 2 points for Apple Shack.

Fody's 6, Health Hut 2

Fody's was able to get offence from different sources tonight. They played tough defence to keep Health Hut's chances to a minimum. Health Hut played a decent game, and although a late penalty took them out of this one, they had their chances.

Christian Clifford had two points for Fody's. Benson Howey had two points

for Health Hut.

B Division
Prouse Mortgages 2, Royal LePage 1

Jeff Prouse Mortgages finally got into the win column in this close game. This team is on the cusp of breaking out offensively, with a hard fought victory. Royal LePage was in this game all the way. They haven't been able to find their offence yet, which is making it hard to get going. It will happen, hopefully soon.

Jeff Prouse had two points for Prouse Mortgages. Justin French had the goal for Royal LePage.

Glass 2, Carquest 2

Tillsonburg Glass fought hard for the tie. They did well with a back-up goalie and kept a dangerous Carquest offence off the score sheet. Carquest was able salvage a point after giving up one late. They are still working out the lines, but they are finding a groove early.

Chase Corbeil had two points for Glass. Evan Prouse had two points for Carquest.

Airmount 4, RND 3

Airmount came out strong in this one.

They played a solid game in both ends, keeping the other team to the outside throughout the night. RND kept Airmount off the board in the second while getting a couple themselves in a good second period that just fell short.

Josh Stubbs had two points for Airmount. Justin French had two points for RND.

Source 6, B-Line 3

A back-and-forth game until Source broke through in the second. They were able to keep pressure on all night and took advantage of their opportunities. B-Line played a good first period, but had trouble with Source's pressure late in the game. A tough loss, but they will bounce back.

Brent Beekman had three points for Source. Dmitri Carvalho had two points for B-Line.

Oct. 22
B Division

RND 4, Glass 3

An evenly match gamed. RND played a whole game and were able to cash in late for the win. They did well to not let a late Glass push get them off their

game. Glass was able to match RND all night. They used their defence well in this game and looked to get a point, but a quick response from RND dashed those hopes.

Gaige Benish had three points for RND. Darryl Price had two goals for Glass.

Source 7, Royal LePage 2

Source just seemed to have an extra step in this one. They had a lot of rushes and in close chances in an offensively-minded game. Royal LePage is struggling to get the scoring going, but did have some chances. Hopefully they can find a spark and get some points.

Craig Robb had three points for Source. Christian Devlin and Chad Goetz had goals for Royal LePage.

Prouse Mortgages 5, Airmount 0

Jeff Prouse Mortgages came out firing in this one. They controlled both ends of the ice, and pressured all night. Airmount started off alright, but fell off as the game went on. It was an off game they will bounce back from.

Stephan Coulombe and Jeff Prouse had two goals each for Prouse Mortgages.

CLUB OXFORD A DIVISION	GP	W	L	T	PTS
REMAX REALTY	3	3	0	0	6
FODY'S AUTOMOTIVE	3	2	1	0	4
THE HEALTH HUT	3	1	2	0	2
THE APPLE SHACK	3	0	3	0	0

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

Thunder home stand starts this Saturday

MICHAEL HOLLY

Post Contributor

The long road game month of October is finally over for the Thunder, ending with a tough loss in Erin against a determined Erin Outlaw team.

The Thunder jumped out to a 2 - 0 start with goals from Justin Abraham from Kurtis Heggie and Braden Roberts and one from Jaden Vansevenant unassisted. The Outlaws evened it up with 8:48 to go in the first. New Thunder player Kyle West, from Bailey Pritchard and Braden Roberts, put the Thunder ahead 3-2 but the Outlaws evened it up with 4:35 to go.

The Outlaws jumped ahead in the second on the power play but Nigel Abbott from Peyton VanBoekel evened it up with 7:02 in the period. The Outlaws added two in the third and it ended with a 6-4 Thunder loss.

The long awaited Thunder opener is this Saturday, Nov. 1 @ 7:30 versus long-time Oxford County rival, the Tavistock Royals. It has been a while since these teams have played each other, so I expect it to be a spirited affair.

The game starts a four-game home stand. It will be great to be back in the friendly confines of the Thunderdome. The team feeds off the energy of our incredible fans so come out and make some noise!!

tillsonburgpost.com



GOLFING FOR GLENDALE

(CONTRIBUTED PHOTO)

The foursome of left to right, Trent Sinden, Kyle Sinden, Sandro Palmero, and Ben Demaree were winners of the Fore Our Gems golf tournament held on Sept. 27. Men's longest drive was won by Braydon Verschueren and ladies' longest drive winner was Alana Portes. Austin Hentz was the closest to the pin. Proceeds from the event are used to assist with the cost of items for Glendale High School not covered by board or provincial funding.

Bonspiel drawing international competitors to town



**ON
THE
BROOM**

NORA PETERS

Tillsonburg Post Columnist

The 2025-26 season is well underway at the club – leagues have started and things are happening. Moving into November, we enter one of the busiest months of our season with three big bonspiels and our first euchre night on the calendar.

The first of November, the initial progressive euchre night will be held. Things get going at 7 p.m. for this popular event. Cost is \$15 per person and you need to register on-line – tillsonburgcurl@gmail.com so the convenors have enough tables, snacks and prizes available for those participating.

Nov. 7 kicks off the bonspiel season for the club with the newest competitive

Men's Broken Broom Tobacco Belt Cash Spiel, sponsored by Runback Brewing, getting started at 8:30 Friday morning. Play continues all weekend culminating in finals at 4 p.m. Sunday. This event has 14 competitive teams, mostly from Ontario including last year's Ontario representative to the Brier- Mooibroek, but we'll also get some international flavour from Team Luethold from Zug, Switzerland and a young team from Newfoundland, team Schuh from St. John's. Many of these Ontario teams will compete later this season in the Tankard which decides our team Ontario for the Brier. Club members and the public are welcome to view games at the club.

Runback Brewing is a company owned by Woodstock competitive curler Mark Kean and his wife Mallory. They also design and sell curling apparel under the Runback name. They have partnered with OCA to sponsor several bonspiels and support the curling community in many ways. Come out support the club, a local brewery and watch some great games.

Next on the calendar, Saturday, Nov. 22, is the Country Classic Mixed Bonspiel sponsored for the eighth year by

Zeplyn Enterprises and E.E McLaughlin. This spiel is open to teams from both the club and out-of-town teams. There are two draws, and each draw has two eight-end games. Cost is \$220, which includes lunch and dinner as well as two games, prizes and some fun off the ice. The deadline for entry is Nov. 14. Teams can enter online – tillsonburgcurl@gmail.com. Flyers are up in the club and have been sent to past participants. There is room for 16 teams, and the bonspiel is starting to fill up now so get your entry in to guarantee you get your choice of the early or late draw time. Please note this is a true mixed spiel with teams composed of two men and two women alternating positions. Join us for a fun day of curling!

On the following Wednesday, Nov. 26, is the club's longest running bonspiel- the Community Service Bonspiel in its 68th year. The bonspiel is sponsored by Good Redden Klosler, in co-operation with the TCC, and features fun, curling, community networking and sportsmanship. Sixteen teams vie on the ice for the historical trophy honours and have a chance to win a share of the \$3,500 available in the random draw from the cup. All teams on each draw have a chance to win money

which can be used for charitable or community programs of their choice. Entry letters have gone out to previous groups who have participated in the spiel and the two draws - early and late- are beginning to fill up. There are still spots available for new groups who are interested in joining the fun. Entry information can be picked up at Good Redden Klosler or by contacting Les Peter at 519-688-2328 or lnpeter.curl@gmail.com. The late draw fills quickly so get those entry forms handed in to confirm your choice in the draw. This is a fun, community event!

Just a reminder to all club members that all these events offer a chance for you to volunteer in the club. I challenge all of you to get involved in the club, you'll have more fun. Also, I understand that most leagues have room for more curlers.

If you have been following Team King- they finished the Pre-Olympic Trials round robin with a 4-3 record tied with Howard and Menard. In the head-to-head tie-break Howard beat King, King beat Menard which put the team in fourth place, just out of the qualifier. A good experience for the team who showed they deserved to be there.

Curling Rocks!

Oxford MP sees shortfall in government bail bill

JEFF HELSDON

Local Journalism Initiative Reporter

Oxford MP Arpan Khanna was glad to see the government introduce legislation to tackle shortfalls in the country's bail system, but said it could do more.

Khanna has been working on his private member's bill, The Jail Not Bail Act, which would tackle the problem of repeat violent offenders being let out of jail and reoffending. His research found that 1,600 violent crimes are committed per day, and many of these are committed

by repeat offenders. He also discovered one-third of murders in the country were committed by repeat offenders.

Khanna's bill hasn't been debated yet, and a motion to fast-track it was voted down, but last week the Liberal government tabled Bill C-14, The Bail and Sentencing Reform Act, which makes changes to Canada's bail and sentencing framework.

"It's good to see after years of advocating, not just from us but Canadians as well, they put something forward," he said.

Khanna sees some elements of his bill in the Liberal legislation, which he considers a win. Still, he said there are parts of his bill that aren't included, and maintains it should have been accepted in its entirety.

For instance, he said the principle of restraint, introduced by the Liberal Bill C-75 in 2019, made it mandatory for judges to release the accused under the least restrictive conditions at the earliest opportunity during bail hearings. The new Liberal legislation doesn't go far enough on this issue, Khanna maintains.

"I called for getting rid of it altogether and instead have a principle of public safety as the primary consideration when considering bail," he said.

He also said Bill C-75 doesn't impose tougher bail compliance conditions or require judges to enforce them, and doesn't mandate that judges consider a person's criminal history when deciding on bail.

Asked if he would support C-14, Khanna said he will examine the legislation in more detail and then make a decision.

"There is no monopoly on good ideas," he said.

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(JEFF HELSDON PHOTO)

CRUISERS DONATION

The Tillsonburg Multi-Service Centre (TMSC) was the beneficiary of donations collected during Tuesday night cruise nights by the Tillsonburg Cruisers. In the front row, from left, TMSC Director of Employment and Literacy Programs Randi-Lee Durham and TMSC Executive Director Kathryn Leatherland accept a symbolic \$500 donation from Tillsonburg Cruisers members Irene Dalby and Joyce Gardner. The Cruisers also donated to the Hospice of Elgin, Tillsonburg District Memorial Hospital and Sakura House.

The story behind downtown Tillsonburg's new mural

JEFF HELSDON

Editor

While Tillsonburg's new mural may look like one work of art, it's actually about 2,000 smaller works assembled into one.

About 30 people gathered on Oct. 21 for the unveiling of The Canada Connects Nature's Bounty Mural Mosaic.

The idea for the mural came from Tillsonburg resident Sandi Pake. Her boyfriend purchased five tiles for her to paint for another mural. That started things in motion for the Tillsonburg mural, and after she got in touch with Vanessa Fortner, Tillsonburg Downtown BIA's events and marketing coordinator, it began to come together. The Tillsonburg mural features two dragonfly paintings by Pake.

Fortner got Tabitha Verbuyst, executive director of the Station Arts Centre, involved, and she promoted it, working to sell the 100 local tiles for \$10 each. Some of the local artists were professional, others were emerging artists, and some were children.

"When it all comes together, it brings the sense of community," she said.

Lewis Lavoie of Edmonton is the artist behind The Canada Connects Nature's Bounty Mural Mosaic. He assembles the tiles, from artists across the country, into one image. Of the tiles, 100 were reserved for local artists. Tillsonburg's mural is one of 50 such across the country, each with a large tree.

"The reason we picked a tree is what you don't see, which is the roots," Lavoie said, explaining there is a rhizome system in tree roots that connects one tree to another. "We use this metaphor in art to show this. It's connecting everyone together."

The unveiling attracted participating artists from near and far.

"We wanted to be part of something that would last forever," said artist Brenda Knox of Simcoe.

"Local professional artist Stella Jurgen painted a blue jay.

"I want to be part of community projects, and art is important to Tillsonburg," she said. "This is a good way of bringing everyone together."



(JEFF HELSDON PHOTO)

Some of the artists joined representatives of the BIA, Station Arts Centre, and town council for the unveiling of the Canada Connects Nature's Bounty Mural Mosaic last Tuesday. The mural consists of more than 2,000 tiles painted by artists from across the country.

Patti Peltsch travelled from Port Elgin for the unveiling. She painted a sheet on a clothesline for the mural. She participated along with her daughter and friend, Irish Peets, from Port Dover.

"It was a cool way to connect," she said.

One of the unique things about the mural is that no one

— save Lavoie — knew what it would look like until it was unveiled. Even Fortner was waiting with anticipation as the sheet was pulled back.

"I couldn't wait to see how it came together, and I'm excited to have a large presence of art in the core," she said.

Take part in the Great Pumpkin Rescue

The County of Oxford is providing an opportunity for pumpkins used as jack-o-lanterns and fall décor to be reused through the Great Pumpkin Rescue.

From Nov. 1 to 6, pumpkins can be dropped off at the Tillsonburg Transfer Station to be reused for human or animal feed. The initiative was started by Woodstock resident Tom Butler, and

adapted by the city. Coun. Chris Parker brought the idea to Tillsonburg in 2021.

The one caveat is to be part of the program, pumpkins can't have candle wax in the bottom or have been painted.

The bin is located in the yard waste portion of the Tillsonburg facility and is accessible when the facility is open.

Tillsonburg
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Sock collection initiative to assist homeless



(JEFF HELSDON PHOTO)

Tamara Bull displays some of the socks she has collected to help the homeless through 519Pursuit. Her goal is to collect 519 pairs before the Nov. 15 deadline.

JEFF HELSDON

Editor

Tillsonburg resident Tamara Bull is looking to collect 519 pairs of socks as part of an initiative to assist area homeless people.

Called 519Pursuit, the initiative started to help the homeless in London through a partnership between the London Food Bank and RBC Place London. It has since expanded to help those across the 519 area code, and beyond. This includes Tillsonburg.

Bull heard about the initiative and started collecting socks the past few years. Homeless people hold a special place in her heart since she can relate from a family connection and the streets of Toronto.

"When my dad first came to Canada, he was homeless for a period of time," she said.

The kindness of a car dealer that left a vehicle unlocked for him to sleep in and the Salvation Army got the new Dutch immigrant on his feet.

Bull also related to a few local connec-

tions. Two of her donors were formerly homeless themselves. One was living out of his car in November 2022, was moved into affordable housing, then moved to British Columbia and has life back on track. Another was on the streets as a homeless drug addict last year.

"Once this young man hit rock bottom, some caring outreach individuals assisted him and changed his life completely," Bull said. "Today, he is in a valuable relationship and has gained employment. His entire world was turned around because we did not give up on him."

The 519Pursuit pledge has participants collecting socks from Oct. 1 to Nov. 15. Bull has been collecting socks for several years and this year is determined to reach the goal of 519 pairs. She is hoping the community can assist, and is asking for new socks.

"A part of it is respectful pride," she said. "You receive a brand-new pair of socks with a label on them."

Anyone wanting to donate socks can e-mail her at tamara.h.bull@gmail.com or message her through Facebook.



(CONTRIBUTED PHOTO)

FIRST POPPY

Tillsonburg Legion Branch 153 Poppy chairman Don Burton pinned the first poppy on Mayor Deb Gilvesy at the Oct. 14 council meeting to start the 2025 poppy campaign. Legion members and volunteers will be in a variety of high-traffic locations throughout town selling poppies leading up to Remembrance Day.

MUSIC CORNER

Feral Minks riding momentum of new single 'Saving Dead Flowers'



BEN ADDRESS

Tillsonburg Post Columnist

Few Canadian rock bands have risen as quickly or brightly as Feral Minks.

The Kitchener-based quartet has carved out a distinct sound that is both intimate and anthemic, fusing timeless riffs with haunting synths and soaring melodies. On Friday, Nov. 1, the band will bring that energy back to Paddy's Underground in Tillsonburg, performing tracks from their latest EP "Young Desire",

alongside their new singles "Deeper Red" and "Saving Dead Flowers."

Formed in the midst of the pandemic, Feral Minks began as the solo project of lead singer and guitarist Kent Merriam, whose early work caught the ear of Jay Emmons of The Glorious Sons. With Emmons and producer Steve Kirstein helping to shape the band's evolving sound, Merriam soon enlisted Algernon Friolet, Jay Hogle and Ryan Whitney to complete the lineup. The band released their self-titled EP in 2023, which established their signature mix of emotional storytelling and genre-bending musicianship earning them the 2024 HTZ-FM Rock Search title. Past winners also include Canadian rock heavyweights like Finger 11, The Trews and The Glorious Sons.

Their breakout single "Matador" hit the Top 25 on Canadian Active Rock radio and propelled them

to major festival stages, including Meadows Fest 2025 where they drew an impressive crowd at the Back 40 Stage. They have since shared bills with City and Colour, Sloan, The Bluestones and Big Sugar.

Feral Minks turns inward again for inspiration with their new single "Saving Dead Flowers," a song that Merriam says explores emotional imbalance and release.

"The song is about a relationship. Basically, one person is more invested in the relationship than the other and now that committed person has had enough and is calling it quits," Merriam explains. "The dead flowers idea was an idea that the one person kept buying flowers and the other person canceled plans on them. So, they save the flowers and pressed them in a book. Time goes on and the flowers keep adding up. So now they are moving on and burning all the flowers."

While lyrically heavy, the track moves with a hypnotic pulse signaling a creative shift for the band.

"This song is really different from any of our other tunes. It is a dark disco kind of beat that we landed on," Merriam says. "Our manager/producer had the idea after hearing the original demo of the song."

That willingness to experiment while keeping their emotional core intact has become a hallmark of the band's sound. When it comes to performing the band leaves everything on stage.

"We like to bring a lot of energy to our live shows. We love to get the crowd involved in some of the songs as well," Merriam grins. "But to really get the Feral Minks live show experience you will have to come out and see for yourselves."

For Kent Merriam and the band, smaller towns like Tillsonburg hold a special kind of magic.

"It is amazing to see the support people are showing us. Words cannot describe. We are all so grateful," Merriam says. "The small-town crowds are unreal. It always feels like coming home when we come back to the small-town venues. Chatting with the people after the show is always a great time, and all in all, it is always a great night."

The connection to the region even extends beyond the stage. Their music video for the song 'Youthful Mind' was filmed just outside Tillsonburg in Otterville.

"Ryan, our drummer, his parents live in Otterville," Merriam shares. "You might see them driving around in a classic car in the town. They sold the car from the video and have upgraded to probably the loudest car we have ever heard."

As Feral Minks continue to expand their touring reach across Canada, they

remain deeply connected to their roots and to the communities that have championed them from the start. Their Nov. 1 concert in Tillsonburg promises to be more than just another stop on the tour, it will feel like a hometown show doused in gratitude, growth and the passion that defines the Ontario rock scene.

The show will take place at Paddy's Underground with doors opening at 8 p.m. and opening act Gravely hitting the stage at 8:30 p.m.. Tickets are available in advance by visiting The Mill or ordering online at www.eventbrite.ca. You can also purchase them at the door night of the show for \$20 limited to availability. The venue is wheelchair accessible and is an all-ages event with a licensed bar.

For more information on the Feral Minks including upcoming tour dates, music and merch store visit them at their official website at www.feralminks.com

UPCOMING SHOWS

OCT. 30 - OPEN MIC W/ BILLY GIBBONS (Halloween Edition)
Paddy's Underground: No Cover - 7:30 p.m. - All Ages/Licensed

OCT. 31 - RIGHT TURN CLYDE (Halloween Party)
The Copper Mug: No Cover - 9 p.m.

NOV. 1 - FERAL MINKS W/ GRAVELY
Paddy's Underground: \$15 - 8 p.m. - all ages/ licensed

NOV. 1 - DANIEL HAMM W/ CORNELIUS HAMM

The Copper Mug: No Cover - 8 p.m.

NOV. 2 - TRIVIA NIGHT
The Copper Mug: No Cover - 5:30 p.m.

NOV. 7 - JUDE COYLE
The Copper Mug: No Cover - 9 p.m.

NOV. 8 - 50+ KARAOKE
Tillsonburg Senior Centre: No Cover - 1:30 pm.

NOV. 8 - FAST EDDIE, KEVIN MURPHY, OLD MOUNTAIN LOW & TREVOR KOSTYRIA
The Copper Mug: \$5 - 8 p.m.

NOV. 9 - MICHAEL WARREN
The Copper Mug: No Cover - 5pm

NOV. 12 - THE MACC LADS W/ ISOLATED EARTHLINGS
Paddy's Underground: \$20 - 8 p.m. - All Ages/ Licensed

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

DEC. 6 - CRYSTAL GAGE
Tillsonburg Community Centre Lions Auditorium: \$20 - 7pm - All Ages



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

PAUL KNOWLES

Tillsonburg Post Columnist

Make no mistake: I love travelling in Europe. Just in the past year and a half, we have visited France, Spain, Germany, Austria, Slovakia and Hungary. We hugely enjoyed our time in all of the above, and plan to return to Europe soon.

But there is one thing we consistently encounter there that never seems to come up on visits to Canadian cities. Again, in the past year or so, we have spent time in Saskatoon, Winnipeg, Toronto, Saint John, Saint John's, Sherbrooke, Halifax, and all points between, and here's what we never saw: a sign saying "Pickpockets are active in this area."

I'm not saying Canadian communities are crime-free, or that there are no scams happening here. But on-the-street tourist scams seem to be almost epidemic in some European cities.

Believe me, I am NOT saying, "Don't go." But I do suggest caution, common sense, and a certain amount of preparation.

And just so you know, this stuff really happens. F'rinstance:

We were in Paris, a couple of weeks ago, strolling in front of the Opera House. A woman was approaching us on the crowded street when she suddenly reached down, picked up what appeared to be a gold, man's wedding ring, and immediately, offered it to us. "This," she said in very passable English, "is your lucky day."

We looked confused. Because we were!

"I cannot keep this," she said, "because my religion forbids me to wear jewelry. So please allow me to give it to you, with

my blessing."

We voiced our objections, but she placed the ring in my hand, and began to walk away. We looked at each other, bemused to say the least. Then she returned. "Perhaps you could buy me a coca cola or something as a thank you," she said.

I cottoned on. "No, we don't want the ring." She became adamant. I bent down to put the ring back on the sidewalk; she intercepted my hand. I dropped the ring into her palm, and as she protested, we turned and walked away.

In immediately hindsight, we realized that this had been some kind of scam, although I had never heard of this particular ploy.

Turns out, as a travel writer, I probably should have. According to my internet search, "The lost gold ring scam is one of the oldest and most famous tourist scams in Paris. Trusting tourists are the best mark for this deception." The internet description was a virtually word-for-word script of our experience. It predicted that the scammer would have asked for more money in return for a completely worthless ring, and might have made quite a scene if we resisted.

Ah... so after all my travels, I qualified for the "trusting tourist best mark" award. Only slightly embarrassing! But at least, we escaped unscathed.

More through luck than sense we also avoided some scammers in Spain, a few months ago. These were again women, this time insisting that we accept a sprig of rosemary as a gift. Turns out, according to our Spanish guides, that if you take it, they will demand payment and it can become a highly embarrassing scene.

It was even somewhat embarrassing when we declined, because they were quite rude in their response.

In some cases, there is a secondary purpose to these approaches – the women with the rings or the rosemary may be distracting you so their accomplices can work their pickpocket magic.

Warnings against pickpockets are everywhere, even in the most holy sites



(PAUL KNOWLES PHOTO)

The crowd of hundreds, perhaps thousands, that gathers in front of Notre Dame Cathedral is "paradise" for pickpockets.

– like Notre Dame cathedral in Paris, a church where, because of incredible crowds, pickpockets can find their own version of paradise.

One fairly recent scam involves young people carrying survey clipboards. They are working for the tourism board, they say, and would like to ask you a few questions. Heck, doesn't everyone love to offer our opinion? The problem is, either an accomplice is lifting your wallet while your attention is on the survey person, or, in the case of the really experienced crook, she is actually opening your purse directly under the survey clipboard. We have seen these folks in action, too, although we were never directly approached to take a "survey".

The advice from our guides is simple, although not foolproof. "Don't carry excess cash or passports on you... leave them in your hotel safe." "Men should have their wallets in a front pocket." "Women should keep their handbags

closed and zipped up." "Don't wear your best jewelry in public." "Don't hang a bag on the back of a chair in a café." And so on.

Personally, I would suggest that if you are travelling as a couple or a group, one should take the pictures while others keep a close eye – better still, hand – on any valuables.

Again, this is not a knock on travelling to Europe. We love it – the art, the food, the architecture, the history, the people, the scenery, the whole deal. I come home educated, entertained, refreshed, invigorated, and, I think, a better citizen of our complicated world. You can, too. Just keep one hand on your valuables, and don't accept unwarranted gifts!

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



(PAUL KNOWLES PHOTO)

The Opera House in Paris – the site of the "gold ring" scam that almost convinced the author.



(PAUL KNOWLES PHOTO)

Although there is a lot of area in the Louvre courtyard, as people press toward the entrance, pickpockets can find fertile ground.

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RUST CHECK

I go up when the rain comes down. What am I?
Umbrella

I have a face but no eyes, hands but no arms. What am I?
Clock

The more you take from me, the bigger I get. What am I?
Hole

I'm full of keys but can't open a single door. What am I?
Piano

I fly without wings, I cry without eyes. What am I?
Cloud

I have a neck but no head, and I wear a cap. What am I?
Bottle

SUDOKU

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7					9			8

Level: Beginner

Solutions on Page 22

PET OF THE WEEK

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SATURDAY: 9AM-5PM

SUNDAY: 10AM-5PM

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

WORD SEARCH

OUTER SPACE

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

- ASTEROID
- GALAXY
- PLANET
- COMET
- NEBULA
- SUPERNOVA
- CONSTELLATION
- ASTRONAUT
- MOON
- SUN
- ORBIT
- METEOR
- COSMOS
- BLACKHOLE
- GRAVITY
- SPACESHIP
- ROCKET
- TELESCOPE
- ECLIPSE
- STAR

COMING EVENTS

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

at the Masonic Hall, 190 Thames St., Ingersoll, 1-4 p.m. every other Friday. October 31, November 14 & 28, and December 5.

Join us. Walk ins welcome. Qualifications, love 50-70's country music, perform, listen, dance, and enjoy.

GUIDED HISTORICAL WALK THROUGH THE TOWN OF SIMCOE

Saturday, November 1: 2-4 p.m. Starting Point: Meet at the Norfolk War Memorial Carillon Tower for 2pm (201 Norfolk St N Simcoe)

Led by Andy Blackwood (Norfolk Historical Society). Join us and learn about the history and landmarks throughout the town of Simcoe. About Norfolk Pathways for People: <https://norfolkpathways.ca/>

BROWN PAPER PACKAGES TIED UP WITH STRING

November 1: 10 a.m.-12 noon. St.Paul's United Church,

88 Bidwell St., Tillsonburg

Messy Church invites families to have a at a "Brown Paper Packages Tied Up With String."event. Crafts (get an early start on Christmas gifts), snacks, music, stories and a hot lunch. We ask that children be accompanied by an adult.

16TH ANNUAL TREATS & TREASURES EVENT

November 8, 9am-3pm

Maranatha Christian Reformed Church 735 Frontenac Cres., Woodstock (Just off Juliana near the new hospital!)

Lots of variety! Returning vendors and "newbies"! You don't want to miss this event!!

Free admission!! Free coffee! Vendors in front foyer, the east and west hallways, the youth room and the gym!! ?'s: contact church at 519-539-5301 or organizer 519-536-0493

CHRISTMAS BAZAAR

Peace Lutheran Church 60 Young St., Tillsonburg, Ontario.

Saturday, November 8: 10 a.m.-2 p.m.

Cabbage rolls, Baked goods, Holiday treasures, Gifts. Soup Luncheon available.

DELHI & DISTRICT HORTICULTURAL SOCIETY MEETING

Monday November 10: 7:30 p.m.

Delhi Friendship Centre, 418 Queen St., Delhi, Ont.

GUEST SPEAKER - Jason Paulratz with a presentation on WW1 & WW2. All welcome to join us. Enter at the parking lot off William Street.

'MISTLETOE MAGIC' CHRISTMAS BAZAAR

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

Rolph St., Tillsonburg

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

free. Please bring a bag or two to carry home your purchases.

CHRISTMAS BAZAAR AND TEA ROOM

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

Hickory Hills Recreation Centre, 48 Wilson Ave, Tillsonburg.

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

CHRISTMAS WITH COMMUNITY LIVING

Friday, December 5 – Free will donation.

St. John's Anglican Church,

46 Ridout Street West, Tillsonburg, Ontario

Join us, with our friends from Community Living, to start the Christmas season off with Christmas music and a good old Carol Sing. Christmas treats for all.

TILLSONBURG SENIOR CENTRE SOUNDS OF THE SEASON

December 6: 7 p.m.

Lion's Auditorium, Tillsonburg

An all ages Christmas concert with the country music stylings of Crystal Gage accompanied by Rick Loucks, Charlie Agro, Doug Johnson, & Fred Lewis. Call 688-2520 to get your tickets

MODERN SQUARE DANCING IS FOR YOU!

Looking for something to do in the evening or something new to try? Modern square dancing is a great way to learn something new, have fun, meet new friends, relieve stress, and get some exercise! At Thames Valley Dance Club, we dance on Monday nights from 7 - 9 p.m. All you need is comfortable shoes and casual clothing. No experience or partner is required and anyone over the age of 12 is welcome (children from 12-15 with an adult, please). The 2025-2026 season has started at the Ingersoll Pipe Band Hall, 108 Wonham St. S. Ingersoll. The first night is free, and after that the cost is \$7.50 per person each Monday, paid monthly at the start of the month. For more information, contact Julie at 519-535-3314. Hope to see you on Sept 8th at the Ingersoll Pipe Band Hall!

INTERESTED IN BRIDGE?

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

TILLSONBURG LIONS

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

OXFORD GRIEF CARE:

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

TILLSONBURG

WHEN: 2nd Tuesday of every month

WHERE: VON Oxford Office 24 Brock St. W., Tillsonburg

TIME: 6:30 p.m. - 8 p.m.

INGERSOLL

WHEN: 4th Tuesday of every month

WHERE: Ingersoll Public Library 130 Oxford St., Ingersoll

TIME: 10:30 a.m. -12 Noon

WOODSTOCK

WHEN: 3rd Saturday of every month

WHERE: Sakura House Hospice 715180 Oxford Rd.4, Woodstock

TIME: 10:30 a.m. -12 Noon

MEMBERS GENERAL MEETING 1st Wednesday of every month

Starting at 7 pm

Not a member contact us to join

The Wagner Memorial Teeterville Legion Branch 526. 3890 Teeterville Road, Teeterville, Ontario. For More Information Call, the Legion 519-443-5588

<https://www.teetervillelegionbranch526.ca>

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

The Wagner Memorial, Teeterville Legion Branch 526

3890 Teeterville Road, Teeterville, Ontario

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

OXFORD PHILATELIC SOCIETY

Meetings: 2nd Tuesday (2-4 p.m.) and 4th Tuesday (7-9 p.m.)

September to May

Church of the Epiphany, 560 Dundas Street, Woodstock Ontario N4S 1C7

If you have never belonged to a stamp club, now's the time. Meet new friends, grow your knowledge and collection. Contact: Don Eaton dhfe@silomail.com

Website: <http://www.rpsc.org/chapters/oxford>

TILLSONBURG SENIOR CENTRE WEEKLY PROGRAMS FOR 50+

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

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COMING EVENTS

UPCOMING EVENTS AT THE WAGNER MEMORIAL, TEETERVILLE LEGION BRANCH 526
3890 Teeterville Road, Teeterville, Ontario
For More Information call the Legion at 519-443-5588 or check out our website at teetervillelegionbranch526.ca

REMEMBRANCE SERVICE & PARADE
Sunday, November 9
The Wagner Memorial, Teeterville Legion Branch 526
PARADE FALL-IN - Women's Institute Hall at 1:30 pm.
MARCH OFF TO LEGION - APPROXIMATELY 1:45 pm.
SERVICE AT LEGION CENOTAPH upon arrival
All are welcome.

DARTS
Friday, November 7 & 21
Registration at 6:45 p.m., Starting at 7:00 p.m.
Everyone is Welcome. Draw for partners.

PROGRESSIVE EUCBRE
Friday, November 14 & December 12
Registration at 6:30 p.m., Starting at 7:00 pm
Everyone is Welcome.

THE BIG GAME (GREY CUP)
Sunday, November 16, Starting at 4:30 p.m.
Come and join us to watch the Big Game.
Snacks and Light Meal.

LEGION CHRISTMAS CRAFT & VENDOR SHOW
Sunday, November 23, 11:00 a.m.- 3:00 p.m.

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

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

OPEN JAM
Saturday, November 29, starting at 1:00 p.m.
Last Saturday of every month.
Everyone is welcome to bring an instrument or just come out and listen to the music. Free event.

2026 MEMBERSHIP STICKERS FOR THE WAGNER MEMORIAL TEETERVILLE LEGION ARE NOW AVAILABLE FOR MEMBERS TO RENEW

To be entered into the early bird draw, for a chance to win your year membership for free, you must renew by November 30, 2025. To renew contact Tammy Lee Bergman or come to the Legion and see one of our bartenders.

CHRISTMAS RAFFLES
Saturday December 6 & 13, 2:00 pm- 5:00 pm
Or until the draws are complete
Chance to win a \$25.00 gift voucher from Vanessa Meats
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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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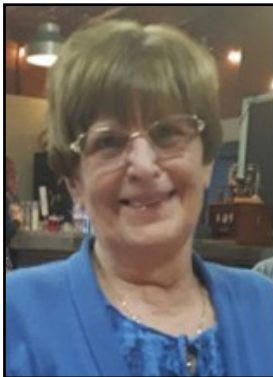
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If you are interested, contact
Heather Dunbar at:
heather@granthaven.com



OBITUARY

SUSAN A. HARTNETT



Peacefully surrounded by her daughters at Tillsonburg District Memorial Hospital on Monday October 20, 2025 Susan A Hartnett (nee Snider) of Tillsonburg at the age of 75 years.

Loving, patient and incredibly strong-willed mother of Megan Walters (Steve) and Lindsay Tribble (Kevin). Adoring Grandma Sue to Seth and Taya Walters.

Preceded by her parents Cletus and Jean Snider and her best friend and beloved dog Blue.

Sue was a dedicated Registered Nurse for 45 years, working in hospitals, family practice, community and long-term care. It was through her career and love of nursing that she made some of her best and lifelong friends. Sue overcame many health challenges and through it all remained strong, funny, witty and the life of the party until her final days.

Her family would like to thank Dr. Blue, the nurses and staff at Tillsonburg District Memorial Hospital on 2 south for the amazing care and compassion during her final week.

At Sue's request, cremation has taken place. There will be a private family interment held at Tillsonburg Cemetery.

Friends are invited to join the family at the Carriage Hall, 25 Brock St., West, Tillsonburg Ontario on Saturday November 8, 2025 from 12 pm -3 pm.

If you would like to make a donation, please consider the Tillsonburg District Memorial Hospital Foundation or as Sue was an animal lover a donation to an animal charity of your choice.

Any donations can be made payable by cheque to the charity directly or by contacting Ostrander's Funeral Home (519) 842-5221. Condolences may be shared at www.ostrandersonline.com.

OBITUARY

ENNO "KEN" KLEMPPP

MARCH 12, 1942 - OCTOBER 20, 2025



Passed away peacefully at University Hospital, London on October 20, 2025 at the age of 83.

Beloved and cherished husband to Hazel. Ken will be dearly missed by his children Kathy (predeceased by Bill) Duff, Heather (Jerry) Power, Debra (Sheldon) Rennicks, and step-son Jason (Deana) Hart. Forever cherished Grandpa and Papa to Brody, Dawson, Sarah, Justin, Ella, Libby, Jaylyn,

Dylan, and his dear cat Kandi.

He had dedicated work ethics and retired at the end of his career as Plant Manager for Regal Envelope in Omemee. Ken treasured time spent with his family and friends and always looked forward to any special gatherings. Some of his happiest moments were spent around the fire pit with loved ones. Also, with his sweet tooth he could never pass up a chance to enjoy his favourite goodies or desserts. Those that knew him will fondly remember his sense of humor. He was a kidder who always teased others bringing smiles and laughs to all around him.

Following Ken's wishes cremation has taken place with private arrangements at a later date. In lieu of flowers, donations can be made to the Heart & Stroke Foundation or the Canadian Cancer Society.

Goodbye

*Goodbye my family,
my life has passed.
I loved you all to the very last.
Weep not for me,
but courage take.
Love each other,
for my sake.
For those you love
don't go away.
They walk beside you
Every day.*

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support local businesses, including
your local newspaper.

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QUIZ ANSWERS

1. A werewolf
2. A coven
3. 1966
4. Scream
5. Michael Jackson's "Thriller"
6. Slenderman
7. Brains
8. Scythe
9. Friday the 13th
10. Ghostbusters!

SUDOKU

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

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TREES

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

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We are looking for a delivery driver to join our team at the Tillsonburg Post. Responsibilities would be taking receipt of bundles of the newspapers from our courier service on Wednesday mornings (delivered to your home) and then distributing the bundles to our various drop-off locations in Tillsonburg and surrounding area on Wednesday and Thursday so that our readers can obtain their weekly news. Our driver shall also take note of which drop-off locations require more or less copies so that quantities can be adjusted in future weeks to meet reader demand.

Compensation based on a combination of hourly wage plus kilometer allowance.

To apply, please contact Stewart Grant at stew@granthaven.com or text 519-868-1290.

MEET THE PEOPLE OF THE MEMORIAL VETERAN BANNERS



Edwin Morgan Bilger

Morgan was born on March 13, 1925 in Lynedoch, Ontario. He enlisted in the Royal Canadian Navy on August 24, 1943 and served during World War II on HMCS Noranda, a Canadian Bangor Class minesweeper as a sonar operator. He received his basic training on the Plains of Abraham, in Quebec City. The ship's mission was to escort convoys out of Boston, Halifax, and New York City, as part of a larger escort group, meeting at a preplanned area in the mid-Atlantic, where they met Allied escorts to take them across to England. After his discharge on November 20, 1945, Morgan went back to farming, tobacco, but eventually transitioned into the insurance business. Morgan was a member of the Royal Canadian Legion branch 125 Delhi until his passing in 2021.

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



To view the full job description and qualifications, please visit: oxfordcounty.ca/careers

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