

Tillsonburg POST

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OPP asking drivers to be more cautious

JEFF HELSDON

Editor

Oxford OPP's Community Engagement Officer is asking drivers to think safety after a rash of recent incidents.

Although the total number of fatal collisions in the OPP's Oxford detachment coverage area is down by two year-to-date – from 14 to 12 – Crawford said the Oxford detachment's percentage of those fatalities in the West Region has increased.

"We are the detachment with the most fatalities in the West Region currently," she said, adding there were more fatalities recently. "When we have so many in a row, it seems like we have an increase."

This number includes fatalities on the 401 in the Oxford area.

Crawford didn't have a possible reason for the number of collisions, with the OPP putting their messaging out and working on active enforcement.

She did point to the big four reasons for collisions - not wearing a seatbelt, drug and alcohol use while driving, inattentive driving (eating or drinking, managing a child in the back seat, and using a cell phone while driving), and speeding – as factors. Although all of the OPP statistics aren't broken down by municipality, Crawford said of the 60 Western Region fatalities this year, 35 were caused by the four mentioned reasons, with a breakdown of 14 being speed related, 11 not wearing seat belts, seven were inattentive driving, and three were alcohol and drug related.

"It takes all of us to do our part," she said. "Traffic safety is everybody's responsibility. Whether you are a driver or passenger, you have to be alert and not distract the driver."

CONTINUED TO PAGE 2



(JEFF HELSDON PHOTO)

THE BEST TILLSONBURGER?

Who makes the best TillsonBURGER? Finding an answer to that question was one of the goals of Annandale National Historic Site's Party Until the Cows Come Home event on the weekend. The TillsonBURGER competition paid homage to the 145th anniversary of Annandale Farm, and E.D. Tillson's role in bringing Holstein cows to Oxford County. Local restaurants were allowed to enter their best burger to a panel of judges to judge the best burger in town. The winner was from Chrissy's Catering. Judging the burgers were, left to right, Carrie Lewis, Dave Morris, Chris Agro and Daniel Reintjes, while Kate Bakos of Annandale National Historic Site serves the next entry. Although Party Until the Cows Come Home was a one-off in tribute to the anniversary, the burger contest will return next year.

Lake Lisgar dredging project given approval by council

JEFF HELSDON

Editor

Lake Lisgar should be a better environment for fish, fowl and all types of wildlife with the completion of dredging and installation of a silt trap this fall.

Council approved sole sourcing the installation of an access road, dredging and the silt trap at Monday night's meeting.

The issue is in the north end of the lake, where Stony Creek flows into it. As it crosses sandy soil, the creek transports sand and silt, which deposit in the lake. The lake was formed more than 100 years ago when Thomas Hardy dammed the creek for a mill pond. The town then purchased it for firefighting purposes.

The Lake Lisgar Revitalization Committee first identified the work needed to stop the siltation of the north end of the lake.

CONTINUED TO PAGE 2

OVER 50 YEARS OF TRUSTED VEHICLE MAINTENANCE IN TILLSONBURG



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OPP asking drivers to be more cautious

CONTINUED FROM FRONT

Crawford also spoke of the driver being in the right state of mind, not rushing, and suggested doing an occasional check to ensure tires are properly inflated and all lights are working.

"If your lighting system isn't working, that could be the cause of the collision," she said.

Crawford noted the distinction between the common term 'accident' and the term the police use, which is 'collision'.

"The majority of the time, the crashes can be avoided; therefore, they are collisions, not accidents," she said.

She is an advocate of driving defensively and anticipating what those around you are going to do.

Speaking directly to the 'big four',

Crawford said the fix for not wearing a seatbelt is simple – use it. She said some people will put it behind them to beat the buzzer.

"What is that doing?" she questioned. "You're taking the time to trick the system. Why are you taking the time to do that, and not just put it on?"

During the recent OPP Civic Holiday traffic campaign, there were 178 charges for people not wearing seatbelts.

"Why are there 178 people still not wearing seatbelts? And that's just people who were caught," she said.

During the traffic campaign, there were 856 speeding charges, with 11 in Oxford; 14 distracted driving charges, with one in Oxford; and 11 charges for not moving

over for emergency vehicles. The only bright spot was that none of the 45 impaired driving charges were in Oxford.

"These are all avoidable incidents," Crawford said. "When you are a driver, you are vowing you are going to follow the rules of the road."

Speaking to the speeding charges, she said most speeding charges these days are people traveling 20 km/h, or more, over the speed limit.

"The faster you go, the more risk you are putting yourself or others in the vehicle at a chance of serious injury or fatal injury," she said.

Whatever the reason for speeding – being late for work or an appointment – Crawford said safety should be the prior-

ity.

"You should not be rushing to events," she said. "You should be planning your days so you are not putting yourself in that situation."

Beyond fatalities, she said a lot of people involved in high-speed collisions have life-altering injuries.

Speaking to alcohol and drugs, Crawford reminded that prescription drugs are also a concern.

"It's just not worth it to put yourself, or anyone, at risk when you've had any amount of alcohol or drugs," she said.

Summarizing her message, Crawford said. "Drive smart, drive safe and drive sober - if you can do those three things, you should be okay."

Council approves Lake Lisgar dredging, silt trap

CONTINUED FROM FRONT

"The sediment infiltration at the north end of the lake has decreased water levels to the point of being impassable by small watercraft. The infiltration has created a number of small islands and continues to intrude further south through the lake," the report to council on the subject stated.

A silt trap, which requires a clean out every three to four years, will trap the sand from going further into the lake. The report identified one of the challenges is building a maintenance platform on the bank for a long-arm excavator to operate from for dredging and ongoing silt trap maintenance. The access laneway will allow the equipment to be moved into place.

The report to council Monday night requested approval for sole sourcing the work and not following the town's normal tendering process due to limited availability of the long-arm excavator needed for the work.

"They have extensive site knowledge of the lake. They know the requirements,



(JEFF HELSDON PHOTO)

Silt is impacting the north end of Lake Lisgar, reducing the depth and creating small islands.

they know the history. They also have the equipment they need to reach the area we need reached," Director of Recreation, Culture and Parks Andrea Greenway told council.

The report also identified challenges of scheduling two companies to complete the work within their schedule and the timelines allowed by the Department of Fisheries and Oceans and Long Point Region Conservation Authority.

The proposed work is included in the 2026 mayor's budget approved by council at \$150,000. Estimates are it will cost \$141,802.

Answering a question from Deputy Mayor Dave Beres on the timeline involved, Greenway said the work will be done as soon as possible.

Councillor Chris Rosehart questioned if the road will be left in place or restored. Greenway answered it will be left in place to allow ongoing work as necessary.

Council approved the work with sole sourcing.

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EDITORIAL

Letter to the Editor

Writer raises points about food insecurity

Re: Aug 6 "Household food insecurity..." article by Amanda Nelson.

Anyone that wants to ask for an opinion about food insecurity from public health units in Ontario is going to get the expected answer. More bad news. This narrative hasn't changed in Ontario for decades.

Don't rely on the government bureaucracy to do the changing. How can anyone expect a different answer from an Ontario government that created and funded this industry?

Realistically, the best effort in decades was the creation of food banks by community minded volunteers and activists, to try to offset food insecurity. The responsibility of change, to this systemic problem,

is to the people receiving the benefit. If there is a problem as severe as being advertised, then there should be hundreds and thousands of people organizing themselves to offer change and to hold the health units accountable.

In the end, complaining makes headlines. The headlines say people are "struggling" to buy food. This narrative deflects from the accountability of the Ontario public health units. These bureaucrats and politicians are complicit in the struggles and sacrifices people have to make every day. They should be made accountable.

John Valle,
Tillsonburg



Caterpillar today, butterfly tomorrow.

(ANDREW STANCEK PHOTO)

Have something to say? Submit your Letter to the Editor here: info@tillsonburgpost.com

Keep up the yard, work hard, and be content – it's something to aspire to for Tillsonburg man



ROBIN KRAFFT

Tillsonburg Post Columnist

EVERYONE HAS A STORY TO TELL

Jason Fleming didn't ever feel compelled to explore city life or to pull up roots and leave the area. He grew up in Mount Elgin, playing baseball with his two older brothers.

"That's all we did, my whole family," Fleming said. "My grandpa Art Hewitt started the Mt Elgin Mounties team. He was a pitcher. My uncle, Randy Hewitt, played baseball too."

Jason and his brothers continued to play ball together for many years, for the Mt Elgin Mounties and then the Tillsonburg Bulldogs, as part of the Tri-County Men's Fastball League. Jason followed in his grandfather's footsteps and was a pitcher and shortstop.

The competitive regional amateur circuit has always relied on local support to keep the game going, through sponsorship, volunteer organizers, and enthusiastic players.

"I was coaching and playing for the Junior team during high school, but I was playing for the Mounties too," Fleming said. "It was the only thing I was good at. Both my brothers were on the same team. We were all friends; it was a social thing. The tournaments were always a good time."

Fleming recalls his family's frequent trips into Tillsonburg throughout his childhood, long before he would move into town and play for the Bulldogs.

"We would come into town a couple times a month and we'd always go out to dinner," Fleming said. "We'd go to the Town Gate Inn, Lemon Tree, or All Seasons. We'd always come into town for the fair on my birthday. It used to be held on Labour Day."

Years later, Jason would make his contribution to an iconic town landmark. He was working at Belore Trailers when they were approached to refurbish the bell for the Rotary Clock Tower.

"We painted all the steel trailers for Titan," Fleming said. "We were asked to sandblast and paint the bell when the tower went up."

The 1,300-pound bell was the crowning glory of the original Town Hall, built in 1898. When the Rotary Clock Tower went up in 1994, the bell came out of storage and Jason was on hand to make it look like new again.

Beyond baseball, Jason fulfilled another family legacy. His father and brother were firefighters, and he joined the ranks of the volunteer Fire Department in Courtland.

"There's always tough calls, accidents and medical calls," Fleming said. "We were the closest. If the ambu-

lance would take a certain amount of time to get there, we'd be dispatched. We were all first aid trained. Sometimes we had to pull people out of cars. It was rewarding in that way."

Jason also talked about some of the summer jobs he had as a kid, working on a dairy farm, painting fences, shoveling, driving the tractor and bailing hay. He had worked at a gravel pit, pulling dirt out of a crusher. Then at 14, he started working in tobacco, as a primer, then a boat driver, and sometimes irrigating through the nights.

"That sets you up for your future," Fleming said. "You can't just call in, you show up. It prepares you for the path ahead."

His solid work ethic paid off. When he worked for Formet, he was on the line for less than a year, before becoming a forklift driver, a team leader, an area leader and then the New Program Coordinator. He works at Pakfab in Aylmer now as a Project Coordinator, but he's been living in Tillsonburg for many years.

"I bought my house about 12 years ago," Fleming said. "It was what I wanted and the opportunity came up. I work a lot outside, yard work. I have raised garden beds, veggie gardens. I end up giving some to my neighbours."

Jason also shares a trailer with his cousin at Spring Lake, taking on the upkeep and fishing on the weekends.

It's a quiet life, a good life. Work, spending time with his two grandchildren, home improvement, some leisure time. In this fast-paced world where people are often distracted and striving, appreciating simple pleasures and committing to a job well done is enough.

Riding the school bus in the 1970s



**PAST
IMPERFECT**

WAYNE HUTCHISON

Tillsonburg Post Columnist

Now that it's the "back to school" time of year, I thought I'd share what it was like to ride the school bus back in the 1970s.

Once we had moved to North Street at the end of 1971, I got to experience what it was like riding the bus to school for the first time. Before that I had walked to Rolph Street Public from Victoria Street, but now I was at Tillson Ave Public and that was at least a 45-minute walk – probably closer to an hour for a second grader – and we didn't have sidewalks or street lights on North Street.

You could only ride the bus if you lived north of the

New York Central tracks (now the trail), so the first stop was at the train station at Charles Street, then at the corner of Tillson Ave and North Street, followed by a couple of stops on North Street before it got to our house. Each morning the bus, #21 with Mort Cooper driving, would stop at the corner of North Street and Falcon Road, and my brother and I would get on. Then the bus would head up Falcon, to Tanager, then down Owl, before turning onto Woodcock and then North Street again. From there we'd head back into town on Broadway – to discharge students at Glendale High School, then Annandale High School, including Maple Lane students, and finally Tillson Ave Public. The ride home after school followed the same route, so we'd ride up Tillson Ave to North Street, and then west until getting off in front of our house.

The biggest challenge was always when to walk out to the road to wait for the bus in the morning. Too early, and you missed some cartoons on "Rocketship 7", and you might freeze in the cold, or get drenched in the rain. Too late, and you risked missing the bus completely – which happened more than once!

The buses back then were relatively primitive. They were noisy and the ride was rough. The seats were a brown vinyl with almost no padding. We sat three to a seat in the early grades, and then only two to a seat as we got larger. The buses had flashing red lights, but no other safety devices that buses have today. And the bus ran pretty much regardless of the weather – snow days

were very rare back then.

We would sit with our friends and talk about sports, or TV shows, or what we were going to do at lunch recess or make plans for after school and weekend adventures. And sometimes we would sing stupid little songs – and occasionally Mort would have to tell us to pipe down! What we never talked about was the stuff we were learning in school...

There were also some memorable incidents on board. One morning one of the high school kids got on the bus carrying a stack of computer punch cards. Part way down the aisle, someone bumped his arm and the cards went flying everywhere. We helped him pick them up; he got off the bus and went home to spend the day putting them back in order again!

What I didn't realize in our first year was that there was more than one bus going by our house. One morning my brother and I climbed onboard and found a seat, but before we had gone too far, we realized that we didn't know anyone on the bus. The bus started taking an entirely different route, stopping at St. Mary's Catholic school before heading across town to St. Joseph's Catholic school. When the last of the kids got off at St. Joe's, the bus driver looked at us and asked us where we went to school. We told her Tillson Ave – and so she kindly drove us to school. We never made that mistake again.

Around 1976/77, we had a huge dog – a Saint Bernard appropriately named "Tiny". Standing on his hind legs, he was over six-feet tall. And he was the friendliest dog – your only fear was being licked to death – but he also found ways to get away and chase things. He loved to chase birds and rabbits, and sometimes, even school buses. Once we got on the bus only to find a few blocks later, Tiny was chasing us through the subdivision. I remember getting off the bus, walking Tiny back home, and then getting a ride to school. And I think I beat the bus to school that day.

My last year riding the bus was 1978/79. In the summer of 1979, we moved back to Victoria Street. I started at Glendale that fall, my bus riding days were over, and I didn't have to worry about missing the bus again until my own daughters started school many years later.

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Ontario investing \$7.3 million to support hospital operations in Oxford

The Ontario government is investing \$7.3 million to support improved operations and reduced wait times at hospitals in Oxford. This funding is part of a \$1.1 billion investment into our hospital sector as part of Budget 2026, A Plan to Protect Ontario, which represents a four per cent increase in annual support for the fourth year in a row.

"Strong local hospitals are essential to keeping our communities healthy, and this increased investment will help ensure patients in Oxford continue to receive the high-quality care they deserve, closer to home, said Ernie Hardeman, MPP for Oxford. "Our government is making historic investments in health care, and this funding will help our local hospitals meet growing demand, support their dedicated staff, and continue delivering the services families rely on every day."

This investment will support the operation of core clinical services at Woodstock Hospital (\$5,525,000) and Rural Roads Health Services hospitals (\$1,775,200) in both Ingersoll and Tillsonburg so they can better meet patient needs.

"Alexandra Hospital, Ingersoll (AHI)

and Tillsonburg District Memorial Hospital (TDMH), the two sites of Rural Roads Health Services (RRHS), were pleased to receive a 3% increase in base funding for fiscal year 2026-2027 from the Ministry of Health," said Nadia Facca, President and CEO. "This increase will help each site address inflationary cost pressures and other wage expenses to ensure the continued delivery of high-quality care for Oxford County residents."

"We are grateful for this funding announcement and the province's continued investment in health care," said Perry Lang, President and CEO of Woodstock Hospital. "This funding will help Woodstock Hospital continue providing high-quality, people-centred care close to home for Oxford County residents."

Over the next 10 years, Ontario is investing approximately \$64 billion in major health infrastructure. This is part of the government's plan to get shovels in the ground on more than 50 major hospital projects across the province, which will deliver approximately 3,000 new hospital beds to enhance access to quality care and build a connected, people-first health-care system.

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GOLFING FOR SPECIAL OLYMPICS (JEFF HELSDON PHOTO)
Golfers hit the links at Tillsonview Fairways on Saturday for the Special Olympics annual fundraising golf tournament. Tanya Bowman tees off on the eighth hole during the tournament. Two Tillsonburg athletes will be competing in the Special Olympics nationals this week in Medicine Hat, AB.

Shell of a Place art contest winner announced

JEFF HELSDON

Editor

There is a little serendipity that the winner of the Station Arts Centre's Shell of a Place art contest was a turtle painted on a paddle – both of which are at home in the water.

Trisha Franklin was the winner for her turtle painting on a canoe paddle. She found the paddle in St. Catharines, originally painted white, with the owner intending to paint on it, but not completing the task.

Franklin sanded it down, filled all the cracks but one with glue, and applied hemp oil on the wood.

"I left one on the bottom because life has cracks; it didn't have to be perfect," she said.

The Shell of a Place theme was designed

to highlight the concept of turtles' homes. The exhibit opened during Turtle Fest and allowed gallery attendees to vote for their favourite piece.

Station Arts Centre Executive Director Tabitha Verbuyst said more than 1,000 votes were cast, and Franklin was ahead by a significant margin over the next closest piece.

"It was really cool to see something different," she said. "It wasn't original media."

Franklin explained there was a tree in her painting to represent home, and the turtle's shell is also its home. Her artwork also has a moon in it.

Growing up near Brownsville, Franklin is a member of the Station Arts Centre and joined Bridge Street Artists. Now living in St. Catharines, she has worked on several different murals there for non-profit groups.



(JEFF HELSDON PHOTO)

Tabitha Verbuyst, left, Executive Director of the Station Arts Centre, presents a recognition certificate to Shell of a Place winner Tricia Franklin.



HE'S GOT TALENT!

(JEFF HELSDON PHOTO)

Liam Mitchell, nine, finished in third-place in the Tri-County's Got Talent competition at the Copper Mug on Aug. 5. He is one of nine contestants who will be competing in the finals at the Tillsonburg Fair, starting at 1 p.m. on Saturday.

UPCOMING LIVE ENTERTAINMENT

AUG. 15 - TRI-COUNTY HAS TALENT Tillsonburg Fair - 1 p.m.

AUG. 15 - SUGAR KINGS - 7 P.M., ATTIC APOSTLES 9 P.M. Tillsonburg Fair

AUG. 21 - COLLEGE AND UNIVERSITY GOING AWAY PARTY - Copper Mug 8-11 p.m.

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AUG. 22 - KARAOKE Copper Mug - 8 p.m.

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WEEKEND QUIZ

by Jake Grant

1. Albuquerque is located on the shores of what river?
2. What are baby Koalas called?
3. What is the most spoken language on Earth?
4. The deficiency of which vitamin causes scurvy?
5. What is the term for the maximum amount of oxygen the body can use during exercise?
6. The "Hollywood" sign originally spelled out what word?
7. What's the name of the pig in the book "Charlotte's Web"?
8. How many points does the Star of David have?
9. Which dinosaur is famous for having three horns?
10. What is the term for being romantically or sexually unfaithful to a partner?

This week's answers are found on pg. 27

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Willow Boutique offers direct-from-manufacturer clothing

JEFF HELSDON

Editor

Willow Boutique offers Tillsonburg residents a unique, made-in-Canada clothing line direct from the manufacturer.

The story behind how the store came to be is a unique one. Carianne Hall of Trinkets was one of the top retailers of Rapz Lifestyle Clothing in the province. Rapz is owned by Lisa Wamboldt and her parents, Michael and Dianne Wamboldt of Brighton. They also have three

flagship stores selling the clothing – two in Brighton and one in Kingston – under the Willow Boutique banner.

“When Carianne told me she was retiring, it was a golden opportunity to open another flagship store,” Lisa said.

Willow Boutique opened in the former Trinkets location last Tuesday.

Rapz Lifestyle Clothing began as a cruise wear, resort, and travel specialist clothing company. It has since expanded to year-round clothing, with the

ability to mix and match, for instance, winter tops for summer tops with the same bottoms.

“You can buy something new every season, and it will work with what you have,” Lisa said.

The company offers different fabrics – all of which are machine washable – in sizes from XS to XXL.

Lisa and Dianne design the clothing and have three home sewers and two factories in Toronto manufacture it. Both started their careers as teachers,

but Lisa said they are “just creative”. She became disillusioned with teaching with the threat of strikes when she started.

“I jumped and never looked back,” she said.

One feature of the store is a sale room at the back.

“We’re moderately priced for our quality,” Lisa said. “We hang next to some high-end labels in some stores that are three times the price, and not made here.”

The opening of the Tillsonburg store is part of a move for Rapz towards di-

rect consumer retail from its flagship Willow Boutique locations. Lisa explained that since COVID, there are fewer boutiques, as many closed, and the margins have narrowed.

“The fact we can design, produce and retail gives us the margin we need to survive,” she said.

When Lisa saw the 1800s building where Trinkets was located with the original brick and tin ceiling, she knew it was the right fit.

“It’s the perfect building for Willow Boutique,”

she said. “The moment I walked in, it reminded me of my location in Brighton.”

Although Lisa and her husband have been in Tillsonburg preparing for the opening, the day-to-day operation of the store will be handed over to locals Ruth Ann Pottelberg and Naomi Talbot.

Willow Boutique can also be found online at www.willowboutique.ca, and Lisa does three live broadcasts weekly on the company’s Facebook page.



(JEFF HELSDON PHOTO)

Lisa Wamboldt stands amidst some of the Rapz Lifestyle Clothing that is sold in the new Willow Boutique location.



(JEFF HELSDON PHOTO)

The team behind the Tillsonburg location of Willow Boutique stand in the front of the recently-opened store. Left to right are Ruth Ann Pottelberg, Lisa Wamboldt and Naomi Talbot.

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COMMUNITY UPDATE

Notices

Sportsfield Project Public Information Centre | Review Concepts and Share Your Feedback

The Town of Tillsonburg invites residents to attend the second Public Information Centre (PIC) for the Sportsfield Project.

Review concept plans for the Annandale Ball Diamonds and Mall Road sites, ask questions, and share your feedback to help inform future planning.

Date: Thursday, August 13, 2026

Time: 6:30 PM – 8:30 PM

Location: Marwood Lounge, Tillsonburg Community Centre.

In addition, a final Public Information Centre will be held on September 9.

Learn more at www.tillsonburg.ca/SportsfieldProject.

Nomination Period for the 2026 Municipal Election Closes August 21

Thinking about running for municipal office? The nomination period for the 2026 Tillsonburg Municipal Election closes on **Friday, August 21 at 2:00 PM**.

Prospective candidates can pick up nomination forms at the Customer Service Centre, 10 Lisgar Ave. Candidates are encouraged to call ahead and schedule an appointment to ensure a member of the Clerk's Department is available to assist with the nomination process.

For a full list of offices open for nomination, candidate qualifications, required forms, and appointment details, visit www.tillsonburg.ca/election.



Decoration Day Coming Up This Weekend

The Tillsonburg Legion's Decoration Day Service will take place at Tillsonburg Cemetery on Sunday, August 16 at 2:00 p.m. Community members are invited to attend this special service of remembrance and reflection. Please bring a lawn chair. Everyone is welcome.

Property Tax Due Date Reminder

Property taxes are due August 31, 2026.

The Town of Tillsonburg offers several convenient payment options, including online through e-Connection, pre-authorized payments, online or telephone banking through your financial institution, by mail, drop box, or in person at the Customer Service Centre.

Bid Opportunities

RFP 2026-011

Library Lane Covered Walkway
Decommissioning And Stormwater
Management Improvements

Submission Deadline: September 1, 2026 at 2:00 PM

Visit tillsonburg.bidsandtenders.ca.



Active Living & Learning Opportunities

Spots Still Available in August Swimming Lessons!

Looking to build confidence in the water or continue developing your swimming skills? Limited spaces remain in select August swimming lesson sessions, with both morning and evening options available. Register today and make the most of the remaining summer lesson opportunities.

Morning Classes: August 18-28,
Tuesday to Friday, 9:30 - 11:00 AM

Evening Classes: August 4-27,
Tuesdays and Thursdays, 6:00 - 7:30 PM

Become a Certified Aquatic Instructor

Take the next step in your aquatic journey with two certification opportunities this August. **The Swim Instructor Course** (August 17-19, Course Code 19487) is open to participants 13+ with Bronze Cross, while **the Lifesaving Instructor Course** (August 24-26, Course Code 19486) is available to those 15+ with Bronze Cross.

Whether you're looking to gain teaching experience, develop leadership skills, or pursue employment in aquatics, these certifications are a great way to invest in your future. Register today to secure your spot.



Culture Corner

Get Creative with a Macramé Water Bottle Holder Workshop

Learn a new skill and create a practical accessory at the Macramé Water Bottle Holder Workshop. This beginner-friendly workshop will guide participants through the basics of macramé knotting while creating a handcrafted water bottle holder.

Wednesday, September 9 | 1:30 PM & 6:30 PM
\$25 (taxes included)

Pre-registration is required and space is limited. Registration includes all supplies, step-by-step instruction, and your completed project to take home.

Register online at townoftillsonburg.perfectmind.com or call Annandale National Historic Site at 519-842-2294.



Ladies-only daytime dance party to benefit charities

ROBIN KRAFFT

Post Contributor

The Tillsonburg Kinettes are inviting local ladies to attend their first Brunch and Bubbly event on Sunday, Sept. 27 at the Carriage Hall (25 Brock Street) from 10 a.m. - 2 p.m.

This Ladies only 19+ event features mimosas and bubbly, a delicious breakfast, silent auction with donated items from local businesses, and dancing. There may even be a surprise guest in attendance.

The Kinettes have often held evening events, but this time around they wanted to respond to frequent feedback from

people who don't typically stay up late. Proposed by Kinette Rachelle Barrett, this daytime party, complete with food, drinks and dancing, fits the bill.

"Several members eagerly jumped on board to brainstorm to make an event all our own," Barrett said. "Preparation has been smooth. We are thankful to work with Marcel and Laurie of the Carriage Hall, who were immediately receptive when co-chairs, Rachelle Barrett and Adele Black met with them about this idea in February. We have an active committee of 10 members who have all stepped up to make all the pieces fall into place."

From noon to 2 p.m. the dancefloor

will be hopping with music provided by The Wright DJ Services - The Main Man Marlon. The Kinettes have been sharing information about the event on their Facebook page and have invited requests for your favorite songs.

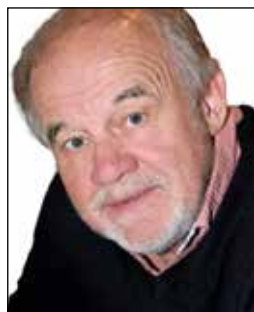
"We are thankful for discounted pricing offered by the Carriage Hall for the food, and the DJ - The Wright DJ Services, who also provided the music for our Ladies of the 80s night," Barrett said. "The discounts allow more money to go back into the community."

Tickets have been selling fast, and are available online, through a link on the Kinettes Facebook page. Every \$40 ticket sold helps to make a difference, and all

proceeds will be channelled back into the community.

"We would like everyone to know that all proceeds are put back into the community," Barrett said. "With some of the proceeds we plan to make an October donation to Team Shan, Breast Cancer Awareness, as Breast Cancer is something that has affected so many women and families, including Kinette members. Additionally, every year we support the Helping Hand Food Bank of Tillsonburg, and plan to use event funds to continue that tradition. If there are any additional funds that are able to be allocated, all club members will vote on where those funds go.

I Have Seen The Light!



**LIVING
RETIRED**

GARY CHALK

Non-Pulitzer Prize Winning Columnist

I never, never, never thought the day would come that I would say I enjoy soccer. However, after 30 days of The World Cup I managed to emerge from underneath crumpled Bud Lite empties and crushed Dorito bags and screamed, "Glory be to FIFA!"

Yes FIFA — Fake Injury Football Actors — won me over. So much so that I started playing indoor soccer — in our living room. This is how it went...

First off, to be a soccer player you need to have tattoos all over your body. I went

on Amazon and scrolled through pages and pages of temporary tattoos, eventually settling on the Marine Collection that feature glow in the dark, waterproof tattoos of turtles and colourful fish. I pressed complete order, then went to the front door and picked up my package of temporary tattoos. Just like that I was ready to begin playing soccer.

Day One. The first day was Player Introductions. I put on a pair of easy-stretch waist shorts with suspenders and my Skechers Slip-Ons; it wasn't pretty. The players walk onto the pitch holding hands with a young child. All I could come up with was Teddy. Jan displays Teddy in our guest bathroom to remind our guests sitting on the toilet of our son Tyler's furry friend when he was six months old. Teddy is dressed as a train engineer. With Teddy dangling from my hand, I walked into our living room to a thunderous ovation! The emotion of it all was enough for the day so I tossed Teddy back near his throne in the bathroom.

Day Two. I played Striker/Centre Forward. This is a soccer team's best scorer so

I thought it would be fun. I was surprised how easy it was. I scored five goals on five shots at net before I had a mandatory Hydration Break, so I celebrated with a couple of Bud Lites.

Day Three. Today I thought I would try my hand — oops, my feet — at playing defence. All that running around the living room yesterday tuckered me out. You know what happened? Even playing defence, I scored three goals — and I only played five minutes before the game was suspended, Jan wanted to vacuum.

Day Four. Playing soccer is a lot of running at least for guys like me Living Retired so I decided today I would play goalie. The goal was our living room sofa, so I stood there wearing Jans oversized puffy Betty Crocker oven mitts and scaring the bejees out of the opponents by doing jumping jacks. Playing goalie I still managed to score two goals! Three, if you count the one on my own net.

Day Five. Today I played announcer. This was my shortest game because all I did was stand there screaming,

"GOOOOOOAAAALLLLLLLLLL!!!" This was the one day playing soccer that I didn't score.

Day Six. This was my most day fun playing soccer. I played hydration break. More Bud Lites.

Day Seven. This day playing soccer was more fun than I thought because I got to play fan in the stands. I got caught up with their antics and got inebriated and tore down the living room drapes! Oh, I managed another goal.

Day Eight. I played referee and medic. As referee I wore black shorts and ran around the living room waving Hallmark Greeting Cards in the air. I didn't last long playing medic because I don't like the sight of blood. And Jan said, "Gary if you get blood on the living room carpet the only way you will ever play soccer again is if Trump intervenes with FIFA!"

Living Retired is written weekly by Gary Chalk and published throughout Canada and USA. Gary is a popular keynote speaker at service clubs, corporate events, and retirement parties. Contact Gchalk@me.com

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What's New

in Tillsonburg and surrounding areas

Door World prioritizes service, reliability

Reliable, quick service is a priority at Door World.

"I would say that service has been our main focus - having a fleet available and parts available," said owner Dave Guenther.

"We're improving ourselves all the time. Our goal is provide same day or next day service for most of our customers. A big part of what we try to do is speed. Speed and reliability."

Established in Tillsonburg in 2019, Door World services customers in a surrounding area that includes London, St. Thomas, Simcoe, Brantford and Woodstock. About a one-hour radius around Tillsonburg, typically.

"Residential and commercial - we do residential garage doors, commercial overhead doors, loading docks and locksmithing. I would say those are the core things we do."

Door World recently acquired a locksmithing business, and Guenther said that is also a very time sensitive industry.

"We try to keep our trucks stocked with as much stuff that we do so that jobs gets taken care of right and efficiently."

With the acquisition of Thornton Lockworks we are expanding the reach of our locksmithing services. They have recently expanded to offer automatic pedestrian door openers in addition to the existing locks and safes. "Sometimes it's bigger



(CHRIS ABBOTT PHOTO)

Established in Tillsonburg in 2019, Door World services customers in a surrounding area that includes London, St. Thomas, Simcoe, Brantford and Woodstock. About a one-hour radius around Tillsonburg, typically.

jobs like factories, warehouses, commercial facilities where people need specific keys. They need access to certain systems, they need audited key trails. We have certain keys that only we can cut, licenses to certain key blanks.

"Growth is always our goal in all aspects of our business"

Doors are not manufactured at Door World, but some assembly is done.

"We stock commercial door panels, so if somebody needs one we can do them pretty quick. Most of the assembly is on-site. We can cut down panels here, assemble the track, get everything ready, and once the kit's ready we can go install it on-site."

"Our goal is to be your reliable

door company. If something goes wrong, and you call us, you know it's going to be taken care of. That's what our brand is.

"I like to call it reliability, and I would say that's one of the reasons people call us back. When you call us, you're going to have somebody answer the phone. You know you're going to have somebody call you back. And you know you're going to have somebody show up in a timely manner. I would say that's kind of our main focus - providing good, quick service."

Door World (doorworld.ca) at 261 Tillson Avenue (Unit D), Tillsonburg, can be reached at 519-842-4671 or email info@doorworld.ca.

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Nikki's Western Wear brings cowboy clothing to town

JEFF HELSDON

Editor

Nikki's Western Wear is the perfect location for those wanting to 'Cowboy up' or 'Cowgirl up' in the fashion.

The western wear store located on Bell

Mill Side Road isn't just drawing western fans from the area, but its diverse inventory of cowboy hats and boots is an attraction to western fans from afar.

The store was started by owner Nikki Van Brenk in 2023 out of her parents' basement as an online company and

selling through pop-up booths at rodeos. Outgrowing that space, she moved to a location on Cranberry Road and was open to the public by appointment while providing a spot to store inventory.

"I needed a place to put everything," she said.

Earlier this year, the company moved to a larger location on Bell Mill Side Road and is open daily. The new store has a country ambiance, with a smell of fresh-cut pine from the boards on the wall intertwined with a leather smell from the 200-plus pairs of boots. Nikki's sister Megan is in the store daily.

While a lot of the business is still online or at rodeos, Nikki said store traffic is increasing.

"People are driving two to three hours, and some people are planning day trips," she said, adding people have come from as far as Alberta and Holland.

She is posting videos daily on behind-the-scenes life at rodeos, in the store, and her life. She also talks about her time working in the Tillsonburg Gun Shop before starting the business. Her

followers are growing with 5,000 on Instagram and 15,000 on Tik Tok.

The boot selection covers a wide price range, from boots worn for a day at a rodeo to more comfortable boots worn daily. The selection includes youth boots, steel-toe cowboy boots, and made-in-Canada Boulet boots. It also includes Redback boots, both steel-toe and not, from Australia.

A separate room has several options for brands and colours in cowboy hats.

"We're the only ones in the area with a wide variety of cowboy hats," Nikki said.

The store is attracting people outside of the western crowd as word gets out they carry Sevens jeans for both women and men. Western-style jeans, shirts and accessories round out the inventory.

One of the latest additions is Hey Dude shoes, which are slip-on shoes.

There is some farm clothing for sale, which may be expanded in the future. A lover of the outdoors, hunting and fishing, Nikki is also looking into lines for that end.



(JEFF HELSDON PHOTO)

A wide range of cowboy boots is one of the attractions of Nikki's Western Wear. The local store also has western hats, jeans and shirts.



(JEFF HELSDON PHOTO)

FAIR THIS WEEKEND

Rides, games of chance and ticket booths were ready for set up for this weekend's Tillsonburg Fair. Pay one price ride bracelets are available at Chrissy's Corner Store or the fair board office prior to the fair opening on Friday.



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BUDDIES FEST 2026



(JEFF HELSDON PHOTO)
Tommy Stinson, former bassist for Guns and Roses, started off his performance on Friday night with an acoustic set accompanied by violin.



(STACIE EDEN PHOTO)
The Anti-Queens energetic punk drew a crowd on Sunday afternoon.



(STACIE EDEN PHOTOS)
(Middle left and bottom left) Hamiltonian B.A. Johnstone entertained with his unique performance combining music and crowd interaction.



(STACIE EDEN PHOTOS)
(Middle, middle right, and bottom right) The OBGMS rocked the main stage with an enthusiastic set during the early evening on Sunday.

BUDDIES FEST 2026



(STACIE EDEN PHOTO)
Patrick Pentland performed with his solo project Fuzzed Out on Sunday. Also a member of Sloan, the band played songs from both groups on the Paddy's Underground stage.



(STACIE EDEN PHOTOS)
(Top right and bottom right) Wheatus closed out the main stage on Sunday night, playing old and new songs, covers of Rush and Tragically Hip for a Canadian touch, and ending with their year 2000 anthem "Teenage Dirtbag", to the delight of the crowd.



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SPORTS

Trevor Barnucz's angling trail to Zimbabwe anchored in Norfolk County



**THE
LOST
TRIBE**

JEFF TRIBE

Tillsonburg Post Columnist

The four-pound 'smallie' was 100 per cent legit bragging rights.

But the 24-inch pickerel may have strayed over that line into the realm of taunting.

"Hey dad, turn around," called Trevor Barnucz as our three-member party paddled the last 100 metres to our Normandale launch site, children laughing and splashing in the sandy shallows in front of us.

Aquatic ecologist, avid angler, kayak and otherwise, seminar presenter, Pure Fishing ambassador - and proud father - Jason Barnucz did as directed. Grinning almost as widely as the 'bucketmouth' he had landed earlier, Trevor showed off the unexpected product of an end-of-the-trail troll.

The teacher had not become the student. But on this sunny Lake Erie morning, both Jason and the newspaper guy had been schooled in the art of kayak fishing by a passionate 18-year-old.

The phrase 'apple not falling far from the tree' is front of mind when speaking of Trevor Barnucz. Always a willing fisher, early enthusiasm was anchored more deeply during COVID. At the end of his and Jason's remote studies and work day

respectively, they would head out fishing from their Delhi residence, maintaining sanity in a challenging world through shared, socially-distanced outdoor activity.

That passion has taken Trevor places including Trent University this fall, course offerings in environmental science and its proximity to quality fishing on the Otonabee River and nearby Rice, Buckhorn and Pigeon lakes among others, making it an attractive option.

Opportunity accessed through Ontario Junior Bass Nation (OJBN) (ontariojuniorbass.com) has taken Barnucz considerably further and will take him further yet. In 2025, he qualified through the OJBN high school division's annual tournament to compete at Clarks Hill Lake near Augusta, Georgia. Subsequently, Trevor was named a member of Team Ontario for the Zimbabwe Youth Invitational, Dec. 7 through 9, 2026 at the African nation's Darwendale Dam. The three-nation tournament will bring together some of the best young anglers from their respective nations. Its goals extend beyond fishing into developing leadership, sportsmanship, teamwork, cultural awareness and a deeper appreciation for conservation and the outdoors.

Zimbabwe Bass Nation is providing boats and boat captains. Across the three days, Trevor will be partnered with competitors from the host nation, South Africa and Canada respectively. Total weight across three days will decide the champion.

We were working a lot closer to home this mid-July morning, launching from Normandale at 7 a.m. under smoke-tinged blue skies. The opportunity to join a pair of knowledgeable and experienced kayak anglers had been delayed a



(JEFF TRIBE PHOTO)

Norfolk County resident Trevor Barnucz loves angling in many forms, including the unique opportunities and challenges presented in fishing from a kayak.

day due to the threat of inclement weather. When holding forth on one of his favourite seminar topics, be that in his own backyard or at the Toronto Sportsmen's Show, Jason emphasizes the importance of safety first, particularly when heading out onto 'big water'. Long Point's Outer Bay certainly qualifying. My biggest takeaway on the day was the healthy respect both held for wind and water conditions and making sure both were acceptable before heading out on any water, large or small.

The senior Barnucz' three pillars for kayak fishing are always wearing one's personal flotation device, being aware of water temperature in terms of hypothermia risk, and finally, weather conditions including wind direction and velocity. The latter relates directly to water conditions both in terms of safety and comfort, the former helps define where to fish, in terms of features minimizing or moderating wind's effects. One of the advantages of kayak fishing is the ability to go places other watercraft can't in terms of depth and rocks, for example. They can handle bigger water when safe, and alternatively, pivot to either smaller lakes or streams if not. A forecast of northerly winds expected to die down mid-morning led to our launch destination and route paralleling the scenic bluffs toward Fisher's Glen and Port Dover.

The Barnucz boys took to the water in sit-on kayaks befitting their commitment to the sport, wide and stable PDL (pedal drive) units locked and loaded with holders for gear including a half-dozen poles apiece, a myriad of tackle options, nets, mounted electronics and matching red flags to help announce their presence to passing boaters. They both carried

paddles, but propulsion was mostly from bicycle-style foot pedals driving underwater propellers, both forward and reverse. That style allows anglers to keep their hands free for fishing, rather than paddling.

I was kicking it old school in a sit-in fishing model purchased on an end-of-the-year sale for \$450, underlining the approach's affordability level. There is special joy to be found while tooling across the water at 70 miles per hour in a bass boat, however while lacking that speed and sexiness, kayaks also don't come with an associated price tag or require gas, oil and maintenance.

Having fished for many years in standard kayaks, including a couple of short, light 25-pound units a son-in-law and I carry a kilometre or so into Lake Superior Provincial Park's Orphan Lake in search of brook trout, my current basic 'fishing yak' weighs under 65 pounds, easy enough to swing onto the roof of a mini-van. It has a pair of rod holders behind the seat and offers significant upgrades in access (a bigger hole for a guy to put a grandchild on his lap or struggle in and out of with a crappy knee and crappy hip), width, capacity and stability. My wife has an equivalent sit-on model, not so much for fishing as ease of access and stability.

'Getting what you pay for' translates into a larger platform for more gear on the Barnucz units, more space to change presentation, the stability to stand up and fish should one choose, netting fish more easily, lessening odds of dropping one's phone overboard, and a much better seat. No matter what you do, it's been my experience that sooner or later butt comfort becomes an issue on hard plastic.



(JEFF TRIBE PHOTO)

Jason Barnucz encourages putting safety first when fishing from a kayak, particularly on big water. He stresses always wearing one's personal flotation device, being aware of water temperature as it relates to potential hypothermia, and weather conditions including wind.

Barnucz headed to international junior bass tourney

We paddled north-easterly into a rising sun. Watching and learning from two experts, fishing quickly became fishing. Whether in a kayak or boat, structure is structure, weed patches and lines and rocky bottoms and piles holding bass in three species. As the guy with two rod holders and a camera stuck to a jerk bait and 'wacky' options, Jason and Trevor worked their way through a variety of colours and presentations, greater effort

and diversity represented in greater success. Both do fish tournaments, including kayak-specific events. This day was not about competition, but if it had been, Trevor would have finished well atop the leaderboard, moving sequentially up through a three-pound 'largie' to a three-pound, 14-ounce smallmouth bass, taken on a tiny piece of drop-shotted plastic.

A wind that instead of dying, swung to the east and hung tough pushed us back

toward Normandale at noon from a highly educational and enjoyable morning. There is an intimacy to fishing almost directly at the waterline, only enhanced by nature's surrounding beauty, a Bald Eagle soaring over the Erie shoreline's unique sand bluffs. More than bragging rights will be on the line for Trevor when he hits the unfamiliar waters of the Darwendale Dam reservoir this December. But the lessons he's learned in his own

Norfolk County backyard will definitely be going with him.

"My goal is to bring home gold. We want to bring home gold for Team Canada," he concluded. "This is the first time we've had a large youth team, and we want to pull out the victory."

To see an associated video, please search Kayak Fishing With Trevor on the Jeff Tribe The Lost Tribe YouTube channel.



(JEFF TRIBE PHOTO)

Trevor Barnucz (right) went from bragging rights to a bit of taunting with this pickerel, as enjoyed by his father Jason (left, rear).



(JEFF TRIBE PHOTO)

Delhi resident and enthusiastic angler Trevor Barnucz will be competing at the Zimbabwe Youth Invitational in December, a three-country youth bass tournament held at the African nation's Darwendale Dam reservoir.

Teeing up for TDMH Hospital Foundation fundraiser

JEFF HELSDON

Editor

Local golfers are needed for the 32nd annual TDMH Foundation Golf Tournament.

Slated for Friday, Sept. 11 at the Bridges of Tillsonburg, the event is already two-thirds full, but organizers are looking for full slate to assist with equipment purchases and the bed replacement program at Tillsonburg District Memorial Hospital (a site of Rural Roads Health Services).

The cost is \$800 per foursome, and includes lunch, dinner, golf and a cart, plus the entertaining live auction. Although organizers prefer registration in a foursome, smaller groups can be accommodated. There are a limited number of social tickets for the meal and auctions following.

Lindsay Tribble, foundation development assistant and golf committee chair, said the menu for the meal, which Chrissy's Catering is catering, is "spectacular".

"I've seen the menu, and he's gone over and above," she hinted.

The live auction features some big-ticket items like NHL and London Knights hockey tickets, a six-course dinner for eight people in the buyer's home catered by Chrissy's Catering, and a night's stay in a bed and break-

fast at an alpaca farm.

"And you get to spend time with Snickers the Donkey," said Gerry Dearing, foundation executive director, explaining Snickers is in YouTube videos that have gone viral.

Auctioneer Ewart McLaughlin always adds an entertaining element to the auction.

"You see friends and businesses bidding against each other – it's a lot of fun," Tribble said.

The night also features raffle items and a silent auction. Last year's tournament raised \$52,000, and the tournament is one of the foundation's major fundraising events of the year.

"We'd love to go above and beyond that," Dearing said.

Funds raised go towards the foundation's annual program to purchase large-cost items for the hospital, and its bed replacement program.

"It's a great community event where our community partners come together to raise funds for our 2026 capital equipment and bed replacement program," Dearing said.

Outside of golfers, organizers are also looking for raffle prizes, such as gift baskets, and items for the live and silent auctions.

For more information, contact Tribble at Lindsay.tdmhfoundation@rrhs.ca or Dearing at Gerry.tdmhfoundation@rrhs.ca.

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Tillsonburg Slo-Pitch players competing in nationals



DAVE WEAVER

Post Columnist

EYE ON SLO-PITCH

Several members of Tillsonburg Slo-Pitch will be competing in the Slo-Pitch Canadian Championships taking place in Niagara Falls at the Patrick Cummings Diamond Complex in Chipewewa from Aug. 9-15.

This is the ultimate championship!

Maddi Obar and Kayden Thornton, members of the Cooks Concrete Jays, will be playing for Ontario #1 Lynx at the tourney. Former TLSP players Kaitlin Kloet and Kasey Mckenzie are also members of the team.

The Canucks roster in men's features Jeremy Roy, a full-time time player with The Mill, and one of their part-time rostered players Logan Kloet.

Nathan Boldt is ecstatic to be playing in his first Canadians, and will be representing the Ontario #6 Smoke squad. His teammates from his Sunspace/Bill Klyn Carpentry league team, Kyle McDougall, Alex and Dallas Dalby, are also members of the team.

Jesse Froese from Cobra Chickens will be playing for the Remtech Ontario #4 contingent. Good luck to all.

On a solemn note, Brodie Chambers, a current member of Smokin Bases, passed away at end of July. Last week, a recent former member of TMSPL, Eric Creek, passed away, and in the last day, Doug Shearer, a former player from years ago passed away.

Passing on my condolences to the family and friends of these men.

Ladies' Division

It is coming down to the wire to finish for that elusive second and third place spot in the league.

Simmonds Mortgages almost pulled off the upset against the unbeaten Cooks Concrete Jays squad, but couldn't hold on to a six-run sixth-inning lead, and the result was a tie. They opened their night with a mercy over Queen Bees. Cooks, also playing a doubleheader, merced Foldens Machine Works. Sunspace/Bill Klyn Carpentry was hoping for a sweep in their doubleheader, but an upstart Resting Pitch Face squad tied them in the second half of their doubleheader. They won by mercy over Wildcats in the opener.

Sunspace/Bill Klyn Carpentry-23, Wildcats -5

Sunspace-Amanda Stubbs 4-4; Nicole Morgan 4-4, HR.

Wildcats-Bri Wong 3-3; Bridgette Homenuik 3-3.

Game Synopsis-Nicole Morgan hit for the cycle for the winners. Lead-off batter Amanda Stubbs doubled, tripled and scored three runs.

Resting Pitch Face-21, Sunspace/Bill Klyn Carpentry-21

Resting-Sara Sahn 4-4; Katie Depew 4-4.

Sunspace-Gemma Ladosz 5-5; Kalyn Salmon 4-4; Nicole Morgan Gr Slam HR.

Game Synopsis - Restinghad to score four runs in the seventh to tie it. Sara Sahn led off the rally with a run scoring triple, and Nicole Morgan hit a grand slam over the Annandale 3 fence for Sunspace.

Cooks Concrete Jays-22, Foldens Machine Works-5

Cooks-Mayra Baelde 4-4; Maddi Obar 4-4.

Foldens-Nancy Teixeira 2-2; Mel Redekopp 2-3.

Game Synopsis-Mayra Baelde reached and

scored in all four plate appearances for the winners.

Simmonds Mortgages-10, Cooks Concrete Jays-10

Simmonds-Tracey Carruthers 4-4; Forrestt Ashley 2-2.

Cooks-Melissa Hughes 3-4; Heidi Hopper 2-2.

Game Synopsis-Simmonds carried a six-run lead into the sixth, but the Jays rallied with a six-run rally. Jessica Dyck had a triple in the frame, and Rachel Boyd hit a lead-off triple in the top of the inning for Simmonds.

Men's Division 1

Congrats to The 1,2 Seal Insulation Hawks who have captured the regular season title. They had a good run this past week, defeating the Cubs and Cobra Chickens, as well as a double-header sweep of Sunspace/Bill Klyn Carpentry on Friday night. Hit N Run won a big matchup up with The Mill and also defeated the Cubs. Leeswood Construction Dirty Mitts doubled up on a short-handed Mill squad.

1-2 Seal Insulation Hawks-16, Cobra Chickens-15

Hawks-Cam Bueckert 4-4, HR; Peter Epp 4-4, HR; Daniel Enns 2 HR; Evan Bueckert HR; John Klassen HR.

Cobra-Wyatt Blatz 5-5, 2HR; Nathan Froese 4-5; Nicolas Blatz HR.

Game Synopsis-The Hawks came from behind in the seventh, scoring three with Jake Klassen delivering the walk-off hit.

1,2 Seal Insulation Hawks-30, Sunspace/Bill Klyn Carpentry-15

Hawks-Daniel Enns 5-5; Peter Epp 5-5, 2HR; Jesse Hiebert HR; Johnny Klassen HR.

Sunspace-Ryan Carroll 3-3; Ryan Miller 4-4. Rob Stortz HR

Game Synopsis-Jesse Hiebert, Daniel Enns and Peter Epp all crossed the plate five times.

1,2 Seal Insulation Hawks-26, Sunspace/Bill Klyn Carpentry-13

Hawks-Johnny Epp 4-4; Evan Bueckert 4-4; Johnny Klassen 2HR; Ben Bueckert HR; Jesse Hiebert 2HR.

Sunspace-Kyle McDougall 4-4; Rob Stortz 3-4; Nathan Boldt 2HR; Jake Millar 2HR.

Game Synopsis-Jesse Hiebert homered in consecutive at-bats, and scored four runs for the winners.

1,2 Seal Insulation Hawks-25, Cubs-12

Hawks-Johnny Epp 5-5, 3HR; John Klassen 4-5; Evan Bueckert 2HR; Ben Bueckert HR; Cam Bueckert HR.

Cubs-Chris Dyck 3-4; Octavia Teichroeb 3-4; Jamie Teichroeb HR; Dave Peters HR; Ivan Dyck HR.

Game Synopsis-Clean-up batter Johnny Epp lived up to his role, homering three times and singling twice.

Leeswood Construction Dirty Mitts-25, The Mill-12

Leeswood-Colin McDonald 4-4; Joe Fansher 5-5, HR; Thom Puhr HR.

The Mill-Steve Byron 5-6; Josh Stubbs 5-6 HR.

Game Synopsis-Leeswood scored runs in every inning but the third against the shorthanded Mill team. Joe Fansher homered and scored five runs for the winners.

Hit N Run-17, Cubs-14

Hit N Run-Diedrich Klassen 4-4, HR; Johnny Unger 4-4, GrSlam; Peter Klassen HR; Daniel Unger HR; Franky Klassen HR.

Cubs-Joel Dyck 3-4; Leonard Fehr 3-4; Ivan Dyck HR.

Game Synopsis-Hit N Run broke the game open with a seven-run fourth, Johnny Unger hit a grand slam in the rally.

Hit N Run-17, The Mill-10

Hit N Run-Jacob Froese 4-4, HR; Jacob Klassen 3-4; Martin Klassen 2HR; John Wiebe HR; Daniel Unger HR.

The Mill-Steve Derks 4-5; Mike Supinski 4-5; Bryan Deblaire HR; Bob Evans HR.

CONTINUED TO PAGE 19

LADIES	W	L	T	PTS
COOKS CONCRETE JAYS	22	0	1	45
SIMMONDS MORTGAGES	15	5	1	31
SUNSPACE/BILL KLYN CARPENTRY	13	6	2	28
FOLDENS MACHINE WORKS	12	8	1	25
RESTING PITCH FACE	6	14	1	13
WILDCATS	3	18	0	6
QUEEN BEES	0	20	0	0

MEN'S DIVISION 3	W	L	T	PTS
SLUGGERS	14	4	1	29
JOHN BEERE	10	8	1	21
BEER BOMBERS	9	9	1	19
SANDY SHORE BREW JAYS	9	8	0	18
NAPA/COWARD'S PHARMACY MAULERS	9	10	0	18
WOLFPACK	6	13	1	13
BIRD'S GOLF	6	11	0	12

MEN'S DIVISION 1	W	L	T	PTS
1,2 SEAL INSULATION HAWKS	17	2	0	34
HIT N RUN	10	8	0	20
LEESWOOD CONSTRUCTION DIRTY MITTS	9	8	1	19
COBRA CHICKENS	9	10	0	18
THE MILL	8	8	0	16
CUBS	6	10	1	13
SUNSPACE/BILL KLYN CARPENTRY	3	16	0	6

MEN'S DIVISION 4	W	L	T	PTS
N.I.M.	17	1	0	34
BRICKHOUSE BOYS	12	5	1	25
R.L.P. MELANIE LUKSYS	7	10	2	16
DIAMOND KINGS	7	13	0	14
SMOKIN BASES	6	13	0	12
TORNADOES	5	12	1	11

MEN'S DIVISION 2	W	L	T	PTS
PELICANS	14	3	0	28
STRIKE FORCE	11	7	0	22
MAVERICKS	11	6	0	22
ALL SEASONS ESTATE CARE BANDITS	10	6	1	21
AT MY PLAYGROUND/IQT LOGISTICS	8	6	1	17
STICKY BANDITS	8	9	0	16
QUACKHEADS	7	10	0	14
PAPA'S AUTO SPA	5	11	1	11
DESIGNATED DRINKERS	5	12	0	10
UNDERHILL FARM SUPPLY	4	13	1	9



Tillsonburg Slo-Pitch players competing in nationals

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 18

Game Synopsis-John Wiebe was a triple shy of hitting for the cycle, he drove in four runs and scored three runs for Hit N Run.

Men’s Division 2

Designated Drinkers edged out Papa's Auto Spa, despite playing with just eight

Their fate was a little different when they played with eight against the first-place Pelicans, losing by one in the last inning. Papa's lost another one-run decision game as Mavericks came out on the winning side. All Seasons Estate Care Bandits came from behind to knock off At My Playground/IQT Logistics by four. Sticky Bandits upset second-place Strike Force. Quackheads continued to move up in the standings after their victory over Underhill Farm Supply.

All Seasons Estate Care Bandits-16, At My Playground/IQT Logistics-12

Bandits-William Loewen 2-2; Aaron Hildebrandt 3-4; Jake Sawatsky HR.

AMP-Marshall Baker 3-4; Remi Dejaegher 3-4; Duncan McLean HR.

Game Synopsis-A six-run sixth helped push the Bandits to the win, Nicholas Klassen hit a two-run triple in the rally.

Quackheads-18, Underhill Farm Supply-16

Quackheads-Bob Long 4-4; Scott Mudford 4-4.

Underhill-Oscar Reddecopp 4-5, HR; Troy Se-

bok 4-4; Curtis Chambers HR.

Game Synopsis-The first two in Quackheads' order accounted for eight of their runs, with Scott Mudford and Bob Long each crossing four times.

Sticky Bandits-18, Strike Force-10

Bandits-Jeff Heide 4-4; Bowen Thiessen 4-4.

Strike-Jacob Enns 4-4; Johnny Klassen 3-4.

Game Synopsis-Jeff Heide scored four runs for the winners.

Mavericks-11, Papa's Auto Spa-10

Mavericks-Brett Sinden 2-3; Ryan Landry 2-3.

Papa's-Jake Rempel 3-3; Shawn Brooks 2-3.

Game Synopsis-A four-run seventh by the Mavericks decided this one, Ryan Sinden came around to score the winning run.

Designated Drinkers-13, Papa's Auto Spa-12

Drinkers-Darryl Barker 5-5; Matt Barker 3-5; Kyle Postma HR.

Papa's-Peyton Harris 4-4; Zack Vanderhaeghe 4-5; Dylan Denomy HR.

Game Synopsis-Despite fielding just eight, the Drinkers were able to record the walk-off win, with Johnny Abele plating Darryl Barker. Kyle Postma had a triple and three runs scored for the winners.

Men’s Division 3

Sluggers are the regular-season Champs, los-

ing just four games this season. Sandy Shore Brew Jays broke a long winless streak edging out the Wolfpack by one on Friday night. They are three points out of second, and have two games on hand on John Beere. NAPA/Coward's Pharmacy Maulers mercied Bird's Golf and beat them by nine to move into a tie for fourth with Sandy Shore. John Beere slowed their roll on Friday night beating them by 13. Wolfpack rounded out the division wins with a victory over Beer Bombers.

NAPA/Coward's Pharmacy Maulers-24, Bird's Golf-15

NAPA-Devon Outerbridge 4-5; Matt Bowers 4-4.

Bird's-Josh Townsend 4-5; Charles Zarb 4-4; Jake Froese HR.

Game Synopsis-Devon Outerbridge scored four runs for the winners.

NAPA/Coward's Pharmacy Maulers-17, Bird's Golf-2

NAPA-Dillon Outerbridge 3-3; Matt Bowers 3-4, HR; Darren Swick HR;

Bird's-Josh Townsend 3-3.

Game Synopsis-Matt Bowers and Darren Swick each hit three run homers for the winners.

John Beere-24, NAPA/Coward's Pharmacy Maulers-11

John Beere-Nathan Sullivan 5-5; Shaun Elliott 5-5.

NAPA-Paul Swance 3-3; Craig Boucher 2-3.

Game Synopsis-Nathan Sullivan scored four runs for the winners.

Wolfpack-20, Beer Bombers-15

Wolfpack-Kevin Hmeil 5-6; Rick Klassen 5-6.

Bombers-Kyle Brezaslki 4-4; Kaleb Kloepper 4-5.

Game Synopsis-Wolfpack scored runs in every inning but the fourth, Kevin Hmeil and Ryan Copping each scored four runs.

Sandy Shore Brew Jays-22, Wolfpack-21

Sandy Shore-Mike Schmeltz 4-5; Brad Schapp 4-5.

Wolfpack-Matt Pitt 7-7; Dustin Smith 4-6; Ryan Copping 3HR.

Game Synopsis-Mike Schmeltz scored four runs for the winners.

Men’s Division 4

Brickhouse Boys recorded an eight-run victory over Diamond Kings.

Brickhouse Boys-21, Diamond Kings-13

Brickhouse-Nathan Bridges 5-5; Aiden Hoshal 4-5; Luke Thomas 2HR; Shawn Knelsen HR.

Diamond-Ben Goertzen 4-4; Frank Redecop 4-4.

Game Synopsis-Luke Thomas led off two innings with homers, Shawn Knelsen was a double shy of hitting for the cycle.

Red Sox in free fall, losing streak extended to eight

GRAHAM NICKERSON

Post Contributor

The facts are uncommonly clear: A ball club with an ERA of 7.26, issuing an average 6.4 walks a game and a combined batting average of 0.289 won't win you many ball games in the Southern Counties League. The play of the Red Sox has become so anemic in their last three games they have been outscored 25-1.

Friday's double header against the Simcoe Seniors was the same old story. Paxton Bale made an emergency start in game one and pitched to the tune of five innings, eight hits, two strike-outs and six earned runs.

The Seniors struck in the first with a lead-off double by Shawn Knelsen, followed by Ben Remple's base hit to center that scored Knelsen. Remple trotted home on a two-out error by second baseman Kent Collings.

Simcoe's man on the mound was Jay Knelsen, who combined his fading change-up and devastating curve, to baffle Tillsonburg's bats through four innings, only surrendering two inconsequential hits in his start.

The deficit remained at two going into the Simcoe fifth when the Seniors tacked on five runs. The rally started with the first three batters reaching on a single, error and fielder's choice. A sac fly scored one run, then the bases were loaded again after a hit by pitch. Steven Dunn crushed a double to the warning track for two runs, followed by little Sammy Smith poking a ball to left for two additional tallies.

Tim Thiessen relieved Bale to start the sixth and although the right hander struck out the side, three more Seniors came across to push Simcoe over the limit and the Red Sox were forced to waive the white flag.

Simcoe.....200 052 – 10 9 0
Tillsonburg.....000 000 – 0 4 5

Game two more competitive, but still defeated

The back half of the double header saw teenage phenom Odin Oatway in the pitcher's box for Tillsonburg. The two-

TILLSONBURG	AB	R	H	PO	A	E
RACHAR, SS	3	0	1	0	2	1
OATWAY, RF, CF	2	0	0	2	0	0
COLLINGS, 2B	3	0	0	2	1	2
DAVIS, 3B	2	0	1	2	2	0
MINERS, LF	2	0	0	1	0	0
PROUSE, CF	2	0	0	1	0	0
MORRIS, 1B	2	0	1	4	0	0
WEST, C	2	0	1	5	0	0
BALE, P, RF	2	0	0	1	0	1
TOTALS	20	0	4	18	5	5

Summary: **ER**, Simcoe 9, Tillsonburg 0; **LOB**, Simcoe 10, Tillsonburg 2; **2B**, S. Knelsen, Dunn; **RBI**, Rempel, Hare, Barnard, Dunn (2), Smith (2); **W**, J. Knelsen; **L**, Bale; **BB**, Bale (1), Theissen (3); **K**, J. Knelsen (3), Smith (1), Bale (2), Thiessen (3); **Time**, 1:58

way star not only proved that he can swat the ball at the plate, but also sit down batters on the mound.

The game was deadlocked at zeros after two innings before Simcoe struck with two in their half of the third. Jackson Smith belted a ball over the short porch in right for a solo round tripper to lead off the inning. A walk, passed ball and fielding error put a runner on third with one out. Greg Zelem sent one back up the middle to plate the second run.

In the Tillsonburg fourth, Rob Verhoeve led off with a smack to center. The big left fielder showed off his speed, swiping second, then took third on a wild pitch. Verhoeve's flirtation with fire finally got him burned when trying to score on another ball to the backstop that had him out at the plate. Collings notched a base hit and scored on a missed ball in the outfield.

The Red Sox looked to tie the game later in the fourth on an infield single by Owen West that would have scored a runner from third, but an egregious out call at first stopped the 'Burg

TILLSONBURG	AB	R	H	PO	A	E
RACHAR, SS	1	0	1	0	0	0
OATWAY, P	2	0	0	0	0	0
VERHOEVE, LF	2	0	1	0	0	1
COLLINGS, 2B, P	2	1	1	1	0	1
*LISTAR, PH	1	0	0	0	0	0
DAVIS, 3B	3	0	0	2	3	0
MINERS, EH	1	0	0	0	0	0
PROUSE, CF	1	0	0	1	0	0
WEST, C	2	0	1	11	0	0
MORRIS, 1B	2	0	0	3	0	0
THEISSEN, RF	2	0	0	0	0	1
TOTALS *Pinch hitter	19	1	4	18	3	2

Summary: **ER**, Simcoe 4, Tillsonburg 0; **LOB**, Simcoe 7, Tillsonburg 6; **2B**, Zelem; **HR**, J. Smith; **RBI**, J. Smith, Zelem; **W**, S. Knelsen; **L**, Oatway; **BB**, S. Knelsen (3), Oatway (2), Collings (1); **K**, S. Knelsen (9), Oatway (8), Collings (2); **Time**, 2:13

rally dead in its tracks. Tillsonburg's disillusionment with the quality of the field umpire finally boiled over. Manager Graham Nickerson stormed onto the field and went nose to nose with the man in blue to loudly voice his displeasure with the run-erasing judgement.

The momentum firmly swung in Simcoe's favour after the rhubarb as the visitors brought in two in the fifth, and their final run in the sixth. The Sox went out with a whimper in their last two turns at bat with only Iron Ring Rachar, the team's leader in batting, rattling off a single but to no avail.

The Red Sox set their sights on the year end tournament Aug. 14 and 15, which takes place in Simcoe.

Simcoe.....002 021 – 5 8 1
Tillsonburg.....000 100 – 1 4 2

MINOR SPORTS

SCRAPBOOK

(STUART BLOWER PHOTOS)



Grapplers Grove's Dylan Desroches, left, and Malik Johnson, right, run for the ball in a recent U-6 game.



Johnny Yarmie of McFarland Rowlands Insurance (blue) tries to take the ball from an Attain Health player in U-6 action.



Optimists on Broadway and Optimists International players scramble for the ball in a U-8 game last week.



Tillsonburg Glass and Meridian Health players give it their all as they race for the ball during a U-8 game.

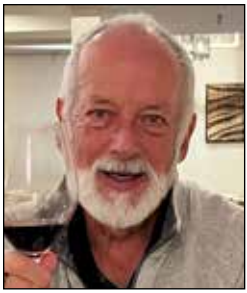


Petro Canada's goalie and a defender do their best to stop the efforts of a Shaw's Ice Cream forward during a U-12 game.



Allard Chiropractic's Anthony Behome is in the middle of the action in an U-12 game against East Elgin Concrete Forming.

Witness to a 50-year-old mystery



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

PAUL KNOWLES

Tillsonburg Post Columnist

Laurie Wickens passed away last month.

I know what you are thinking: “That’s a very odd opening sentence for a travel feature.” I agree.

But the thing is, not many people have used a unique, personal experience to create a travel destination, a museum that has drawn visitors for two decades. But Laurie Wickens, and a few dedicated friends, did exactly that.

And three years ago, I had the chance to visit their museum, officially the “Shag Harbour UFO Interpretive Centre,” founded in 2006 by the Shag Harbour UFO Incident Society, and until his passing in July, usually staffed by Laurie Wickens. And that’s where I met him.

But the story goes back decades further, to the night of October 4, 1967. On that evening, a number of Shag Harbour, Nova Scotia residents saw something they could not explain, and would never forget. One of those witnesses was Laurie Wickens.

What they saw – and this was corroborated by several witnesses – was a flying object, about 60 feet in diameter, with flashing lights. It was flying above the waters of Shag Harbour, and then crashed into the sea, and disappeared.

Wickens, then a 17-year-old kid, and he had the presence of mind get to a pay phone and call the RCMP to report the incident.

Whoever answered the phone at the local RCMP office was skeptical. Instead of asking for more details, Wickens was asked if he had been drinking! The call ended. But a few minutes later, before he left the area, the phone rang. Turned

out, the cops had been getting quite a few calls since Wickens’, and they all agreed that something mysterious was happening. Later on, the testimony of Pan Am pilots added to the veracity of the sighting – they had seen an object that matched the description flying over the Gulf of Maine that night.

Wickens’ answer to the return call from the RCMP? “I told you I wasn’t lying.”

In the end, the Shag Harbour UFO became officially noted as “the only government-documented UFO crash in the world.” So even the government agreed that something “unidentified” happened that night.

But to this day, no one knows what, exactly.

It’s probably important to note that Shag Harbour is located close to the southern tip of Nova Scotia. It’s 65 km south of Yarmouth, due east of Portland, Maine, and not all that distant from Boston.

Those proximities are probably important, because while Laurie Wickens and his colleagues were happy to talk about the Shag Harbour UFO, they didn’t insist that it was anything other-worldly.

Wickens told me that almost immediately following the crash, a large American navy vessel sailed into Shag Harbour. Townspeople were instantly aware that the place was suddenly teeming with American and Canadian military officers, and a U.S. Navy dive team was also in town.

The kerfuffle lasted for about five days. And just as quickly as the American contingent had arrived, they were gone – the ship sailed away, the uniforms were gone, and everything was back to normal.

Including, it was eventually determined, the sea bed of Shag Harbour. No evidence was ever found – or at least, ever acknowledged by powers that be – of any crashed flying object, unidentified or not. A spokesperson for Canada’s National Defence Headquarters stated, “The Rescue Coordination Centre conducted a preliminary investigation and discounted the possibility



(PAUL KNOWLES PHOTO)

UFO witness Laurie Wickens, who helped turn that experience into a quirky tourist destination.

ties that the sighting was produced by an aircraft, flares, floats, or any other known objects.” Thus, by definition: an Unidentified Flying Object.

Local people, including Wickens – and occasional visiting UFO enthusiasts – continued to search, but to no avail.

There is a bit of a contradiction between the museum, and the actual opinions of Laurie Wickens and his colleagues. The museum includes a lot of UFO theory, including figures that look remarkably like E.T.

But the witnesses and experts I met hold to one of two other possibilities – either the Americans spirited away a wrecked, experimental craft, or the Shag Harbour UFO was an amphibious vessel that left under its own power.

Either way, those in the know point straight south of the border for their answer, concluding that an American military vessel that had no business entering Canadian airspace or water, did so anyway.

Wickens was a fisherman by profession, but spent countless hours at the museum. His obituary, marking his

passing in July, stated that he “was a huge part of the Shag Harbour UFO Incident Society and museum.”

Another publication, *The Canadian Gothic*, wrote, “For many Canadians, and for countless people around the world fascinated by the unexplained, Laurie was much more than the primary witness to the Shag Harbour Incident. He was the reason the story endured. Laurie’s passing marks the loss of one of the last living connections to one of Canada’s greatest mysteries. His story, and the mystery that followed him for nearly six decades, will continue to inspire curiosity for generations to come.”

The Shag Harbour museum is one of the quirkiest, and most charming, small museums I’ve had the privilege to visit. I hope that it can continue to operate, after having lost one of its most valuable human resources, UFO witness and eager story-teller Laurie Wickens.

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.



Just the fact, folks.

(PAUL KNOWLES PHOTO)



A painting that reflects the memories of the UFO witnesses.

(PAUL KNOWLES PHOTO)

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A needle

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A keyboard

What runs but never walks?
Water

What has a heart that doesn't beat?
An artichoke

What has ears but can't hear?
Corn

What building has the most stories?
The library

What can you catch but not throw?
A cold

What has a ring but no finger?
A telephoners?

What is easy to get into but hard to get out of?
Trouble

SUDOKU

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		1		6			8	
		8	4	2	5	1	3	

Solutions on Page 27

Level: Beginner

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FREDDIE

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

WORD SEARCH

ON THE ROAD

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

AMBULANCE

BOTTLENECK

BOULEVARD

COMMUTER

CONGESTION

CONSTRUCTION

CROSSWALK

GRIDLOCK

HIGHWAY

INTERSECTION

MOTORCYCLE

OVERPASS

PEDESTRIAN

POLICE

ROUNDBOUT

RUSH HOUR

SPEEDING

STOP SIGN

TAILGATING

TRAFFIC LIGHT

TURN VEHICLES

Senior Centre plans waistbands-optional FUN-draiser

Dust off your flowiest fabrics and dig out your chunkiest beads and bangles! Tillsonburg Senior Centre is hosting a fall FUNdraiser, and waistbands are optional.

"We're calling it Caftans and Cocktails," said Senior Centre Administrator Nancy Puhr-Slingerland. "And it's going to be an evening of fun, food and dancing with an emphasis on fabulous fashion and ultimate comfort."

Caftans and Cocktails will be held at The Carriage Hall (25 Brock Street in Tillsonburg) on Saturday, Sept. 12 at 7 pm, and while proceeds will support ongoing programs and activities for the 50-plus crowd, anyone age 19-plus is welcome. Tickets are \$45 each (advance only) and include a signature cocktail on arrival, an assortment of hot and cold finger foods throughout the night prepared by Marcel Rosehart and The Carriage Hall staff, music and dancing provided by Black Creek Music, and door prizes. Additional cocktails are available at cost, and there will be a penny auction with great prizes.

"We're also going to have a prize for the best-themed caftan," said Puhr-Slingerland. "So, we're encouraging people to be creative and have fun with their outfit choices for the evening."

Now, you may find yourself asking, "What the heck is a caftan?" Well, if you're of a certain vintage, you may remember the 1970s TV show *Three's Company* and the iconic character of Mrs. Roper. The sassy, sardonic wife of apartment manager Stanley Roper was played by actress Audra Lindley, and her character Helen had, shall we say, a very particular sense of style.

"Mrs. Roper's signature look was a fabulous explosion of bright floral or geometric prints, billowy fabrics, oversized glasses, noisy plastic beads and bangles, and a perfectly-styled halo of curly red hair," said Puhr-Slingerland. "If you've never seen *Three's Company*, I encourage you to Google her, because she's a legend."

Although she was a supporting character on the show,

Mrs. Roper's character became a style icon who is still celebrated today in theme parties commonly called Roper Romps.

"Mrs. Roper didn't follow fashion trends," said Puhr-Slingerland. "She floated past them – with a cocktail in one hand and snarky comeback in the other. She knew exactly who she was and her clothes were an extension of her decision to live life out loud. That's why we're hosting caftans and cocktails. We want people to have a fun, fabulous and unapologetically comfortable evening with friends."

Acknowledging that not everyone has a caftan hanging in their closet, Puhr-Slingerland had several suggestions to ensure you're properly-attired for the night.

"Thrift stores are a great place to find inexpensive caftans, but they're also readily available and quite inexpensive on websites such as Temu and Amazon. If you don't have an Amazon account and you want to buy a caftan for the event, stop by the Senior Centre during business hours and select one and we'll order it for you. Payment is due when you place your order, and we'll call you when it's available for pick-up."

If buying a caftan isn't on your bingo card, Puhr-Slingerland said any comfortable, flowy clothing that makes you feel your best will do.

"Sundresses, muumuus or even flowy rompers are great choices," she said. "Really, it's about saying farewell to summer in a fun way that's decidedly un-serious. Getting dressed up and going out has its place, but let's face it: Heels, nylons and form-fitting outfits aren't exactly synonymous with comfort. Sandals and a garment with no waistband is where it's at."

For tickets to Caftans and Cocktails, stop by Tillsonburg Senior Centre (45 Hardy Avenue) Monday through Friday, 8:30 am – 4 pm. or call 519-688-2520 for more information.

"Get your tickets soon for a night of retro glamour, great music, and wonderful company in support of a fantastic cause," said Puhr-Slingerland. "We cannot wait to see you at our Roper romp!"



(JEFF HELSDON PHOTO)

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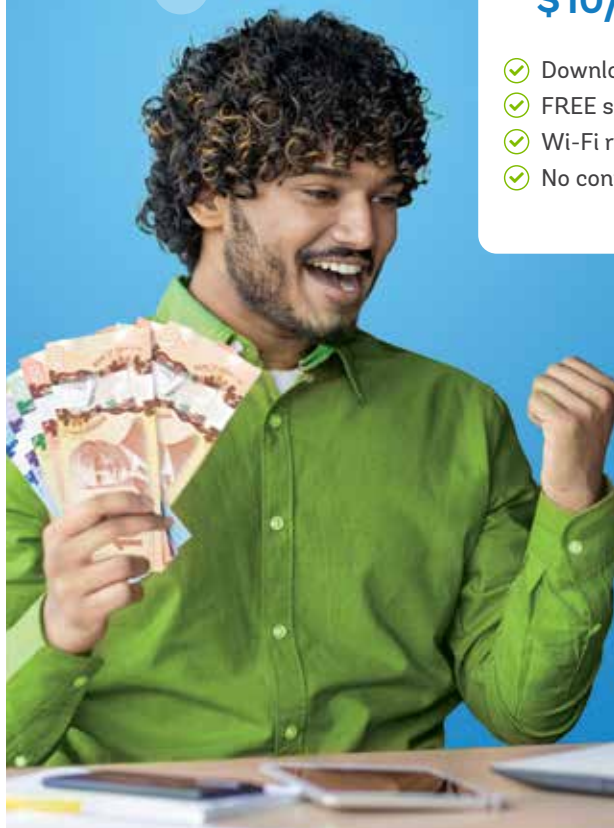


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Nzemeka adds his name to run for councillor

JEFF HELSDON

Editor

A healthcare and community service professional has filed his papers to run for Tillsonburg council.

Felix Nzemeka, 45, is studying to be a physician's assistant, and brings with him a "a strong commitment to serving people, strengthening communities, and supporting those who may need assistance."

"I believe that effective public service begins with humility, listening, accountability, and a genuine willingness to serve," he said.

Nzemeka volunteers at a local nursing home, providing Christian gospel teaching and companionship to residents. He has also worked with individuals experiencing homelessness and addiction.

"I have worked with individuals facing difficult circumstances and provided free transportation to appointments for individuals who require assistance getting to essential services," he explained of his work that is done in collaboration

with Oxford County. "I support seniors in their homes by providing home-care services that help promote safety, independence, dignity, and quality of life."

Discussions about the idea of running for council began for Nzemeka in early July, and he has been following council meetings.

"My approach: listen first, understand the facts, ask difficult questions, work collaboratively, and remain accountable to the people we serve," he said.

His three priorities, if elected, are:

1. Healthy community - Healthcare access, mental health, seniors' services, youth development, family support, recreation, and wellness. We must improve transportation, accessibility, sidewalks, social connection, housing, and health-care navigation.

2. Safe and caring community - Public safety, homelessness, affordable housing, emergency preparedness, neighbourhood improvement, and stronger partnerships. A safe community is one where children can play, seniors feel secure, and every resident is treated with

dignity.

3. Strong economy - Agriculture, small businesses, downtown revitalization, job creation, investment, tourism, infrastructure, and responsible taxation must work together. We should encourage private-sector investment and business development while protecting taxpayers and our small-town quality of life.

Nzemeka said three priorities will guide him: can people afford to live here, can the town's infrastructure support growth, and can quality services be provided without unsustainable tax increases.

"Together, we can build a stronger, safer, more inclusive, and more prosperous Tillsonburg for today and for the generations to come," he said. "I believe we must continue looking beyond today, and develop a clear vision for Tillsonburg over the next 10 years. Our community is changing, and responsible leadership requires us to anticipate future needs rather than simply respond to present challenges."



Felix Nzemeka.

(CONTRIBUTED PHOTO)

Parker running again for town council

JEFF HELSDON

Editor

Two-term councillor Chris Parker is seeking his third term.

Parker filed his papers on Aug. 4 to run again as councillor. The life-long Tillsonburg resident is the production control manager at a local automotive plant. He volunteers as president of Tillsonburg Men's Alo-Pitch and is

Referee In Chief for Tillsonburg and South Oxford Minor Hockey.

Asked why he was running again for council, Parker answered, "I decided that I would like to run again because there are a number of outstanding projects that I would like to see through such as the proposed recreation facility on Mall Road, the implementation of the Rec-

reation Master Plan, and the implementation of some of the Transportation Master Plan."

Parker's goals for the coming term are:

- Infrastructure investment and upkeep
- Transportation safety
- Increasing recreational opportunities

"If re-elected, I will continue to approach the role with integ-

rity, honesty, and a commitment to fiscal responsibility," he said. "I have always been a firm believer that taxpayers' money should be treated as if it was my own."

Asked about his proudest achievement with council over the last four years, Parker was upfront in saying decisions are made by council as a whole, and not individual councillors.

"However, being able to work with staff and committees on projects such as the review and update of the Sports Hall of Fame Criteria and the Town Sponsorship/Naming Policy, as well as the work that was done by the Affordable and Attainable Housing committee on the 31 Earle St. Project," he added as what he found satisfying over the last four years.


Knights of Columbus

"We All Win"
MAY 2026 WINNERS



David Dockx
Randy & Deb Reby
Richard Deroo
Albert White
Tom Graham

50/50 WINNERS


Knights of Columbus

"We All Win" - JULY 2026 WINNERS

Colin Campbell • Anne-Marie Morris
John Murray • Lowell Hawkins
Kathryn Barbon



The Tillsonburg Minor Soccer Club (TMSC) has the following open position:

**CLUBHOUSE HALL/
CANTEEN TENDER**

Please go to the TMSC website home page
www.tillsonburgsoccer.ca
to view the requirement documents to
apply for the open position.


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*Lowest price of the year is the lowest price of the year to date in 2026.

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AUGUST

AUGUST 14 & 28 | 1 - 4 PM
**KEN LIGHTEART AND THE
 NORTSHORE RAMBLERS DANCE**
**Tillsonburg Legion, 16 Durham St,
 Tillsonburg, ON**

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

AUGUST 16 | 2 PM
**TILLSONBURG LEGION
 DECORATION DAY VETERAN
 SERVICE**

Tillsonburg Cemetery

All welcome to attend. Please bring a lawn chair should you need at seat.

SEPTEMBER

SEPTEMBER 5 | 10 AM - 12 PM
MESSY CHURCH
"ALL TOGETHER NOW"
**St.Paul's United Church, 88 Bidwell
 St.,Tillsonburg**

New craft centers, music, games, snacks and lunch. All welcome. Children accompanied by an adult please.

SEPTEMBER 12 | 9 AM - 4 PM
(Rain Date: Sunday, September 13)
**OPEN HOUSE AND FAMILY FUN
 DAY**

**Tillsonburg Regional Airport, 244411
 Airport Road, Tillsonburg**

Join the Canadian Harvard Aircraft Association for its biggest event of the year, their Wings & Wheels Family Fun Day, September 13. (Rain date: Sept 14). World War II Harvard aircraft, along with hundreds of classic cars will be on display in one location. Bring your classic car or peruse those brought by others. Harvard flights will be available all day long. A great day's outing.

Activities:

- Opportunities for Harvard flight experiences (While pre-booking flights is not necessary, it is recommended. Contact crewflights@harvards.com to ensure your seat)
- Hangar tours and aircraft displays
- Fundraising garage sale & book sale
- Food trucks

All types of vehicles are welcome. If you are bringing a vehicle for display, registering your vehicle upon arrival on-site is highly recommended.

In case of inclement weather, check their Facebook page for RAIN DATE updates. Cost: Cash donation, Contact: info@harvards.com / 519-842-9922, For more info: www.harvards.com

SEPTEMBER 16 | STARTS 11 AM
136TH LANGTON FALL FAIR

Langton arena

Parade will begin at 11 am with opening ceremonies to follow. CWL luncheon at the Langton Community Centre. Also Baby Show, Talent Show, Tobacco Tying Contest and Car and Tractor Show! Also exhibits for Preserves, Baking, Homecrafts etc For adult and student prize lists call or text Carol 519-875-2973 or Susan 519-427-6314

SEPTEMBER 19
**TILLSONBURG LEGION GOLF
 TOURNAMEN**
Tillsonview Fairways

Choose your tee time at the Legion for \$70 per person (includes hst) payable when you pick your tee off time. Includes 18 holes golf and meal. Cart extra. For more information call 519-842-5281.

ONGOING CLASSES, CLUBS & ORGANIZATIONS

WEDNESDAYS | 6 PM
FRIDAYS | 10 AM
INTRODUCTION TO TAI CHI
Canadian Tai Chi Academy Tillsonburg
St Paul's United Church, Fox Alley
South entrance, off Ridout Street.
 Wednesdays at 6:00 pm and Fridays at 10 am for Practice. From May through September, Friday class moves outdoors to Memorial Park near the Picnic Shelter at 10 am. For information: tillsonburg@canadiantaichiacademy.org, 519-688-2877, 519-983-3381, & canadiantaichiacademy.org. The next 4 month class begins Wednesday, September 9th. Everyone Welcome. Improve your Health.

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

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

STARTS 7 PM
**THE TILLSONBURG & DISTRICT
 HISTORICAL SOCIETY PRESENTS
 MUSIC ON THE LAWN**
Annandale N.H.S. , 30 Tillson Avenue

AUGUST 16 – “North Shore Ramblers”

BEGINNING AT 6:30 PM

AUGUST 23 – “George Fulop”

AUGUST 30 – “Blue Sky” – Archie Wright

Bring your own lawn chairs. (Music may be cancelled at short notice due to weather. Call 226-970-1432 for cancellations.) Goodwill offering will be taken.

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

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

MONDAYS | 7 - 9 PM
**MODERN SQUARE DANCING IS
 FOR YOU!**

Thames Valley Dance Club

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

**2ND TUES. OF MONTH (SEPT. TO MAY) |
 2 - 4 PM**
**4TH TUES. OF MONTH (SEPT. TO MAY) |
 7 - 9 PM**

OXFORD PHILATELIC SOCIETY
**Church of the Epiphany, 560 Dundas
 Street, Woodstock Ontario N4S 1C7**

If you have never belonged to a stamp club, now's the time. Meet new friends, grow your knowledge and collection. Contact: Don Eaton dheaton3e3@gmail.com. Website: http://www.rpsc.org/chapters/oxford

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

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

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

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

North Broadway Baptist Church

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

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

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

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

COMING EVENTS

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

PLATTSVILLE & DISTRICT HERITAGE SOCIETY

2026 EXHIBIT

- HOLIDAYS & CELEBRATIONS THAT BRING US TOGETHER

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

Donations accepted.

Refreshments. For private viewing email plattsvillegionbranch526@gmail.com or call 519.535.1417.

1ST AND 3RD TUES. OF MONTH

TILLSONBURG LIONS

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

1ST WED. OF MONTH | 7 PM

WAGNER MEMORIAL TEETERVILLE LEGION BRANCH 526 - MEMBERS GENERAL MEETING

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

Not a member? Contact

us to join. For More Information Call, the Legion 519-443-5588. www.teetervillelegionbranch526.ca

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

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

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

VON OXFORD SUPPORTIVE CARE PROGRAMS

Navigating any form of grief can feel overwhelming; however, with the right support, guidance, and education, individuals can discover a pathway to help in the healing of grief.

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

Contact us today to learn more about VON Oxford Supportive Care Programs:

Email: oxford.griefsupport@von.ca

Phone: 1-888-866-7518

All Programs are Free-of-charge.

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4. Corn
5. Germany
6. Loblaw's, Empire Company Limited (Sobeys), & Metro Inc.
7. An eye
8. Four
9. Botswana
10. Lemon

SUDOKU (AUGUST 13)

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

AUGUST 6 SUDOKU

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

Level: Beginner

In the August 6th edition, we mistakenly published the Sukdou solution without the puzzle. Here is last week's puzzle and solution for our Sudoku fans that missed it last week!

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

My relationship with growing dahlias



CRYSTAL TROJEK

Tillsonburg Post Columnist

IT'S STILL JUST DIRT

There was a dahlia who lived well in the arms of the good earth. Its heart beat strong as warm summer days arrived, it met dragonflies and hummingbirds who daily kissed its bright face and green buds, it drank raindrops no matter if they were few or many.

It shone in the sunlight on dew drenched mornings, as the days began to shorten. The dahlia was not afraid, it lived gratefully through every joyous minute, and often sang during hot July days with sweet words that spoke eloquently of how beautiful garden life was. The dahlia leaned on bamboo stakes when the winds came strong, when the thunder caused the skies to shiver and the earth trembled. It stood firm when lightning struck the darkened sky and separated the clouds, the dahlia was not afraid as it knew all weather was temporal. A dahlia is wise.

Occasionally, birds visited the dahlias, plucking insects from its table. Birds sat on the dahlia's leafy benches, looking for ants crawling up its thick green stems, or lost earwigs who sometimes slept in dahlia faces. Bees slept on dahlia beds, but they were much more polite visitors. Sparrows often held group meetings, young and old were the sparrows who enjoyed the sunshine and cheerful company of a large dahlia umbrella to shield them from the hot sun or a sudden rainstorm.

Birds were a friendly group in all weathers, and quite sympathetic when the frost warnings began. The night hours grew longer, the time comes when the brightest of harvest moons becomes suspect. When the dahlia plants have donated their loveliness to the last flower show table, when their best green selves have been blackened by the hard frosts, I reluctantly unearth their brown mortal tubers from my garden. A short green stem is all that remains of their summer lives. I attach labels bearing their names to the thick brown tubers, I regret occasionally wounding one with my ambitious shovel.

Packing dahlias for the winter is not nearly so glorious as planting them in the latter days of spring. In autumn, I wrap each earth christened one in old newspaper, carefully bury in wood shaving filled totes, carry them down to the fruit cellar. Time, dahlias are suspended in time by their responsible owners. Christmas decor pulled out into the room, dahlias have a particular storage corner, I have concurred with them that they can read old newspapers and reminisce with nearby jars of pickles and jams about the great summer days that were theirs. Christmas is closer to the door. I ask the dahlias for the gift of little green yellowish shoots striving to pierce that old newspaper. Next May when I open their boxes once more, promise me this before I turn

out the light and leave each one to your restful sleep.

It is just now a fine August morning, my garden awakes in the aftermath of a recent plentiful and life-giving rainfall. The roses are striding towards their second flush of blooms, the dahlias have heard someone comment they are 50-to-one odds to outshine the roses. Not me, I do not doubt them, even if I find a Japanese beetle or an earwig has set up temporary house-keeping in a dahlia blossom. I've never yet seen a dahlia named, "Air B and B", but then insects cannot read.

I know the days are shorter, moments are not far off when bees will seek the warmth of a dahlia heart. Frost will slip down to my garden in the wee hours of a September morning. It will walk kindly to my dahlias, for they accept today without remorse. They had yesterday, and they lived it well.

In September, I will imagine some of my dahlias may make the show benches at the fall fairs, or the design tables where I blend dahlias and imagination at the competitions where dahlias strike their unmistakable mark in autumn arrangements. While they still last, they speak of autumn as the best of the signs of the fall gardening season.

I purchase a few celebratory late-summer friends, short mounds of bright garden chrysanthemums and asters, or a collection of mismatched pumpkins purchased from roadside stands. As the days shorten and the garden adapts, they shine.

I should mention I never owned a dahlia during years of gardening happiness. I trusted and took note of other's opinions of dahlias: they are too much work. "They have to be dug up every fall, if the ground freezes, they'll be toast." "You have to start them inside, I don't have that much space." Or, "You've got to plant them all out every year, just like an annual." "They get tall, you have to stake them or they fall over, or go down in a thunderstorm." "Earwigs ate all of mine." "Mine rotted over the winter." "I bought a few of them and some didn't turn out to be the colour on the package." That happens with tulips, but there, we still buy more.

One day I realized the answer to the question of great autumn floral material is dahlias. Flipping plant catalogue pages stopped at the dahlia section. I loitered at the newly arrived late April dahlia tubers in the garden centres, about the earliest rainbow of colour on the shelves. Thousands of inspirational little flower seed packets dimmed quickly to insignificance compared to these dahlia pictures. I held the little bag of potting mix in my hand, there is a little sprout on a tuber, that must be a sign.

I took four new dahlias to the checkout counter this year, where I enjoy helping garden centre employees learn about gardening. I once again cheerfully admitted to the student cashier, "I'm not buying anymore dahlias, and that's the biggest lie you'll hear all day." "This is a dahlia, and if you plant one you'll stand in the late summer sunshine and whisper to its just opened self, "Yes, this is truly a dahlia. Where have you been all my life?" Right here, I am right here.

The next meeting of the Tillsonburg Horticultural Society will be Sept.1. Our Speaker will be Paul Gellatly, "Daylilies and Their Care". Join us at the Tillsonburg Senior Centre (45 Hardy St.) at 7:30 p.m.

CLASSIFIEDS

OBITUARY

JEFFERY ('JEFF') PAUL MURRAY

(SEPTEMBER 26, 1963 – AUGUST 8, 2026)



Jeffery Paul Murray, a resident of Tillsonburg, passed away peacefully supported by his loving family, on Saturday, August 8th, 2026, at the age of 62. Jeff was born in Woodstock, son of the late Wilma (nee Langfield) Pettit and Donald Murray. He enjoyed a career in the retail hardware business that spanned many years and three provinces ending at the Home Hardware in Tillsonburg. Jeff lived a

quiet life; he enjoyed playing cards and video games with his friends. Jeff was always a caring father, brother, uncle and friend. Dearly missed by his son Gerry Jeffery Murray, of Tillsonburg and his brother Keith (wife Diana), of Delhi and their family: Aaron (Melissa), Sarah (Cody), Drew (Melinda), and Mark. Also survived by his niece Ashley Gillies and nephews Michael Gillies and Jared Dalton. Predeceased by five sisters: Christine Gillies (2024), Darlene Murray (2019), Pamela Dalton (2019) and infant sisters Susan and Cynthia.

A private family visitation and funeral service is planned. Interment will follow in Tillsonburg Cemetery. Everyone who knew Jeff is invited to share favourite memories and photos, express personal condolences or contribute memorial donations to the "Tillsonburg District Memorial Hospital Foundation" or to "VON Sakura House" via Jeff's online tribute page at www.verhoevefuneralhomes.com or by contacting the Maurice J. Verhoeve Funeral Homes - Burial and Cremation Services Inc., 262 Broadway, Tillsonburg (519) 842-4238.

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OBITUARY

GLEN GILVESY

(DECEMBER 18, 1960 – AUGUST 7, 2026)



It is with profound sadness that we announce the unexpected passing of Glen Steven Gilvesy of Tillsonburg on Friday, August 7, 2026 at 65 years of age.

Loving husband of 38 years to Julie (nee Ghesquiere). Caring father to Jennifer and Steven Gilvesy. Supporting son to John Gilvesy (1999) and Elizabeth (nee Czerlau). Cherished brother to Heather Campbell and her husband Colin, John Gilvesy and his wife Sandra, Robert Gilvesy and his wife Karine Dreyfus. Son-in-law to Walter Ghesquiere and Shirley (2009), step son-in-law to Dorothy (2026). Brother-in-law to David Ghesquiere and his wife Sylvie. Glen was also honoured to have many aunts, uncles, nieces, nephews, great nieces, great nephews, cousins and numerous friends.

His family and friends were core to his being, welcoming all with open arms and going above and beyond to support them in whatever way he could. "Glenosh" had a fun-loving spirit that was contagious, befriending people throughout all walks of his life and all corners of the globe.

He dedicated himself to the agricultural community as a ginseng farmer and as Chairman of the Ontario Ginseng Growers Association. Through his leadership and commitment, he made a meaningful contribution to the industry and to those he represented.

Glen graduated from Annandale High School in 1979, earned his Bachelor of Engineering Science from the University of Western Ontario and his Master of Business Administration from the University of Toronto and later, his Financial Planner certification.

His lifelong pursuit of flying brought him a tremendous sense of freedom and joy and provided many memorable experiences and adventures for not only himself but for those who flew with him or witnessed him flying overhead.

Glen will be greatly missed and fondly remembered by all of us who were blessed to have him in our lives.

Visitation will be held at Ostrander's Funeral Home, 43 Bidwell St., Tillsonburg, ON N4G 3T6 (519) 842-5221 on Wednesday August 12, 2026 from 5:00pm until 8:00pm. Mass of Christian Burial will be held at St. Mary's Roman Catholic Church, 52 Venison St. W, Tillsonburg, Ontario on Thursday August 13, 2026 at 1:00pm. Rev. Fr. Seejo John to officiate. Cremation will follow the service with a private burial to be held at the Tillsonburg Cemetery. Donations in memory of Glen may be made to the Tillsonburg District Memorial Hospital Foundation or the Song of the Morning Retreat Center (<https://www.songofthemorning.org/>) and may be done directly with each organization or payable by cheque by contacting the Funeral Home. Condolences and memories may be shared at www.ostrandersfuneralhome.com

OBITUARY

RONALD ALBERT PORCH

(APRIL 16, 1958 – AUGUST 10, 2026)



The family sadly announces the passing of Ronald Albert Porch on Monday August 10, 2026 at St. Thomas Elgin General Hospital.

Predeceased by his loving wife Sharon.

Caring father to Michelle (Justin) Murrell and Courtney Porch. Grandfather to Aaron and Lauren Murrell. Brother to Irene (Martin) Rochus and

Mary Ann (Chris) DeLeye. Uncle and great uncle to several nieces and nephews.

Predeceased by his parents Albert and Irene Porch, his mother-in-law Lois Hickey and father-in-law Bev Hickey (survived by Bev's wife Janet). Also predeceased by his close neighbours that he considered family Joe and Irene.

If something was broken, he could easily fix it. If something needed building, he was building it. Whether it was mechanical, technical, woodworking or a project too complicated for most – he could figure it out. He was the person you turned to for advice, a solution, or simply to get things done.

He loved projects and took great pride in working with his hands. He poured his life into his land. It was more than property to him.

Those who knew Ron remember his dry sense of humour. He had a way of saying just the right thing, often with a straight face, leaving those around him wondering whether to laugh or roll their eyes.

He will be deeply missed, but his work, his land, the things he built and repaired, and the knowledge he passed along will continue to be reminders of a life lived with purpose, generosity, and plenty of ingenuity.

Most of all, he will be remembered simply as someone who could be counted on.

Cremation has taken place. Friends and family will be received at Ostrander's Funeral Home, 43 Bidwell Street, Tillsonburg, ON N4G 3T6 (519) 842-5221 on Sunday August 16, 2026 from 1:00pm until 4:00pm.

A Memorial Service will be held in Ostrander's Funeral Home Chapel on Monday August 17th, 2026 at 11:00am. Inurnment at the Tillsonburg Cemetery Columbarium will follow the service.

The family would like to acknowledge and thank the amazing care from the Nurses and Team at St. Thomas Elgin General Hospital. Your exceptional care and guidance will always be remembered.

Donations in memory of Ron may be made to the Heart and Stroke Foundation or STEGH and can be done online directly or payable by cheque by contacting the Funeral Home. Condolences may be made at www.ostrandersfuneralhome.com



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THANK YOU



Thank You

**JAMES (JIM)
DONALDSON**
(MARCH 22, 1946
– MAY 7, 2026)

Heartfelt thanks from the family of the late James (Jim) Donaldson to all who have been part of his journey. The outpouring of support and condolences has been so comforting. Thanks to Rayburn Lansdell and Pat Cook for their guidance. Big hugs to Jean Oliver and her helpers who orchestrated Jim's celebration of life held at Baldwin Place. There are not enough words to express our appreciation and gratitude to the staff at the Maurice J. Verhoeve Funeral Homes for their compassionate guidance throughout this time. God bless.

OBITUARY

**HAROLD ROBERT
(ROB)
HUMPHREY**
(NOVEMBER 25, 1967 – AUGUST 8, 2026)



Passed away after a courageous struggle with illness, Robert Harold Humphrey, a resident of Tillsonburg, on Saturday, August 8th, 2026, at the age of 58. Rob was born in North York, son of the late Harold and Marion (nee Emerson) Humphrey. Rob was a member of St. Mary's R.C. Church Tillsonburg. Survived by his daughter Heather Humphrey, of Bridgenorth, sister Anne Marie, of Bancroft, common-law spouse Darlene Wencel, of Tillsonburg. Also survived by extended family, many friends and by his beloved furball Snowball.

In keeping with Rob's expressed wishes, cremation has taken place. A Celebration of Life will be held and announced soon. Everyone who knew Rob is invited to share favourite memories and photos, express personal condolences or contribute memorial donations to the "Knights of Columbus Council 3212" or to "Straffordville EMC Church" via Rob's online tribute page at www.verhoevefuneralhomes.com or by contacting the Maurice J. Verhoeve Funeral Homes - Burial and Cremation Services Inc., (519) 842-4238.

OBITUARY

**BRENDA ELAINE
GRAHAM-DAVIS**
(FEBRUARY 14, 1978 – AUGUST 8, 2026)



It is with heavy hearts that we, the family of Brenda Elaine Graham-Davis, announce her peaceful passing after a brief struggle with illness, on Saturday, August 8th, 2026, at LHSC – University Hospital, London, at the age of 48. Brenda was a longtime resident of Port Burwell and she will be remembered by many for her volunteerism, her contagious smile and as a proud country girl. Brenda

loved her horses; she was strong, maybe even too strong for her own good. Brenda was a dedicated 23-year employee and store manager of the Port Burwell LCBO. Above all else, Brenda was a devoted mother, grandmother, daughter, sister, aunt and friend to many.

Brenda is lovingly remembered by her children and their families: Skyla Graham (Cory Unger), of Aylmer and their son CJ Unger; Stefon Graham, of Vienna; Lillian Davis (Matthew Versteegen), of Springfield; Owen Davis, of Port Burwell and his daughter Chloe Buti. Beloved daughter of Robert (Bob) Graham and Shirley (Pickel) Graham. Always a caring sister to Elaine Rego-DeDecker (Karl), of Vienna; Michael Graham, of Straffordville; Rob Graham, of St. Thomas. Brenda will be dearly missed by many beloved friends, nieces, nephews and chosen family members.

Friends, neighbours and relatives are invited to join the family for visitation on Friday, August 14th, 2026, between 6:00 and 8:00 p.m. in the Maurice J. Verhoeve Funeral Homes Chapel, 262 Broadway, Tillsonburg. A funeral service will be held on Saturday, August 15th, 2026, at 12:00 noon in St. Luke's Cemetery (6596 Plank Rd, Vienna), where favourite memories and family eulogies will be shared. In September, a further Celebration of Brenda's Life will be held, with details to be announced soon.

Everyone who knew Brenda is invited to share favourite memories and photos, express personal condolences or contribute memorial donations to the "C.M.H.A" (Elgin) or to "Helping Paws Rescue" (Port Burwell) via Brenda's online tribute page at www.verhoevefuneralhomes.com or by contacting the Maurice J. Verhoeve Funeral Homes (519) 842-4238.

THANK YOU

The family of the late Mary Elizabeth (Rothenberg) Lockstein would like to thank family and friends for their thoughts, prayers and donations during our recent bereavement. Thank you to the doctors and nurses at St Thomas Elgin General Hospital for their care and friendship during her recent illness.

Thank you to Rev. Ross Hibberd for the beautiful service for his niece. Thank you to Cole Vuylsteke for a wonderful eulogy. She would have approved.

Special thanks to her seven nieces who escorted her to her final resting place.

Thank you to Marcel and his staff at the Carriage Room for our luncheon.

Thank you Robert Verhoeve and Verhoeve Funeral Home for your compassion, kindness and guidance in the loss of our loved one.

Sincerely Terry Lockstein and Family, Mary Squires and Family

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OBITUARY

DOUGLAS ROY SHEARER

(FEBRUARY 5, 1959 - AUGUST 7, 2026)



It is with deep sadness we announce the peaceful passing of Douglas Roy Shearer on August 7, 2026, after a courageous battle with brain cancer at the age of 67 years.

Born on February 5, 1959 in Tillsonburg to the late Audrey and Roy Shearer.

Doug shared his life with his wife of 44 years, Patricia (nee Hall). Together they were blessed with being

devoted parents to Eleisha (Josh Crann), Nathaniel (Olivia Mudford). Doug cherished his grandchildren Payton, Jaxson, Addley, Zara, Crew and Esme.

He was predeceased by his in-laws Barry and Jane Hall.

Doug was raised in Courtland where he played baseball.

He worked for Imperial Tobacco for 33 years until the tobacco warehouse closed. Doug owned "Over the Fence" Landscaping where his passion, attention to detail and dedication earned him respect with everyone he worked with.

Outside of his career and deep love for his family he really enjoyed sports, playing hardball and slow pitch, and watching baseball, football and of course he was an avid Montreal Canadiens fan. Doug also enjoyed his many travels around the world with family and friends.

Doug and the family were blessed to have the opportunity to enjoy a living Celebration with family and treasured friends

Doug's request was for cremation to be held. There is to be no formal visitation or service. A private graveside service will be held at a later date.

In lieu of flower's memorial donations may be made to the Canadian Cancer Society, either directly with the charity or by contacting Ostrander's Funeral Home, 43 Bidwell St., Tillsonburg, 519-842-5221.

OBITUARY

OTTO BOKA

(SEPTEMBER 30, 1944 - AUGUST 6, 2026)



Otto Boka, 81, of Tillsonburg, Ontario, passed away on August 6, 2026, at Caressant Care in Courtland.

Otto was born on September 30, 1944, in Mol, Serbia to Veronika and Joseph Boka.

He worked as a day laborer and bricklayer earlier in life, later joining RJR-Macdonald Tobacco, where his versatile skills made him a valued, multitasking employee.

He found joy in the simple things — spending hours in his workshop crafting wood into treasured pieces, and tending his garden where vegetables and flowers grew under his care. He was devoted to his cats and had a deep love for animals of all kinds. Above all, he cherished time with family — the gatherings, the laughter, and the barbecues that brought everyone together.

He is survived by his wife of 55 years, RuthAnne Marie Boka; his son, Shawn Boka (Dawn); his daughter, Kim Boka (Glenn); and many relatives, both here and back in Serbia. He will be deeply missed by all who knew him.

A celebration of life will be held in September; date to be determined.

The family would like to extend their heartfelt thanks to the staff at Caressant Care for their hard work and compassionate care.

In lieu of flowers, donations may be made to an animal charity of your choosing and can be done online or payable by cheque by contacting Ostrander's Funeral Home (519) 842-5221. Condolences and memories may be shared at www.ostrandersonline.com

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Gas (3.0L I6) 4800 Automatic (8-
Speed) 4WD (4-Door) (4-Door)
MSRP \$57,495
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2026 GMC Terrain **SOLD**

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Whisper (Whisper) 2-Door
Whisper (Whisper) 2-Door

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\$560

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2024 GMC Terrain
2.0L I4 (400) (Electric Assist) (Auto)
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Back-Pack Package, Single Motor (1
Leather (Platinum Seams)
Power Mirrors, Full-Function Seat...

\$45,999
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[illegible]

2023 Toyota bZ4X
LE AWD Electric / Carbon Drive
New York (Green) State
SOLD



Mon - Fri	8:00 - 5:00
Thursday	8:00 - 7:00
Saturday	8:00 - 1:00
Sunday	Closed

*Prices do not include HST or licensing fees and are subject to change. Final pricing may vary based on vehicle condition and availability. Please contact the sales team for full details.