

Tillsonburg POST

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Council asks for report on downtown problems

JEFF HELSDON

Local Journalism Initiative Reporter

Tillsonburg council passed a motion to ask for staff input on how to tackle the problem with loitering and drug use in the downtown.

Initially, Coun. Kelly Spencer introduced a motion, that was seconded by Deputy Mayor Dave Beres, to suspend the rules that require councillor motions to be introduced at one meeting through a notice of motion and then debated at the next meeting.

When she received the two-third approval of council for that procedural measure, she introduced a motion for staff to report back to council with recommendations of a plan to address the loitering, smoking and non-smoking areas in the downtown, and a description of protocols for reporting violations. The motion also directed staff to look at potential loitering-related enforcement considerations.

“In the last couple of weeks, I received three phone calls and e-mails from different businesses regarding encampments, drug use, smoking and a couple of other things,” she said, explaining she thinks a staff report looking into these matters and providing direction on when business owners should call 9-1-1 and when to phone bylaw would be helpful.

Council endorsed the motion.



RUNNING FOR A CAUSE

(JEFF HELSDON PHOTO)

Runners came from far and wide for Saturday's Running with the Bulls. The event consisted of four different components: the 10-kilometer event pictured here, a 5-kilometer race, a youth 1-kilometer race, and the Marwood 2k Memorial Family Walk. See the story and more photos on Page 17 of today's Post.

Council approves Bridge Street Streetscape Plan

JEFF HELSDON

Local Journalism Initiative Reporter

The future of Bridge Street could see many changes, from becoming a one-way street in certain areas to placing a higher emphasis on pedestrian safety.

The plan, which would have a price tag of \$14 million if implemented today, is merely a plan – one to be executed over a long period in stages. In his presentation on the final plan, David Duhan of SHIFT Landscape Architecture referred to it as a “road map for future development along Bridge Street.”

Work on the plan began in July 2023 and included numerous public input sessions, such as public meetings, information at the farmer's

market, and presentations to council. The comprehensive plan covers the entire length of Bridge Street from Veteran's Memorial Parkway to Lisgar Ave. It also includes a portion of the mall parking lot.

“We're looking to establish what we'll call a civic greenway,” Duhan said.

Besides an enhanced walkway and increased vegetation, the plan will also involve the reconfiguration of certain street sections. It will showcase parts of Tillsonburg's history.

The goals of the project are:

- Establish an identity for Bridge Street
- Create functional, adaptable, and comfortable meeting spaces
- Integrate historic and cultural elements into the streetscape

CONTINUED TO PAGE 2

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Bridge Street plan to be implemented over time

CONTINUED FROM FRONT

- Provide green spaces throughout the entire street
- Improve services and infrastructure to support future development
- Support accessibility, safety and comfort for all
- Strategically provide appropriate resources, where needed
- Explore how future development can be well integrated

Duhan mentioned some historic elements of the street and town in general that could be incorporated into the design as information signs or other elements. He mentioned the former Broadway bridge over the railway, where “people used to get air,” and parts of the Tillson empire.

“How do we adapt that space to be more user friendly. There are different things that can be adaptable,” he said.

The street design was broken down into three distinct parts: the Veteran’s Memorial Walkway, the Market Block, and the Retail Commons, extending from Broadway to Lisgar.

Speaking about the walkway, Duhan said it is already a linear park, but the plan aims to create more of a destination. Some parts of it will simply see the walkway widened, while others will feature interpretative history displays. At the edge, near Rolph Street, a park-like space would be created.

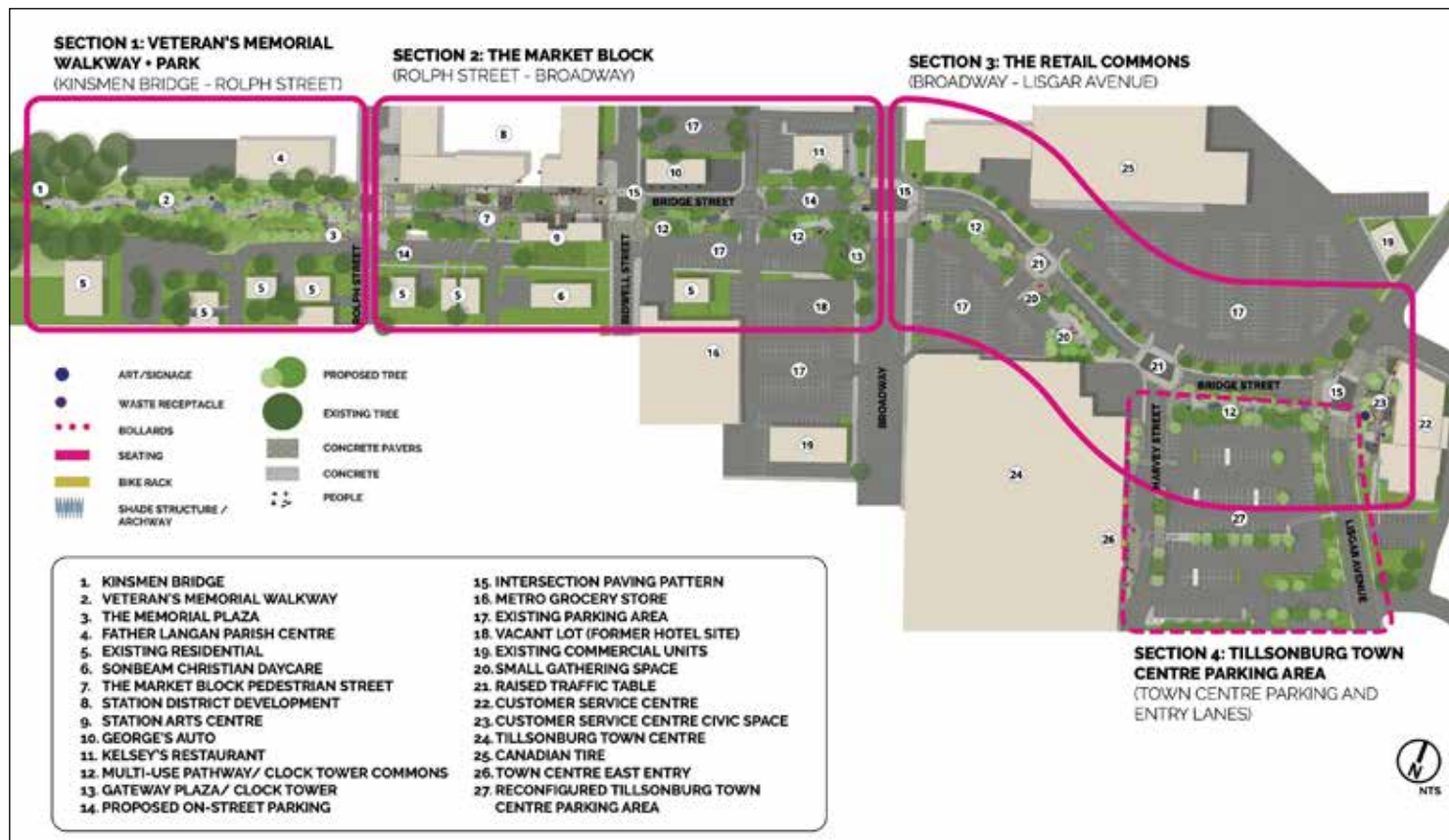
The Market Block is broken into two sections. The Pedestrian-Focused Street would stretch from Rolph to Bidwell Street and will be changed to a one-way street with pavers. It will have the ability to be easily closed down for vendors and events. Only one parking spot will be lost with the changes. The Clock Tower Commons, from Bidwell to Broadway, will have two-way traffic, but a sidewalk will be added in front of George’s Auto and a path will be created on the south side of the street. There is room for the clock tower to remain where it is, but it may be relocated in the future.

The section from Broadway to Lisgar is currently three lanes in most places.

“Many people shared their experiences with cars moving quickly through here, regardless of speed limits, and challenges with crossing the street,” Duhan said.

The vision in the plan is to narrow the street to two lanes, with only left-turn lanes at both ends. Better defined pedestrian pathways will be added, as well as slight elevations at two of the crossing points. Duhan said it would be “designed for people as opposed to dominated by cars.”

In the mall parking lot, designated areas will be



(CONTRIBUTED IMAGE)

This image from the SHIFT Landscape Architecture report on Bridge Street shows the future vision for the street.

created for drop-off and pedestrian walkways will be constructed throughout the parking lot.

Duhan said construction would be broken down into three different categories:

Projects with renewal and maintenance – if a sidewalk or roadway is being reconstructed, council can consider incorporating the plan into the work.

Projects linked to future development – some elements of the plan can be incorporated into these developments.

Standalone projects – these would be standalone projects completed when funding became available.

“All of that can get pieces of the vision together,” Duhan said.

Coun. Pete Luciani congratulated Duhan on a well-done plan.

“It’s nice to see there is a road map moving forward we can work towards,” he said.

Coun. Kelly Spencer asked to clarify whether the street behind the mall is one-way when drop-off spots are added. It was confirmed this was the

case.

With the one-way streets, Coun. Chris Rosehart asked how transport trucks would be able to access the area and if there would be any issues for snowplows. Duhan said it was designed so that trucks can back in.

“We know truck traffic changes over time but at this point of time we have accommodated it,” he said, adding snow can be piled on the green space.

Rosehart’s question also highlighted that the plantings will involve native species and shrubs that don’t grow too high.

After receiving the report for information, council moved on to the staff report associated with it. It was accompanied by a lengthy recommendation – which was eventually accepted – that included the plan be incorporated into future design plans, be subject to external funding and future council approval, that staff investigate incorporating the plan into the town’s asset management plan, investigating the incorporation of elements of the plan into the Kinsmen Bridge approval and \$25,000 for any missing assessments be incorporated into the

2026 budget.

Mayor Deb Gilvesy wanted to clarify that no money would be spent in this budget year, why staff needed to work on a future plan now, and what the condition assessment was for.

Development Commissioner Cephas Panschow explained that the idea was to close some of the smaller gaps and assess the condition of roads and sidewalks in the plan area that had not been done so. He also said having a plan ready if a funding opportunity came forward.

“The goal would be to have a plan ready so if a program comes forward we’re ready to do that,” he said.

“Is this kind of thing that sits on the shelf, and say in 10 years, that street needs repairs, and the document is pulled off the shelf and we look at if some of this will be incorporated,” Gilvesy asked. “That will be up to future councils.”

Panschow confirmed this, and it was further revealed that no work on Bridge Street is planned in the next 10 years outside of what is being done at Station View Developments.



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Letter to the Editor

Open letter to Minister of Natural Resources from wildlife rehabber

As an Authorized Wildlife Custodian [AWC] under the MNR today, with 45 years' experience in wildlife rehabilitation As an Authorized Wildlife Custodian [AWC] under the MNR today, with 45 years' experience in wildlife rehabilitation of orphaned wildlife, the first years should have been more difficult with no Internet and the money to get into computers, having no place to find information etc.

Yet rehabbers found each other, shared information, and found people willing to give up summer vacations and so much of their own and their families lives for the four to six months, plus the cost, space in the home and daily time.

By about 2000, there were over 200 of us when the MNR decided to get involved - although they less qualifications than we did! In the next last 25 years, they have learned very little on what the average home/backyard rehabilitator, did or needed, and they still know nothing about the actual wildlife.

I was told by my first district rep, Delbert, that the last thing they needed was to represent rehabilitators. Their days were full as it was, and they admitted they knew little, but most listened and learned. More rules were made with no consultation and

many didn't made sense unless you financially able to run it as a business and able to purchase land, hire people etc. Whereas most rehabbers have been home/backyard rehabbers. Then we got more rules and changes.

It has always been obvious the MNR didn't want us. We are volunteers...yet never have they helped us financially or provided the education they should have. The parameters of the government rules of how to use volunteers, have been totally ignored. The MNR keeps pretending to help us with information meetings, yet they don't even recognize that there is no time during baby season for a rehabber to give.

The education they expect us to have is either not available or not financially feasible to many. If I were to apply today with what I have garnered over those 45 years of experience, I would not be authorized. Yet, I have presented at Care of Orphaned Skunks in the United States and in Ontario at organized conferences. I written three booklets to help new rehabbers to care for skunks, squirrels and raccoons. Because there is nothing else that gives what you need when you have your hands on the animal.

Could I morally recommend anyone to become an AWC? No! How could I when the MNR doesn't follow their own rules, even with inspections. We

should be partners with our reps, yet we don't even get to know them or them us. It seems the MNR trust public opinion over their rehabilitators, which they proved when they raided Mally's Third Chance Rehabilitation and Rescue, with no prerequisite inspection nor checking their sources. The results were terrible for the family and every raccoons. On June 23, all charges were dismissed against Mally's.

Is there any trust or respect for the MNR.....no. I have had some experiences, of trust and respect, but that was years ago. It started to come back slowly in the more recent past, but with drug-style raids, I cannot morally encourage anyone to become authorized when they could be treated like criminals at any moment.

The Ontario government cares to so little about the wildlife we have left in Ontario, they want to retract the protection limitations of species at risk and our environment why do I even think they should care and try to help the few humans who deal with wildlife helping wildlife? We started under the MNR with abt. 200 rehabilitators in 2000 and down to abt. 45.

Laurel A. Beechey
Skunk Haven
Tillsonburg

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Editor's Note: Talented writers wanted

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

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

Submissions should be 600 to 800 words in length.

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

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

Tillsonburg POST

Guiding Principles

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

Memorial crosswalk the right thing to do

Tillsonburg council recently granted two requests associated with recognizing those who served our country.

At the July 12 meeting, a request from the Tillsonburg Legion was to install a veteran's crosswalk in front of the cenotaph before Remembrance Day. These crosswalks, which are growing in popularity across the province, are a painted crosswalk to be a year-round tribute to those who gave their lives for Canada.

It's hard today to imagine what life was like in the First and Second World Wars. Nearly everyone knew someone who had enlisted. Although families at home were thousands of kilometers from the conflict, they hoped and prayed they wouldn't receive the dreaded telegram telling of the loss of their loved one overseas. Besides the emotional burden, there was a cost of the conflict at home with rationing in place.

More than 10 per cent, or 66,000, wouldn't return from the First World War. Another 44,000 paid the extreme sacrifice not three decades later in the Second World War.

Even those who returned paid a toll, with many suffering from what we now call post traumatic stress disorder (PTSD).

More recently, images of soldiers carrying coffins off cargo airplanes in Trenton, and loading their brethren into a hearse, are burned into the memories of another generation. Again, those returning brought with them a burden, more openly recognized as PTSD.

The Legion does a lot to support veterans. Locally, a coffee hour for veterans has grown in popularity, showing there is still a need for those who were in combat to discuss what they feel can only be shared with another who experienced it.

The second request to council was from the Canadian Harvard Aircraft Association for waiving the fees of its Wings and Wheels event. This popular event is the group's largest fundraiser of the year, and draws hundreds of people to town.

The town is justified in charging user fees for events, especially ones that require staff time. However, in this case, council was right to exempt the fee, and should consider doing so on an ongoing basis as this event is not only a huge draw, but educates the public about our military past. It's also an event that doesn't require additional staff efforts.

In Remembrance Day ceremonies across the country, a line from Laurence Binyon's 1914 poem – "They shall grow not old, as we that are left grow old" – pays tribute to the dead in a time of war. Now, 111 years later, there is a growing recognition of those who served as First World War veterans are no more, and the ranks of Second World War veterans are thinning by the day.

Kudos to council for carrying forward this recognition of those who served. Let's just hope that bureaucracy doesn't get in the way of granting the wishes of council and Legion members.



The beauty of nature has healing powers in more than one way. (JEFF HELSDON PHOTO)

Hard work and harmony make dreams come true



**EVERYONE
HAS A
STORY
TO TELL**

ROBIN KRAFFT

Tillsonburg Post Columnist

By day she's an administrative assistant, doing book-keeping and payroll for a local accounting firm, but her nights and weekends are devoted to music.

Perhaps you have had the opportunity to hear Cindy McMaster perform. Along with her music partner, lead guitarist Ron Williams (and other bands), she plays guitar and sings crowd pleasing favorites. She's performed at TurtleFest, Annandale House, The Copper Mug, Purple Hill, legions, nursing homes and at private parties.

She grew up in Frogmore, the oldest of six children. They were a hard-working family trying to get by, and she had a lot of responsibilities. She recalls the old wringer washer that was kept in the basement, carrying buckets of water down in order to do the laundry and bucketing it back out when it was done, hanging all the washing on the line to dry.

They always had horses, and she was an avid rider. She was responsible for cleaning their stalls, and the daily tasks of watering, feeding and brushing. Her parents both worked in tobacco, and she started out on the tying machine at an early age, then worked as a primer. Her mother cooked and canned to get them through the winter.

There was plenty of time for fun, too.

"We swam in Abbot's Pond, and rode my brother's dirt bike, but baseball was my big thing. Dad taught me how to catch and throw when I was six years-old."

At 14, she was practicing with the boy's hardball team, in the outfield, and at the end of the season they let her bat. She whacked it so hard that they couldn't find the ball. She continued to play fastball at centerfield, as a heavy hitter and clean-up batter until the age of 40.

She grew up with music, too.

"Dad played piano everyday," McMaster said, and she learned to play as a child. Her father was known as "Lonesome George and his Honky Tonk piano" but he also sang and played many other instruments. He taught her three chords: C, F and G and said that "if you can play those, you can play any song." Her mother also sang and played fiddle, drums and guitar.

Cindy's life took many turns. Along with some adversity, there was plenty of adventure, but she said she "always wanted to get back into music." At the age of 60, she started attending local jam sessions and felt inspired. She picked up the guitar and got a book with chord patterns and taught herself to play. She started

filling in and doing harmonies, but now she's center stage. She's planning to retire next year and said that she "would love to get a three-to-four-piece band together, travel and do small tours and festivals."

She first lived in Tillsonburg at the age of 18 but moved a lot over the following years. For a while she lived in an old miner's cabin that was built into the side of a mountain in British Columbia. It had been refurbished, but there was no hydro, and they relied on oil lanterns, a wood stove, an old A-frame outhouse and a clawfoot tub that sat outside. They drank water right from the glacier-fed stream and used the space behind a small waterfall as a fridge.

She held a long-term job with a marketing company and later, a school board. In 2017 she returned to Tillsonburg to take care of her mother in her later years. The family is close-knit, and Cindy sees her siblings, her two children and her four grandchildren regularly, as her musical dreams come to fruition.

She's currently recording two original songs that she wrote: Memories of Days Gone By and Don't Cry Momma are songs that tell deeply personal stories. There is a vulnerability in singing these particular songs, so it's an emotional performance that gets an incredibly positive response from listeners. Following in the footsteps of two of her favorite artists, Dolly Parton and Patsy Cline, Cindy wants to move people by singing songs that come from the heart, and audiences can feel her warm presence and sincerity as soon as she steps out onto the stage.

A look at one of Canada's most notable authors



**THE
STAGE
IS THE
WORLD**

LAUREL A. BEECHEY

Tillsonburg Post Columnist

Who was the most extraordinary girl to come out of an ink pot?

Think about it, 'ink pot'. This same girl is known by virtually every female, young, or old in Canada. While growing up, my mom read about her to my brother and I at lunch from books in the library. When I started working, I began to purchase the oldest editions as possible of every book she was in! Of course, over the decades her popularity waned, but it always returned...on stage, on television and once again won many hearts.

Answer: Anne of Green Gables!

Beloved by almost every little girl and their mothers and grandmothers and,

greats.... Anne (with an 'e') was born on paper in 1905 by Lucy Maud Montgomery 120 years ago. Alas, a book written by a woman about a precocious orphaned girl being raised by an elderly couple was not acceptable to the publishers. This was not Maud's [she preferred Maud] first time at writing nor rejection.

Maud was born on Nov.30, 1874. Her mother passed shortly after, and she was raised by her maternal grandparents. She was not quite an orphan, and not raised the same as Anne was by Marilla and Mathew Cuthbert. Perhaps Anne's life was what Maude had dreamed of as they were similar.

The fictional Anne was put in a hat box for two years, when found once more in 1907, the book was published in Boston, Mass. in 1908 and Anne of Green Gables, became 'an immediate best seller', sparking Maud's writing career. In four months, Anne was being republished for the fifth time. She was on a roll with short stories, poems, and more novels being published.

Maud did a two-year course for a teaching licence in one year, graduating with honours from Prince of Wales College in Cavendish. She then taught in several schools but took a sabbatical in 1895

to take courses in English Literature at Dalhousie University in Halifax. It wasn't easy for a woman seeking higher education in this time period, but unlike Anne, Maud could not afford more than one year. Maud's article, "A Girl's Place at Dalhousie College," was published in Halifax Herald in 1896 and she has a plaque in the lobby of the Forrest Building at the college. Anne, however, got her Bachelor of Arts,[1]

The surprise to me, was that Maud became engaged in 1906, not that anyone knew about it back then either. Four months after her grandmother passed in March of 1911, Maude married Rev. Ewan Macdonald on July 5. They moved to Leaskdale, Ontario, where Ewan ministered in the Presbyterian church. Two of their three sons lived, and Maud continued to write best-selling novels as well as short stories and poems. She faithfully recorded entries in her journals and kept up an enormous correspondence with friends, family, and fans.

In 1926 they moved to Norval, ON, until Ewan retired in 1935, then moved closer to the sons in Toronto. She died on April 24, 1942 and Ewan in November 1943.

Maud had returned to the Island for a

few visits, but returned permanently when buried in Cavendish, close to her old home.

Like you reading this, no one really knew the real Maud until after her death, when her son Dr. E. Stuart Macdonald sold her journals in 1981 to the University of Guelph, Archival & Special Collections: L.M. Montgomery Collection.

It wasn't really until then that her fans would discover the rest of her life's story. The Anne books were not all fluff and sprinkles, there were characters in her works that had terrible times, as she and her husband also did.

According to the LM Montgomery Institute at the University of PEI, "Maud was a very sensitive and intelligent woman who suffered deeply from events that affected her personally and the world. In her journals, she expressed her pain at the death of her infant son Hugh, the horrors of the First World War, the death of her beloved cousin Frede Campbell, and the discovery that her husband suffered from religious melancholia. They both took prescription drugs, and their mental conditions were not exempt from her journals.

Despite her problems, Maud wrote more than 20 novels in her life, plus short stories.

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Book launch

**Wednesday,
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Join us for the launch of the new book by Oxford County Archives sharing stories about Oxford's people, events and communities over its 175-year history.

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Rotary exchange student leaves for Germany

JEFF HELSDON

Editor

Tillsonburg Rotary Club's student exchange program is operating again for the first time since Covid-19.

Astute observers will notice the Rotary flag next to the Rotary Clock Tower was replaced with the black, red and gold of the German flag for a week. This is to signify Tillsonburg resident Evan Yallop leaving for Germany as part of his exchange. The German flag will fly again at the half-way point and when he returns.

"After his year, we'll present him with the flag," said Rebecca Fink, who heads the exchange program with Alisha Layman, director of Rotary youth programs in Tillsonburg.

Yallop heard about the program from Layman, and thought it would be interesting.

According to Rotary International, the Rotary Youth Exchange Program is "building peace one young person at a time." It notes students learn a new language, discover another culture and become global citizens. They also build lasting friendships with young people from around the world. The program is open to students ages 15 to 19.

After his acceptance, Yallop's experience started with Camp Wanakita in Haliburton and building snow hunts.

"We piled a whole bunch of snow, hollowed it out and slept in it," he said. "It was amazing, but it was cold."

He also did a 100-kilometre canoe trip from Peterborough to Curve Lake First Nation.

"That trip was started by Don Watkins, who was a former Rotarian and Tillsonburg resident," Fink said.

Yallop has been working on learning German, and is a little intimidated about going to Grade 11 in Germany, with the main language in school being one he hasn't mastered. He is going into Grade 12 in Tillsonburg, and will have to complete that year after returning.

He is leaving July 29, flying to Frankfurt, Germany, and staying in Gottingen. On top of the butterflies that might accompany such a trip, Yallop hasn't flown before either. The trip will hopefully include sightseeing in Europe.

Fink joined Rotary in 2023 to help with the program



(JEFF HELSDON PHOTO)

The German flag will fly on the flag pole adjacent to the Rotary Clock Tower when Rotary Youth Exchange student Evan Yallop leaves to go to Germany on July 29. He is the first Rotary exchange student for the Tillsonburg Rotary Club since Covid. Left to right are: Rebecca Fink, Rotary exchange director; Gloria Aykroyd, Tillsonburg Rotary president, Evan Yallop and Amy Yallop, Evan's mother.

after she went on the program herself to Peru in 2018-2019.

"I wanted to do what Bob Marsden did as far as helping out students," she said. "It's an amazing opportunity and an amazing experience."

The operation of the program is also starting to flow the other way, with a student from Japan arriving in Tillsonburg at the end of August. The Japanese flag will

fly on the pole during the arrival week.

The Tillsonburg Rotary Club has completed more than 90 youth exchanges since the first one in 1968. That first exchange involved both an inbound and outbound exchange with Mexico. The late Bob Marsden was called a "champion of the Youth Exchange Program" by club president Gloria Aykroyd, and he was recognized by the district for his efforts.



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Suspicious vehicle call leads to impaired driving charge

A call from a member of the public concerning a suspicious vehicle led to an impaired driving charge.

On July 19, at approximately 2:30 p.m., members of the Oxford detachment of the Ontario Provincial Police (OPP) were dispatched to Oxford Street in the Town of Tillsonburg for the report of a suspicious vehicle.

As a result of the investigation, Carlos Klassen, a 33-year-old resident of Norfolk

County, has been charged with:

- Operation While Impaired by Drug

The accused has been released from custody and is scheduled to appear before the Ontario Court of Justice in Woodstock on August 12.

Oxford OPP is extremely grateful to the members of the community who call in suspected crimes in our communities.

Together we can help keep our communities safe.

R.I.D.E. check results in charges

A Reduce Impaired Driving Everywhere (R.I.D.E.) check point in Norwich Township resulted in charges.

On July 20, at approximately 10:45 p.m., members of the Oxford detachment of the Ontario Provincial Police (OPP) set up a R.I.D.E. check point on Stover Street in Norwich.

A driver who entered the check point displaying signs of impairment failed a roadside Approved Screening Device (A.S.D.) test.

As a result of the investigation, John BOLTON, a 42-year-old resident of Courtland, has been charged with:

- Failure to Comply with a Demand
- Novice Driver Blood Alcohol Concentration (BAC) 80 plus
- Drive with a Handheld Communica-

tion Device

The accused has been released from custody and is scheduled to appear before the Ontario Court of Justice in Woodstock on August 26.

"Members of Oxford OPP are committed to the safety of everyone in Oxford County. Officers proactively patrol for impaired drivers as well as set up R.I.D.E. check points to take these reckless drivers off our roadways. Oxford OPP is grateful to members of the public who call in suspected impaired drivers and we encourage anyone who suspects an impaired driver to call 9-1-1 immediately. Together we can help reduce the devastation impaired driving can cause," said Inspector Tony Hymers, Detachment Commander, Ontario Provincial Police - Oxford Detachment

Individual loses thousands of dollars to romance scam

An individual is out \$5000 after falling victim to a romance scam.

On July 14, members of the Ontario Provincial Police (OPP), Oxford Detachment were notified of a fraud that occurred in the Town of Tillsonburg.

The suspect commenced an online relationship with the victim. The suspect claimed they needed money for a flight home. The victim sent them the money.

When the suspect started asking for more money, a relative of the victim encouraged them to call police.

Police encourage members of the public to be vigilant when meeting people online.

There are legitimate people online who are sincere about creating friendships, however, if a person starts asking for money that should be a red flag, and you should consider talking to a trusted friend or family member prior to continuing the relationship.

If you think you have become a victim of fraud, please don't be embarrassed. Please contact the OPP at 1-888-310-1122 or the Canadian Anti-Fraud Centre at 1-888-495-8501.



GIVING BACK

(JEFF HELSDON PHOTO)

Tillsonburg Post publisher Stewart Grant recently presented a cheque for \$1,500 to the Tillsonburg District Memorial Hospital Foundation, which was a percentage of the advertising sales from the recent hospital 100th anniversary special edition. Left to right are: Lisa Dahm, Integrated Executive Assistant TDMH; Grant; Gerry Dearing, foundation Executive Director; and Nadia Facca, hospital President and CEO.

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Local Kinette honoured by national organization



(JEFF HELSDON PHOTO)

Local resident Jennifer Dean was presented with the Kin 30 under 30 award, which was presented to only 30 members across the country who are under 30.

JEFF HELSDON

Editor

Jennifer Dean has been named one of the Top 30 under 30 by Kin Canada.

The Tillsonburg Kinette member was surprised when she found out last week that she was chosen for the award.

"I didn't even know it was an award," she said. "I am fairly new to Kinettes. It sounds like a new thing and they are trying to recognize the younger generation of Kin Canada."

According to the Kin Canada national president, the award is to recognize "extraordinary members who are elevating Kin Canada in their community, club, zone, district or nationally."

Dean has a long history of being involved in the community, from being an auxiliary OPP officer to helping with the Tillsonburg Fair. Earlier this year, Dean was honoured as the Tow Woman of the Year award from the Women of

the Towing and Recovery Association of America. Last year she received an award from the Professional Tow Association of Ontario.

"Basically, it was about my community involvement, things I have done with the Kinettes," Dean said.

Dean isn't sure who nominated her, but is certain of some of the benefits that accompany the award. She will get to attend the Kin national convention in Kingston next month. There, she will be part of a panel of 30 under 30 recipients making a presentation.

"It's a way to encourage the younger generation to join Kin Canada, either as a Kinsmen or Kinette, and give back to our communities," Dean said.

Dean also received the Kin Pride award last month, which is an award recognizing those who know the history of the Kinettes and have pride in the organization. Dean's mother also received the Pride award.

An overview of health services available in Tillsonburg

HOSPITAL HAPPENINGS

LISA DAHM

Integrated Executive Assistant, AHI/TDMH

Welcome to summer! Hopefully everyone is able to get out and enjoy the sun while we have access to it. Fall will be here before we know it.

The hospital teams were fortunate to enjoy a barbecue lunch supplied by Rapid Relief Team (RRT) earlier this month. The RRT regularly delivers hope and relief to people across the globe. Whether it be fire, flood or humanitarian need, RRT expands their support services to meet the need at hand. For the past several years, RRT has been gracious enough to provide lunch, thanking our hospital team all of their hard work.

This time of year can be very busy in the Emergency Department (ED), so we want to ask that everyone take care in their summer activities, especially during the extreme weather we've had this month.

If you do find yourself in the TDMH ED, in addition to our physician and other team members, you may see our Nurse Practitioner (NP) in the Rapid Access Fast Track (RAFT) area. The NP is able to assess and treat most minor illnesses and injuries, ensuring flow in the ED and getting you in and out as quickly as possible. The NP does not replace family physician services, renew prescriptions or provide follow up appointments.

However, anyone in Oxford County who is without a family doctor or nurse practitioner, can now make an appointment with the Tillsonburg Unattached Care Clinic which opened earlier this month within the Roulston's Pharmacy location at 12-671 Broadway Street, Tillsonburg. The clinic provides scheduled, pre-booked appointments for a range of non-emergency health concerns including minor illnesses, minor injuries and a range of other services. You can find out more about the Unattached Clinic on the Oxford Ontario Health Team website: <https://oxfordoht.ca>.

AHI and TDMH are happy to provide vital services to the Ingersoll and Tillsonburg communities, and we want everyone to have a safe, happy and healthy summer season. Stay safe!

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From backyard hobby to major event, RC racer hosts 250-class event in Oxford County

ALEX HUNT
Post Contributor

John Blakeley never imagined a pile of dirt on his rural Oxford County property would become a hotspot for racing enthusiasts across Canada.

"I first started hosting races in 2011, then I had to start expanding things," Blakeley said. "Other racers got me hooked into it, and prompted me to build the track. It started as a pile of dirt, to a small little horseshoe track, and finally to where it is now."

Located on the outskirts of Otterville, Blakeley's private remote controlled (RC) car racing track stretches 155 feet wide, with 135 on one side and 95 on the opposite. What started from a backyard hobby in the early 2000's when Blakeley was pursuing an interest in RC planes and helicopters, has now evolved into a major undertaking.

Blakeley said he would host six to seven racing events a year but has since slowed down to focus more on his family life. Blakeley recently hosted his most successful event this past month with Otterville's Nitro Blast drawing in 115 drivers and 250 class entries.

"This past event was a very memorable experience, the turnout exceeded my expectations," said Blakeley. "People can enroll in the event through the Facebook

page for the event and a world-wide web RC signup page".

He explained RC racing is popular in the U.S. and Europe, but not as much in Canada

"It's difficult to expand in Canada, it's an expensive hobby."

Blakeley said racers can enroll through five classes which consist of: Nitro Buggy, Electric Buggy, Nitro Truck, Electric Truck, and Four-Wheel Drive Short Course Truck.

Blakeley adds he'll love to support future youth programs that could help introduce younger generations to RC racing, which is something that he believes is missing in Canada.

"Getting into the hobby provides a break from reality," he said. "We're all working really hard out there and whether you live in the big cities like Toronto, these events allow you to get away from the city. It's peaceful and relaxing, and getting the families involved is a fantastic experience."

On the plan of expanding the track, Blakeley said he's happy on its status and continues to provide top of the line maintenance for visiting racers.

"It's open to any RC hobbyist who would like to come out and experience the track," he said. "Along with the sand topsoil, I started incorporating more clay into it to help hold it together and keep the dust down. There's a full watering system

around the track as well."

With racers travelling from across Canada and the U.S., Blakeley hopes the track

continues to bring people together. For him, it's just a hobby, it's a passion worth sharing.



(ALEX HUNT PHOTO)

Revvng up outside Otterville, RC racers travel from around America to hit the track.



(ALEX HUNT PHOTO)

John Blakeley on his custom-built RC racetrack on his Otterville-area property.

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New promotion to assist the food bank



(JEFF HELSDON PHOTO)

What kind of creation can a bunch of cans and dried goods create? Prior to the launch of CAN-struction, a Tillsonburg Helping Hands Food Bank promotion being run with assistance from Tillsonburg Downtown BIA, BIA Events and Marketing Coordinator Vanessa Fortner, left, and Samantha Hamilton, food bank coordinator, gave the concept a trial run with some of the food bank supplies.

JEFF HELSDON

Editor

What kind of interesting creations can be made with a few cans and dried goods? That's the question a few community-minded lo-

cal businesses will be asking themselves after they sign up for CAN-struction. This Tillsonburg Helping Hand Food Bank promotion will see businesses that sign on collect donations for the food bank, and then construct something from the donations in an allotted space in the Tillsonburg Town Centre. The public will

then vote on which creation they like the best.

Tillsonburg Helping Hand Food Bank coordinator Samantha Hamilton is up front in she stole the idea from the Waterloo food bank, which she toured when she started as coordinator. Seeing the success there, she thought why not try it in Tillsonburg?

"There's is a little larger but the same idea and it goes on display in the Conestoga Mall," she said. "They've given us a good framework for it."

Since this is new, Hamilton doesn't have a goal for how much food she hopes will be collected, but noted eight participating businesses is the maximum/

"Eight companies and the public outreach are my goals," she said.

Talking more about the public outreach, Hamilton said she hopes to increase the public understanding of how big the food bank is. Demand for the food bank's service is increasing. Last year, 141,000 pounds of food was supplied, and already 110,000 has gone out the door this year. There are also 30 per cent more new clients.

"We are bursting at the seams in terms of our usage of the space already," she said. "We've only been here a few years."

Tillsonburg Downtown BIA is assisting by making downtown businesses downtown aware of the promotion.

"The Helping Hand Food Bank is a member of the BIA," said Vanessa Fortner, BIA Events and Marketing Coordinator. "Like any other business, we stepped in to help their initiative."

Hamilton is looking after outreach to businesses outside the core to ensure they are aware of the promotion.

When the masterpieces are completed, each will have a sign with the business name, the story behind the build and a QR code so the public can vote during the week of Sept. 22. A panel of judges will then evaluate the creations.

"They'll consider creativity, structural integrity, and overall impact, with public votes playing an important role in determining the winner," Hamilton said.

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Explore the shoreline of Lake Erie at nearby beaches

ROBIN KRAFFT

Post Contributor

There's no shortage of natural beauty in the town of Tillsonburg, but now that the summer sun is shining, we're packing our beach bags.

Studies show that it isn't just for fun; being in, near, or on a body of water has a calming effect on the mind, known as Blue Mind Theory. Simply gazing out at the waves and the horizon leads to a quiet reflective state, which has a positive effect on our mood and mental health. Tillsonburg is central to many beautiful shoreline destinations.

Port Burwell's beautiful beach has been awarded a Blue Flag designation, signifying excellent water quality and environmental stewardship. With the implementation of a pilot project, the East Beach now has paid parking: \$4/hr or \$18/day for non-residents.

You can also visit Port Burwell Provincial Park (day pass \$18) with its ample parking lots and a specified dog beach, with on-leash and off-leash areas. A seasonal park pass is an economical choice for those who wish to visit frequently, allowing you day access to any provincial park. You can also borrow a day-use

permit for Ontario Provincial Parks from your nearest Oxford County Library.

There are no lifeguards on the beach at Port Burwell, but it's important to respect the water and ensure your safety at any beach. Lake Erie has dangerous rip currents that can pull swimmers or floaters far from shore. PFDs are highly recommended; every summer we hear about tragic loss of life that is entirely preventable. You can borrow a life jacket at the day-use office by using your credit card to provide a refundable deposit; all sizes are available. Beach wheelchairs are also available.

With your day pass, you can also access the hiking trails at the nearby campground. You may also want to visit the Port Burwell Marine Museum, historic lighthouse, Periscope Playhouse, or tour the HMCS Ojibwa, a cold war submarine.

Long Point is a UNESCO World Biosphere Reserve, and features a long sandy beach. It's also known as one of the best birding destinations in North America, featuring the Long Point Bird Observatory. Enjoy the 2km trail through the Big Creek National Wildlife Area and two viewing

towers. The best beach access is at Long Point Provincial Park and you will need a day-use permit. There are no lifeguards and PFDs (which you can borrow at the park) are recommended due to rip currents.

Numerous boat launches are available on the point. Visit shops and restaurants in nearby Port Rowan, or explore the Backus Heritage Conservation Area and Backhouse Historic Site, including the recently-updated Backus Education Centre.

You can park on side streets in Turkey Point and access the beach for free, but you'll want to get there early. Turkey Point Provincial Park has a shallow buoyed swimming area, but no lifeguards. PFDs are available from the parking lot entrance. Your day permit will also allow you to enjoy the hiking and biking trails, including the Lookout Bluff Trail which takes you along the edge of the bluff to a lookout over Long Point Bay.

Launch your boat at the nearby marina or rent a canoe, kayak, SUP or Sea-Doo. More adventurous visitors can even try flyboarding. You'll enjoy visiting nearby restaurants, and the local brewery and winery. The Long Point Eco-Adventures Resort and Retreat Centre (five minutes from Turkey Point Provincial Park) offers glamping, zip lining, live music, stargazing, an outdoor spa and various tours.

Port Dover offers a smaller beach, and there are by-laws to be aware of. Dogs are not allowed (except for service dogs), tent style sunshades are not permitted, and beach umbrellas must not exceed 2.3 m in height or 2.7 m in shade diameter. There is no lifeguard. There is some free time-limited parking as well as paid lots. This quaint small town has many interesting shops and restaurants, as well as an iconic lighthouse and pier to stroll and watch the tugboats come in. Play mini golf, visit the Harbour Museum, The Woodhouse Gallery or the Lighthouse Festival Theatre.

Port Bruce Provincial Park is for day use only and offers free admission to en-



(JEFF HELSDON PHOTO)

There was a change at Port Burwell's East Beach this summer with the implementation of a pilot paid parking system. The beach was still busy during a recent weekday.



(JEFF HELSDON PHOTO)

Long Point Beach is a popular destination, often packed on warm weekends. Besides the public beach, which requires paid parking, sun seekers can also go to the provincial park beach.



(ROBIN KRAFFT PHOTO)

One of the pluses of the Port Burwell Provincial Park beach is the opportunity to explore the sand dune ecosystem along trails and boardwalks.

joy the beach, a picnic area, playground and basketball court, but you need a day-use permit for parking. Occasional performances take place in the pavilion. You may want to explore a hiking trail or spend some time fishing off the pier, visiting a local art gallery or winery. The Gay Lea Dairy Heritage Museum and the Springwater Conservation Area are only a few minutes away. There are no lifeguards at Port Bruce, but there is a buoyed swimming area. PFDs are recommended.

Port Stanley also boasts

official Blue Flag status. Choose from the more secluded Little Beach or Main Beach. A cement path allows for ease of access for strollers and wheelchairs. Beach wheelchairs are available at the Centre Lifeguard Tower (lifeguards patrol the Main Beach only). Paid parking is in effect in municipal lots. Visit the Festival Theatre, the Railway Museum, or the charming and unique boutiques, restaurants and cafes downtown. Rent a bike and enjoy one of the many bike trails. Check the online calendar for Port

Stanley Terminal Rail and get your tickets for a ride on one of Ontario's oldest railway lines. Live music, theater, and special holiday shows and events enhance your experience on their round trip rides.

Wherever you decide to go, always be aware of the weather forecast and water conditions. Check online for any other alerts or notices that may impact your visit. Being prepared and taking a few simple precautions will make your visit safe and enjoyable. Experience the many benefits of a day at the shore.



STORYTIME WITH SANTA (JEFF HELSDON PHOTO)
Taylor Mitchell, seven, enjoyed reading a book with Santa during Santa Storytime at the Tillsonburg library last week. Dressed in his summer attire, Santa visited all the libraries in Oxford County for similar events. He did note that Tillsonburg had the best attendance in the county.

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Local athletes compete at Special Olympics Ontario Summer Games

CHRIS ABBOTT

Post Correspondant

Five athletes from Special Olympics Ontario - Tillsonburg competed at the 2025 Special Olympics Ontario Summer Games in Brantford, July 10-13.

Representing seven regions in the province, including South West Ontario, more than 750 athletes competed in five sports - athletics, bocce, golf, soccer and softball.

Tillsonburg's Jamie Van Parys and Matt MacNeil competed as singles in the bocce M1 division. Van Parys (6-1) won a silver medal, finishing second in the M1 men's division. Wayne



(CHRIS ABBOTT PHOTO)

Bocce is a weekly summer sport for Special Olympics Ontario - Tillsonburg. Making a throw on Tuesday is Kara Jones.

McKeown of Collingwood won the gold.

"I had fun," said Van Parys. "It was really fun. Hot, very hot, but very fun."

Due to heat warnings, all sports on Saturday, July 12 were adjusted to keep athletes, coaches and volunteers safe. Events ran from 8 a.m. to noon only.

"I think it affected everybody, pretty equally," said 25-year-old Van Parys, after competing at his first Summer Games. "Your hands were more slippery, you had to wipe your face a lot, the sweat was dripping down your forehead."

His only loss was his first match of the round-robin tournament against McKeown.

"It was 6-4... I made a mistake, and it cost me the match," said Van Parys. "The very last throw. I threw the little white ball in the wrong spot. I realized after he threw his first ball it was a pretty big mistake."

It's something he can learn from, Van Parys said, when it comes to strategy.

MacNeil, 35, competing at his second Summer Games, was edged 6-5 by Van Parys and 8-4 by McKeown during his six-game round robin.

"They made good shots that I couldn't come back from," said MacNeil, recalling a very close 9-8 loss.

"Jamie knew my weakness. I give him that," MacNeil smiled. "Overall, I loved it. The social media... met a couple guys that I looked up to. Hockey player Brandon Montour and TSN's Gino Reda."

In golf, AnnMarie D'Hondt, Will Ypma and Dylan Osipenko played at the Walter Gretzky Municipal Golf Course.

Osipenko, 18, from Norwich was competing in his first Summer Games in the M4 golf division.

"Good," said Osipenko, pleased with his two



(CHRIS ABBOTT PHOTO)

Five athletes from Special Olympics Ontario - Tillsonburg competed at the 2025 Special Olympics Ontario Summer Games in Brantford, July 10-13. From left are Matt MacNeil and Jamie Van Parys, bocce; and AnnMarie D'Hondt, Dylan Osipenko and Will Ypma, golf.

nine-hole rounds (58-62-120), especially his chipping.

"I like the 'closer to the green' shots," he said.

Osipenko, who finished two strokes behind the two golfers who shared M4 bronze medals, said he wants to improve his putting.

"The division was really close together, which was nice," said co-coach Julie Osipenko. "It was very close."

D'Hondt, 35, won a silver medal in her Level 5 (F2) women's division.

"It was really, really hot," D'Hondt smiled after two 18-hole rounds of 104-104. "A couple rough holes. One hole, I chipped in - I was on

the rough patch and I actually chipped it in.

"It was pretty close between third and second," she noted.

Ypma, 49, also won a silver medal in the men's M3 golf division, one stroke ahead of the bronze medallist.

"It was about average," said Ypma, recalling two 18-hole rounds of 118-111. "I had some good holes, I had some bad holes."

"The other guy (gold medallist Michael James from Milton) was in another group, so we didn't really know how close it was," said co-coach Ron Becht. "You play better when you don't know - you just play your own game."

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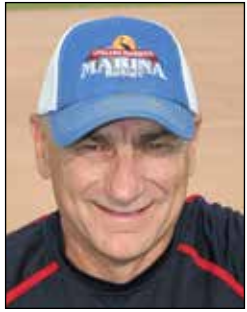
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One division clinched, others still up for grabs



**EYE
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PITCH**

DAVE WEAVER

Post Columnist

It's nice to be able to commend some local slo-pitch players on their accomplishments!

Gus Ford, a long-time player on Ward's Automotive and recently O&L Duct Design Ducks, will be representing Canada at this summer's Ice Hockey Classic—a competitive series of games held from July 26-August 2 in Australia. These games are not only to compete but to support concussion awareness and research.

Matt Evans a member of The Mill Slopitch team has signed to play college baseball with Texas A&M Corpus Christi.

Congrats to both!

Men's A Division

1,2 Seal Insulation Hawks are the first team to clinch their regular division title. They defeated Courtland Landscape and Grounds to move to 17-2. Cobra Chickens cooled off a hot Mill squad, walking them off with a homer. The win moved them to within one point of the idle Leeswood Construction Dirty Mitts. Hit N Run pulled into a tie for fourth after their lopsided victory over Courtland. Bill Klyn Carpentry are just one point back after beating Smitty's Electrical by 12. Smitty's jumped ahead of O&L Duct Design Ducks edging them by one. The Ducks and Courtland are in eighth and ninth respectively. If neither moves up, they will play a one game play-in game, with the winner going on to play the Hawks.

Smitty's Electrical-11, O&L Duct Design Ducks-10

Smitty's-Zack Cowenberg 4-4, HR; Dom Falkins 3-4.

O&L-Kyle Jones 4-5; Greg Fleming 3-4; Craig Robb 2HR; Spence Meron HR.

Game Synopsis-The nine man O&L squad hung in there, but a Jesse Legg hit walked them off in the seventh. Lead-off batter Dom Falkins scored three runs for the winners.

Bill Klyn Carpentry-25, Smitty's Electrical-13

Bill Klyn-Nathan Boldt 4-4, HR; Rob Stortz 4-4; Dallas Dalby 3HR; Ryan Miller 2HR.

Smitty's-Zack Cowenberg 4-4; Adam Smith 3-3.

Game Synopsis-Bill Klyn outpowered Smitty's, hitting six round-trippers. Dallas Dalby hit three and added a triple.

1,2 Seal Insulation Hawks-24, Courtland Landscape and Grounds-11

Hawks-Jake Klassen 4-4, HR; Peter Epp 4-4; Evan Bueckert HR; Cam Bueckert 2HR; Johnny Klassen HR; Martin Klassen HR.

Game Synopsis-Jake Klassen and Evan Bueckert each drove in five for Hawks.

Hit N Run-30, Courtland Landscape and Grounds-18

Hit N Run-John Wiebe 4-4, Gr. Slam HR; Die-drich Klassen 5-5; Jacob Klassen 2HR.

Martin Klassen 2HR; Johnny Unger HR.

Courtland-Kieran Taylor 4-4; Scott Mudford 5-5; Dan MacRae HR.

Game Synopsis -John Wiebe drove in seven runs and was a triple shy of hitting for the cycle for Hit N Run.

Cobra Chickens-20; The Mill-19

Cobra-Wyatt Blatz 5-5, GrSlam, HR; Nathan Froese 4-4, HR; Ethan Fehr HR; Caleb Reimer HR; Nick Blatz HR; Marcus Enns HR.

The Mill-Jacob Giesbrecht 3-4, 3HR; Ty Cadotte 4-4; Bryan Deblaire 2HR; Josh Stubbs HR.

Game Synopsis-Wyatt Blatz hit a grand slam to walk off The Mill, he also scored five runs.

Men's B Division

This division is still up for grabs as four teams still have a shot at the title. Underhill Farm Supply and At My Playground/IQT Logistics are tied for the lead, Pelicans are just one game back while Bayham Construction Lumberjacks are three points behind. Bayham have five games left, Pelicans four, A.M.P three, while Underhill has just one remaining.

At the other end of the spectrum, John Beere, Copper Mug-Lubricare Wannabee's and Sandy Shore Brew Jays are trying to stay out of the eight- nine play-in game. John Beere collected an upset win over Bayham while Sandy Shore came from behind to tie Side 2 Side Exteriors Strike Force while Copper Mug forfeited a double header. John Beere is one point up on the other two with two games left, Copper Mug-Lubricare has five left while Brew Jays have just one game remaining.

Underhill Farm Supply-14, Bayham Construction Lumberjacks-2

Underhill-Aaron Dyck 5-5, HR; Chris Dyck 4-5; Dave Phipps HR; Curtis Chambers 2HR; Cole Williamson HR; Johnathan Dyck HR.

Bayham-Nathan Peters 4-4; Matthew Klassen 3-4.

Game Synopsis-Underhill pounded out six homers in the win. Curtis Chambers hit a pair and scored three runs.

At My Playground/IQT Logistics-15, Pelicans-14

A.M.P.-Gavin Balazs 3-4; Travis Lamb 3-4.

Pelicans-Adam Jensen 4-4; T.J.Neville 4-5.

Game Synopsis-Travis Lamb had the walk off hit in A.M.P.'s three-run seventh.

Side 2 Side Exteriors Strike Force-16, Sandy Shore Brew Jays-16

Strike Force-Herman Enns 4-5; Jake Wall 3-4.

Brew Jays-Mike Schmeltz 4-5; Josh Knoflock 4-5.

Game Synopsis-Dan Konrad plated the tying run in Sandy Shore's four-run seventh.

John Beere-4, Bayham Construction Lumberjacks-3

John Beere-Keith McMerty 2-2; Mark Carrel 3-3.

Bayham-Abe Bartsch 2-2; Aaron Hildebrandt 2-3.

Game Synopsis-Mark Carrel plated the eventual game-winning run in the low-scoring victory

for John Beere.

Pelicans-26, Side 2 Side Exteriors Strike Force-22

Pelicans-Matt Summers 5-5; Brandon Travers 4-4; T.J. Neville 2HR; Steve Leacock HR.

Strike Force-Herman Enns 4-5, Johnny Klassen 4-5

Game Synopsis-Pelicans broke up a tie game, scoring eight seventh-inning runs. T.J.Neville hit a two-run homer in the rally.

Underhill Farm Supply-20, Sandy Shore Brew Jays-5

Underhill-Stephen Schafer 4-4; Clay Thompson 3-4.

Brew Jays-Denver Barr 3-4; Mike Haegens 3-4.

Game Synopsis-Stephen Schafer led Underhill with a single, double and triple.

Men's C Division

The C Loop standings have been tightening up. All of the teams will be busy as the bulk of the schedule will feature C teams. Townline Eqt Inc Smokin Aces will be one of the teams to watch as they have nine more games to play. Shaw's Ice Cream Sluggers lead with 22 points just one ahead of Tailgators and then three points back are Sticky Bandits and Smokin Aces.

R.L.P. Melanie Luksys-14, Bird's Golf-11

R.L.P.-Natan Granger 3-4; Trent Lamb 4-4; Landon Boughner HR.

Bird's-Nate Schram 3-3, HR; Adam Mann 3-4.

Game Synopsis-Blake Ash and Cole Toth each scored three runs for the winners.

Toweling Eqt. Inc. Smokin Aces-16, Shaw's Ice Cream Sluggers-13

Smokin Aces-David Klassen 4-4; Benny Bueckert 3-3; Daniel Unger HR.

Shaw's-Isaak Harder 4-4; Devon Kellington 3-3.

Game Synopsis-Towline scored six over their final two at-bats to steal the win. Daniel Unger was a triple shy of hitting for the cycle for the winners.

Tailgators-25, J/E Bearing-13

Tailgators-Kevin Hmeil 4-4; Matt Pitt 4-4.

J/E-Dillon Outerbridge 4-4; Bernie MacDonald 3-4; Reese Dally HR.

Game Synopsis-Lead-off batter Kevin Hmeil drove in four, and scored four runs for the winners.

Shaw's Ice Cream Sluggers-22, R.L.P. Melanie Luksys-9

Shaw's-Mackenzie Moat 4-4; Jake Superales 4-5; George Goertzen HR.

R.L.P.-Blake Ash 5-5; Landon Boughner 4-5 HR.

Game Synopsis-Everyone in the winner's order scored at least one run.

Diamond Kings-24, Team Swingers-21

Diamond-Ben Bueckert 4-4; Dave Berg 4-4.

Swingers-Noah Hamn 5-5; Shawn Knelsen 4-5.

Game Synopsis-Willy Martens and Ben Bueckert scored four runs for the winners.

C.R. Custom Engraving Smokin Bases-17, Team Swingers-16

C.R.-Cory Hopper 3-4; Chris Foresman 4-5.

Swingers-Noah Hamn 4-5; Nathan Bridges 4-5.

Game Synopsis-C.R. scored four runs in the seventh to squeak out the win.

Toweling Eqt Inc Smokin Aces-26, C.R. Custom Engraving Smokin Bases-10

Smokin Aces-Jakob Froese 5-5, HR; Peter Klassen 4-5; Daniel Unger HR.

C.R.-Colton Trudel 3-4; Matty Galan 3-5.

Game Synopsis-Jakob Froese was a double shy of hitting for the cycle for the winners. Daniel Unger hit a pair of doubles and a homer.

J/E Bearing-31, Diamond Kings-20

J/E-Reece Dally 6-6; Jeff McKay 6-6.

Diamond-Lucas Thiessen 4-5; Frank Redecop 4-5.

Game Synopsis-Everyone in the winner's order scored at least two runs.

Diamond Kings-24 R.L.P., Melanie Luksys-8

Diamond-Pete Goertzen 5-5; Ben Bueckert 4-4.

R.L.P.-Dalton Cassidy 3-3; Travis Dedobbelar 3-3; Blake Ash HR.

Game Synopsis-Fritz Thiessen, George Hiebert and Lukas Thiessen hit a triple each, and David Berg hit a pair of triples.

Tailgators-10, Shaw's Ice Cream Sluggers-6

Tailgators-Steve Medway 3-3; Ethan Diechert 3-3; Kevin Hmeil HR; Tyler Marques HR.

Shaw's-Tyler Rowe 3-3; Steve Annett 2-3.

Game Synopsis-A four-run sixth decided this one in the Tailgators favour. Tyler Marques hit a three-run homer in the rally.

Diamond Kings-17, Cain's Brickhouse Boys-8

Diamond-Corney Dyck 5-5; Willy Martens 4-4; Henry Froese HR; Dave Berg HR.

Cain's-Luke Hymers 3-3; Dimitri Carvahlo 3-3; Kurtis Heggie 2HR.

Game Synopsis-Diamond Kings plated seven in the first and sixth innings, and Dave Berg and Henry Froese homered in the first.

Bird's Golf-12, Tailgators-9

Bird's-Nate Schram 3-3; Chris Wagenaar 2-3.

Tailgators-Matt Pitt 3-3; Prabjhot Singh 3-3.

Game Synopsis-A seven-run third keyed Bird's win. Rob Wong and Geoff Bowlby each scored two runs.

Cain's Brickhouse Boys-16, Diamond Kings-10

Cain's-Court Cronheimer 3-3; Ryan Davidson 3-4.

Diamond-Ben Bueckert 4-4 Corney Dyck 4-5.

Game Synopsis-Court Cronheimer led the winne's with three doubles.

Sticky Bandits-20, N.I.M.-9

Bandits-Michael Wiebe 4-5; Makio Thiessen 4-5.

N.I.M.-Will Robertson 3-3; Riley Culp 3-3.

Game Synopsis-Everyone in the winner's order scored at least one run.

N.I.M.-21, C.R. Custom Engraving Smokin Bases-8

One division clinched, others still up for grabs

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 15

N.I.M.- Wes McDougall 6-6; Riley Culp 6-6.
C.R.-Chris Foresman 3-4; Ian Barrett 3-4.
Game Synopsis-Wes McDougall scored four runs for the winners.

Ladies' A Division

Three of the four A match ups were tight highly-contested games. Simmonds Mortgages won by just three and four over Trillium Court and Foldens Machine Works, respectively. Jays won by three over Trillium and mercied Foldens. Jays continue to lead Simmonds by six points going into a big match this past Monday.

Jays-8, Trillium Court-5

Jays-Kirstie Jones 3-3; Tracy Shackleton 3-4.
Trillium-Brooklyn Carroll 2-3; Ashley Gee 2-3.

Game Synopsis-A two-run sixth won it for the Jays. Kirstie Jones scored two runs for the winners.

Jays-17, Foldens Machine Works-2

Jays-Candi Obar 4-4; Kristen Cadotte 3-4.
Foldens-Monica Barnes 2-2; Mackenzie

Brackenbury 2-2.

Game Synopsis-Candi Obar reached and scored four times for the Jays.

Trillium Court-14; George's Auto-8

Trillium-Sam Culp 4-4; Michaela Wilford 3-4.

George's-Brittany Sandham 4-4; Alex Meilutis 2-3.

Game Synopsis-Lead-off batter Sam Culp reached and scored in all four plate appearances for Trillium.

Simmonds Mortgages-12, Trillium Court-9

Simmonds-Tracey Carruthers 4-4; Elaine Roswell 4-4.

Trillium-Carissa Maguire 4-4; Katy Wilkinson 3-4.

Game Synopsis-A five-run sixth by Simmonds broke up a close game. Shannon Oneill had a two-run double in the rally. Carissa Maguire robbed Oneill of extra bases with a fantastic catch in Oneill's previous at-bat.

Simmonds Mortgages-13, Foldens Machine Works-9

Simmonds-Kalyn Salmon 3-3; Elaine Roswell 4-4.

Foldens-Trisha Mckenzie 4-4; Andrea Deblaire 3-3.

Game Synopsis-Simmonds did their damage in two innings, plating six in the first and fourth. Jackie Wood-Van Santen had a two run triple in the fourth. Foldens outfielder Mandi Vickers made a miraculous catch in the fifth.

Ladies' B Division

Kyle Nesbitt Trucking had wins over George's Auto and Resting Pitch to maintain their same lead over second-place Wildcats. Wildcats beat George's and Resting avenging an earlier loss to Resting.

Kyle Nesbitt Trucking-17, George's Auto-5

Nesbitt-Teri Joosse 4-4; Missy Falkins 4-4.
George's-Emily Goodall 3-3; Justine Hanson 2-3

Game Synopsis-Nicole Morgan had a two run

triple and scored four runs for the winners.

Wildcats-23, Resting Pitch Face-16

Wildcats-Nikki Lama 5-5; Christine Phillips 5-5.

Resting-Martina McCallum 4-4; Jenna Wilford 4-4.

Game Synopsis-Nikki Lama scored five runs for the Wildcats.

Kyle Nesbitt Trucking-16, Resting Pitch Face-3

Nesbitt-Rebecca Caza 3-3; Claire Barker 3-3.
Resting-Hailee Beckett 2-2; Katie Depew 2-2.

Game Synopsis-Nicole Morgan scored three runs for Nesbitt.

Wildcats-15, George's Auto-8

Wildcats-Mona Smith 3-3; Nikki Lama 4-4 HR.

George's-Brittany Sandham 4-4; Allison Sage 4-4.

Game Synopsis-Nikki Lama homered and singled three times to lead the winners.

SCOREBOARD

MEN'S A DIVISION	W	L	T	PTS
1-1,2 SEAL INSULATION HAWKS	17	2	0	34
2-LEESWOOD CONSTRUCTION DIRTY MITTS	12	5	1	25
3-COBRA CHICKENS	12	7	0	24
4-THE MILL	9	8	0	18
4-JOHN KLASSEN REALTY HIT N RUN	9	10	0	18
5-BILL KLYN CARPENTRY	8	8	1	17
6-SMITTY'S ELECTRICAL	5	12	0	10
7-O&L DUCT DESIGN DUCKS	4	13	0	8
8-COURTLAND LANDSCAPE AND GROUNDS	3	14	0	6

MEN'S B DIVISION	W	L	T	PTS
1-UNDERHILL FARM SUPPLY	12	7	0	24
1-AT MY PLAYGROUND/IQT LOGISTICS	11	4	2	24
2-PELICANS	11	5	0	22
4-BAYHAM CONSTRUCTION LUMBERJACKS	10	4	1	21
5-SIDE 2 SIDE EXTERIORS STRIKE FORCE	7	5	2	16
6-DESIGNATED DRINKERS	6	8	1	13
7-JOHN BEERE	5	13	0	10
8-COPPER MUG-LUBRICARE WANNABEE'S	4	10	1	9
8-SANDY SHORE BREW JAYS	4	14	1	9

MEN'S C DIVISION	W	L	T	PTS
1-SHAW'S ICE CREAM SLUGGERS	11	4	0	22
2-TAILGATORS	10	2	1	21
3-TOWNLINE EQT INC SMOKIN ACES	9	2	0	18
3-STICKY BANDITS	9	4	0	18
4-N.I.M.	8	5	0	16
5- BIRD'S GOLF	7	5	1	15
6-TEAM SWINGERS	5	6	0	10
6-DIAMOND KINGS	5	10	0	10
7-R.L.P. MELANIE LUKSYS	4	8	0	8
7-C.R. CUSTOM ENGRAVING SMOKIN BASES	4	13	0	8
8-J/E BEARING	3	9	0	6
9-CAIN'S BRICKHOUSE BOYS	2	9	0	4

LADIES A DIVISION	W	L	T	PTS
1-JAYS	15	2	0	30
2-SIMMONDS MORTGAGES	12	4	0	24
3-FOLDENS MACHINE WORKS	10	7	0	20
4-TRILLIUM COURT	7	10	0	14

LADIES B DIVISION	W	L	T	PTS
1-KYLE NESBITT TRUCKING	10	5	0	20
2-WILDCATS	7	8	1	15
3-RESTING PITCH FACE	2	14	1	5
4-GEORGE'S AUTO	2	15	0	4

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Attendance doubles last year at Running with the Bulls

JEFF HELSDON

Editor

Attendance at Saturday's Running with the Bulls doubled from last year.

The second annual running event stepped it up a notch with an association with the Kindred Association. This charity helps families who have a member diagnosed with cancer.

Bull started the event as a way of giving back after her son was diagnosed with a rare form of cancer. When it was initially thought he would need an expensive treatment regimen in the United States, the community was generous through a GoFundMe initiative. Bull started Running with the Bulls as a way of giving back to families with cancer.

The featured a 10-kilometre run, a 5-kilometre event, a 1-kilometre Kiddie Bull Charge, and the Marwood 2k Memorial Family Walk. The turnout was huge, with 375 runners, not including those in the walk. Last year had a total of 222 participants, including walkers.

"It was amazing to see," Bull said Monday. "Easily I doubled the amount of runners, I was just so happy."

For runners, the event took on a new level of significance as it was a chip-time certified run. The course was certified last year, and it was sanctioned through Ontario Athletics. This combination is normally only seen in runs in larger centre.

"All of those are qualifiers that will draw a true runner to your race," Bull said.

Breaking down attendance further, there were



(JEFF HELSDON PHOTO)

Volunteers and all participants in Running with the Bulls received souvenir yellow event T-shirts. Runners are pictured here lining up to register as a volunteer grabs the correct-sized shirt.

161 in the 10-kilometre run, 153.5 in the five-kilometre event, and 61 in the one-kilometre youth event. Registration wasn't required for the memorial walk.

Anita, who was first across the finish line for ladies in the 10K race, was from the Netherlands. Another runner was from Jacksonville, Florida. Canadian runners came from New Brunswick and Alberta at the extremes, as well as from Ottawa, Belleville, the GTA, Windsor, Sarnia, and everywhere in between.

Bull said there were real "heart-warming" stories she heard at the event. One was two VON nurses showing up with her mother, who is in a wheelchair, and pushing her the entire length of the memorial walk. With her father passing away the week before the race, this

family connection tugged at Bull's heart strings.

Another overwhelming story was from a runner who has lung cancer. He hadn't run since he was diagnosed with cancer, which then went into remission, before coming back.

"He knew it was something he had to do himself because it's the last run he will ever do," Bull said.

She isn't sure of how much she raised yet, having to turn back to her family and making arrangements for her father this week. There were opportunities for people to purchase memorial signs along the trail and runners could seek sponsorship in addition to paying their registration fee.

Tillsonburg Councillor Chris Parker was the top fundraiser with \$642 in pledges.

"He ran 10K, and that guy hasn't run in years, but he did it for the cause," Bull said.

With Running with the Bulls being a charity for her father's memorial, it threw another unknown into the mix.

Last year's event raised \$22,178.

"I know it will surpass that for sure, I just don't know what it will be," she said.

Bull was thankful for all the community support for local businesses, from the Lion's Club and individuals in making the event a success.



(JEFF HELSDON PHOTO)

Mascot, who had no name until the event, has been a social media star in several videos at sponsoring businesses for Running with the Bulls, but had no name. It was decided to name Mascot T-Burg. Organizer Tamara Bull is pictured with T-Burg.



(JEFF HELSDON PHOTO)

Mike Walker of Avon was the first to cross the finish line in the 10-kilometer run with a time of 35:01.



(JEFF HELSDON PHOTO)

The hydration station on the trail behind Makkink's Flower Farm was manned by Marcel and Luke Makkink, who handed out cups of water to participants.



(JEFF HELSDON PHOTO)

Although there wasn't an award for best costume at Running with the Bulls, if there was Helen Kelly of Brantford would have been a contender.

Warlords Hockey Academy needs billet families

CHRIS ABBOTT

Post Correspondant

International hockey players, and players from across Canada, are coming to Oxford County to join the Warlords Hockey Academy.

The academy offers two hockey programs – Oxford Warlords (A/AA) and Oxford Sabres (AAA).

“Our goal with the Sabres is higher end AAA,” said Troy Lamoure, General Manager of Hockey Operations and head of skills development for the Warlords Hockey Academy.

“We wanted to add an elite level to what we’re doing. We’re following a prep academy model, rather than the standard Alliance/OMHA AAA route.”

The Sabres can recruit international players from anywhere in the world.

“It’s a bigger scale and there’s more things that go into it, the living side of things, the schooling side of things, when players are coming from different places in the world.”

The program includes both on-ice and off-ice training.

“Other programs, you have to go to outside sources to get power skating, or if you

want a shooting session, dryland session, you have to go elsewhere. We are all-encompassing, you can do all these things within the program.”

The Sabres, who have 16U and 18U teams, are coming off an extremely successful 2024-25 season. That success has opened doors – more players have applied to their programs, and other larger programs are starting to take notice.

BILLETS

Last season, the Sabres had eight billet players. This coming season, 2025-26, they will have 26 billet players, including players from Belgium, France and Iceland.

Lamoure (troylamoure88@gmail.com) said their goal is to have a centralized billet program, focusing primarily on the Tillsonburg area, which helps create player bonds, often within walking distance of each other.

“If it’s centralized, you can carpool, which makes it easier for billet family schedules.

“We want to have families that have a child in the sport, or has been through the hockey process and understands the nature of things. Nutrition is a part of it – some kids are higher on nutrition than others.

“Having that bond, that connection... it’s their second home and you’re often going to have a relationship with them the rest of your lives. You’re making an im-

pact on that player’s journey.

“It is a time commitment, but we want families to understand that we work with all of our billet families, we want to help out as much as we can in that process.

“Our organization likes to get to know the billet family, have a few conversations, visit at their homes, sit down with them... making sure they understand they are taking in a student athlete, the ups and downs that come with that, and having that support system.

“The players are away from home and they need that comfortability, and that family atmosphere to help them make the transition into the new lifestyle they’re coming into.”

Longer term they want to provide their own private school, but currently Sabres attend Glendale High School in Tillsonburg.

“Growing up, I went to Glendale, had a great experience there, and I love the school. I like the teachers there - they are great educators. But we want to be flexible. We’re not saying ‘you have to go to Glendale...’ We want to keep it as cost-effective as possible.”

Playing in two leagues (North American Prep Hockey League and this year, United Tier 1 Hockey League), the Sabres play up to 70 games.

“The goal is to get better and better and grow the program every year... and it’s kind of grown exponentially. We want continual growth.

CONTINUED TO PAGE 19

Weekend Quiz

by Jake Grant

- | | |
|--|--|
| 1. What Canadian province has the most earthquakes? | join the Union after the original 13 colonies? |
| 2. Alphabet Inc is the parent company of what corporation? | 7. Which band released the 1967 album Sgt. Pepper's Lonely Hearts Club Band? |
| 3. What two colors is Poland's flag? | 8. What color is Mike Wazowski? |
| 4. What is the name of the bear in The Jungle Book? | 9. What vitamin is commonly found in citrus fruits like oranges? |
| 5. In tennis, what word is used for a score of zero? | 10. When was the First Academy Awards held? |
| 6. Which U.S. state was the first to | |

This week's answers are found on pg. 26

Welcome home



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“We took a big jump last year, obviously had a lot of talent. I think we have moved into a true AAA program. We’ve drawn players from different AAA organizations, but we’re still looking at AA players. The difference between the good AA player and the lower end AAA player isn’t too big of a margin.”

The Warlords have 9U, 11U, 13U and 15U hockey teams. “We have had players that have developed through that (Warlords) that have made the jump into the Sabres program. And that’s kind of the idea behind the program – people striving to make that jump into the next calibre.”

Over the last three seasons, the Sabres have recruited players from nine countries and seven Canadian provinces.

The goal is to find areas of the world where players need better development and exposure. The Sabres are looking for players who want to find a home in Ontario, the hotbed in Canada for junior hockey.

“They love hockey, they just need more of it, more structure.”

“Some people just want to come for the experience. They want to live in Canada, they want to do schooling in Ontario. They want to experience the culture, the atmosphere.”

The Sabres also have local players from centres like London, Woodstock, Brantford, and Haldimand and Norfolk Counties, and that interest has grown going into the 2025-26 season.

“It’s a cool experience for everyone, and that’s the goal when you have half a group of local players and half a group from Europe or different provinces, and it’s all different cultures, languages and lifestyles coming together.”

Warlords Hockey Academy is building its own training ice pad in Woodstock, he said, about one-third the size of an arena. During the season, they typically have three on-ice practices and two dryland sessions, and one or two games every week.

“We started with a 2,000 square foot gym, we’re now in a 6,000 square foot gym which has a synthetic ice pad, a video room, a player lounge, workout equipment... So we’re taking steps every year.”



The Warlords Hockey Academy, based in Oxford County, includes elite 16U and 18U hockey teams.

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Tillsonburg rower wins at provincial masters

JEFF HELSDON

Editor

A Tillsonburg rower came home from the Ontario Masters' Rowing Championship with some hardware around her neck.

Donna Sykes was first in Class D (50-54 years of age) at the RowOn Masters Championship held recently in Welland. She also placed second in the Singles Lightweight All-Ages Category.

Starting rowing in high school, Sykes took a break from it for several years. Then someone she knew in high school convinced her to come back to the sport.

"She hounded me and hounded me, I came out and got hooked," Sykes recounted.

She contacted Tricia Giesbrecht (Sandham), her high school rowing partner, and convinced her to row again. The two of them have been racing doubles since 2020, and Sykes also raced singles.

The club isn't as large as it once was. Members practice regularly on Lake Lisgar. There is no longer a high school

team, and the club has less than 10 rowers. For Sykes and Sandham, this means there is no coach, so they coach themselves.

"It's tough when you don't have anyone there in a coach boat to critique you," Sykes said.

Still, they do win, as evidenced by Sykes' recent performance.

They are presently the ones in the Tillsonburg Rowing Club competing. They are hoping to convince some of the newer members to try competing this fall.

"We're trying to get some of the new rowers out and hoping they like it," she said.

Club president Frank Tamasi is leading efforts to try to increase membership. At one time, the Tillsonburg Rowing Club had a large membership of high school, recreational and competitive rowers.

"We're trying to get this thing revived," Sykes said.

For more information, visit the club web site at <http://www.tillsonburgrowingclub.com> or contact Sykes at tfc1975@kwic.com or 519-550-3370.



(SUBMITTED PHOTO)

Donna Sykes recently came home with some hardware around her neck after competing in a rowing competition in Welland. She started as a rowing competitor in high school.



(JEFF HELSDON PHOTO)

Tillsonburg Rowing Club has regular practices for both quadruple sculls and doubles.

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MUSIC CORNER

All aboard the creative train: Wadley Station's new era starts on the right track



BEN ADDRESS

Tillsonburg Post Columnist

If you have been around the Southwestern Ontario music scene for a minute, you have probably caught wind of Wadley Station. Maybe you have seen them live at your local pub or even an open mic night. Maybe you have stumbled across their online sets and found yourself unexpectedly staying for the whole thing. However you found them, you would have likely noticed that Wadley Station is not your average band.

Wadley Station is cur-

rently in its most open and exploratory phase yet led by Langton guitarist and composer Yair Herrera with Tillsonburg vocalist and songwriter Sarah Wade. The duo is launching a new monthly livestream series that is redefining what it means to be a local act in a digital world.

"Wadley Station has always been about movement and collaboration," Yair tells me from the band's cozy studio space with walls lined with gear and the lingering smell of espresso. "It is more than just a band, it is a collective. Think of it like a train station! People come and go, some stay longer and while they are here, we want to showcase what they can do, learn from them and create something unique together."

That train station metaphor is just as functional as it is poetic. One week Wadley Station might play as a full rock band. The next week maybe a jazz trio, a folk duet or some-

thing entirely improvised. There is no fixed destination, only momentum.

"It has given us the freedom to be fluid," Yair continues. "Compared to when we first started, it feels a lot more open now. There is no one fixed sound or setup, just an evolving space where different musicians can bring their energy and ideas."

That openness shines brightest in the band's new monthly livestreams hosted on Facebook. It started small with the group just sharing rehearsals with friends and fans, but quickly grew into something more intentional.

"We started the livestreams as a way to stay connected with people beyond our local scene," Sarah explains. "It began as a simple rehearsal share but it has turned into a space where fans can see the raw, unpolished side of our music. The part you don't always catch on stage."

The result is a rare

glimpse into the creative process with missed cues, spontaneous harmonies and unfinished songs that might become your next favourite track.

"In-person shows are all about feeding off the crowd's energy," Sarah adds, "while livestreams let us slow down, talk more and really connect with listeners in a different way."

"Fans can definitely expect some surprises in the upcoming livestreams," she continues. "We want to push for more educational content and new ideas on every stream. Our very first one helped raise money for Rags to Riches, a cat rescue in Tillsonburg, and we plan to keep dedicating some streams to causes that mean a lot to us." That spirit of community and creativity will always be central. "You will always find Yair on guitar, myself on vocals, Lexy hosting and hopefully more friends jumping in along the way."

Musically it is a partnership built on contrast and connection.

"Our creative process has definitely evolved over time," says Yair. "We each have our strengths. Sarah is a songwriter with a killer voice and I'm a classically trained composer with a deep understanding of melodic, harmonic and rhythm elements. Every song ends up being a true blend of our styles."

That blend has grown deeper as the band's journey unfolded.

"What hasn't changed is that spark we get when we are bouncing ideas back and forth," Yair adds. "There's always this push-and-pull that makes the music richer than if either of us worked alone."

Both Wade and Herrera bring years of diverse experience to the project.

"All of our past projects shaped how we approach Wadley Station," Sarah reflects. "We have each been in bands with different styles, some more

experimental, some more traditional and those experiences taught us what we value most in making music."

At its heart, Wadley Station is about creating a musical space where structure meets spontaneity. A place where the sound is always evolving and everyone is invited to the platform.

"Since the beginning Wadley had a clear goal of being creative and re-inventing," Yair explains. "And as time passed by, we have gotten closer and closer to that vision."

The train is moving and you will want to be on it. Whether you are in the front row or watching from your kitchen table consider this your boarding call to join Wadley Station Sunday, Aug. 3rd at 8 p.m. on their online broadcast. Catch Wadley Station's monthly livestreams by following them on their social media account at www.facebook.com/wadleystation

UPCOMING SHOWS

JULY 25 - MUSIC TRIVIA
The Copper Mug
No Cover - 8 p.m.

JULY 26 - DAVE BELLAIRE
THE MILL
No Cover - 5:30 p.m. - all ages/
licensed

JULY 26 - KARAOKE NIGHT
The Copper Mug
No Cover - 8:30 p.m.

JULY 27 - GEORGE FULOP
ANNANDALE NHS (Music On
The Lawn Series)
No Cover - 7 p.m. - all ages

AUGUST 1 - THE
MENDOZAZ, SIXTEEN
SCANDALS & IAN BW
The Copper Mug
PWYC - 8 p.m.

AUGUST 13 - BRENDAN
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Halifax has converted its waterfront into a welcoming destination



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

PAUL KNOWLES

Tillsonburg Post Columnist

Fun fact: no point in Nova Scotia is more than 60 kilometers from the sea. And that geographical reality translates into innumerable delights for visitors to this Maritime province.

From Cape Breton – where the Cabot trail is a must-do for all visitors – to the Acadian Shores; from Digby on the Bay of Fundy coast to Lunenburg, home of the Bluenose, on the Atlantic, the sea is an intrinsic part of so many visits to Nova Scotia.

And nowhere is the connection with the sea more beautifully realized than in Halifax, where inspired vision and incredible effort has gone into transforming the waterfront into one of the most visitable destinations in Canada.

Visitors can walk the entire waterfront, and it will take a while, because there is so much to do, here. Major attractions include the Canadian Museum of Immigration at Pier 21, the Maritime Museum of the Atlantic, and the HMCS Sackville, the last remaining “Flower-class Corvette” from World War II, and now a National Historic Site and a naval museum. The Sackville is permanently moored in Halifax Harbour.

And speaking of boats and Halifax Harbour, a terrific way to get a water-side perspective on the scene is by taking the unique Halifax Harbour Tours cruise. What’s so special about this particular cruise? It truly is unique – the boat is 105 years old, built in England, and once used in Florida’s Ever-

glades. But while it has all of this history, it’s also thoroughly modern, having been retrofitted as “Halifax’s only all-electric harbour cruise.”

Captain Glenn Fraser told us that the retrofit, which was admittedly expensive, has meant that the operating cost of each 90-minute cruise is about \$1.

The cost to passengers is \$40 per adult – in my opinion, quite a bargain when compared to a lot of tourism experiences.

The cruise not only provides wonderful views of the entire waterfront – including ships ranging from luxury yachts to imposing military vessels – it also provides a good look at Georges Island, home to Fort Charlotte. A few years ago, Parks Canada opened Fort Charlotte to the public, with its maze of underground tunnels. Guided tours are available. And visitors to the island may also encounter the unique, black and white species of garter snake that have evolved on the island.

The Harbour Tour is really worthwhile, but you will also want to spend time strolling along the waterfront, taking in all the attractions, big and small. These will range from unique sculptures commemorating the history of Halifax as the first port of call for immigrants, to buskers offering live entertainment along the way.

There are play areas for kids, including and the iconic and accessible sculpture, “The Wave”, which is continually populated by climbing kids, and which gives me the willies as I wait for someone to fall off the crest. This does not seem to happen, though!

You can find the entire spectrum of dining experiences along the waterfront. There are plenty of pubs and craft breweries, as well as higher-end dining. And there are food shacks, selling every variety of fast food, including, of course, beaver tails, donairs, and ice cream.

A fairly recent addition to the waterfront is the luxury hotel, the Muir. It’s an attraction in its own right, and the development created an amazing waterfront space that includes an



(PAUL KNOWLES PHOTOS)

The 105-year-old, now electric boat of Halifax Harbour Tours.

event area, sculpture gallery, a vast staircase into the sea, and lots of spots for boutiques and restaurants.

One of my favourite shops on the waterfront is the Peace by Chocolate boutique. Peace by Chocolate has an inspiring story – a business founded by Syrian refugees to Canada, committed to making a positive difference in the world, and also to producing some of finest chocolate I have ever tasted! The founding Hadhad family – who still own the business – are based in Antigonish, Nova Scotia, the location of their factory, but the Halifax waterfront shop certainly offers all the best of their admittedly addictive products.

The developers of the waterfront had the brilliant idea of making sure every visitor has an opportunity to simply relax. So there are innumerable chairs provided for lounging with a great view of the sea – perhaps even napping?

There is a lot more to do in Halifax, away

from the water: the famous Citadel, one of the most visited history attractions in Canada; the Nova Scotia Art Gallery, which includes the highly decorated home of primitive painter Maud Lewis; and not to be forgotten, the Alexander Keith’s brewery. But I have a confession to make: during our two-day stay in Halifax, we never actually left the waterfront. We stayed at the Westin Nova Scotia, spent hours and hours at the Museum of Immigration, and the rest of our days strolling, cruising and exploring along the waterfront. It was a wonderful, relaxing visit.

Next time, Halifax, I will try to pry myself away from your amazing waterfront to enjoy everything else in this welcoming city. But it won’t be easy.

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



The HMCS Sackville, the last remaining WWII Corvette of its class.



The Wave, continually inhabited by risk-taking children!

Zoning approved for dollar store in Northgate Plaza

JEFF HELSDON

Editor

A zone change was approved by Tillsonburg council to allow a dollar store to locate in the Northgate Plaza on Broadway.

Tillsonburg council dealt with an application from Kermar Holdings Inc. to allow a dollar store in the plaza at the July 12 meeting. Dollarama plans to locate a 9,300-square-foot store there.

The application was for a zone change to modify the provisions of the Special Service Commercial Zone on the property to allow a dollar store. The council resolution also included informing county staff that Tillsonburg council supported an application for an official plan amendment to allow a dollar store as an additional permitted use in the service commercial zoning.

Speaking to the application, planner Mark Davidson

said he concluded that the application would be beneficial to the community with little risk to downtown.

Robert Koppert, representing the developer, said the planning process has taken a long time, and he noted contradictions in the zoning bylaws of the town and county. He said a pet food store, grocery store, and drug store are all permitted uses, but a dollar store isn't.

"I just want to encourage the levels of government to correct this patchwork of zoning," he said.

Besides the money spent on the planning process, he said the developer has lost \$140,000 in potential rent over the last several months. In the meantime, across the street, a dollar store is an allowed use.

Mayor Deb Gilvesy questioned why a dollar store would be allowed on a property that is only 100 feet away.

Davidson said the same process was followed for the Sobey's Plaza several years ago.

"The process is consistent from a planning perspective," he said.

Gilvesy requested a more detailed explanation of what is permitted under the zoning regulations.

Davidson explained that the downtown is a central commercial area, and any retail outside of that area would be service commercial.

"It's set up to protect the downtown area and to ensure the majority of commercial uses are in the downtown," he said, adding the downtown is doing well at present.

Coun. Bob Parsons noted that the approved application will be sent to the county, and it does take time.

Development Commissioner Cephias Panschow said with limited commercial land and the town growing, adjustments to the policies may be necessary.

Gilvesy concluded by telling Koppert the plaza has been great for the community.

"It was a much-needed addition to the town," she said.



TURTLEFEST ART WINNER

(JEFF HELSDON PHOTO)

Megan Miernan, right, was the winner of the people's choice award held by the Station Arts Centre in conjunction with Turtlefest. The contest was open to anything to do with turtles. McKiernan's image of a turtle with Annandale House on its back captured the essence of the story of town founder George Tillson coming back as a turtle while paying homage to Annandale National Historic Site, which his son built. Station Arts Centre Executive Director Tabitha Verbuyst made the presentation of the certificate and a \$250 prize to McKiernan. There were 23 entries from 29 artists in the contest.

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Coin

I can be cracked, opened, told, and sometimes made up. What am I?

Joke

What has a face but no eyes, mouth, or nose?

Clock

The more you have of me, the less you see. What am I?

Darkness

I'm often served hot, poured in a cup, and can help you wake up. What am I?

Coffee

What belongs to you but is used more by others?

Your name

I go up and down, but I stay in the same place. What am I?

Stairs

SUDOKU

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Solutions on page 26

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OBITUARY

PETER J. LUCIANI SR.



We, the family of Peter James Luciani Sr., announce with great sadness his passing at the Tillsonburg District Memorial Hospital on Saturday July 19, 2025, at the age of 90.

Born in Brantford, he met the love of his life, Marie, in neighbouring Paris, Ontario. In 1956 they moved to Tillsonburg and together they enjoyed raising their family. They were grateful and took pleasure in being able to serve the public for many decades while operating their family business "Luciani Fruit Market".

Dad lived each day to the fullest, and he believed in laughter and fun! His greatest pleasure was loving his family! Enjoying cabin days, playing card games for hours, hunting and fishing, were all among Dad's favourite pastimes. Dad will always be remembered for "putting the party and fun" into the simplest things of life.

He was brave and courageous dealing with all things that life threw at him. He always stood tall and accepted all challenges with dignity and grace. He was smart, loving, witty, fun, and our best friend. Dad served on the Tillsonburg Fire Department for 25 years, retiring as a Captain in 1983. He was and is our hero.

The Good Lord has taken you home Dad... have fun on the other side!

Survived by Marie, his loving wife of 69 years, and their 5 children: Peter (Kelly), Larry (Carolyn), Leslie Pettinger (Chris 2016), Lindee (Wayne) Vansevenant, Mark (Patti); 15 grandchildren, Cheryl (Andrew) Luciani Macdonald, Sean, Melanie (Jerry) Drier, PJ (Lori), Daniel, Nicole, Christy (Alex) Visscher, Lawrence (Mallory) Pettinger, Lance (Kim) Pettinger, Jaime (Rob) Bilger, Jordan Vansevenant (Jordan Charlton), Tyson, Alana, Evan Dixon, Abby Dixon, and 26 great grandchildren. He will be missed by his many nieces, nephews and cousins. He is survived by his brother-in-law Mick Graham. Predeceased by his parents Peter and Kathleen (nee Stewart), brothers Leo (Julie), Bill (Joan), Tom (Millie), and sisters Pauline (Bob) Morrison, Josephine (Bernie) Phillips, Bernice (Sam) Filby, and sister-in-law Lorna Shaw Graham.

Special thanks to his amazing care team at the London Health Sciences Centre and to the compassionate doctors, nurses and staff at the Tillsonburg District Memorial Hospital.

As per dad's request, cremation will take place and there will be no funeral. A private family celebration will take place at a later date. Memorial donations to the Tillsonburg Helping Hand Food Bank or the Tillsonburg District Memorial Hospital Foundation are appreciated.

Wareing Cremation Services, 161 Broadway St., Tillsonburg, Ontario have been entrusted with Final Arrangements. Your messages of remembrance and condolence may be shared at wareingcremation.ca

LOCAL MATTERS.

Remember that time when **Amazon** sponsored your church fundraiser?

Remember when **Facebook** bought a case of Girl Guide cookies to support your daughter?

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

Neither do we!

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

Tillsonburg Post is now a WEEKLY publication!

The next issue will be: Thursday, July 31st

Sign up for our newsletter to be notified!

tillsonburgpost.com

MEMORIES AND MILESTONES:

Share them with your local community.

Let us help you honour and celebrate every chapter of life — from anniversaries to obituaries, and everything in between. Commemorate the moments that matter in the

Tillsonburg POST

Let us help create a meaningful announcement:
info@tillsonburgpost.com

QUIZ ANSWERS

1. British Columbia
2. Google
3. White and Red
4. Baloo
5. Love
6. Vermont
7. The Beatles
8. Green
9. Vitamin C
10. 1929

SUDOKU

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

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COMING EVENTS

SPONSORED BY

CRAVING SOMETHING LATE?

SWISS CHALET AND HARVEY'S ARE NOW OPEN LATER FOR DINE-IN, DRIVE-THRU, TAKEOUT, AND DELIVERY APPS!

**MONDAY - FRIDAY: 11 AM TO 10 PM,
SUNDAYS: 11 AM TO 9:30 PM**

NEW DAILY SPECIALS BEING OFFERED FROM 8PM- CLOSE

Please stop by to see offers.

SWISS CHALET

**400 Simcoe St.,
Tillsonburg**

KIDS' ACTIVITIES

**CRAFTS, GAMES, AND STORIES
Every Saturday in July and August, 1-3 p.m.**

**The Edison, Vienna, & Area Museum
6209 Plank Road, Vienna, ON**
FREE admission, no pre-registration necessary. Contact bayhamhistoricalsociety@hotmail.com for more details.

THE EDISON, VIENNA, & AREA MUSEUM SUMMER PROGRAMMING SCHEDULE

**The Edison, Vienna, & Area Museum
6209 Plank Road, Vienna, ON**
July 26: The Edison Lightbulb
August 2: European Vienna
August 9: Party Time! (Coinciding with the Ontario Trillium Foundation Recognition Gala)
August 16: Movies
August 23: Brownie Cameras
August 30: Back to School
FREE admission, no pre-registration necessary. Contact bayhamhistoricalsociety@hotmail.com for more details.

CANADIAN HARVARD AIRCRAFT ASSOCIATION OPEN HOUSE & FLY DAYS

**August 16 (Rain Date: August 17)
Sept 13 - Wings & Wheels**
All event dates take place from 9am - 4pm
Tillsonburg Regional Airport
Join us for our Open House & Fly Days during our special 40th anniversary season. These monthly family-friendly outdoor events are always FREE and offer the opportunity to see our collection of Harvard aircraft up close, tour our hangars, explore restoration projects, purchase souvenirs, and best of all, purchase a flight! Pre-booking your flight experience is recommended by contacting crewflights@harvards.com.

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

at the Masonic Hall, 190 Thames St., Ingersoll, 1-4 p.m. every other Friday.
September 5 & 19, October 3, 17 & 31, November 14 & 28, and December 5.
Join us. Walk ins welcome. Qualifications, love 50-70's country music, perform, listen, dance, and enjoy.

MODERN SQUARE DANCING IS FOR YOU!

Looking for something to do in the evening or something new to try? Modern square dancing is a great way to learn something new, have fun, meet new friends, relieve stress, and get some exercise! **At Thames Valley Dance Club, we dance on Monday nights from 7:00-9:00pm.** 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). **We will be starting our 2025-2026 season on Monday, Sept 8/25 at the Ingersoll Pipe Band Hall, 108 Wonham St. S. Ingersoll.** The first night is free, and after that the cost is \$7.50 per person each Monday, paid monthly at the start of the month. For more information, contact Julie at 519-535-3314. Hope to see you on Sept 8th at the Ingersoll Pipe Band Hall!

OXFORD GRIEF CARE:

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

TILLSONBURG

WHEN: 2nd Tuesday of every month
WHERE: VON Oxford Office 24 Brock St. W., Tillsonburg
TIME: 6:30PM-8:00PM

INGERSOLL

WHEN: 4th Tuesday of every month
WHERE: Ingersoll Public Library 130 Oxford St., Ingersoll
TIME: 10:30AM -12:00Noon

WOODSTOCK

WHEN: 3rd Saturday of every month
WHERE: Sakura House Hospice 715180 Oxford Rd.4, Woodstock
TIME: 10:30AM-12:00Noon

INTERESTED IN BRIDGE?

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

TILLSONBURG LIONS

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

MEMBERS GENERAL MEETING

**1st Wednesday of every month
Starting at 7:00 pm**
Not a member contact us to join
The Wagner Memorial Teeterville Legion Branch 526. 3890 Teeterville Road, Teeterville, Ontario. For More Information Call, the Legion 519-443-5588
<https://www.teetervillelegionbranch526.ca>

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

WE WELCOME YOU!

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

WEEKLY CRUISE NIGHTS

Hosted by the Tillsonburg Cruisers at the Tim Hortons/Wendys.
Everyone is welcome to come and enjoy vehicles of all makes and years.

WAGNER MEMORIAL TEETERVILLE LEGION BRANCH

**526 EVENTS:
3890 Teeterville Road, Teeterville, Ontario**

**OPEN JAM! FREE EVENT!
Saturday, July 26th, starting at 1:00 pm
Last Saturday of every month**
Everyone is welcome to bring an instrument or just come out and listen to the music. Hot dogs available for purchase!
Cash only bar, no debit or ATM at the legion
For More Information call the Legion at 519-443-5588 or teetervillelegionbranch526.ca

**Bldv Riff Raff! Free Event!
Saturday, July 26th, playing in the Bandshell!
3pm-7pm**
Everyone is welcome to bring a lawn chair and listen. Cash only bar, no debit or ATM at the legion. Hot dogs available for purchase.
For More Information call the Legion at 519-443-5588 or teetervillelegionbranch526.ca

GRANT HAVEN MEDIA *Tillsonburg POST*

**CONVENIENT WAYS TO ACCESS
YOUR NEWSPAPER!**

Stay up-to-date with the latest news and local stories. View the current edition online 24/7 at www.granthaven.com/tillsonburg-post

Don't miss a beat and sign up free to receive each edition straight to your inbox.

For those of you who prefer to have a printed copy of the paper we will continue to drop off paper at many local businesses and community spaces.

**SCAN TO READ
ONLINE PAPER**



**SCAN FOR PICK
UP LOCATIONS**



www.granthaven.com



SUMMER CLEARANCE DEALS

LAST CHANCE CLEARANCE DEALS!!!!

MONDAY - FRIDAY: 8AM-9PM, SATURDAY: 8AM-6PM, SUNDAY: 9AM-6PM

12 FT INFLATABLE WATER MAT/RAFT

SALE \$279.93



SAVE \$420
REG \$699.99
SKU 79-1424

MINELAB GOFIND 66 METAL DETECTOR

SALE \$149.93



HALF PRICE
REG \$349.99
SKU 79-2211

SECH FUSION SMARTWATCH

SALE \$29.93



SAVE \$40
REG \$69.99
SKU 35-6235

POWERBILT TPS GOLF RANGE FINDER

SALE \$49.93



SAVE \$150
REG \$199.99
SKU 399-8732

CANVAS BERNIER LOUNGE CHAIR

SALE \$179.93



SAVE \$120
REG \$299.99
SKU 188-1388

HYBRID INFLATABLE STANDUP PADDLE BOARD 11FT 6IN

SALE \$399.93



HALF PRICE
REG \$799.99
SKU 79-8333 (LAST ONE)

CONNELY NITRO-2 LAKE TOWABLE

SALE \$99.93



SAVE 78%
REG \$449.99
SKU 79-7186 (2 LEFT)

AMERISTEP BRICKHOUSE GROUND PORTABLE 3 PERSON HUNTING BLIND

SALE \$149.93



HALF PRICE
REG \$299.99
SKU 75-3070

GALANZ RETRO STYLE FRIDGE 7.6 CU.FT

SALE \$449.93



SAVE \$250
REG \$699.99
SKU 43-1567 (TWO LEFT)

CHEST FREEZER, 3.5 CUBIC FOOT

SALE \$199.93



SAVE \$100
REG \$299.99
SKU 43-0292 (3 LEFT)

INTEX MARINER INFLATABLE BOAT WITH CANOPY & OARS, PVC GREY

SALE \$279.93



SAVE \$170
REG \$449.99
SKU 79-8348 (ONE LEFT)

YUKON GEAR 18 GUN FIREARM SECURITY SAFE

SALE \$299.93



SAVE 40%
REG \$499.99
SKU 175-9874 (3 LEFT)

IROBOT J7+ VAC & MOP

SALE \$599.93



SAVE \$700
REG \$1299.99
SKU 43-7119

CANVAS GRASSI AUTOMATIC OUTDOOR/PATIO AWNING GREY 10X12

SALE \$499.93



SAVE \$400
REG \$899.99
SKU 188-0297

10FT X 10FT CAMO SHED

SALE \$249.93



SAVE 50%
REG \$499.99
SKU 37-0020 (2 LEFT)

MAXIMUM 10- GALLON QUIET CABINET AIR COMPRESSOR

SALE \$359.93



SAVE \$220
REG \$599.99
SKU 58-1980 (ONE LEFT)

CANVAS PELLY 5 PIECE CHAT SET

SALE \$599.93



SAVE \$400
REG \$999.99
SKU 188-0283

DYSON V7 CORDLESS STICK VACUUM

SALE \$279.93



SAVE \$220
REG \$499.99
SKU 43-7232 (3 LEFT)

FRIGIDAIRE STAINLESS STEEL NUGGET ICE MAKER 30LB/DAY

SALE \$249.93



SAVE \$130
REG \$379.99
SKU 43-1519 (2 LEFT)

ULTIMA COSA DIGITAL AIR FRYER - 8 COOKING MODES

SALE \$59.93



SAVE 60%
REG \$139.99
SKU 499-1132

VISIT OUR STORE OR GO ONLINE FOR OUR FULL FLYER AND THOUSANDS OF OTHER ITEMS ON SALE. ONLINE ORDERS USUALLY READY FOR PICK UP IN 30 MINUTES!

**248 BROADWAY,
TILLSONBURG
(519) 842-5926
canadiantire.ca**

