HARDY AVE REPAVING PAGE 10

MEMORIAL STONE PAGE 11

Tillsonburg POST

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NOVEMBER 19, 2026 VOLUME 3 • ISSUE 10

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Santa Claus parade this weekend

JEFF HELSDON

Editor

Santa Claus is coming to town.

The annual Tillsonburg Santa Claus parade will make its way through downtown this Saturday. The parade will again be a night-time affair, with lights on the floats to awe spectators, and will start at 6 p.m.

The parade will be taking the same route as last year, with floats lining up behind Avondale Church. It will then start on Harvey Street, turn right onto Oxford Street, then onto Bidwell Street to go by Maple Manor Nursing Home. The parade route then jogs down Bridge Street to Rolph Street to pass by the hospital, which will be lit up that night. The parade then turns down Bear Street, to Broadway, and travels down Broadway to Brock, and returns to the staging area.

Catherine White, lead for the parade with the Tillsonburg Optimist Club, said there were already 85 floats registered last week, and more last-minute entries are expected. In addition, five bands are lined up to play in the parade.

"There's two new floats that we've never seen before," she shared, but wouldn't say anymore.

White asked anyone with youth in the parade to drop them off at the Upper Deck Youth Center before the parade starts. Those with floats are asked to be at the staging area by 5 p.m.

Again, firefighters will collect food donations along the parade route to donate to the food bank.

TDMH Foundation will again hold its Light the Hospital campaign, starting at 5:30 p.m. Treats and hot chocolate will be available at the hospital, and the Christmas lights will be turned on as the parade approaches. The evening is also the start of the foundation's Angels of Giving campaign to raise money to purchase hospital equipment.

CONTINUED TO PAGE 5



BIG CROWD AT REMEMBRANCE DAY (JEFF HELSDON PHOTO)

Legion President Tom Brown and Beth Boughner, representing the Ladies' Auxiliary to Branch 153, present wreaths to be laid at the cenotaph on Remembrance Day. The streets in front of the cenotaph were filled with people for the annual event. See more photos on Page 9 of today's paper.

SWOX fire guts home and leaves two families homeless

JEFF HELSDON

Editor

A home fire in a duplex last Wednesday left two families homeless.

South-West Oxford deputy fire chief Jeremy Wallace reported one of the occupants called in the fire at 5:53 p.m. on Nov. 11 from the home on Brownsville Road, just beyond the Tillsonburg town limits. The call came in as a stove fire.

"Crews entered the building and extinguished the area on fire," he said. "On further going through the house, they found the fire had spread through the walls to the attic."

Once it was found that the fire had spread, firefighters determined it was unsafe to be inside and switched to defensive mode. Firefighters were on scene until about midnight.

CONTINUED TO PAGE 2



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Letter to the Editor

Honouring our past and rebuilding our future

My deepest respect and appreciation to the outgoing mayor and council, and my sincere congratulations to the newly elected and re-elected mayor and members of council. Serving in public office is a responsibility that requires sacrifice, dedication, commitment, patience, and sound judgment. Leadership is not always easy, particularly when decisions involve competing interests and the expectations of an entire community.

I sincerely acknowledge Mayor Deb Gilvesy, Deputy Mayor Dave Beres, and Councillors Pete Luciani, Christopher (Chris) Parker, Bob Parsons, Chris Rosehart, Kelly Spencer for their time, contributions, dedication, and service to the Town of Tillsonburg over the past four years. Your commitment to public service has been part of Tillsonburg journey of growth and development. Thank you for the work you have done and for the responsibilities you have carried on behalf of our residents.

As we recognize the outgoing council, we also congratulate Mayor Deb Gilvesy and the re-elected Dave Beres (former Deputy Mayor), Chris Parker, Chris Rosehart, and newly elected members of council Lindsey Ambrus Mejaski, John Gilvesy, and Ron Gasparetto as they prepare for the next four years of leadership.

The people have entrusted you with an important responsibility to make decisions that protect our community's interests, strengthens our local economy, preserves our heritage, and creates opportunities for present and future generations. As we look towards the future, I believe Tillsonburg must remain focused on the things that make our town special. Rebuilding our historic clock tower, preserving our heritage, protecting our green spaces, supporting local businesses, and investing in the infrastructure that serves our residents are all important parts of that vision.

My recommendations for the next four years

1: Affordability and responsible taxation: Make affordability a priority through responsible tax management, disciplined spending, and accountable municipal budgeting.

2: Economic growth and employment: Strengthen our commercial and industrial tax base by attracting responsible business investments, supporting existing businesses, and creating sustainable employment opportunities.

3: Heritage and environmental protection: Preserve the historical identity of Tillsonburg, including rebuilding our clock tower, protecting our green spaces, and maintaining the character of our community.

4: Affordable housing: Work collaboratively with Oxford County and relevant partners to negotiate practical and sustainable affordable housing solutions for our residents.

5: Infrastructure and community safety: Prioritize roads, drainage, sidewalks, and essential infrastructure while ensuring that development keeps pace with the needs of our growing community.

6: Responsible subdivision development: Establish clear and consistently enforced bylaws that require developers to meet appropriate road construction standards, infrastructure requirements, safety expectations, and meaningful community engagement before, during, and after development.

Furthermore, I encourage residents to remain engaged, constructive, and supportive of our municipal leadership. Effective government requires more than elected representatives; it requires an informed, involved, and united community. Let us remember that the strength of Tillsonburg is not measured only by new buildings, investments, or developments, but also by the quality of life we create, the opportunities we provide, the heritage we preserve, and the unity we build among our residents.

Above all, I give thanks to Almighty God. He is the head of all affairs, and it is in His wisdom, knowledge, understanding, and direction that I place my trust.

Congratulations once again to Mayor Deb Gilvesy and all members of council. I wish you wisdom, strength, unity, and success throughout the next four years of service.

Together, let us honour our past, strengthen our present, and build a better future for Tillsonburg.

God bless our mayor and council. God bless the residents of Tillsonburg.

Best Regards,
Pastor Felix. N. Nzemeka

Fundraising efforts set up to assist fire victims

CONTINUED FROM FRONT

Wallace didn't have a damage estimate when interviewed, but commented, "It will be a total loss in that house for sure."

Four different fire departments – Mt. Elgin, Beachville and Tillsonburg – assisted Brownsville firefighters with the blaze, for a total of 10 trucks to fight the fire.

There were no injuries to firefighters or the occupants, who got out safely. Unfortunately, the occupants lost all of their contents.

Jennifer McMaster, whose mother, Cindy, and uncle Joe Underhill lived in one of the units, has been organizing fundraising to assist. She said neither tenant had insurance, and many people have reached out.

The fire has been a continuing streak of bad luck for her mother, who lost her job a few months ago and, more recently, had her sister pass away.

Romel Diaz, who lived in the other unit, said he and his family lost everything but the clothes on their back, including furniture, clothing, personal items and irreplaceable memories.

"In a matter of moments, our lives were completely turned upside down," he said. "We are now faced with the overwhelming reality of having to start over and rebuild our lives from nothing."

Separate GoFundMe pages have been set up for both and can be found by searching 'Cindy McMaster' or 'Joe Underhill'. A GoFundMe has also been set up for Romel Diaz, the tenant in the other apartment, and can be found by searching 'Diaz Family'.

The Copper Mug will host a spaghetti fundraiser on Dec. 2. The local Legion branch donated use of the hall for McMaster, a musician, to play with Jordie Dagg.

"They're the main band, but they're asking others to come out and jam as well," Jennifer said.

She is impressed with the outpouring of support.

"It warms my heart the way the community has come together," she said. "There's people she's never talked to, never met, who reached out. It's amazing."



(JEFF HELSDON PHOTO)

Firefighters from four different departments were on scene about six hours last Wednesday, battling a home fire on Brownsville Road, just outside Tillsonburg town limits. The fire started as a stove fire and spread, causing a total loss of the home.



EDITORIAL

Time to focus on Canadian politics

Now that the American mid-terms are over, and the result is what most Canadians were hoping for, will the conversation in coffee shops and arenas switch to our own politics?

There are six by-elections on Dec. 7 to fill vacancies from MPs who retired. Outside of those who live in impacted ridings, this probably isn't on most Canadians radar. It's almost for sure, the majority don't realize this is the highest number of bye-elections at once since the 1950s.

In the meantime, many other things are going on in Canada that the general public doesn't seem to be following. Parks Canada is facing $145 million in budget cuts over three years. This equates to about 500 full-time jobs and will see at least 13 park warden detachments close across the country, with a shift to a regional approach. The translation of that is less enforcement and the loss of the search-and-rescue team in Banff National Park. And yet, Canada is giving money for parks in other countries.

While on the environmental front, the possibility of drilling for oil has been raised in the western Arctic Ocean. Is anyone talking about the implications of this?

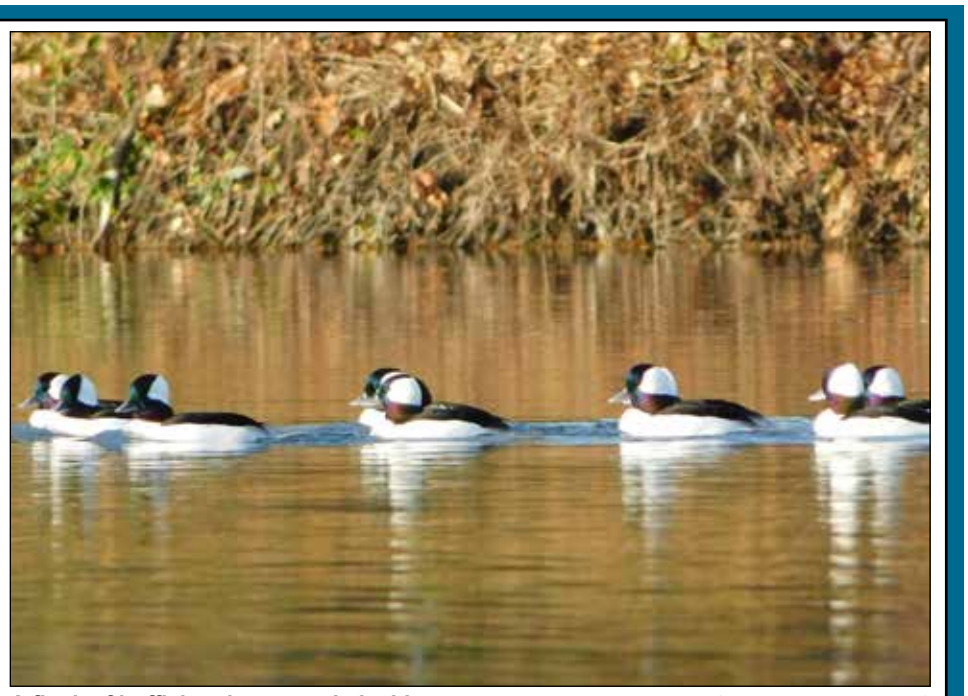
Switching gears, what about cozying up to China? How is it that Huawei infrastructure used by Canada's cell phone companies had to be restricted for security reasons, but imports of Chinese cars can increase? How much did all the infrastructure changes add to our cell phone bills?

And what will a stronger relationship with the EU mean for the average Canadian? Is this part of a longer-term plan to move our currency to the Euro?

Speaking of money, the fact that the proposed 2026-27 budget is the largest budget ever doesn't seem to be front and centre. How about the interest on the $1.2 trillion in debt rising to the point it's more than health transfers to the provinces?

These are all unanswered questions that aren't front of mind for most Canadians. Maybe most Canadians back these ideas, or maybe they don't. However, the reality is they are likely unaware and are instead focused on American politics.

Sure, current trade policies are having an impact in Canada, but Canadian policies have an even larger impact on Canadians, and no one is talking about them. It's time to set American politics aside and pay attention to what is happening in our country.



A flock of buffleheads stop at Lake Lisgar. (WAYNE BEARD PHOTO)

PHOTOGRAPHERS WANTED

Do you have a great photo you think would look good on the editorial page?

The Tillsonburg Post is looking for images to display in this space from community members who would like to share their art work. All images must be taken in Tillsonburg, or the immediate area, and should not be of people.Images should be high resolution jpegs. Please send only one image per e-mail, and send no more than three images. Images should be sent to jeff@granthaven.com

Life experiences lead to a new perspective and an unexpected vocation for local man



EVERYONE HAS A STORY TO TELL

ROBIN KRAFFT

Tillsonburg Post Columnist

Jordan Hunter may have taken a winding road, but he's feeling like he has reached his ideal destination.

He grew up in Woodstock, and when it was time to go to college, Hunter leaned into family legacy. His grandfather had been a police officer and a firefighter, and he liked the idea of helping people, along with some excitement and adrenaline. He attended Lambton College in Sarnia and earned diplomas in Criminal Justice Studies and Police Foundations.

Recognizing the need for some life experience, he worked hospital security and did some landscaping back in Woodstock until a friend returned from Alberta. Hunter noticed that he seemed to have a lot of money to throw around.

"He had been working in the oil fields, and suggested that I come out and he could get me a job right away," Hunter said. "Five weeks later I was there. There was a bit of culture shock; it feels different out there, there's a very hard-working mentality."

When oil prices were high, he would work for 21 days straight, get three days off and then be back on again. Hunter worked on service rigs, and he described the wilderness camps where some workers live, depending on their job site.

"They were very remote, hours away," Hunter said. "It was like a college dorm in the middle of the woods. The drilling rigs would drill (sometimes 4,000 m down) until they find oil reserves and then the service rigs would come in. The pump brings the oil up out of the ground, but when the pump stops working or anything goes wrong, that's when we would come in."

It was difficult and dangerous work, demanding heavy lifting and manual labour within a remote, hard culture that demanded you meet expectations.

"There was poisonous gas and accidents," Hunter said. "The first month I almost got killed. I was so new I didn't know things were going wrong, but I almost got squished by two tons of metal. My knees were shaking getting back on that platform, but it was a really good experience of hard work."

When oil prices went down in early 2015, he was laid off and all the small towns connected with the oil field became like ghost towns.

"Me and my buddy, we were thinking we're riggers, we're roughnecks," Hunter said. "We figured anybody would be happy to hire us."

They were in for a rude awakening. When they moved to Edmonton, it was tough to get a job. Hunter ended up selling Kirby vacuums door-to-door with very little sales experience, but he discovered that he was good at it. He got into car sales before moving home, but continued at a Woodstock dealership before transitioning to real estate.

"I was making good money on the service rigs, but I wanted to be doing something more fulfilling," Hunter said. "I'm still able to help people, and that's why I wanted to become a cop, to help people through bad times. Real estate isn't always glamorous. Some people are forced to sell. I'm right up and down with them all along the journey."

Although living in Tillsonburg now, and primarily dealing with properties in Woodstock, Ingersoll and London, he has occasionally sold properties here in Tillsonburg, including a rather problematic and notorious house in Hickory Hills.

While he refers to his time on the oil fields as a small chapter in his life, it provided valuable life lessons. Becoming a father srobin.19hifted his perspective yet again, and he's grateful that he has the flexibility to spend lots of quality time with his daughter. Recently, he has been sharing their explorations of local parks in short review videos.

"My idea was to connect with other dads and show off what the town has to offer for people who might be new in town or thinking about moving here," Hunter said. "Tillsonburg is stereotyped as a retirement community, but in the seven years that we have lived here we've noticed a lot of younger families moving into town. I want my daughter to have fun. She loves going to all the parks, and I'm in there playing with her!"

Jordan Hunter ended up exactly where he was meant to be.

Heat, hearth, and home: fireplaces played an essential role in the house

TILLSONBURG CULTURE AND COMMUNITY

JASON PANKRATZ

Tillsonburg Post Columnist

What were the essential functional features that were built into each house in years past, that are rarely included today?

The chimney and fireplace.

It's true. Few homes are built with fireplaces today. They just aren't needed. If they are, they are usually for ventilation or aesthetic improvement at the request of the builder/homeowner or gas, not woodburning. Drive around town and look at new homes, they do not have chimneys.

I love fireplaces. My childhood home, where my parents still live in, has two - ne on the main floor and one in the basement. The main floor was converted into a gas fireplace, and the basement is woodburning, but needs a new damper, which makes it unusable for now.

I have many memories of real wood fires in both. They are comforting. They are internal experiences of warmth and special moments.

My Aunt Rochelle passed away this summer, and one of my greatest memories was the fireplace in her sitting room. They burned everything there. As soon as she or Uncle Max lit that fire, I was sitting there in front of it on the lime green matted down shag-like carpet, or on the bricked hearth. It's silly how these insignificant instances become integral moments in our memory.

Some day I hope to have a historical Tillsonburg house with a functional fireplace, and a back stairway.

I've been into historical homes in our town and have marveled at the fireplaces. I've seen simple bricked structures that are purely for woodburning and heating. I've seen small Victorian cast iron fireplace inserts that would have been fueled by burning coal. These are used to heat individual rooms rather than a floor or full home. Grand fireplace surrounds made of Victorian wood, brick and tile as well as black faux marble and real marble mantlepieces are often seen in the main sitting room or dining area.

Seek out the rooms and design of the fireplaces next time you are in Annandale House. The home has six built-in fireplaces. They are made from solid slate and painted to look like marble. Additionally, look at the fireplace surrounds. They exemplify the aesthetic art movement, using exceptional design.

But above all, they were functional. It is fascinating to think of E.D. in his first-floor tower room at a desk near the fire. Or Mary Ann entertaining others in the parlour with the fire roaring. And the personal fireplaces that warmed the bedrooms on the second floor. And there are some rooms which would have had their own individual coal or woodstove.

The house was built with a boiler in the basement that would have heated the whole house during the cold weather. The home was also lit by gas lights. You can still see the capped gas nodules emerging from the walls in nearly each room.

Annandale House is now decorated for the Christmas Season. Somehow the look and feel of a fireplace in winter is part and parcel of the Holiday Season. You will see candles and garland decorating the mantles. Stockings hanging from the fireplace is another essential holiday tradition.

Don't tell anyone, but I once had the opportunity to get onto the flat roof of Annandale House. From there you can see how large and beautifully constructed the chimneys are. There are two large chimneys at the north end of the house and one to the east and one to the west. I am fascinated by the architectural work that went into designing the avenues of the flues. Each of the four chimneys served fireplaces or stoves on all three floors of the house and likely in the basement as well. What a complex and technical design.



(JASON PANKRATZ PHOTO)

The parlour fireplace in Annandale House provided warmth, but was also decorative. Like many fireplaces of the period, it had a mantel for decorative or personal items.

Nostalgically, I wonder when the last fire was lit in the house. For what purpose? And in which room did it provide warmth and comfort? Perhaps only the house itself remembers.

Dr. Jason Pankratz is a local historian and published author of several articles and books, including Tillsonburg at 200.

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6. Newspapers strengthen communities
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8. Newspapers should be locally-owned and operated

Santa Claus parade this Saturday

CONTINUED FROM FRONT

Planning for the parade started in the spring for White.

"The bigger the parade gets, the more it is to organize," she said, explaining its larger than last year.

The club already has more volunteers than anticipated. Extra volunteers were needed this year to staff each barricade for emergencies.

All funding for the parade comes from fundraising and donations. It costs several thousand dollars to pull off the parade, with White citing the cost of the bands, portable toilet rentals, and other incidental costs that add up.

"In order to have a decent parade, you need bands for entertainment between the floats," she said.

New this year, there will be prizes for the best float in three different categories.

Pipe replacement, sewage plant filters being installed



(JEFF HELSDON PHOTO)

Construction crews have been busy replacing a pipe that is part of the sanitary sewer in Tillsonburg. Old Vienna Road has been closed while the work takes place.

JEFF HELSDON

Editor

Pipe replacement and wastewater treatment plant filters are the latest updates to the Tillsonburg waste treatment facility and its infrastructure.

Work is underway on Old Vienna Road at the intersection of Plank Line to replace an old, corrugated metal pipe that Reuben Davis, Senior Manager of Engineering Services for Oxford County, said is at the end of its life.

A directional drill is being used to install the new pipe from the top of the hill to an outlet at the bottom, where it goes directly to the treatment facility. Currently, crews have installed a bypass around the existing pipe so sewage service continues for area residents. Once crews install the new pipe, they will put it into service and remove the bypass.

Asked about the smell some residents have complained about from the treatment plant, Davis said the pipe isn't the cause, and that the smell comes from the plant itself. In a separate initiative, odour control units are being installed at the plant.

"When those units are installed, it should improve some of the odours emitted from the plant," he explained, adding that smells aren't uncommon from sewage treatment plants.

The work is expected to be completed by mid-December.

Prefer to read online?
tillsonburgpost.com



Carrie Lewis shares her passion for wilderness canoeing

JEFF HELSDON
Editor

Residents who know Carrie Lewis through one of the many leadership roles she holds in town might guess she is a people person who visits exotic destinations or cruises on holidays.

The opposite is true.

Lewis, who is the president of the local Kinettes, past chair of the hospital board, chair of the town's Museum, Cultural Heritage and Special Awards Committee and wears many other hats, escapes people when she goes on vacation. She heads to the wilderness with her canoe, and the more remote the better.

She said canoeing helps her keep her sanity, and she isn't one to sit and watch television.

"As soon as the ice is out, I'm on the water," she said.

Wilderness canoeing isn't for the faint of heart or the inexperienced. Being hours from help, following a route on a paper map, running whitewater, bringing all your provisions, and sleeping in the wilderness is a true adventure.

While Lewis said living in the bush for a week is freeing, it also requires self-reliance, discipline, and good judgment.

"Of course, canoeing isn't always picture-perfect with sunsets and peaceful paddling. There are chilly early mornings, unpredictable weather, the occasional questionable route decision, and those moments when you discover that getting a canoe to move sideways is a whole lot harder than it looks," she said. "But for me, that's all part of the fun."

Lewis has done much of her canoeing in provincial parks, such as Haliburton Highlands and Killarney, but she has also explored the French River and Lake Temagami three times. Although Highway 11 touches the east end of Lake Temagami, most of the lake is accessible only by water. On one trip, Lewis started in the headwaters north of the lake, accessed her starting point from west of Elk Lake, and paddled south.

"The further north you go in Temagami, you rarely see people," she said.

She prefers canoeing in the shoulder seasons, when fewer people are in the parks.

"For me, a paddle into the wilderness is as much about connecting with nature and learning about the past as it is about the journey itself," she said.

Being in the wilderness, she brings dehydrated food in barrels. Bear bangers are also included in her gear in case there are unwanted visits of the bruin kind.

"Sometimes the bumps in the night get to you," she admitted. "Usually, a squirrel is louder than a bear."

Lewis doesn't usually go on these trips alone, although she canoes locally. Her canoe, a 16-foot Kevlar hybrid, weighs 48 pounds – a weight that is too heavy for wilderness trips. She opts for a Kevlar carbon canoe on those trips, weighing 32 to 35 pounds, since portages are part of many journeys.

"I'm also going to be carrying 100 pounds of equipment on my back so I keep the canoe light," she said.

Talking about why she rents, Lewis explained a Kevlar-carbon canoe may be light but its price is hefty at north of $5,000.

"To bang that up on a rock, I would probably cry," she said of the possibility if she owned it.

While many women who are into wilderness canoeing initially started with their husbands, that isn't the case with Lewis; her husband only recently joined her on a wilderness trip. Her appetite for the wild was whetted in her teenage years. Her father, Floyd, hunted and fished, but a family friend, George Cooke, sponsored her to attend the Ontario Federation of Anglers and Hunters Conservation School when she was 15, sparking a love affair with the wilds of Ontario's waterways. During the school, participants learned about nature, conservation, hunting, fishing, and canoeing.

"That's where I got independence from, where I got confidence," she said.

Now she goes on trips with groups, friends or by herself. Her first wilderness kayak trip, when she was 15 and shooting rapids, was with her mother Gail while they were visiting a cottage. Her daughters have joined her before and share her love of the wilderness, but both are in post-secondary school and have other priorities right now.



(JEFF HELSDON PHOTO)

Carrie Lewis lifts her canoe above her head in preparation for a recent trip. Well known as a volunteer in town, Lewis' escape is wilderness canoeing.

Taking canoeing to the next level

Lewis noted that many of her girlfriends are shy about canoeing, and to share her passion with them and her daughters, she became certified through the Ontario Recreational Canoe and Kayak Association (ORCKA).

Lewis talked about her youngest daughter being accepted in the Thames Valley District School Board WILD program three years ago – an exclusive program with only 20 participants. She had completed Level 1 canoeing and was fortunate to be asked to go when another instructor backed out. She said 90 per cent of the participants were worried they would break a nail when they arrived, and didn't carry much.

"By the end, they're carrying a canoe with a pack on and a smile on their face," she recounted.

Lewis has taken more courses and can now teach Levels 1 to 4 in Basic Canoeing, Levels 1 and 2 in Canadian-style paddling, and Levels 1 and 2 in Canoe Tripping. She plans on adding more courses next summer.

With this experience under her belt, Lewis is launching Keelin' Time Adventures to teach others how to canoe. Saying it will be a retirement job eventually, she plans a local basics course for late spring. With her certification, she can also lead trips.

"My vision is about more than teaching strokes and steering a canoe," she said. "It's about building confidence, discovering hidden corners of Ontario, appreciating the natural world, and making memories that last long after the paddles are put away."

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SWEARING IN OF NEW COUNCIL

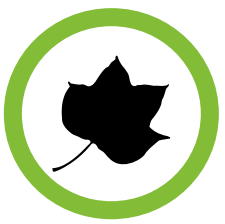
(JEFF HELSDON PHOTO)

After Tillsonburg's new council was sworn in, councillors assisted with putting the mayor's chain of office on Mayor Deb Gilvesy. Left to right are councillors: John Gilvesy, Ron Gasparetto, Dave Beres, Chris Parker, Chris Rosehart and Lindsay Mejaski. Watch next week's Post for coverage of the mayor's inaugural address.

COMMUNITY UPDATE

Notices

Tillsonburg Named One of Canada's Best Places to Live!



There's another reason to be proud to call Tillsonburg home! The Town of Tillsonburg has been ranked #8 in Canada in Zolo's 2026 Best Places to Live ranking.

The ranking recognizes Tillsonburg's strong safety record and low unemployment rate, making it a great place to live, work, and raise a family. Learn more at **www.tillsonburg.ca/news**.

Overnight Parking Restrictions in Effect



A reminder that overnight (2:00 am - 6:00 am) parking restrictions are now in effect across Tillsonburg and will remain in place until March 31. To help snowplows and winter maintenance crews keep roads clear and safe, on-street parking is not permitted overnight during the winter season. Help keep neighbourhood streets accessible for everyone.

Public Notice: Proposed Surplus Lands on Lincoln Street



Residents are advised that Council will consider declaring a portion of the Lincoln Street Right-of-Way surplus to municipal needs at its November 23 meeting. The lands under consideration include an approximately 8-metre (28-foot) wide strip along the south side of Lincoln Street and, if approved, may be sold to the adjacent property owner subject to final Council approval.

Anyone with questions or concerns is encouraged to share their feedback before or during the Council meeting. For details and supporting information, visit **www.tillsonburg.ca/news**.

Hardy Avenue Asphalt Improvements



As part of the Town's 2026 Asphalt Maintenance Program, Hardy Avenue will undergo asphalt milling and resurfacing from the Community Centre access road to Sanders Street. Construction is scheduled to begin the week of November 9 and is expected to be completed by November 27, weather permitting.

During construction, portions of Hardy Avenue will be closed to public traffic and signed detours will be in place. The Community Centre access intersection and public parking areas will remain open; however, access to the Lions Den and South Pool entrances will be temporarily unavailable during road closures.

For more information, visit **tillsonburg.ca/news.**

Don't Miss Fall Leaf Collection



Residents are reminded that November 27 is the final day to rake leaves to the curb for collection. Crews will continue collecting any leaf piles placed out before the deadline.

Please note that collection may be temporarily paused during snowfall or significant winter weather and will resume as conditions permit. For everyone's safety, please do not stop or approach collection crews while they are working.

Leaves, brush, and other yard waste can also be taken to the Transfer Station (50 Newell Rd.).

Culture Corner

Christmas Open House & A Kitschy Christmas



Kick off the holiday season at Annandale NHS annual Christmas Open House, November 27-29. Enjoy the beautifully decorated historic home, open by donation, and explore this year's Christmas exhibition, A Kitschy Christmas, celebrating nostalgic, over-the-top holiday décor.

Open House Hours:

Friday: 6:30 to 9:00 p.m. (Tree Lighting at 7:00 p.m.)
Saturday: 10:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m.
Sunday: 1:00 to 4:00 p.m.

"Oh Kitschy Tree!"- Ornament Contest

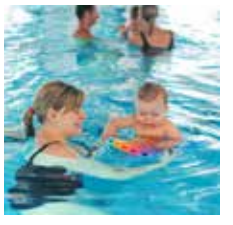


Think you can top last year's tackiest tree trim? We're on the hunt for the kitschiest Christmas ornament around!

From November 2-25, let your imagination run wild and create the most wonderfully outrageous holiday ornament you can. Pile on the glitter, add the googly eyes, and don't hold back on the festive flair. One lucky creator will take home the coveted Golden Glue Gun Trophy and, of course, year-long bragging rights!

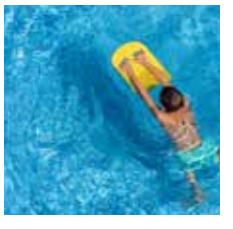
Active Living & Learning Opportunities

Community Swim | November 27



Looking for a fun way to spend your Friday evening? Join us for a Community Swim on Friday, November 27, from 7:30 to 9:30 p.m. Enjoy a relaxing swim, spend time with friends and family, and make the most of the pool during this special evening swim session. All ages are welcome!

No Drop-In Swimming November 22



Please note that drop-in aquatic programs will be cancelled on Sunday, November 22 to accommodate National Lifeguard training and recertification courses. We appreciate your understanding and look forward to welcoming swimmers back during regular program hours.

Winter Recreation Guide Coming Soon!



The Winter Recreation Guide will be available December 7, 2026!

Aquatic registration opens on December 9. All other program registration begins December 10.

www.tillsonburg.ca/guide

TOWNSHIP OF NORWICH NEWS

Norwich council dismisses entrepreneur's development charges complaint

LUKE EDWARDS

Post Contributor

It appears a local beauty salon owner will be on the hook for Norwich Township's portion of the $29,000 in development charges applied to renovations at the former Carnegie library building.

This is despite the fact staff and councillors acknowledge concerns over potential misinformation staff provided Jade Horinga as she embarked on her dream to open the business. Ultimately, councillors suggested those allegations weren't applicable to the public hearing under the Development Charges Act held on Nov. 3.

"If any misinformation was given to the applicant that is a problem. I would acknowledge that and I will do my best to try to address that and ensure things like that don't happen in the future," said Jason Simpson, director of building services and chief building official for the township at the hearing.

"Unfortunately, that's not what's being considered by council today."

In her presentation, Horinga said she bought the former library building to realize her dream of opening a beauty salon. However, to do so required significant work to the interior.

"What I saw was an opportunity to take a beautiful building and bring it back to life," she said, adding she did her due diligence and asked municipal officials about potential fees before taking the plunge.

Horinga said she was initially told development charges wouldn't be applicable to her project, only to find out later that she would be charged some DCs. She said she was then told there was an error in the calculation and the charges were being increased to $29,000.

"That is more than 10 times the amount I had originally been told. The number went from zero to $2,800 to $29,000," she said.

"Had I known this it would have affected my decision to purchase this property."

The $29,000 total is a combination of Oxford County and Norwich Township DCs. The township's portion is around $6,800.

In addition to claims she was misled, Horinga argued the DCs were, in fact, inappropriately applied.

However, staff did not agree with her assertions. Simpson said the fact there was a change of use to the building, a building permit was required, and alterations were made meant DCs were applicable. And since the most recent legal use was as a place of worship, it didn't meet the provisions for a DC credit.

Councillors ultimately agreed, dismissing the complaint after about 45 minutes of closed-door deliberations.

Still, the potential communication issues irked councillors.

"We have a young entrepreneur that's presented and seems to me asked all the questions and has been misdirected," said Coun. Shawn Gear. "I'm trying to understand where the misdirection came from and why it wasn't identified sooner."

Norwich eyes meeting with provincial health minister

LUKE EDWARDS

Post Contributor

Township officials will be looking for a face-to-face with Sylvia Jones at the upcoming Rural Ontario Municipal Association conference.

But unlike many other delegations, Norwich won't be asking for money from the provincial health minister. Instead, their plan, should they secure a meeting, would be to talk about the potential new medical centre and lobby for a change to rules that would allow them to keep doctors who they help get qualified through the Practice Ready Assessment Program.

"The fact is we can conduct those assessments, we can help these doctors get qualified in Ontario, but we can't actually keep any of the doctors within Oxford County or within the Norwich Medical Centre," CAO Matt Smith said at the Nov. 3 council meeting. Their meeting would pitch an exemption or change to the rules.

The discussion came as council received a piece of correspondence from the Ministry of Municipal Affairs and Housing regarding the opening of delegation request submissions for the January ROMA conference. While staff said the timing is odd - municipalities are in the process of wrapping up the previous term and installing new mayors and councillors, and the deadline to submit is Nov. 20 - Smith suggested a meeting with Jones could be useful.

Council recently heard about a proposal to swap land with the Netherlands Reformed Congregation, which could lead to an expanded medical centre. Smith said it'd be a good chance to get that on the ministry's radar, while also discussing the Practice Ready Assessment Program issues.

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REMEMBRANCE DAY

(JEFF HELSDON PHOTOS)



About 50 people joined local dignitaries and Legion represntatives for the Silent Walk from Veteran's Memorial Parkway to the cenotaph prior to the service.



The Legion's colour party marching down Broadway was the start of the official ceremonies last Wednesday.



Legion members salute as the Oxford Reformed Christian School sings O Canada. The choir also sang O God Our Help in Ages Past and God Save the King.



All the focus was on bugler Nathan Pol as he played The Last Post prior to a moment of silence to honour the war fallen.



Representatives of Oxford County OPP, and Oxford County EMS presented wreaths during the ceremony.



Those watching the ceremony lined up to place their poppies on a cross covered with white felt following the ceremony.

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OPP investigating discovery of a body in SWOX

LEE GRIFFI

Post Contributor

The Oxford Detachment of the Ontario Provincial Police is investigating a death in South-West Oxford.

Officers responded to a call for service on Plank Line on the morning of Nov. 10 where one person was located with no signs of life. Due to the circumstances surrounding the death, the OPP has initiated a sudden death investigation.

"Preliminary information suggests this is an isolated incident, with no signs of a broader threat. Police continue to investigate and are actively monitoring the situation," said Sgt. Ed Sanchuk in a video released on social media.

"Residents of the area can expect to see an increased police presence as officers continue the investigation," he added.

The Oxford OPP Crime Unit is continuing the investigation under the direction of the OPP Criminal Investigation Branch, in partnership with the Office of the Chief Coroner for Ontario and the Ontario Forensic Pathology Service. Assistance is also being provided by OPP Forensic Identification Services.

A sudden death investigation is an inquiry into a death that happened suddenly or unexpectedly, or whose circumstances are unclear. The OPP may investigate to establish what happened and check whether foul play or a possible offence was involved. The investigation will likely include gathering information from witnesses and examining the scene, but a coroner's investigation determines how and why the person died.

Anyone with information regarding this investigation should immediately contact the Oxford OPP at 1-888-310-1122.

Hardy Ave paving nearing completion

JEFF HELSDON

Editor

Hardy Ave in the area of the Tillsonburg Community Centre should be wearing a new surface just in time for the arena's upcoming busy season.

The portion of the road from the intersection with Sanders Street to the intersection in front of the seniors' center is being repaved. The work includes replacing the surface and base asphalt.

Work started on Nov. 6 and was expected to be completed this week, weather dependent.

Costs aren't finalized yet, but were budgeted for $275,553. Of the total, $240,000 was funded from the Federal Gas Tax Reserve, and the remainder from the Linear Infrastructure Reserve.

The project is being completed now because town staff were waiting for the completion of the community centre renovations and the construction of the new pickleball courts, as well as the results of a pavement condition assessment study.

"This approach was intended to protect the investment in the new pavement and avoid the potential for additional repairs or having to revisit the same area for further work," said Logan Vandevyvere, Manager of Engineering.



(JEFF HELSDON PHOTO)

Crews with Dufferin Paving were applying the first layer of asphalt on Hardy Ave last week as part of a project to repave the street in the area of the Tillsonburg Community Centre.

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Lions support memorial stone honouring fallen



(CONTRIBUTED PHOTO)

Tillsonburg Legion Branch 153 President Tom Brown addresses the crowd at a recent Lions Club meeting while Lions President David Pipher and Legion Padre Paul Robinson hold an oversized cheque representing the donation to cover the cost of a memorial stone listing the names of the fallen military members from Tillsonburg.

JEFF HELSDON

Editor

The Tillsonburg Lions are supporting the purchase of a new memorial stone to honour the names of locals who fought for Canada and didn't return home.

Members of the Tillsonburg Royal Canadian Legion Branch #153 joined the Tillsonburg Lions Club prior to Remembrance Day. The Lions donated $5,505 to purchase a new memorial stone that will pay tribute to the fallen soldiers of the First and Second World Wars, whose names will be honored forever.

The new memorial stone will be placed at the front of Veteran's Memorial Parkway, leading to the bridge crossing over Participark in 2027. It will be located in the garden closest to Rolph Street.

Frank Moore of the Tillsonburg Military History Club also served as president of the Rotary Club in 2013.

"When I came to town years ago, I was always mystified why the names of the fallen weren't on the cenotaph," he said.

Members of the Tillsonburg Military History Club researched the names of the fallen, in conjunction with local historian Laurel Beechey, and the Rotary Club paid the cost of engraving.

"The only thing that bothered me for a long time is they were on the back of the cenotaph," Moore said. "The general public don't know they are there unless you walk on the pathway behind the cenotaph."

Also involved in the banner committee that has put the names of local veterans along Quarter Line Road, Moore discussed this at one of their meetings. Committee member Dave Beres is also a Lions member, and suggested he would bring the idea to the club. They were quickly on board.

In fact, the Lions have a long history of working with veterans. In 1929, the Tillsonburg Lions donated the cenotaph located in front of the Tillsonburg Town Centre. During the Second World War, the Tillsonburg Lions put together care packages with knitted gloves, warm socks, cigarettes, fresh food, and reading material, and sent them overseas to soldiers. This continued with the Lions running a lawn poppy sign program that raised $12,600 for veterans in 2022, and donating to the banner program.

"All of these donations are made possible because of our amazing community members; we thank our weekly bingo players for your ongoing support," said Lion Kelly Oatman. "It is because of you that together we share in these special moments."

In addition to listing the names of locals who gave their lives for their country, the memorial will also say, "Erected by Legion Branch 153 through the generosity of the Tillsonburg Lions Club."

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Getting off the track takes Gemini Ethan Brown to OFSAA cross country championships

JEFF TRIBE

Post Correspondent

Getting off track has detoured Ethan Brown into a new productive and enjoyable competitive outlet.

"It was a great experience," said the Grade 10 Tillsonburg Gemini cross country runner following a 34th place finish at Ontario Federation of Schools Athletic Associations (OFSAA) junior boys' provincial championships Monday, Nov. 9 in Sudbury.

A track athlete by nature, Brown competed at distance in elementary school at Westfield, however in Grade 9, focussed on track, 800 and the 1500. A member of the St. Thomas Legion Track Club under coach Harry Santos, Brown looked at cross country as a means of maintaining his fitness level throughout the year.

"I just decided to give it a try," said Brown, of a 'career' that began six weeks previously.

Putting in roughly 40 kilometres of training weekly, divided into three weekly practices and two long runs, Brown finished a solid second at Thames Valley Regional Athletics finals held in Strathroy, behind the eventual OFSAA champion from St. Thomas Parkside.

Brown was second again at Western Ontario Secondary Schools Athletic Association (WOSSAA) Thursday, Oct. 29 back in Strathroy, finishing the five-kilometre course in 17 minutes and 22 seconds. His placement qualified him for provincials in Sudbury, a laudable accomplishment in his first year of competition.

The OFSAA course was all gravel said Brown, and hilly. November 9 in Sudbury turned out to be a cloudy, cold day, although without the snow which could have arrived. His strategy was simply to try and maintain contact with the lead pack and move up in position as the race progressed.

Placement rather than timing is a defining factor for cross country, given each course is different. However, for the record, he finished the 5K provincial final course in a time of 18:28.33, a highly-respectable 34th in a field of 276 finishers.

"Pretty good," he summed up. "Not as good a result, but still pretty good."

Brown is still focussed on track, the 1500 and 3000 this year as a junior in the spring, 2027 season. However, cross country is a thing he will return to, looking to build on his experience.

"Definitely cross country is more of a mental battle for me," he said. "You don't have to be the fittest guy, just fit enough and be able to have a mental battle."

In conclusion, Brown hopes to advance his positioning in the future, but looks back on his OFSAA country debut as a great building block, an opportunity to both see track friends he already knew, and meet some good new people.

"It was a really fun time."



(CONTRIBUTED PHOTO)

Gemini cross country runner Ethan Brown in OFSAA gear.



(CONTRIBUTED PHOTO)

Gemini Ethan Brown finished a solid 34th out of 276 runners at his first OFSAA cross country provincial final, Monday, November 9 in Sudbury.



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Birds Golf edges in front of Club Oxford A Division

JEFF GWYN

Post Contributor

A pair of wins for Birds Golf, combined with a win and loss for the week for ReMax, which was tied for first, edged the golfers into sole possession on the top of A Division. Meanwhile, in B Division, B-Line Trucking is still in first place with its 6-0 record.

Sunday, Nov. 8
A Division
Birds 4, Source 2

Birds had some speed tonight and had some dangerous rushes. Their top line pressured all night. Source jumped out early and had some great chances down low. They kept pushing until the end in a solid game against a top team.

Jeff Prouse had a hat trick for Birds. Brendan Soares had two points for Source.

Fody's 6, Royal LePage 3

Fody's found some scoring tonight as they had chances from both lines. They held the ice for a lot of this game. Royal LePage had some penalty trouble, but they made a game of it in the second period. It was a hard-fought tilt that could have been different with a better start.

Adam Matthews had four assists for Fody's. Benson Howey had goals for Royal LePage.

ReMax 4, Health Hut 2

ReMax found some balanced scoring in this one. They played a great game at both ends, keeping the Health Hut top guys from getting second chances. Health Hut didn't have a lot of chances, but they did press at times. A couple bounces their way would have changed things a bit.

Ben Sharp had three assists for ReMax. Mason Brewer had a goal for Health Hut.

B Division
Airmount 4, RND 3

Airmount has found some team cohesiveness lately and it showed in this one. They made some great plays that ended with scoring chances tonight. RND had some help from the defence tonight as they made plays to get some chances. A tough loss in the final seconds will motivate them.

Owen Holden had two points for Airmount. Tyler Pilkey and Aiden Hopper had two points each for RND.

Glass 3, Carquest 1

Glass had a great two-way game in this one. They helped defensively by keeping the front of the net clear and capitalized on their own scoring chances. Carquest were able to get their first chances, but the rebounds and second chances were hard to find.

Craig Robb had a hat trick for Glass. Darrick French had a goal for Carquest.

B-Line 1, JP Mortgages 1

B-Line wasn't able to control this one like previous games. They played hard and had chances but couldn't get the scoring they are used to. JP Mortgages played a very smart and tough game tonight. Their defence held B-Line off the scoresheet while their own offence had some good chances down low.

Jacob Hill had the goal for B-Line. Dawson Behrens had the goal for JP Mortgages.

Wednesday, Nov. 11
A Division
Source 3, ReMax 2

Source was pushing hard offensively in this one. They did well to clog the neutral zone and force quick turnovers for their chances. ReMax just couldn't connect on their breakouts tonight. While they did have chances, they couldn't get much going offensively.

Chris Koteles had two points for Source. Abe Friesen had a goal for ReMax

Birds 5, Fody's 2

Birds had a strong first period and had a number of chances on rushes. The defence played well and created some quick turnovers for the forwards to be dangerous. Fody's had times of pressure but couldn't keep it going. They had a good game, but the Birds speed kept them on their heels.

Gus Ford had five points for Birds. Jack Soares had a goal for Fody's.

Health Hut 4, Royal LePage 2

Health Hut was playing hard at both ends of the ice. They created chances down low while not giving up much in their own zone. Royal LePage had a quick start but couldn't push through Health Hut's defence. Not a bad game but they couldn't get much going on the scoreboard in this one.

Brandon Velda had three points for Health Hut. John Bouck had a goal for Royal LePage.

CLUB OXFORD A DIVISION	GP	W	L	T	PTS
BIRDS GOLF	8	6	2	0	12
REMAX REALTY	8	5	3	0	10
SOURCE FOR SPORTS	8	4	4	0	8
ROYAL LEPAGE REALTY	8	3	4	0	8
FODY'S AUTOMOTIVE	8	3	5	0	6
HEALTH HUT	8	2	5	1	5

CLUB OXFORD B DIVISION	GP	W	L	T	PTS
B-LINE TRUCKING	8	6	0	2	14
TILLSONBURG GLASS	8	4	2	2	10
AIRMOUNT FARMS	8	3	2	3	9
CARQUEST AUTO PARTS	8	2	4	2	6
JEFF PROUSE MORTGAGES	8	1	4	3	5
RND CONSTRUCTION	8	2	6	0	4



(JEFF HELSDON PHOTO)

ReMax and Source for Sports players scramble for control of the puck in front of the Source net during a game on Wednesday. Source squeezed out a 3-2 win in the game.

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WEEKEND QUIZ

by Jake Grant

1. Jiminy Cricket first appeared in what book?
2. The apostle Paul was called by Jesus on the road to which city?
3. What items did the Stamp Act levy a tax on?
4. What is the layering process of making pastry called?
5. Who is the villain in "A Nightmare on Elm Street"?
6. The 1976 Summer Olympics were held in which city?
7. What bird can swim but cannot fly?
8. Where do "Yoopers" live?
9. SpongeBob SquarePants lives in a house shaped like what?
10. What is Wales' national dish called?

This week's answers are found on pg. 27



Thunder and 4-Wheel Drives put on a feisty show

MICHAEL HOLLY

Post Contributor

The annual Remembrance Day game started with the Legion's colour guard. The Thunder Organization, and the fans, thank the Tillsonburg Legion for putting on the usual exceptional performance. The writer is always moved when The Last Post is played.

Both teams came out flying with some intense and determined play. The first period settled nothing and was scoreless. New Thunder player Tyler Alexander changed that, from Robert Maclean and Andrew Oosterveld, on the power play with a cannon from the point. Milverton answered on a 5-on-3 . Veteran Mike Findlay, from Andrew Oosterveld and Luke Sinclair, scored with 58 seconds left in the third with a shot that had seeing eyes from the point. Milverton answered in the third with a disputed goal to tie it up, with the net clearly off. Thunder coaches argued but to no avail. Milverton scored another with 4:40 left in the game to secure the victory. The Thunder record is three wins, four loses, putting them in sixth place, three points behind Petrolia.

The Thunder travel to Seaforth this Saturday, Nov. 21 at 7:30 p.m.to avenge the home-opener loss. This Sunday, Nov 22 at 3:30 p.m. is the annual student night game versus the Petrolia Squires. Petrolia and Tillsonburg have a long history and I am sure it will be a spirited affair.

Some dates to mark on your calendar are Saturday, Dec. 12 is the Teddy Bear Toss. Bring a new or slightly used Teddy and throw it on the ice on the first Thunder goal. All bears are given to the Salvation Army in support of the Christmas Hamper Program. Saturday, Dec. 19 is the First Responder Night. Police, fire, and EMS will be at the game. The Thunder have also secured all four referees will be a first responders also. The team will be wearing special jerseys that will be live actioned off in the Marwood Lounge by the players themselves after the game. Every dollar raised will be going to the Boot Fund. Thank you to Tim Hortons Oxford Street for sponsoring the jerseys.



(JEFF HELSDON PHOTO)

The Legion colour guard lowers the flag during a Remembrance ceremony prior to Saturday night's Tillsonburg Thunder game. Having the Legion colour party present at the game closest to Remembrance Day is a Thunder tradition.



(JEFF HELSDON PHOTO)

Thunder defenders guard the goaltender during a Petrolia attack in Saturday night's game. The Thunder lost the game 3-2, with a disputed goal tying the game.





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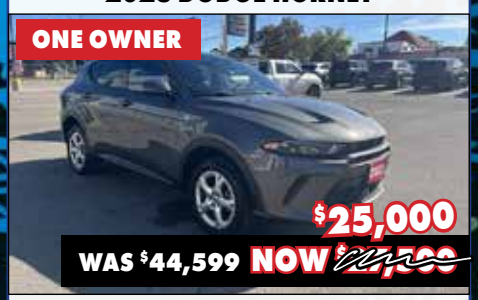

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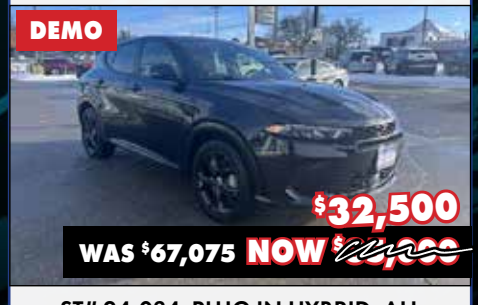

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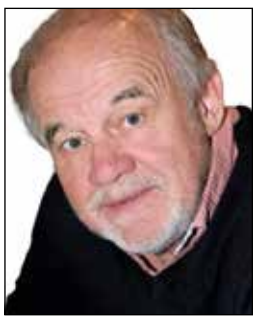
(JEFF HELSDON PHOTOS)

FALL FARE CONCERT

Glendale High School's music department held its annual Fall Fare presentation, with the junior and senior bands, choir, guitar ensemble, jazz band and a couple of soloists all playing what they learned for parents and the general public. Funds raised through admission will assist the music department in the future.

Living Retired: 'Carpool Conundrum'



LIVING RETIRED

GARY CHALK

Non-Pulitzer Prize Winning Columnist

Living Retired should not be this difficult. I'll explain…

Six mature baby boomers — okay so that's an oxymoron! — decide to squeeze into an SUV to carpool to an evening concert.

It's a full-size vehicle with four doors and three rows of seats that glide forward with the press of a button. The salesperson at the dealership said, "Gary, these seats are easy entry: designed for baby boomers' bum knees. Easy access to the third-row seats." They sounded like a Living Retired godsend. I was sold.

We are standing in our driveway. All four doors are swung wide open. We have a problem: for the life of us we cannot figure how to tilt the second-row seats forward so one couple can climb into the third row.

The six of us look hopeless — the same as Toronto Maple Leaf fans.

We are not stupid people. We have university degrees — information technology professionals, project management, engineering, communication, even a librarian. We raised children who now enjoy successful careers complete with mega-mortgages. We even have experience lifting our grandchildren into their car safety seats — while being kicked in the groin!

All six of us are stymied. Finally, one of the men scrunched himself up and climbed in behind the second row of seats when it happened: he got sandwiched between the second row and third row — his head and shoulders are in the third row, but his legs are still out on the driveway!

Without missing a beat his wife sarcastically quipped, "Why did you have to open your mouth and suggest we all go in one car? You do this stuff every time!"

Standing in the driveway all that is visible is his bum sticking through the side doorway, with a seatbelt wrapped around his neck. It isn't pretty.

It is tense. Everyone has an opinion of what to do which make things worse...

The retired librarian is talking some gibberish about the Dewey Decimal System would have the answer in 306.7!

My wife Jan figures she has the solution. "Gary. It's your vehicle. You should know how to operate the seats!"

My glare silenced everybody! But not for long...

HONK! HONK! HONK! HONK! HONK! HONK!

OMG! I triggered the security alarm on the key fob! Now the neighbours are peering at us through their California shutters!

Immediately one woman realized things had taken a turn for the worse! Instinctively, she grabbed her iPhone and posted a picture with 'LOL!'

Jan complained a migraine is coming on! The guy who is stuck half in and half out of the vehicle is perspiring. He needs his inhaler when he has difficulty breathing.

All this leads Jan to take control of the situation, "Gary, now what have you done! Can't you turn off that ear-piercing horn?"

The other couple takes a run at it and leaps overtop the guy still stuck in the door to the back seat — who's gasping for breath so much you'd think he's in need of the Heimlich maneuver. The couple smack their heads. OUCH! They aren't talking — until they get home later tonight. That won't be pretty.

The next day I pulled out the manual that came with the vehicle. The index says to turn to pages 175-178 for 'Convenient Folding of Second & Third Row Seats.' However, there is another problem: the itty-bitty font is impossible to read for anyone Living Retired!

Living Retired written by humour columnist Gary Chalk is published throughout Canada ands USA. To receive Living Retired by email each week, or to book Gary to bring his unique sense of humour to your service club, corporate event, or retirement party contact Gchalk@me.com

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BIA AWARDS

(JEFF HELSDON PHOTOS)



Several downtown businesses were recognized with the return of the BIA awards. Left to right are: Dan Bender and Nicole Bender, recipients of the Trusted Professional Award for Circle of Care Support Services; Yolo Medrano and Matt Potter, recipients of the Customer Experience Award for Ren's Pets; Lindsay Rennie, owner of Betty's Marketplace who received the Downtown Champion Achievement Award; Tabitha Verbuyst, executive director of Station Arts Centre who accepted the Community Impact Award; and Kim Sage and Darryl D'Hondt, winners of the Community Impact Award as co-owners Copper Mug Pub. Absent from the photo was a representative of Craving Ink Tattoo and Body Piercing, which won the Legacy Business Award.



The team behind The Haunt were awarded the BIA's Dedicated Volunteer Award for their work on the Halloween attraction. They started Sept. 1 to complete the end product the public saw at the end of October. Left to right are: Scott Foster, Chip Barkhouse and Mike Bolt. Bruce Bennett was absent from the photo.

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Yes, please! I'll have 'Another Free Beer'



MUSIC CORNER

BEN ANDRESS
Tillsonburg Post Columnist

After more than two decades of playing together in various music projects, a familiar group of local musicians will be getting back together with a fresh lineup, a new name and plenty of classic rock favourites.

Another Free Beer is a band that features locals Scot Bolton on rhythm acoustic guitar and vocals, Rick Kyle on guitar and vocals, Chris Appleton on lead guitar and bass, Scott Appleton on lead guitar and bass and Jeff Erauw on drums.

"Chris and I work together and have played as a duo, often volunteering our services at charitable auctions, for most of the last 12 to 15 years. Rick and I have not played together that frequently, as he has another regularly gig with The Paddy Stones. He and I are friends first, and actually started playing together when we were both in our mid-20s and just married," Bolton explained. "We just played from a 1980s and 1990s songbook he had created with cheat sheets from the early Internet days, before Ultimate Guitar and other sites. It was something to do on a Friday or Saturday night while sitting around."

Over the years, they continued expanding their repertoire by learning new songs and developing their abilities together. Appleton also brings plenty of musical history of his own, having played in a successful high school band that won a Battle of the Bands competition in London.

"I always joke that we are like a bad radio station," Bolton says with a laugh. "We play the greatest hits from the 60s, 70s, 80s, 90s, and today. Some of the songs are actually from this century."

The latest version of the band came together somewhat organically. Scott Appleton, Chris' brother, had already been playing with Chris at casual jam sessions in Chris' shop, and it eventually turned into something bigger. Jeff Erauw was brought in on drums, which added another familiar face, and an important piece to the lineup.

"This version is mostly a version of circumstances. We practice at Chris' shop and I have been joining him occasionally on band nights after he and Scott were working on their drag cars," Bolton said. "Scott and Chris have always played together and we just started to jam. We just added songs they both knew and I could sing to."

Erauw was a natural addition to the group having previously played with Bolton and Chris at a gig. They also knew him through their professional connections, making the decision to bring him aboard an easy one. With five musicians now in the band Another Free Beer was complete with a wide-ranging set list that leans heavily into the rock songs that helped define their younger years.

"We really just play what we want to be honest. Some songs are for us, but we pick crowd favourites as well," Bolton explains. "Later in the set, I always try to include some sing-alongs and get the crowd singing along with us."

The band's repertoire includes plenty of familiar songs with music from Tom Petty, The Tragically Hip, Barenaked Ladies, Red Hot Chili Peppers, Weezer, The Beatles and The Rolling Stones just to name a few. There is even a possibility that audiences could hear a version of Chappell Roan's Pink Pony Club. Another Free Beer also takes inspiration from Canadian band Sloan when it comes to switching instruments throughout the set. With multiple musicians capable of playing different instruments, the group enjoys changing things up.

Despite having months to prepare for the upcoming show, Bolton does admit that getting five adults together regularly for rehearsals has presented its own challenges. The band is still finding its rhythm as a complete unit.

"We are very excited to get the band back together," Bolton says with a smile as he references the Blues Brothers. "Chris and I have likely played together live one to three times a year for over 10 years, but this is the first time with a full band in years. It just sounds different. Drums make everything better. We will have a lot of fun and so will the crowd."

You can catch Another Free Beer live Friday, Nov. 27 at The Copper Mug in Tillsonburg. This concert is a free event with no cover charge and starts at 8 p.m.

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NOV. 20 - SAVING AGNES
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Free Entry – 9 p.m.

NOV. 21 - DANIEL HAMM
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Free Entry – 8 p.m.

NOV. 27 - ANOTHER FREE BEER
The Copper Mug
Free Entry – 9 p.m.

NOV. 28 - ATTIC APOSLTES
The Copper Mug
Free Entry – 8 p.m.

NOV. 29 - KICKIN KOUNTRY
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Hydrangeas, there is always hope



IT'S STILL JUST DIRT

CRYSTAL TROJEK

Tillsonburg Post Columnist

There are few shrubs who dominate the garden landscape in our part of world as well or as often as the hydrangea.

It's many present-day cultivars are a favourite staple in commercial and residential plantings. When properly attended to, they stay green and bloom reliably without too much attention. The appetite for hydrangeas is never sated, every year there are new varieties. Smaller shrubs for small gardens, larger blooms, different colours, all with pretty names and pictures on plant labels.

Hydrangeas have come a long way down the road and across the seas from China, Korea, and Asia many centuries ago. They've also travelled around the world from North America. From wherever they came, the family trees of hydrangeas have expanded to include many fine cousins, aunts, uncles, and generally agreeable relatives fervently adopted by botanical enthusiasts all over the world. Replication of such admirable specimens is necessary, production of hydrangeas never lessens, the need still far outweighs the hydrangea appetite all over the world.

So, let's not forget hydrangeas with important duties, those attending public events as the stars of table centrepieces, bouquets, magnificent floral decorations studded with massive blooms at all sorts celebrations. Hydrangeas love parties. When summer arrives, they reign by the thousands, particularly the large, white, frothy ones. Even in winter months you can find wonderful commercially-raised lime green hydrangea cut flowers, perhaps white or blue if you wish to hunt for them.

How can I dry them?

Cut them one or two at a time, bundle with an elastic, hang them upside down in the garden shed and voila in about two weeks they are dried to perfection.

Colourfast should not be in direct sun when drying. Some gardeners stand a few likely blooms in a large vase, where they dry happily. You can add hydrangea blooms to outdoor autumn or Christmas wreaths, urns, wherever you need some. Hydrangeas are reliable fillers, or all on their own. They can also be sprayed with any paint, becoming colours of your own choosing. If your Christmas tree theme favours natural decor, dried hydrangeas are a wonderful addition.

I don't have many hydrangeas in my small-town garden, imagination had to be appropriately downsized from the previous five-acre homestead. I gambled and adopted four pink hydrangeas from a lonely flower shop display more than 10 years ago. Easter celebrations were over and they came to my garden for a specific purpose: cover up the gas meter - a perfect eyesore it is if ever there was one. When hydrangeas began their assigned garden task husband questioned their motives. People often said the florist hydrangeas are gift plants, they won't survive winter. Well, they'll cover up that meter for one summer. They happily passed their days as all hydrangeas do, drinking heavily. I learned hydrangeas are thirsty all the time, but to be fair, they are on a bit of a slope. If I ever wanted a blue flowered one, soil had to be acidic, or a pink flower would arrive without guilt.

My group of pink florist hydrangeas returned year after year, sheltered close to the brick wall of my house, happily befriending a prolific yellow rose who aggressively climbed up to the eavestrough and peeped in the laundry room window, temporarily occupying spouse's attention elsewhere.

By the time our fourth hydrangea anniversary had arrived, I mourned not very many flowers being produced from those now meter-shadowing plants. I wanted some for floral arrangements. Diligent fertilizing had not prompted them with a desirable response. I trimmed short, not too much. Two years ago, something happened and I never trimmed them down as the fallen autumn leaves gathered round their feet. The following spring, I found a hydrangea bloom explosion that went on all summer.

I since learned at a Tillsonburg Horticultural Society meeting that there are several classes of hydrangeas, they should not all be pruned the same way. Some bloom on last year's stems, some need to be trimmed after flowering, etc. The speaker stressed the importance of keeping plant tags for this purpose, names are important. At the meeting, he trimmed in front of an appreciative crowd, stressing the happiness of using sharp tools and the result. He also advised to sharpen tools in winter when you don't need them.

I should report my hydrangeas are still there, I compromised about the gas meter situation this summer. I mentioned city employees have young eyes, he can read his numbers from the lawn when the subject repeatedly came up. One day I wandered off to my rising star gardener neighbour and asked if he would like a nice hydrangea for his shade garden. I'll bring you the dirt from my new hole and fill it in he said. Such gardening agreements are the foundation of all ever-expanding gardens worldwide. Hydrangea is happy over there I'm told, one of the remaining triplets is dutifully filling in the gap.

Tillsonburg Horticultural Society members are looking forward to their annual Christmas dinner in December, and meetings that will include a 2027 roster of exciting activities and learning opportunities for gardening enthusiasts. Meetings are held the first Tuesday of the month, 7:30 p.m. at the Tillsonburg Seniors Centre/Hardy Street. Come find us.

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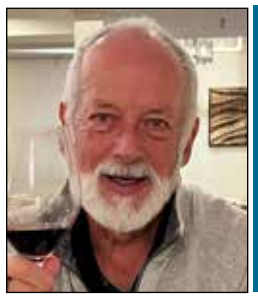
Trois Rivières: a nice surprise along the St. Lawrence



OH, THE PLACES WE'LL GO!

PAUL KNOWLES

Tillsonburg Post Columnist

It doesn't require an extensive knowledge of French to figure out that the name "Trois Rivières" means "Three Rivers". That's good linguistics, but bad geography. Because this historic city's name is based on a 16th-century mistake.

In fact, there are two rivers – here, the Saint-Maurice flows into the Saint Lawrence. But the mouth of the Saint-Maurice is occupied by several islands, splitting this river into three outlets. The first European visitors mistakenly took those three "mouths" to indicate three rivers.

This was just one of a plethora of facts, anecdotes and stories we heard during one of the finest historical walking tours I have ever experienced. Jean-Phillipe Marcotte, of "Personare", was our guide as we strolled through the historic centre of Trois Rivières.

Trois Rivières is the second-oldest French-speaking city in North America, but it is not as well-known as the two larger cities located less than two hours away – Montréal and Québec City. Tourists tend to drive straight past Trois Rivières to get to the more popular destinations. But they are making a mistake.

Trois Rivières is has a deep and rich history, reaching back long before written records to the time before Europeans arrived. But it's also a city that offers a lot of modern-day delights to travellers. We were both surprised and impressed.

But back to the history. There are statues and monuments throughout the city, honouring the original European visitors to Trois Rivières, names that we remember from the history class: Samuel de Champlain, Radisson, Groseilliers, La Vérendrye – all noted explorers with strong connections to Trois Rivières.

But my favourite was the monument to M. Laviolette, apparent founder of Trois Rivières. I say "apparent" because there is scant evidence of the illusive M. Laviolette. Our guide admitted that "we don't have a clue" who M. Laviolette is. In fact, "for a long time, Trois Rivières did not have a founder." But while the city was founded in the early 1600's (there had been French fur traders in the area since 1585), M. Laviolette was not acknowledged as the city founder until centuries later.

In fact, as Jean-Philippe told us with a laugh, as we stood before the bust of M. Laviolette, it is generally agreed that even the name is not the real deal. It's probably a nickname; it translates as "The Violin".

But the rest of the story of Trois Rivières is undoubtedly more historically accurate. And that story unfolded as we walked around the surprisingly well-preserved historic parts of the city. This in spite of a 1908 fire that destroyed hundreds of homes in part of the city centre.

Although the fur trade was the original impetus that created most of Canada's historic cities, Trois Rivières soon had other enterprises on the go, as well. This was the site of what might have been the first forge in North America. Later, Trois Rivières became an important ship-building centre (a historic reality that has an echo in one of today's important economic drivers – the cruise ship port).

Later still, lumber mills dominated the local economy – which was temporarily good for employment and financial gain, but terrible for tourism because of the incessant odors created by the pulp and paper factories.

That business thrived for decades; massive numbers of logs were still being floated down the Saint-Maurice River until the mid-1990's.

Today, that business is almost entirely gone. But here's where Trois Rivières again emerges as an impressive community – on the site of some of the pulp and paper mills stands a state-of-the-art entertainment centre, the Cocego Amphiteatre. The Amphitheatre has hosted performers ranging from Céline Dion, Bryan Adams and Burton Cummings to Cirque du Soleil. It's an impressive space – but in my historically-focused opinion, it's not the most impressive building in town. That one was once home to nuns.



(PAUL KNOWLES PHOTO)

Historic Trois Rivières: the Usuline Convent is shown at the centre of the photo, the former Anglican church in the right foreground.

Trois Rivières is still home to dozens of historic buildings, and the city has a program that funds up to 50% (capped at $40,000) of the costs of restoring homes to their original form. Many have taken advantage of this, and walking the streets of Trois Rivières can feel like journeying back in time.

The most impressive structure is probably the Ursuline Convent. The Ursuline nuns played a prominent role in the history of the city. Today, they no longer occupy the palatial building that once housed the Convent, although there is still a small group of Ursulines in Trois Rivières. The Order sold their Convent, chapel, school and more to the city for $1, on the condition that the building could not be converted into condominiums. Instead, it houses a museum, classrooms for students ranging from kindergarten to university age.

Trois Rivières is a city of stories, ranging from its probably fictional founder to community-minded nuns to Ezekiel Hart (1770-1853), a Jewish entrepreneur elected to represent the city in Québec's legislative assembly, but who was not allowed to serve because he was a Jew. So the city re-elected him, twice more.

And that's the kind of informed determination that has made this city what it is today – an often-bypassed destination well worth your time.

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



(PAUL KNOWLES PHOTO)

A statue honouring the perhaps fictional founder of Trois Rivières, M. Laviolette.



(PAUL KNOWLES PHOTO)

The Cogeco Amphitheatre sits on the former site of pulp and paper mills.



RIDDLES

No matter how little or how much you use me, you change me every month. What am I?

A calendar.

What runs around the whole yard without moving?

A Fence.

What do you see once in June, twice in November, and not at all in May?

The letter "e."

What five-letter word has one left when two letters are removed?

Stone.

Spelled forwards I'm what you do every day, spelled backward I'm something you hate. What am I?

Live.

What occurs once in a minute, twice in a moment, and never in 1,000 years?

The letter "M."

What is at the end of a rainbow?

The letter W!

SUDOKU

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

Level: Beginner

Solutions on Page 27

PET OF THE WEEK

SPONSORED BY:



GRACIE

Gracie is one of many pets who are in need of a loving home. She is available for adoption from Oxford County Animal Rescue: oxfordcountyanimalrescue.com

Abby's Place
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Located just minutes east of Tillsonburg in a peaceful rural setting where your pets will experience the comforts of home with the freedom of the great outdoors.



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abbysplace.ca

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

WORD SEARCH

WHAT'S POPPIN'

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

AIR
BAG
BUCKET
BUTTER
CARAMEL
CHEESE
CORN
CRUNCHY
FLUFFY
GARLAND
HULL
KERNEL
KETTLE
MICROWAVE
MOVIE NIGHT
OIL
POPPING
SALT
SEASONING
SNACK
STOVETOP
THEATER

COMING EVENTS

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WEDNESDAY, NOVEMBER 25, 2026
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SCAN TO VIEW MORE OFFERS

NOVEMBER

NOVEMBER 21 | 9 AM - 2 PM
CHRISTMAS BAZAAR AND TEAROOM
Hickory Hills Recreation Centre, 48 Wilson Avenue, Tillsonburg
Handcrafted Items, Raffles, Baked Goods, Cookie Walk, Books, Puzzles, Games and Silent Auction. Find a gift for that special someone. Enjoy lunch in our very popular Tea Room. Hope to see you there!

NOVEMBER 21 | 9 AM - 1 PM
CHRISTMAS BAZAAR
St. Peter's Lutheran Church, 155 Colborne St. N., Simcoe (corner of Union and Colborne)
Featuring a bake sale, Christmas cookie platters, "nearly new" table, crafts, toys, a coffee corner and...our delicious cabbage rolls! Admission is free!

NOVEMBER 21 | 9 AM - 1 PM
ST. JOHN'S CHRISTMAS MARKET
St. John's Anglican Church, 46 Ridout Street West, Tillsonburg
Vendor's Market, Christmas at Granny's Attic, Books, Puzzles, Bake Table, Famous Mincemeat, Blanket Draw and Nativity Scene displays. Join us for lunch! Admission is $2.00.

NOVEMBER 21 | 6 PM
SANTA CLAUS PARADE
Downtown Tillsonburg (See Tillsonburg and Area Optimist Club Facebook for parade route map)
Canada Post will be collecting letters to Santa. Donations to the Food Bank are welcomed.

NOVEMBER 21 | 7 - 10 PM, DOORS OPEN 5:30 PM
BRITISH BEAT 66 LIVE BAND
Tillsonburg Legion, 16 Durham St, Tillsonburg, ON
Check out the band at http://www.britishbeat66.com. Tickets $30 available at the Tillsonburg Legion 16 Durham Street. For more information call 519-842-5281.

NOVEMBER 22 | 2 PM
TIA MCGRAFF IN CONCERT
Delhi United Church - 105 Church Street, Delhi Ontario
Free Will Offering. Come and enjoy Tia and Tommy as they kick off the Christmas Season.

NOVEMBER 28 | 10 AM - 1 PM
CHRISTMAS BAZAAR
Delhi United Church - 105 Church Street, Delhi Ontario
Featuring backing, attic treasures, gift table, frozen apple and elderberry fruit pies, frozen beef and chicken meat pies and a penny table, vendors and a luncheon.

DECEMBER

DECEMBER 5 | 2 - 4 PM
TILLSONBURG RETIREMENT'S CHRISTMAS BAZAAR!
Tillsonburg Retirement Residence, 183 Rolph Street
This event is a wonderful opportunity to drop by, enjoy some festive treats, browse local crafts and gifts, and see our vibrant community in action. Admission: Free — Open to the public!

ONGOING CLASSES, CLUBS & ORGANIZATIONS

REGISTRATION OPEN NOW & CLOSES 9 PM JANUARY 22, 2027
NORFOLK MUSICAL ARTS FESTIVAL REGISTRATION
Visit the website for the syllabus and information www.nmaf.ca
Questions: contact festival administrator at 519-429-9216. The festival offers competitive and non-competitive classes in community and school bands, church, community, youth and school choirs, English and French speech arts, guitar, instruments, percussion, piano, strings, ukulele and vocal - classical and musical theatre. Follow the festival on Facebook and Instagram.

MONDAYS & THURSDAYS
OTTER VALLEY TAI CHI
St. John's Anglican Church, 46 Ridout St. W., Tillsonburg
Spots still available in new Monday morning and Thursday afternoon classes. Mondays 9:00 – 10:30 am Introduction, 10:30 – 11:30 am Foundations. Thursdays 2:00 – 3:30 pm Introduction, 3:30 – 4:30 pm Foundations. Enjoy gentle exercise with others as you work to improve flexibility, balance and stamina. Call 519-688-9779, email ottervalley@canadiantaichiacademy.org, visit canadiantaichiacademy.org

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WEDNESDAYS | 6 - 7:30 PM
CANADIAN TAI CHI ACADEMY TILLSONBURG
Classes take place at St Paul's United Church, Fox Alley South entrance off Ridout Street
Continuing sessions and Lok Hup occur from 7:30 – 8:30 PM. Additional practice sessions are available Fridays from 10:00 – 11:00AM. For more information: Email: tillsonburg@canadiantaichiacademy.org, Website: canadiantaichiacademy.org. Everyone welcome. Improve your health.

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

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

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

2ND TUES. OF MONTH (SEPT. TO MAY) | 2 - 4 PM
4TH TUES. OF MONTH (SEPT. TO MAY) | 7 - 9 PM
OXFORD PHILATELIC SOCIETY
Church of the Epiphany, 560 Dundas Street, Woodstock Ontario N4S 1C7
If you have never belonged to a stamp club, now's the time. Meet new friends, grow your knowledge and collection. Contact: Don Eaton dheaton3e3@gmail.com. Website: http://www.rpsc.org/chapters/oxford

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3RD WED. OF MONTH | 10 AM - NOON
LYNN RIVER PROBUS CLUB
Army, Navy & Air Force Club, Simcoe, ON. Corner of Water St. and Culver St. Simcoe. Enter via Culver St.
Our retired and semi-retired members enjoy diverse interest groups, friendship and fellowship. We have interesting speakers at our monthly meetings as well as time to socialise.
Current and prospective members are welcome to join us at the Army, Navy & Air Force Club, Simcoe, which is on the corner of Water St. and Culver St. Simcoe. Enter via Culver St. For more information, please visit our website at: lynnriverprobus239.com or email lynnriverprobus239@gmail.com

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TUESDAYS & THURSDAYS | 7 - 9 PM
SATURDAYS | 10 AM - 12 PM
LEARN BRAZILIAN JIU-JITSU (BJJ)
North Broadway Baptist Church
Thanks to donor support, we've been able to purchase mats and uniforms, and our instructors generously volunteer their time. This isn't a business—any donations go straight back into the program to help buy more uniforms, mats, and equipment. If it's within your means, a $20 monthly donation helps support the program, but if not, classes are completely free.
Classes are open to anyone 14 and older. If you'd like to try a class, please arrive about 15 minutes early to sign waivers and get fitted for a uniform. Information can be found at: https://www.northbroadwaychurch.ca/nbmfa, https://www.facebook.com/northbroadwaymfa, https://www.instagram.com/northbroadwaymfa/ Inquires can be made at: nbmfa@northbroadwaychurch.ca

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EVERY OTHER FRIDAY | 1 - 4 PM
BE FALL-ISH AND COME TO THE INGERSOLL COUNTRY MUSIC JAMBOREE
Masonic Hall, 190 Thames St. S., Ingersoll
Join us, walk ins welcome. Qualifications - love 50-70's country music. Perform, listen, dance & enjoy! November 20, and December 4.

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

COMING EVENTS

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

PLATTSVILLE & DISTRICT HERITAGE SOCIETY

2026 EXHIBIT - HOLIDAYS & CELEBRATIONS THAT BRING US TOGETHER

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

Donations accepted. Refreshments. For private viewing email plattsvilledistrictheritage@gmail.com or call 519.535.1417.

1ST AND 3RD TUES. OF MONTH

TILLSONBURG LIONS

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

1ST WED. OF MONTH | 7 PM

WAGNER MEMORIAL TEETERVILLE LEGION BRANCH 526 - MEMBERS GENERAL MEETING

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

Not a member? Contact us to join. For More Information Call, the Legion 519-443-5588. www.teetervillelegionbranch526.ca

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

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

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

VON OXFORD SUPPORTIVE CARE PROGRAMS

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

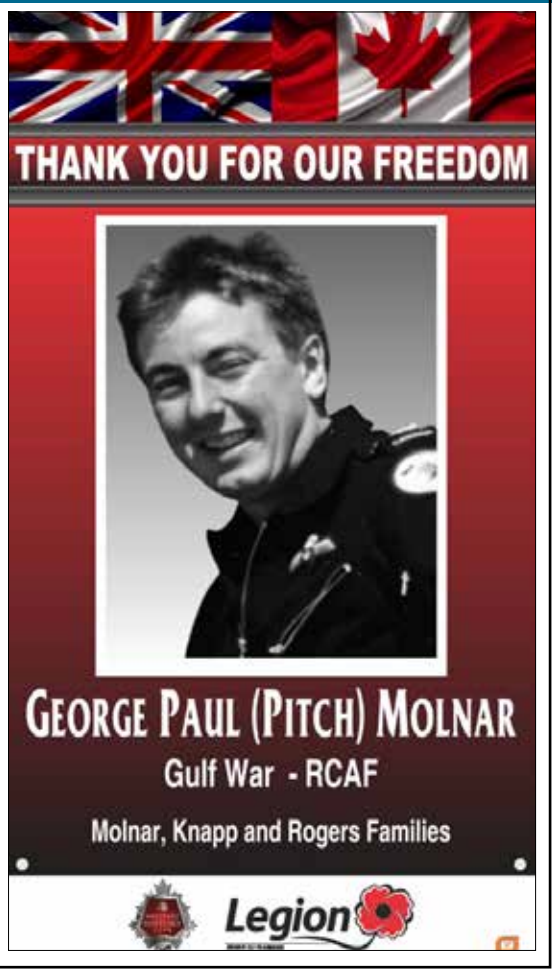
VON Oxford Supportive Care Programs offer assistance for grief stemming from various circumstances, such as the death of someone, caregiving, serious illness diagnoses, and life transitions. Through education, connection, and compassion, our programs create a safe space for individuals to explore their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

Contact us today to learn more about VON Oxford Supportive Care Programs: Email: oxford.griefsupport@von.ca, Phone: 1-888-866-7518. All Programs are Free-of-charge.

MEET THE PEOPLE OF THE MEMORIAL VETERAN BANNERS

GEORGE PAUL (PITCH) MOLNAR

Paul Molnar was born in 1962 and grew up in Tillsonburg and attended Tillson Ave, Maple Lane and then Annandale High School from 1975-1981. He joined the Royal Canadian Air Force (RCAF) after graduating from UWO Engineering, in 1986, and received his military flight wings in 1988. He flew two tours on the CF-18 Hornet in Germany and Cold Lake Alberta and participated in the Gulf War of 1990-91, where he flew combat missions in protection of the coalition fleet and troops. He was awarded medals from Kuwait, Saudi Arabia and Canada for that conflict and also for NATO service. Paul retired in 1997 and currently still flies commercially as a production test pilot having flown commercial, test, training and military contracts over the past 30 years. Paul is also proud to be an Honourary Member of the Canadian Forces Snowbirds. He resides with his family in Niagara and loves to return home to Tillsonburg to see family and friends.





THE NUMBERS GAME (JEFF HELSDON PHOTO)

Theatre Tillsonburg's production of The Numbers Game opened last week to great crowd response, with the crowd laughing along with the plot as a love story unfolded. Tickets are still available for this week's shows, running from Thursday to Saturday at theatretillsonburg.com

Avondale United Church
60 Harvey St.
(519) 842-5532
Sunday Service
10:30 a.m.
All are Welcome
"Inspiring people to know Christ"

Worship With Us



CLASSIFIEDS

COW AUCTION



Herd Dispersal Live Auction Sale

of 135 Bred Cows/Heifers

Saturday November 21, 11:00am

to be held at 554447 Mono-Amaranth TLine, Mono, ON

Preview on day of sale, or by appointment

Directions: Go west through Orangeville on Hwy 9 to County Rd 16 (Veterans Way at Greenwood Cemetery), turn north 5 miles to farm on East side. OR From Shelburne go east on Hwy 89 for 2 miles to Mono-Amaranth Townline, turn south & go 5 miles to farm on East side.Townline, turn south & go 5 miles to farm on East side.

Cattle: (79)Heifers: (18) Char, (17) Blk Simm, (33) Angus, (11) Red -1st time calvers, bred Angus & Limo, vacc. **(18) X-bred Heifers** - bred Black Angus, vacc. **(17) Angus Heifers** - bred Black Angus. **(10) Blk Angus cows** - all bred Black Angus, vacc. **(8) Charolais Cows** - bred Charolais, vacc. **(3) Mixed Cows** - with calf at side, vacc.
All Cows will be preg checked prior to sale.
Lunch Booth
Washroom Available
Terms & Conditions: Cash or cheque with proper I.D. on day of sale. Owner & Auctioneer will not be responsible for any accidents or loss on day of sale. All announcements on day of sale will take precedence over printed ads.

Auctioneers: Kevin McArthur (519) 942-0264
Scott Bessey (519) 843-5083
Email: mcarthurbessey@gmail.com
www.theauctionadvertiser.com/KMcArthur
- full listing & photos

TREES

For Sale: Shade Trees; Maples, Oaks, Birch, Beech, Honey Locusts, Elms, Magnolia, Hydrangea Tree, Tulip Tree, Crab apples, Ivory Silk Lilac, Chanticleer Pear, Golden Weeping Willows and more. Apples, Pears, Peaches, Plums, Apricots, Nectarine, Blueberry, Haskap etc. Lots of healthy strong Spruce, Cedars and White Pine for your privacy hedges and windbreaks. Hundred of flowering shrubs.
Reg Hours 7am- 6pm Mon-Sat at Martins Nursery c/o Emanuel Martin. 42661 Orangehill Rd., Wroxeter, ON

OBITUARY

TAYLOR FLEGEL



It is with profound sadness that we announce the passing of Taylor Marie Flegel, in her 34th year, on Monday November 9, 2026.

Dear partner of Eric Howlett and loving Mother of their children Kylie and Khloe. Beloved daughter of Linda Brand of Tillsonburg. Adored sister of Rachel Flegel (Trevor), and cherished niece of Trudy Elliott (Blake). Taylor was a loving Aunt to Chantel and Emma. She will be lovingly remembered by the extended Flegel family and the extended Howlett family. Taylor was predeceased by her father William Flegel in 2013, her sister Tamra Flegel in 2022, her sister Pam Flegel in 2022, and her grandmother Betty Brand in 2002.

A Celebration will be planned for a future date. Donations made to Ontario SPCA and Humane Society (Oxford County branch) in memory of Taylor are appreciated. Wareing Cremation Services, 161 Broadway St. Tillsonburg, Ontario has been entrusted with Final Arrangements. Your messages of remembrance and condolence may be shared at www.wareingcremation.ca

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OBITUARY

HARRIET O'NEIL



With her family holding her hand, Harriet O'Neil passed away peacefully on Thursday November 12th 2026, in her 97th year.

Born in Chicago Illinois in 1930, Harriet lived most of her life in Canada. In 1949, she met Ray O'Neil, it is where the love story begins.

She is predeceased by her dear parents John and Ida Johnson, loving husband Ray O'Neil (2009), beloved brothers and Sister-in-laws Hagard and Marion Johnson, Gordon and Loretta Johnson. Brother-in-laws and sister-in-laws Bob and Velma O'Neil, Jack and Eunice Wilson and Neil and Wava O'Neil. She is also predeceased by her dear son-in-law Gary VanPuymbroeck.

Harriet was the dear mother of Dennis (Diane) O'Neil, Lynn (Gary) VanPuymbroeck, Diane (Terry) Peacock and Ken (Kim) O'Neil.

She was a proud and loving grandmother to Shawndra O'Neil, Jonathan Ray (Lauren) O'Neil, Devyn Burgess, Stephanie Smith, Megan (Stu) Nobbs, Bradley (Tracy) VanPuymbroeck, Jennifer (Nic) Goetz, Nathan (Lisa) Peacock, Josh O'Neil, Carly (Travis) Kovari, Samantha (Colin) Vermeersch.

Harriet was a cherished great-grandmother to Evan Schreider, Declan Schreider, Keeley Schreider, Taylor O'Neil, Brendan O'Neil, Morgan Smith, Hunter Smith, Cameryn Smith, Camden Nobbs, Madelyn VanPuymbroeck, Brayan Goetz, Tessa Goetz, Jett Peacock, Emmett Korvai, Logan Korvai, Blakely Vermeersch, Reid Vermeersch, Rylee Vermeersch.

Harriet is survived by her brothers and sister-in-laws, Harold and Dottie Johnson and Wally and Hannah Johnson.

At a very young age, Harriet showed just how brave and adventurous she was when she left the comforts of suburban life in Chicago and ventured to Canada, where she met Ray, the love of her life.

Her new life was certainly a change from what she had known. She traded her comfortable surroundings in Chicago for a farmhouse just outside Dorchester, Ontario, with no running water or indoor plumbing. But Harriet was never one to shy away from a challenge. She embraced this new adventure wholeheartedly and never looked back.

Together, Harriet and Ray raised four children, worked hard, farmed, owned a small business, and built a family rooted in love. In 1969, they purchased a farm outside Springford, Ontario, where they continued to build their life together. Harriet was strong, determined, and resilient every step of the way. She worked for many years as a bookkeeper, helped out on the farm, and never missed an opportunity to enjoy time with family and friends.

Music was always an important part of Harriet's life, and there was rarely a shortage of laughter, fun, and good times wherever she was.

Eventually, a move to Florida for the winter months and summers spent at their cottage in Long Point provided Harriet and Ray with a wonderful retirement lifestyle. They later settled in Tillsonburg, where Harriet continued to make her home following Ray's passing in 2009.

Harriet remained in Tillsonburg until the age of 92, when she moved to Terrace Lodge Nursing Home in Aylmer. It didn't take long for everyone there to discover what her family and friends had known all along — Harriet was truly one of a kind!

Without a doubt, her fun-loving, feisty, and sometimes spicy personality shone through right until her final days. She was dearly loved by the staff and residents at Terrace Lodge, leaving a lasting impression on everyone fortunate enough to know her.

Throughout her life, Harriet had a favourite saying that seemed to sum up her outlook perfectly: **"It is what it is."** Perhaps those few words say more about Harriet than anything else. She faced life's challenges with courage, accepted its twists and turns, and always found a way to keep moving forward.

Harriet lived a full life, filled with adventure, hard work, music, laughter, family, and love. She will be remembered for her strength, her spirit, her wonderful sense of humour, and the unmistakable personality that made her so special.

Harriet will be deeply missed and lovingly remembered by all who had the privilege of being part of her life.

Donations can be made payable by cheque to: Terrace Lodge Auxiliary, 49462 Talbot Street East Aylmer, Ontario N5H 3A5 by sending directly or via Ostrander's Funeral Home (519) 842-5221.

On Monday November 23rd 2026, friends and family will be welcomed at Peace Lutheran Church, 60 Young Street, Tillsonburg. Visitation will be from 9:00am until 11:00am. The funeral service for Harriet will follow the visitation at 11:00am with a luncheon to be held immediately after the service. Interment will be held privately at Dorchester Union Cemetery. Condolences may be shared at www.ostrandersfuneralhome.com

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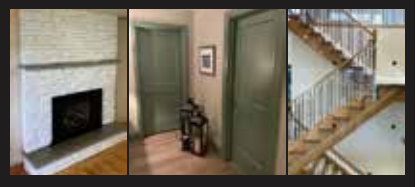

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5	4	1	7	2	3	8	6	9
7	9	6	5	8	1	4	3	2
2	3	8	9	4	6	5	1	7
6	8	7	3	9	4	1	2	5
4	1	2	6	7	5	3	9	8
9	5	3	2	1	8	6	7	4
3	6	9	4	5	2	7	8	1
1	7	5	8	3	9	2	4	6
8	2	4	1	6	7	9	5	3

QUIZ ANSWERS

1. The Adventures of Pinocchio
2. Damascus
3. Paper Products
4. Lamination
5. Freddy Krueger
6. Montreal
7. Penguin
8. Michigan's Upper Peninsula
9. Pineapple
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