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Council members cleared of all wrongdoing

JEFF HELSDON

Editor

All members of council were cleared of any wrongdoing by the town's integrity commissioner in two separate investigations that were presented at Monday's council meeting.

Meghan Cowan, a partner Tillsonburg's integrity commissioner Aird & Berlis LLP, summarized a report that was part of the Sept. 22 council agenda. There were five complaints under the town's code of conduct that were filed against Mayor Deb Gilvesy and Coun. Chris Parker.

The allegations were that the member:

(a) used their positions to advance unsubstantiated claims against staff, made misleading statements to council, and improperly used their influence to pressure council;

(b) engaged in intimidation tactics, including raising their voices at council and failing to treat staff with dignity, understanding, or respect, thereby harassing staff;

(c) undermined the town's decision-making processes, made statements impugning the reputations of staff members, and disclosed confidential information, such as details of litigation and closed meeting discussions;

(d) contravened the code through their conduct and communications directed at staff during the meeting of council held on Jan. 27, 2025 and that the councillor contravened the code by virtue of his conduct at the meeting of council on Nov. 18, 2024. The members' comments and actions at the Jan. 27, 2025 meeting are alleged to have disrupted meeting decorum, demonstrated a lack of respect for staff and other of members of council, and detracted from the town's business. The members' conduct is also alleged to have contributed to a challenging working environment for staff at the town; and

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(JEFF HELSDON PHOTO)

NEW FIRE SAFETY MASCOT

Ontario Deputy Fire Marshal John McBeth presents Tillsonburg Fire Department Fire Public Educator Sarah Barclay with a challenge coin for her efforts in developing Beepa, the province's new fire safety mascot.

The Tillsonburg connection to Ontario's new fire prevention mascot

JEFF HELSDON

Editor

A Tillsonburg firefighter was honoured by the Ontario Fire Marshal's Office for her contribution to fire safety with the idea for a new mascot.

Enter Beepa.

Beepa is the province's new fire safety mascot. Modelled after a smoke and carbon monoxide detector outfitted in firefighter bunker gear, Beepa is more than just a feel-good fuzzy mascot – pushing its nose sets off warn-

ings similar to a detector going off.

Tillsonburg Fire Department Public Educator Sarah Barclay came up with the concept for Beepa. To recognize her contribution, Deputy Fire Marshall John McBeth stopped in Tillsonburg Monday morning as the first stop on a week-long provincial tour to promote Test Your Smoke Alarm Day on Sept. 28. McBeth presented Barclay with an Ontario Fire Marshall's challenge coin in appreciation for her efforts.

Beepa has been quickly adopted by fire services across the province and is catching on across the nation.

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When a Tillsonburg idea catches on in a big way

CONTINUED FROM FRONT

The Toronto Blue Jays are fire safety supporters, and more than one million colouring sheets for school children were produced with Ace, the Blue Jays mascot, Beepa, and Sparky, the former fire safety mascot. Beepa is being made as mascots sent out to fire departments, as plush toys (with an operating nose) for use in fire safety in schools, as keychains, and is an integral part of the fire safety campaign.

Beepa's roots are all Tillsonburg. Admitting she is not a fan of Sparky, Barclay's vision was for an interactive mascot that would help demonstrate to children about fire safety. She was pretty new to the role as fire educator and was at a fire conference three years ago in Toronto when her colleagues ran into Jamie Kovacs, executive director of the Fire Marshal's Public Fire Safety Council and a Tillsonburg native. Barclay was encouraged to share her idea.

Kovacs embraced the idea. He worked with Barclay to design the mascot, which launched two years ago. Although he assisted with the design and, more recently, the promotion of Beepa, Kovacs gave full credit to Barclay for the idea.

"It's all because of her," he said.

McBeth explained Beepa will be part of this year's campaign with the focus on smoke alarms and the family.

"Beepa is the way we'll get fire safety into the classrooms and the kids will take it home," he said.

One of Barclay's memories of school was the opportunity to take home the plushy toy and create a diary for it. She sees Beepa can fill this role and educate about fire safety



(JEFF HELSDON PHOTO)

Beepa, the province's new fire safety mascot, was the idea of Tillsonburg Fire Department Public Educator Sarah Barclay and was co-developed with Jamie Kovacs, executive director of the Fire Marshal's Public Fire Safety Council. Deputy Fire Marshall John McBeth, left, and Kovacs, right, stopped in Tillsonburg Monday to pay tribute for Barclay's efforts.

at the same time.

McBeth said having messages that are relevant to the intended audience is essential.

"Having a walking, talking mascot where they can take the nose off and it's a fire alarm makes an impression," he said.

Beepa will be an integral part of the fire safety campaign sent out to educators in coming days.

"We've got teachers chomping at the bit to present it to their students," McBeth said.

Kovacs said getting through to the younger generation is essential.

"We talk to the kids about this the most because they're their parent's police," he said.

Barclay said the critical thing with Beepa is it works. She told the story of a local family who had a young child who was startled by an alarm and had to attend therapy. Then, an alarm went off due to a low battery, reigniting the fears. It's hoped that seeing Beepa in a low-stress situation can help.

"This week we are going to go with a Beepa plushy, explain why they make the noise they do, and explain why they are important," Barclay said, hoping this will help the family avoid repeating costly therapy.

Kovacs gave credit to small-town ingenuity and said members of small departments often have good ideas. Beepa is an example of how successful sharing those ideas can be.

Tillsonburg Fire Chief Scott Tegler praised Barclay for her enthusiasm.

"It's a wonderful thing for the deputy fire marshal and Jamie to recognize Sarah's efforts," he said.

Parker, Gilvesy speak of emotional toll of complaints

CONTINUED FROM FRONT

(e) met with and advised a constituent that they would support the termination of certain own employees if the constituent could secure the support of one more elected official."

In making her ruling, Cowan reviewed the complaints, interviewed the members and complainants, reviewed the agendas and minutes of the meeting and the videos of open meetings. Her conclusion was the members did not contravene the code of conduct.

Cowan explained that, in general, integrity commissioners have been reluctant to review the conduct of members at meetings, allowing them a degree of autonomy. Cases where there were reviews is when the behaviours was "egregious, flagrant or glaringly outrageous."

"Based on a review of the determined members actions, it did not rise to such a level to merit our intervention and exercise our authority as integrity commissioners," she said during the meeting. "In short, we have not found that the members' conduct and comments crossed a threshold level that influenced the business at hand, that served to distract from the business at hand, that did not unduly influence other members of council or staff, or harass staff."

She also stated that there was no evidence of intimidation, influence on the council, undermining staff, questioning their capacity, or supporting the termination of a specific employee.

Cowan explained council has no ability to question her findings under this procedure.

After a motion was presented to accept the report for information, Parker and Gilvesy were the only ones to comment.

"I am relieved, although not surprised, that they found that I did not breach the municipality's code of conduct," Parker said. "I must express how disappointed I am that it came to this in the first place. To have my integrity questioned by three councillors, individuals who I work alongside in this chamber, has been not only demoralizing but also personally painful. The emotional toll this process has taken on me and my family has been significant."

Parker also said that one of the three councillors has, in the past, threatened him with a complaint to the integrity commissioner.

"That is not what this tool is for," he said. "The integrity

commissioner exists to uphold accountability and transparency with genuine concerns, concerns that serve a real risk to the municipality and its residents. It's not a weapon to be wielded over political disagreements or personal grievances."

Parker said the complaints have driven a wedge between councillors.

"Differences of opinion are not only inevitable, they are healthy, they are the foundation of robust debate and good governance," he said. "When those differences evolve into baseless accusations, it fractures the very unity we need to serve our community."

"Council must do better. We must engage in constructive dialogue, collaborate respectfully and always prioritize the needs of the town and its residents above personal or political ambition. I'm committed to this path and hope the rest of council is as well."

Gilvesy also spoke about the importance of differing opinions.

"As someone who believes strongly in the principles of democracy, I welcome diverse viewpoints at the council table," she said. "Respectful debate is not only healthy—it is essential to good governance. Elected officials have a duty to represent the best interests of ratepayers, and every decision we make should reflect our responsibility as stewards of the public purse."

Gilvesy reiterated her commitment to the people of Tillsonburg.

"Despite the challenges of the past few months, I remain steadfast in my commitment to serving you with dedication and integrity," she said. "It is an honour to represent the people of Tillsonburg at all levels of government."

Thanking her family for supporting her, Gilvesy's was emotional as she said, "This has been an extremely difficult six months and I want to put it behind us, move forward and get the job done we're elected to do."

A second investigation

A second complaint was filed on Aug. 26 alleging that Deputy Mayor Dave Beres and Coun. Bob Parsons acted in contravention of the Ontario Municipal Act by not declaring a pecuniary interest in discussion and votes on the expansion of the Tillsonburg BIA. Although it doesn't explicitly state that this application was filed by a member

of the public, it does allude to this possibility and does not indicate that it was filed by a council member.

The accusation against Beres was that he was in contravention of the act because his son is an owner of a property in the current BIA area, and has an indirect pecuniary interest.

Investigator John Mascarin explained the act only applies to known financial impacts, and it is unknown if the expansion of the BIA will affect existing property owners in the area. With this in mind, he said there isn't a conflict of interest.

The Parsons accusation pertains to the fact that he is a member of the BIA board of management and still voted on a discussion about the expansion at town council.

Mascarin explained that there is an exception to the rule of belonging to another body that has a financial interest when a council member is a member of that body by virtue of being appointed to the council.

"This clause recognizes a councillor may wear two hats, as Coun. Parsons did and will be able to vote both at the council level and in this case, at the board of management at the BIA," he said, explaining Parsons doesn't have a pecuniary interest.

This application was done under a different procedure than the one for Beres and Parker, and provides the applicant the opportunity to apply to provincial court if they believe the decision is incorrect and a penalty is warranted.

Speaking to the matter after a motion was made to accept the report for information, Beres said he was not aware of the potential conflict.

"If someone misconstrued that I was in this to help myself or a family member in any financial manner, trust me that certainly is not the intent," he said, "and if so, I apologize for that if it was taken that way."

Beres said he would declare a pecuniary interest on the BIA expansion moving forward. With a BIA matter on the agenda, he, Gilvesy and Coun. Chris Rosehart all declared a pecuniary interest.

Asked about the possibility of these cases still going before a judge, Gilvesy said, "I would just hope everyone would respect the decision of the integrity commissioner in regard to the pecuniary decision claims."

EDITORIAL

Fire safety should be a year-round concern

In the coming weeks fire safety will be front and center in communities across Ontario with Test Your Smoke Alarm Day on Sept. 28 and Fire Prevention Week from Oct. 5 to Oct. 12, but really it should be remembered year-round.

Fire Prevention Week traces its roots back to the Great Chicago Fire of 1871. It resulted in 300 dead and 100,000 people being homeless.

In the ensuing years, firefighters didn't forget this disaster and both the National Fire Protection Association in the United States and the Dominion Fire Prevention Association in Canada urged a common, North Ameri-

can-wide fire prevention day. That resulted in the proclamation of National Fire Prevention Day in Canada in 191, and a national week in 1923.

During a recognition ceremony for local firefighter and public educator Sarah Barclay coming up with the concept for the new fire safety mascot Beepa, there was talk of fire safety needing to be a year-round concern, that people needed to test smoke alarms and carbon monoxide detectors monthly, instead of annually.

Test your smoke alarm and carbon monoxide detector in coming days, but also do it monthly. This is the single, most valuable life-saving tool in the event of a home fire.

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



(JEFF HELSDON PHOTO)

Mohawk Island lighthouse - a lesser-known piece of Lake Erie history.

Much ado about a “Do” - the story of a haircut gone bad



WRITER'S CORNER

NORMA COLLIS

Tillsonburg Post Columnist

I loved growing up in Tillsonburg back in the 1960's but there were a few “adjustments” needed, especially when I hit secondary school at Annandale HS.

Being a minister's kid in a small town does have its drawbacks. There seemed to be two sets of expectations for young people. One set was for all the other kids my age, the second set was for minister's children, and that bar was set high.

The boyfriend of my older sister was accused by some of his friends of doing some “holy hustling,” when they began dating. He took it all in stride and told his friends “Don't knock it until you've tried it.”

They eventually married and made a successful go of it.

Sometimes in English literature class, there would be a biblical reference in a novel that we were studying. I hated it when the teacher would turn to me and ask “Norma, what part of the bible does this come from? You must know with your religious background.”

I had to bite my tongue to stop from replying “Why would I know? My family doesn't sit around reading the bible all the time. We are a normal family doing very

normal things.”

That may have been one of the reasons why one of my best friends was also the daughter of a minister in the town of Tillsonburg. We lived a block apart from each other. Once I changed the route that I walked across town to school, it was very easy for us to meet up at a set time and to walk to school together. She was very good at speaking French. I was not. She would drill me on verb tenses and other French phrases all the way to school. Walking very quickly, we could make it across town in just under 15 minutes.

We called ourselves “the two PKs” (“preachers' kids). If we passed each other in the school hallway we might ask “So where is your halo” The other one would reply “At home. I forgot to recharge it last night.” Another question might be “Where's your bible?” the answer might be “Under my bed.” Or something similar that, at the time, we thought was a hilarious reply.

From time to time, a kind geography teacher of ours would stop to ask if we needed a ride. He only did this if it was pouring with rain or pelting down snow.

We knew that this gentleman was colour blind and that our route would take us through one of the few intersections in town that had a stop light.

“How does he know if the light is red or green?” we asked each other. “We'd better start praying hard if we ever accept a ride.”

There we would stand, shivering in the cold and the damp with water dripping down our faces.

“No thanks, we're fine,” we would tell him.

At the time, it was common practice to rinse your hair with vinegar. That was sup-

posed to give your hair blonde tints. With our thoroughly soaked “dos” we reeked of vinegar and the aroma was reminiscent of several large containers of French fries. I'm not sure he would have welcomed us into the interior of his well-kept vehicle in this reeking of that apple cider condiment.

It wasn't until I had this teacher as my geography teacher in Grade 13 that he finally asked me why we would never accept a ride in bad weather. I, red-faced, told him about our fears regarding his colour blindness. He laughed and explained that he had the order of the lights memorized and that he could tell from the intensity, which colour of light was lit up.

Even the best of friendships has its trials and tribulations. The true test of our friendship occurred one Saturday, when my friend asked me if I could even out the back of her wet hair where it fell onto her neck. I can't remember if she had rinsed her hair with vinegar, but likely, she had finished off the shampoo with our “trendy” and highly aromatic rinse.

I knew that I should not even attempt such a feat, but I tried to do as I was asked, despite my reservations. What was meant to be a small “snip” was much larger than I had anticipated.

That slip of the scissors meant that I now needed to “even up” the hair on either side of the original “hair sculpting” attempt. Now the hair crept along the nape of my friend's neck in a very disorderly fashion.

I think she knew, from my unusual silence, that all was not going well in our home hair salon.

“Give me the mirror please. Let me see.” she demanded.

To soften the blow, I asked her if we could talk first before the big mirror reveal. Now she was worried and fast ap-

proaching panic mode.

“I think I need to call my hairdresser,” I told her. “This is not the look we were going for.”

She wrestled the hand mirror away from me and viewed the unfortunate results of my first, last and only attempt at hair styling.

She gasped but to her credit she did not cry, nor did she yell at me. All of which I deserved.

My hairdresser took my emergency phone call and giggled when I told her what I had just done.

“Bring your friend to my shop right now and we'll see what we can do,” she told me.

I can't remember if my friend wore a hat to cover her newest hair style, but I do remember that we were both aghast when I told her that we first had to walk through a barbershop to reach the hairdresser's area located behind the barber's place of business.

It was a Saturday. The barbershop chairs were all full of clients and every chair in the waiting area was also full of customers.

There was absolute silence as we crept through this “males-only” zone.

In my imagination I could hear them thinking, “What are those two PK's up to now?” As they viewed the back of my friend's head, I'm sure they must have also thought, well I hope who ever is responsible for that disaster, doesn't choose hair styling as a career choice.

No chance of that! One of us became a nurse while the other one became a teacher. Neither career ever involved heads of hair.

Norma Collis is a Tillsonburg author of several books, including “Tales from Holy Cottage”.

The scrapbook of Louisa Tillson, and later Olive Tillson



**THE
STAGE
IS THE
WORLD**

LAUREL A. BEECHEY

Tillsonburg Post Columnist

Our founders Nancy and George Tillson's first child was a son - George Barker Tillson, who was born in 1817.

He would be the eldest of nine children and was nine years old when he moved to Dereham Forge in 1826, with mom and seven siblings. G.B. worked hard helping his father in the forge as well as helping to clear and settle the land. At 19 years, G.B. was past the age many pioneers married. G.B. would aspire to be his own man, stepping away from assisting his father to start his own business, a chair factory and turning lathe, both would have been spinoffs from his father's saws mill and certainly necessary in pioneer life.

He did marry at the age of 34, in 1851, near Westminster, Middlesex Co to Louise Elizabeth Conat, born in Bowmanville. They settled down in Tillsonburg, did well and had seven children. Today's column is about two of their daughters and their scrapbook.

Many Victorians saved newspaper articles; beautiful handmade and/or storebought cards, paintings, formal obituary cards and correspondence in a scrapbook. Such a scrapbook was started by young, Louise Elizabeth Tillson [b.1863]; daughter of G.B. and Louise. Young Louise started the scrapbook, and sister Olive Jane [b.1866] took it over.

The scrapbook was well used, with many newspaper clippings, cards, etc., pasted in, and later locks of hair glued on top on most pages! Real hair from beloved family members that could bring back memories and provide a tangible piece of their life. Today, while DNA from 1880s hair in a scrapbook may be challenging to extract, it's not impossible due to new DNA technology.

From the scrapbook: Tillsonburg Observer newspaper clipping: "Wedding Bells. Home of Mrs. G.B. Tillson, Dec 25, 1884, Olive J. Tillson, youngest daughter to Joseph B. Webber of Hamilton

"At the residence of Mrs. Geo. B. Tillson, in this town, was on Christmas day the scene of a very interesting affair—a wedding. At half-past two in the afternoon of that day in the presence of a large company, Miss Olive. J. Tillson, youngest daughter of the hostess, was united in the holy bonds of matrimony to Mr. Joseph Beattie Webber, of Hamilton, Rev. Mr. Ross of the Ridout Street Methodist church officiating. The ceremony took place in the parlor, which was handsomely decorated. Miss Marion Trembly, of Tillsonburg, was the first bridesmaid, and Miss Edith Ellis, was the second bridesmaid. Misters Samuel Scoot and Alexander Crockner, of Hamilton acted as groom man and the bride was given away by her brother, Mr. Stephen Tillson. At three o'clock the company numbering about forty sat down to a sumptuous dinner in the din-

ing room which had been transform into a perfect bower with evergreens. After dinner a number of the company embarked in cutters and sailed for the Michigan Central station where at four o'clock, Mr. and Mrs. Webber boarded the Boston and New York Express for Buffalo and the East. The Observer figuratively speaking, casts a slipper after the happy pair, and wishes them good luck and a happy future. Following is a partial list of the presents:- Large crayon portrait of groom and bride, from the groom; gold chain and locket, from Mrs. Webber; silver butler cooler, Mr. and Mrs. Webber;; handsome fruit dish, Miss Trembly; Perfume sachet, Miss Edith Ellis; silver card receiver, Mr. S. Scott, of Hamilton; toilet set, Miss Waller; Toilet mats, Miss Scott, of Hamilton; Water set, Mr. & Mrs. Stephen Tillson; mantel ornaments, little Miss Mable A. Tillson; glove and handkerchief boxes, Mr. Edward Law, Beamsville; China cup and saucer, Miss Annie Alward; ditto, Miss Aggie Ferguson; set silver tea knives, Mr. and Mrs. E. Trembly; card receiver, Mr. W. S. Law; celery dish, Mrs. W.S. Law; silver cake basket, Peter James and John McCullough, Hamilton; spoon holder, Mr. and Mrs. McGuire; clock, Mr. and Mrs. McCullough, of Hamilton; wall bracket, Mr. C. and E. Johnson, of Toronto; parlor lamp, Warren and Miss Emily Armstrong; silver butter knife, Mr. Harry Scott; and many other articles, ornamental and valuable."

This ceremony was not needed as Olive and Joseph were already married! A marriage registration shows they were married Sept 23, 1884, in Hamilton, by Mr. Fletcher whose wife was a witness! The next day, "Sep. 24,

1884, in Tillsonburg, sister Louisa E. Tillson married, Thomas M. Mann of Tillsonburg" with Olive Tillson and Joseph Webber as witnesses!

TDMH received dedicated off-load nurse funding

Tillsonburg District Memorial Hospital (TDMH) will be receiving a dedicated off-load nurse to support ambulance crews at ambulance arrival and offload, in which patients are quickly assessed, triaged, off-loaded to a care

The role was made possible through the support of

Ontario Health and Oxford County Paramedic Services.

"By dedicating offload nurse support to TDMH, paramedic crews will be able to transfer care more quickly and return to the community faster," Ryan Hall, Oxford's director of paramedic services reported. "This will strengthen service capacity across Oxford County by improving ambulance availability where it is currently most constrained."

"I'm pleased to see this important investment coming to Oxford to support our emergency health services," said Ernie Hardeman, MPP for Oxford. "These funds will help ensure residents can access the urgent care they need, when they need it most. It's another example of our government's commitment to strengthening health care in communities across Ontario."

April Mullen, Chief Nursing Executive and Vice

President of Clinical Services shared that the new role is expected to be implemented in mid-October, seven days a week at the peak times of ambulance arrival.

"TDMH and Oxford County Paramedic Services have a strong collaborative relationship," she said. "We are excited to build on this relationship through this initiative that benefits our community."

The funding was part of a provincial increase in land ambulance funding by 16 per cent, bringing the province's total investment in the region to \$9,460,209 this year. This increase in base funding helps ensure municipalities address increased costs so they can continue to deliver high-quality emergency care. This investment is part of the almost \$1 billion in land ambulance funding Ontario is providing municipalities across the province this year, representing an average increase of 8.7 per cent from 2024.

**GRANT
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MEDIA**

*Restoring small-town
journalism, one community
at a time!*

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Tillsonburg POST

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5. Newspapers document history
6. Newspapers strengthen communities
7. Advertisers, big or small, should profit from their ads (meaning sensible ad rates)
8. Newspapers should be locally-owned and operated

Pickup truck reported stolen in Norfolk County

Police are seeking assistance from the public in locating a stolen pickup truck, taken from south of Tillsonburg, and identifying those involved in the theft.

On Monday, Sept. 15, at about 7:23 a.m., the Norfolk County Ontario Provincial Police received a report of a stolen vehicle on Jackson Side Road in Courtland. The investigation determined that between 5:30 a.m. and 6:30 a.m. that morning, one or more unidentified individuals entered the property and stole a grey 2011 Chev-

rolet Silverado pickup truck.

Police are actively conducting an ongoing investigation and are appealing to the public for assistance. Anyone with relevant information is urged to contact the Norfolk County OPP at 1-888-310-1122.

Should you wish to remain anonymous, you may call Crime Stoppers at 1-800-222-TIPS (8477) or leave an anonymous online tip at www.helpsolvecrime.com where you may be eligible to receive a cash reward of up to \$2,000.

Impaired driver detected on general patrol

Members of the Ontario Provincial Police (OPP), Oxford Detachment detected an impaired driver while on general patrol.

On Sept. 13, at approximately 8:30 p.m., members of Oxford OPP initiated a traffic stop while on general patrol on Simcoe Street in the Township of Norwich. As a result of the investigation, Isaak Bueckert, a 39-year-old resident of Tillsonburg, has been charged with Operation While

Impaired and Operation While Impaired - Blood Alcohol Concentration (BAC) 80 plus.

The accused has been released from custody and is scheduled to appear before the Ontario Court of Justice in Woodstock on Oct. 28.

Police want to remind the public that no amount of alcohol or drugs is safe to consume prior to operating a vehicle.

Online fraud investigation in Town of Tillsonburg

The Oxford detachment of the Ontario Provincial Police (OPP) is investigating an online fraud, in the Town of Tillsonburg.

On Sept. 12 at approximately 11 a.m., members of the Oxford OPP received a report from a member of the public that they were defrauded through an online job advertisement.

The victim reports learning about a work-from-home job opportunity through an advertisement on social media. The victim responded to the advertisement and communicated through a texting app, as requested by the suspected scammer.

After communicating for a couple of days, and sending a couple of e-transfers, amounting to just under \$1,000, the victim contacted police, suspecting a scam.

The investigation is ongoing.

Police remind the public to be careful sending money for anything they find online. There are reputable people and companies that use social media appropriately, but there also ones that try to take advantage of people.

If you think you have been a victim of fraud, please reach out to the Canadian Anti-Fraud Centre at 1-888-495-8501 or the OPP at 1-888-310-1122.

Traffic complaint results in impaired driving charges

Members of the Ontario Provincial Police (OPP), Oxford Detachment responded to a traffic complaint, which resulted in several impaired driving related charges.

On Sept. 14, 2025, at approximately 11:20 p.m., members of Oxford OPP responded to a traffic complaint on Lisgar Avenue in the Town of Tillsonburg.

As a result of the investigation, Joshua Banman, a 19-year-old resident of Delhi, has been charged with:

- Operation While Impaired
- Operation While Impaired - Blood Alcohol Concentration (BAC) 80 plus
- Operate a Vehicle with an Open Container of Liquor
- Novice Driver BAC above 0

The accused has been released from custody and is scheduled to appear before the Ontario Court of Justice in Woodstock on Nov. 4.

Reporting suspected impaired driving helps to keep us all safe.

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Tips For your Wedding Attire

The Groom should be unique from the groomsmen by selecting different colours for their suit-tuxedo, neck attire differentiation

There are 122 various shades of white. Groom and groomsmen should have exact same shirt otherwise colour variations will show in pictures.

Sometimes a groom may want a second shirt for the special day, especially in hotter days or those that tend to sweat more.

Colour of groomsmen neck accessories should be the same as bridesmaids' dresses

Colour of shirts should not comprise colour of wedding dress. If the gown is off white or a darker shade of white, DO NOT wear white shirts - otherwise dress will look dirty and be exaggerated in pictures

We are open 7 Days a week and late on Thursdays and Fridays and also available by appointment.

Parents and grandparents should be the second-best dressed people at the wedding.

The benefits to choosing a local wedding venue

Wedding planning requires coordinating a laundry list of details that ultimately come together to make for a memorable ceremony and reception. Couples tying the knot have their work cut out for them, and one of the biggest decisions they will have to make involves choosing where to hold the ceremony and reception. Religious couples often opt for ceremonies at their churches, synagogues and mosques. Secular weddings can occur just about anywhere, with couples sometimes utilizing ceremony spaces adjacent to their reception rooms.

As brides and grooms narrow down their venue options, they may want to give strong consideration to the benefits that sticking close to home can offer. Certainly there are advantages to be had hosting a wedding at venues many miles away or even in international locations, but there are unique perks to keeping festivities local. The Knot 2025 Real Weddings Study indicated six in 10 couples chose to get married in a place where they currently live; 23 percent opted for a hometown venue; and 18 percent decided on a destination wedding. Here's a look at some of the perks of staying local.

- Convenience: One of the biggest benefits of a local venue is convenience for both the couple and their guests. Local venues tend to be easily accessible for those who live nearby, minimizing travel time and reducing any barriers brought on by a lack of familiarity with distant locales.
- Familiarity: Couples who love their hometowns and close environs may want to get married in a familiar and comfortable atmosphere. Plus, they may already be familiar with venues in the area and what they offer.
- Expertise: Venue staff likely live in the area or are familiar with other services close by. They can offer valuable recommendations and insights on other vendors, including what has worked before and what to avoid.
- Easy payments: Many venues require some sort of payment plan that consists of a deposit at the time of booking and a series of payments culminating with the last installment upon learning the final head count. Choosing a local venue makes it easy to stop at the reception site in person and provide such payments with ease, while getting confirmation and receipts in real time.
- Reduce delivery fees: If florists and other vendors have to drop off items, they may not charge the same delivery fees if the reception site is close by.
- Ease returning home: Chances are the couple will arrive at the ceremony and reception by hired car. Once the wedding is over, they'll have to find transportation back home, especially if there is a gap in time before departing on a honeymoon. Utilizing a local venue can make it easier to get home.
- Support of local businesses: Choosing a local venue keeps dollars in couples' own communities, which is a great way to support businesses in the town and the people that work for them.

There are notable advantages to getting married close to home. When planning to tie the knot, couples can give ample consideration to local venues.

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Get the scoop on wedding rehearsals and a rehearsal dinner

There is quite the process involved in bringing a show to the stage on Broadway in New York or The West End in London. Lines and songs are tweaked, actors may be swapped out, and sets may be redesigned. Often these shows are tested out in regional theaters before they are finalized for the true opening night. Practice makes perfect is an adage that continues to be relevant today. Those involved in theater recognize the value of rehearsals, and it also should be an important component for couples planning their weddings.

Weddings involve a lot of moving parts, and that includes people. The Knot 2025 Real Weddings Study indicates the average wedding party contains eight people. Add in four parents, individuals doing ceremony readings, people participating in unity rituals, ushers, and others of recognition, and there may be a dozen or more people responsible for knowing their places and understanding their responsibilities.

The wedding rehearsal helps to corral these individuals and tame nerves by showing everyone what is expected of them on the big day.

Who is in charge of the wedding rehearsal?

Various people may take the lead at the rehearsal. In some instances, it is the officiant who will guide everyone. More often it is the responsibility of the coordinator at the ceremony site or a wedding planner who handles the cues so that everyone enters and exits properly. Some couples will also ask an organized friend or family member to assume the role of rehearsal leader.

What do you rehearse?

According to Ceremony Officials, Rev. Laura Cannon and Associates, the wedding rehearsal does not run through the entire ceremony, only the key spots. A rehearsal typically focuses on the walking in and walking out and ensuring participants know where to stand and what to do. A generalized outline of the wedding ceremony timeline will be reviewed, helping participants understand when they will be called upon to fulfill their responsibilities.

Running through the processional, recessional and other key moments in the ceremony two to three times is usually enough practice.

Who attends the rehearsal?

Only a select number of people need to attend the rehearsal. This includes the couple, their parents, the wedding party, anyone serving a special role in the ceremony (such as leading a prayer), and the wedding coordinator or the rehearsal leader.

How long does the rehearsal last?

Typically a rehearsal should not take longer than 30 minutes to one hour. It's generally held the evening before the actual wedding when everyone should be in town for the festivities.

What happens after the rehearsal? It's traditional to attend a rehearsal dinner directly after the rehearsal itself. This intimate meal gives the key players in the wedding ceremony an opportunity to chat and mingle before the big day. It's also a chance for the couple to offer gifts to the wedding party, parents and others in appreciation of their participation in the wedding. Sometimes speeches are given, but the rehearsal dinner tends to be a low-key, low-pressure opportunity to spend time with special people.

What is the dress code?

The dress code for the rehearsal and the dinner is totally up to the couple. Many opt for business casual, but the restaurant chosen for the dinner may guide couples on what everyone should wear.

Additional tips

Couples may instruct people to bring along the shoes they will be wearing at the wedding to get a feel for them walking into the ceremony site. While it is traditionally the groom's parents' obligation to reserve and pay for the rehearsal dinner, couples who do not want to place all of that responsibility on them can discuss contributing.

A wedding rehearsal and rehearsal dinner brings together the key participants in the wedding ceremony prior to the main event.

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Fun ways to commemorate a wedding anniversary



Milestone moments are few and far between, which underscores the significance of celebrating such occasions. Wedding anniversaries certainly fit the bill of momentous occasions worth celebrating. Whether a couple has been married for half a century or 12 months, the following are some fun ways they can commemorate their time together.

- Take a second honeymoon. Second honeymoons are wildly popular ways to commemorate a wedding anniversary. Such trips present a direct connection to the time couples tied the knot. Book a stay in the same locale where you honeymooned years ago, even staying in the same hotel, and possibly even the same room. Relive special moments you each recall but don't hesitate to create new memories as well. Couples also can consider a second honeymoon in an entirely different destination than the one they visited on their first trip as a married couple years ago.
- Tie the knot again. Many couples choose to renew their vows on particularly notable anniversaries, such as a silver anniversary (25 years). But there's no rule against couples renewing their vows whenever they think it fit to do so, whether that's one year, five years, 12 years, and so on. Incorporating certain components from the initial wedding ceremony can make a renewal of vows even more special.
- Do your first date all over again. Married couples often remember their first date, and recreating that experience can be a fun way to celebrate a wedding an-

niversary. If a first date was dinner and a movie, find the movie on a streaming platform and then watch it after arriving home from dinner at the same restaurant where the date began. If the establishment has since closed, order in dishes you enjoyed that night or work together to cook them in the comforts of your own kitchen.

- Commemorate the era you tied the knot with a themed party. Preferences in relation to music, fashion and design change with each generation, and couples may find it fun to recreate the era when they tied the knot, particularly if it's been decades since they said, “I do.” For example, couples who walked down the aisle in the 1980s can host an 80s-themed party where guests are encouraged to don their favorite attire from that unique era. Spend the night dancing away to a playlist of popular songs from the year you tied the knot, ending the night with a recreation of your first official dance as a married couple.
- Go back to where it all began. Visiting the venue where you tied the knot can be a fun and moving way to stroll down Memory Lane. If possible, contact your reception venue and, if it's been awhile since you and your guests have gathered for a night of fun, book the space and host a laid back reception for friends and loved ones who were there to celebrate with you all those years ago.

Wedding anniversaries are milestone moments, and there are many fun and unique ways for couples to commemorate these special events.



Planning your wedding involves countless details, one of the most crucial aspects is ensuring you have the right rentals to create the perfect atmosphere. Whether you're hosting an intimate backyard ceremony or a grand ballroom reception, wedding rentals can transform your vision into reality. Here are some key things to know about wedding rentals to make your big day unforgettable. When you are ready to get started visit www.allcelebrations.ca to create your wishlist.

1. Venue Essentials

Tents and Canopies: If you're planning an outdoor wedding, tents and canopies are a must. They provide shelter from unpredictable weather and create a cozy, intimate space. All Celebrations provides 34' hexagons tents, as well as 20x40 and 20x20 tents. We can combine these to accommodate 150 guests or more. Generally, we setup your tent 2 - 5 days before your wedding allowing time to perfect your decor and setup. In Ontario, tents are subject to the Ontario building code. All Celebrations is happy to provide you with contact information for your local building inspector as well as the documentation required to complete your building permit application.

Tables and Chairs: From rustic harvest tables to cruiser tables and vineyard chairs to garden chairs, the right tables and chairs set the tone for your reception. Don't forget about specialty seating like lounge furniture for a relaxed vibe or Chiavari chairs for a touch of elegance.

2. Decorative Elements

Linens and Drapery: All Celebrations provides majestic linens, backdrop and drapery that can elevate the look of your venue. Choose from a variety of colors, textures, and patterns to match your wedding theme. Our team can also create stunning backdrops to highlight your head table or to section off different areas of your venue.

Lighting: Lighting plays a crucial role in setting the mood. Consider options like string lights, chandeliers, and uplighting to create a warm and inviting atmosphere. For a more dramatic effect, use spotlights to highlight key areas like the dance floor or cake table.

Centrepieces: Candles and Lanterns: Perfect for creating a warm and intimate atmosphere. Options include votive candles, pillar candles, and lanterns in various styles and sizes. **Vases and Glassware:** From simple glass vases, to chimneys to elaborate candelabras, these can be filled with

flowers, stones, or even floating candles to create a stunning centerpiece. **Themed Decor:** For themed events, you can find centerpieces that match your specific theme, such as vintage, books, or holiday-themed items.

3. Dining and Catering

Dinnerware and Glassware: Elegant dinnerware and glassware are essential for a sophisticated dining experience. Choose pieces that complement your overall theme, whether it's elegant wine glasses for a classic look or sleek, gold silverware for a posh feel. All Celebrations has many glassware, flatware and dinnerware options!

Serving Equipment: Ensure your wedding servers have everything they need with the right serving equipment. This may include chafing dishes, beverage dispensers, and serving trays. Don't forget about barware if you're planning to have a cocktail hour or open bar.

4. Entertainment and Extras

Dance Floors: A dance floor is a must for any wedding reception. Our classic wooden floor supported by our fast deck base makes for a beautiful area underneath the starts or in your tent. We can also create a monogram or wedding logo for the centre of your dancefloor!

Concession Machines: Up the fun at your wedding, rent our slushie machine or add cotton candy for your guests! All Celebrations can also assist with late night snacks including popcorn.

5. Practical Considerations

Restrooms: If your venue doesn't have adequate restroom facilities, consider renting luxury portable restrooms. These come equipped with all the amenities your guests will need and can be a lifesaver for outdoor weddings. All Celebrations is happy to put you in touch with our recommended vendors.

Generators: Ensure you have a reliable power source for all your lighting, sound, and catering needs. Renting a generator can prevent any unexpected power outages from disrupting your celebration.

Mobile Bar: Farm or tent weddings may benefit from a themed or luxury mobile bar service, or refrigerated trailers.

All Celebrations is here to help you select the right wedding rentals, you can create a beautiful and memorable event that reflects your personal style. We will work with you to ensure all your needs are met and to make your wedding day as stress-free as possible.

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Welcome to All Celebrations event and party rentals in Oxford County. Allow us to share your joy every day! Build your Wishlist or browse our rental inventory and services. You can make your backyard party, your elegant venue wedding or expansive celebration a memorable success for all your guests. All Celebrations provides reliable and affordable rentals, event design and event support services. For example, in addition to providing you vineyard chairs, we can assist you with creating a budget and schedule for the day of your event. We also provide bartending, coordinating and decorating to your specifications. You choose, we will help bring your vision to life and reduce your stress.

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Junior Gemini open with 16-0 football victory

CHRIS ABBOTT

Post Correspondent

Glendale High School kicked off its TVRA football season with a senior/junior doubleheader in Tillsonburg on Thursday.

A senior Gemini comeback fell just short in a 35-28 loss to College Avenue Secondary School. The junior Gemini shut out CASS 16-0.

Junior football

Guided by quarterback Carver Schott, the junior Gemini scored on their first drive, scoring with a James Strathern touchdown. Glendale added a second touchdown in the third quarter, going up 14-0 on a touchdown by Hezekiah Cato, then chalked up two points on a late safety.

"He (Schott) did well – he was kind of getting pretty beat up because he's playing both ways, quarterback and lineback-

er, so he gets in a lot of action," said Gemini junior coach Jordan Fitzpatrick. "That might be something we have to adjust going forward.

"The second years, they've had that year of learning. Now they are ready for that next step and some of them end up playing both ways for us. It's a hard game to pick up. Further into season, we can have some more guys in better places and not have as many guys going two ways. But at the start of the season, having two-way guys, it's pretty crucial having that football IQ."

The junior Gemini travelled to London Thursday, Sept. 24 to play Saunders.

"I think we've got a lot of promise this year, I'm really looking forward to it," said Fitzpatrick. "Lots of talent on offence, a lot of talent defensively - donut on the scoreboard today, that's what you like to see. Coach Scott Hamilton 's doing a great job with the D."



(CHRIS ABBOTT PHOTO)

Junior Gemini quarterback Carver Schott runs for a first down Thursday against College Ave.

Senior football

The Tillsonburg Gemini seniors lost their TVRA Williamon Division opener 35-28 to College Avenue Secondary School on Thursday, Sept. 17.

Glendale trailed the visitors 16-6 at half-time.

"A bit of a slow start," said Glendale senior football coach Sean Van Beers.

"Once we got going - kind of woke up in the second half – we got the offence going, everything was moving fine. The boys stayed strong, came back and got it within one (touchdown). Almost recovered an onside at the very end of the game – they (CASS) knocked it out of our hands at the last second.

"So they stayed in the game right until the very last play. The defence played

great. We had four offensive turnovers, kind of left our defence in a rough spot.

"First game of the year, nobody quit, and we stayed healthy," Van Beers smiled. "We've got a good squad. We've got a real, real big team, lots of linemen. Thirty on the roster and I think 12 linemen, so a good crop of big guys, which is amazing."

The senior Gemini had a big game coming up in Week 2 with a trip to London Saunders on Wednesday, Sept. 24.

"That's going to be tough, they are the Tier 1 team that came down this year," said Van Beers.

"A good group, they're working hard. We'll do our best in the city next week, then we're back here at home against East Elgin (Thursday, Oct. 2, 11 a.m.), that's always a big game too."



(CHRIS ABBOTT PHOTO)

Junior Gemini James Strathern cuts against the grain trying to elude a CASS tackle.

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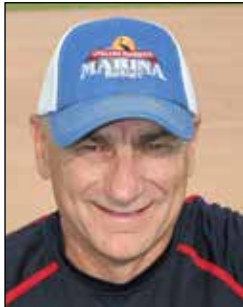
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Foldens Machine, Sticky Bandits win their division titles



**EYE
ON
SLO-
PITCH**

DAVE WEAVER

Post Columnist

The seasons are ending quick as two more titles were settled last week

Foldens Machine Works took home the Ladies' A Championship, meanwhile Sticky Bandits were the winners of the Men's C title.

Ladies A Division

Foldens Machine Works came from behind and walked off the Jays in extra innings to claim their first A title. The key to their successful run was their hitting throughout their order and the utilization of their bench.

Foldens Machine Works-9, Jays-8

Foldens-Jen Cadman 3-4; Jenn Dahl 2-3.

Jays-Maddi Obar 3-3; Brandi Cook 3-4.

Game Synopsis-This game, the final in the series, featured some outstanding defensive plays by the Jays. Brandi Cook and Maddi Obar completed a tip-drill catch, and third baseman Kristen Cadotte reached over the third base line fence to make a great snag.

Foldens scored a pair in the seventh to force extra innings. The Jays plated two in the top half of the eighth Foldens rallied in their half with Jen Francis walking it off with the game winning-hit. Kim Gillis



(CONTRIBUTED PHOTO)

Folden's Machine Works were the winners of the Tillsonburg Slo-Pitch Ladies' A Division. Team members are, left to right: (back row) Lisa Howey, Kim Gillis, Monica Barnes, Andrea DeBlair, Amber Woolgar, Trisha McKenzie, Jen Francis, Jen Kichler, Ashley Aker, Mack Brackenbury, Mel Redecop. (front row) Sandy DeKeyser, Danielle Swart, Jenn Dahl, Nancy Teixeira, Mandi Vickers, and Jen Cadman.

pinch-hit double key in the rally.

Men's A Division

Legend Rubber Cobra Chickens find themselves just one win away from their first-ever title as they took the first two games of their series with an experienced Mill squad who won't go down easy. Legend took the opener in walk-off fashion and piled on the offence in the second game winning by sixteen.

Legend Rubber Cobra Chickens-16, The Mill-15

Legend-Caleb Reimer 4-5; 2 HR; Ethan

Fehr 3-4; Marcus Peters HR.

The Mill-Jeremy Roy 4-4, HR; Billy Wilson 3-4; Bryan Deblaire 2 HR.

Game Synopsis-The Mill had an eight-run lead after four complete innings in the series opener. Legend waited until the seventh to get their offence going, winning it with a walk-off homer from Caleb Reimer, his second homer in the game.

Legend Rubber Cobra Chickens-36, The Mill-20

Legend-Marcus Peters 6-6; Brian Dyck 6-6, HR; Wyatt Blatz 2 HR; Caleb Reimer HR; Nathan Froese HR; Ethan Froese 2 HR.

The Mill-Jeremy Roy 4-4, 2 HR; Billy Wilson 4-4, HR; Tim Morgan HR; Bob Evans HR.

Game Synopsis-The winne's scored runs in every inning but the fourth in game two of the series. They scored 18 over their final three at-bats. Matthew Reimer scored six runs on the night.

Men's B Division

This series finally got going on Thursday night and the youth movement was definitely on display as At My Playground/IQT Logistics used their speed on the base to pressure the Pelicans defence into some costly errors. They took the opener by 12.

At My Playground/IQT Logistics-25, Pelicans-13

A.M.P.-Marshall Baker 5-5; Duncan McLean 5-5, HR; Brandon Balazs HR;

Remi Dejaegher HR.

Pelicans-Brandon Travers 3-3; Nick Wilson 3-3.

Game Synopsis-Nine of A.M.P.'s 10 batters scored at least one run; Duncan McLean hit for the cycle, Brandon Balazs and Remi Dejaegher each homered, tripled and scored three runs.

Men's C Division

Sticky Bandits shocked first-place Townline Eqt Inc Smokin Aces sweeping them in three to capture their first title in their inaugural season.

Sticky Bandits-17, Townline Eqt Inc Smokin Aces-8

Bandits-Nicky Knelsen 4-4; Logan Froese 3-4.

Townline-Corny Reimer 3-4; Daniel Unger 3-4.

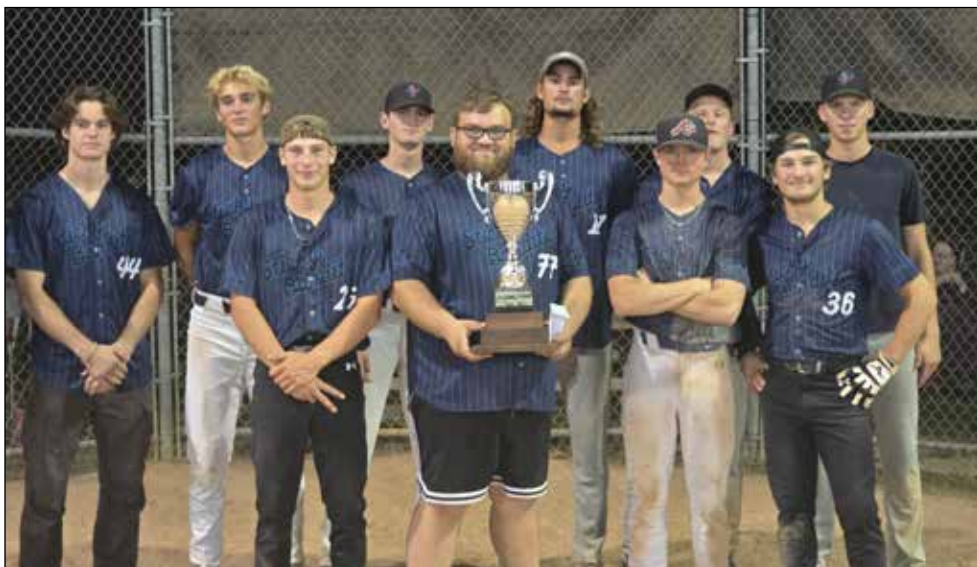
Game Synopsis-The Bandits scored runs in every inning in the game two win. Nicky Knelsen reached and scored in all four plate appearances.

Sticky Bandits-20, Townline Eqt Inc Smokin Aces-14

Bandits-Ivan Enns 4-4; Conner Friesen 4-4.

Townline Eqt-Daniel Unger 4-5; Johnny Janzen 3-4.

Game Synopsis-Bandits kept their offence rolling as they once again scored runs in every inning but one of game three, Conner Friesen scored four runs for the winners.



(CONTRIBUTED PHOTO)

The Sticky Bandits were winners of the Men's C Division. Teams members were, in no particular order: Caleb Enns, Ivan Enns, Makaio Thiessen, Logan Froese, Andrew Wiebe, Andrew Knelsen, Nicky Knelsen, Conner Friesen, Bowen Thiessen, Austin Reddekopp, Tyson Krahn and Michael Wiebe.

Thunder open the season with Oxford Cup tradition

MIKE HOLLY

Post Contributor

The Tillsonburg Thunder continued the tradition of opening their season with the Oxford Cup, a home-and-home series against Tavistock.

The Friday game was in Tillsonburg. The game started quietly with not much intensity. That quickly changed as Tavistock and the Thunder started remembering the old rivalry. Sebastian Guastadigsegni from Tye Johnston opened the scoring at 14:31 of the first period. Tavistock took a 2-1 lead in the second with goals from Deven Kropf and Lucas Bast. Luke Sinclair from Sebastian Guastadigsegni and Justin Abraham evened it up for Tillsonburg on the power play in the third that put the game into overtime. Robert Maclean tipped a beautiful pass from Roberts and Abraham to win the game.

Admission to the game was a donation to the Tillsonburg Helping Hands Food Bank. This is the 18th year that the Thunder have donated. This year, \$440 cash and about 200 pounds of food was donated by the fans. The Tillsonburg



(JEFF HELSDON PHOTO)

Sebastian Guastadigsegni scored the opening goal of the season to put the Thunder ahead of the Tavistock Royals 1-0 in the Oxford Cup, Tavistock won the two-game series, which is decided by a cumulative score from both games.



(CONTRIBUTED PHOTO)

The fans attending the Tillsonburg Thunder donated \$440 in cash and about 200 pounds of food as admission to Saturday's game. Left to right are: Veronica Holly, Frank VanHeck, Kathy Holly, and Joan Wilson.

Thunder and the Food Bank thank you for your donations!!

Game Two was on Saturday night in Tavistock. The game was competitive till the end of the second but the experience of the Royals took over in the third, Tavistock taking the game 6-2. The final score for the two-game Oxford Cup was then 8-5 Tavistock.

Many of the players were playing for spots on both teams. Final selections are being made in the next two weeks. A final roster will be finalized then.

It has been a challenging off-season this year. The Thunder are in the process of rebuilding with young talent. This is a fast and competitive team however and we expect exciting games.

The October games for the Thunder are all away games. They play Seaforth on Oct. 4 at 7:30, Dunnville on Oct. 11 at 8:00, Elora on October 17 at 8:30, and Erin on October 25 at 7:30. The Thunder home opener is on Nov. 1 at 7:30 against the Tavistock Royals, where the Thunder hopes to avenge the Cup loss.

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www.tillsonburgpost.com

Golfers needed for tournament to support Glendale High School

JEFF HELSDON

Editor

More golfers are needed to play in the Fore Our Gems golf tournament held this Saturday.

Organized by Friends of Glendale, the tournament proceeds go to assist with the cost of high school programs not covered by board of education funding. The group was started three years ago by Scott Gooding, Emily Sage, Miran-

da Davis, Rebecca Hailey and Sidney Lauszus.

"With the lack of funding for student activities throughout the province, we decided there was a need to help as much as we could with different things" Gooding said.

Athletics is the most expensive extra-curricular, and Friends of Glendale has assisted with costs of equipment for football, soccer, rugby, swim, and badminton. Assistance isn't restricted

to robotics though. Last year, Friends of Glendale helped with funding for the robotics team, supporting house council and student council. This year, plans are to launch a scholarship for graduating Glendale students.

"We aren't rolling in the money. We're not building up too much yet but hopefully in the future that will happen," Gooding said.

The golf tournament, which starts at 8 a.m. on Sept. 27 at Oxford Hills Golf

Course, is the only fundraiser the group has so far. Cost is \$110 and includes lunch.

Gooding looks to the school support programs at Emily Stowe in Norwich and Delhi District Secondary School, saying he hopes for other fundraisers as well, but there is also a need for more volunteers.

E-mail friendsofglendale@gmail.com for more information on the golf tournament or volunteer opportunities.

We want to hear from our community!
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Tillsonburg hosts annual Take Back the Night to raise awareness of gender-based violence

ALEX HUNT

Post Contributor

Take back the Night march returned to Oxford County last Wednesday, calling attention to femicide, domestic violence, and the need for better-funded women's shelters and prevention programs.

Sophie Foster, Public Education and Fundraising Coordinator for Ingamo Homes, hosted Take back the Night event last Wednesday, continuing the annual event that originated in the 1970s

"For the people who attended tonight, I want them to leave with a sense of community in general of people coming together and that nobody is alone. There are people that care about them and rallying behind them," said Foster.

Currently, Oxford County has two women's shelters. DASO (Domestic Abuse Services Oxford) operates as an emergency shelter with 17 beds and a 24-hour crisis line for those in immediate need. As well, Ingamo Homes provides second-stage housing and outreach services, offering women and children long-term support for up to two years while they work to get back on their feet.

"The 1970's felt like a long time ago but unfortunately, we are facing a lot of the same issues and some new ones as well," said Foster. "The number keeps rising and we can continue to experience not only physical violence, but we are also still seeing the numbers of femicide go up. I think it's about one woman a week that's murdered in Ontario alone and the number is not going down."

More than 50 people gathered in downtown Tillsonburg for the event, marching through the streets with speeches, calls to action, and handmade posters advocating for change.

Foster says there needs to be more education on healthy relationships, emotional regulations and ways to cope with stress.

"We need prevention and better response as well as more funding for women shelters and neither of them



(ALEX HUNT PHOTO)

Tillsonburg streets came alive with the Take Back the Night march. Kelly Spencer was one of the speakers during an informative evening. Sophie Foster, public education and fundraising coordinator for Ingamo Homes, says that violence against women is only going up and more needs to be done.

have seen an increase in funding since I was born, which was the mind of the 90s, and we just can't meet the demands."

Take Back the Night is a global movement that be-

gan in the 1970s to raise awareness of gender-based violence. Communities worldwide hold marches, rallies, and events to empower survivors, promote safety, and advocate for prevention and support services

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Terry Fox Run a success

SUE HEALEY

Post Contributor

Every year on the second Sunday of September, individuals across Canada gather at local soccer clubs, running tracks, community centres, parks, or roadways. They arrive with early morning smiles and carafes of coffee. They came last year and the year before that and the years before that. They are the volunteers for the annual Terry Fox Run for Cancer Research.

This year, Sunday, Sept. 14, marked the 45th time they have come together to welcome participants to this inspiring world-wide event.

The organizers of Tillsonburg's Terry Fox Run converged at the Tillsonburg Soccer Club in the early hours of Sunday. There, Shelley Weiler, the run's organizer since 2019, directed her committed team of volunteers to set up and oversee the event, an annual tradition since 1989. In its 36-year history, Tillsonburg has missed only one run and has run consecutively since 1998, raising a combined total of \$450,000.

Weiler had high praise for this year's fundraising efforts by local businesses Systemair and Inovata Foods. Both entered company teams for the run and raised close to \$18,000 between them. She also thanked local businesses for their continued support.

Musical entertainment was provided by Stunt, a local duo who performed a Bare-naked Ladies tribute for the audience. Denise Haley led a rousing rendition of Oh Canada to begin opening ceremonies. Andrew Englander of Attain Health led the approximately 120 participants in a great warm up exercise with twists, lunges and even jumping jacks.

The run included both newcomers and familiar participants from all over the area. The event is free to all with 3, 5 and 10 km routes, well marked and marshalled by smiling volunteers. 2025's volunteer roster numbered in the thirties and as the annual event grows, Weiler sees opportunities to engage the younger generation with meaningful and concrete action.

"In a morning you can change a person's life, make a real difference. We've helped survival rates increase from 25-



(SUBMITTED PHOTO)

60 per cent and more in certain cancers – that is a powerful message to those who feel powerless in the face of this disease. This year's Tillsonburg Terry Fox Run has raised \$30,750.00 and counting... That is roughly \$1.45 for every citizen of Tillsonburg, surpassing Terry's original

goal of raising one dollar for every Canadian. We're going to get there. We're going to finish what Terry started. We are going to finish it."

Donations to specific runs may be made until the end of the year by visiting www.run.terryfox.ca.

Ontario investing in Oxford's critical infrastructure needs

The Ontario government is investing \$8,750,412 to help renew and rehabilitate critical infrastructure across Oxford. The funding will be delivered through the 2026 Ontario Community Infrastructure Fund (OCIF) as part of the government's more than \$200 billion capital plan to protect Ontario by building key public infrastructure that will strengthen the economy and keep workers on the job in the face of tariffs and economic uncertainty.

"Investing in local infrastructure is essential to building strong, healthy, and vibrant communities," said Ernie Hardeman, MPP for Oxford. "This more than \$8.75

million in funding will help municipalities across Oxford maintain and improve critical infrastructure like roads, bridges, and water systems. These are projects that directly impact the quality of life for residents and support economic growth. I'm proud to see this investment going where it's needed most and will continue advocating for the long-term needs of our communities."

The allocations for 2026 are: County of Oxford - \$5,597,673; Tillsonburg - \$487,252; Woodstock - \$781,439; Ingersoll - \$346,945; Blandford - Blenheim - \$439,568; East Zorra - Tavistock - \$144,189; Norwich - \$489,671;

South-West Oxford - \$253,567 and Zorra - \$210,108.

In 2026, Ontario will allocate \$400 million in OCIF funding to help 423 small, rural and northern communities address critical infrastructure such as roads, bridges, water and wastewater systems. The minimum grant amount for municipalities will increase to \$125,000 from \$100,000. Funding allocations are based on a formula that accounts for the different needs and economic conditions of each community. Communities may accumulate funding for up to five years to address larger infrastructure projects.

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Stones & Scones – Oct 16 – 10:00 to 11:30 am
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MUSIC CORNER

Jay Rawk brings his one-man band sound to The Copper Mug



BEN ANDRESS

Tillsonburg Post Columnist

Local Norfolk County musician Jay Rawk is bringing his unique live-looping performance to Tillsonburg on Saturday, Sept. 27 to The Copper Mug. Known

for his powerful interpretations of emotional songs and his carefully crafted sound setup, Jay is quickly becoming a standout in the local music scene.

"Everyone has called me Jay Rawk, Rock or Rocky for a long time, just kind of stuck with me throughout the years," he says. "No birth name. I do not put that out there."

Behind the name is an artist who has built a distinctive performance style around both acoustic and electric guitar, creating a layered sound that rivals a full band.

"I mainly use a Taylor 112 acoustic guitar for most of the songs I do. I have a live looping setup on a big

pedalboard," Jay explains.

Jay will not spill the secret of his birth name but he will go into full detail explaining how he gets his exact sound.

"For the acoustic chain I use a Boss TU-3 tuner pedal, into a BOSS OC-5 octave pedal, into a Fender smolder acoustic overdrive pedal, into a Boss RV-6 reverb pedal, into a Boss VE-8 vocal harmony pedal with chorus and modulation effects options, into a BOSS RC-300 looping station and drum machine with digital delay effect option."

His set up for electric guitar is just as detailed. "My electric guitar is a Les Paul with the same setup while

adding a Boss BD-2 Blues driver pedal, into a Boss DS-1 distortion pedal, into a Boss ML-2 metal core going into a Donner noise gate pedal," Jay explains. "I will be adding on in the near future with bigger and better pedals for overall tone. With all these features, it makes it easy to create the one-man band sound that sets me apart from a lot of other performers."

That sound fuels a setlist that balances raw emotion with nostalgic energy.

"I usually pick songs that I grew up with or songs that hit me in the face," Jay notes. "I love playing emotional songs. Sad songs are by far my favourite. My roots are the 80s and 90s

but my love is early 2000s music."

Alongside covers, Jay is beginning to lean into original material as well.

"I'm actually writing more than usual now and working on arranging some songs to record," Jay mentions. "I'm still in the process of learning about audio interfaces and the computer side of music, but I'm excited to learn."

While recording is on the horizon, his priority remains the stage.

"I will continue to play live shows all throughout the next year and will be grinding as usual."

Jay Rawk will be using his skills to help raise money for the Norfolk Lit-

tle People's Day Care on Wednesday, Nov. 1 by providing live entertainment for the Langton Firefighters Association's fourth annual Halloween dance at the Langton Community Centre.

Music fans can also catch Jay Rawk's unique set live this Saturday, Sept. 27th at The Copper Mug in Tillsonburg where his looping skills and emotional delivery promise a night of music that feels bigger than one man on stage. Doors open at 8:30 p.m. with no cover charge. For more information and upcoming events you can follow Jay Rawk on social media at www.facebook.com/jayrawkstar

UPCOMING SHOWS

SEPT. 25 - OPEN MIC W/ BILLY GIBBONS
Paddy's Underground
No Cover - 7:30 p.m. - All Ages/Licensed

SEPT. 26 - SUGAR KINGS
The Copper Mug
No Cover - 8 p.m.

SEPT. 27 - JAY RAWK
The Copper Mug
No Cover - 8:30 p.m.

OCT. 2 - OPEN MIC W/ BILLY GIBBONS
Paddy's Underground
No Cover - 7:30 p.m. - All Ages/Licensed

OCT. 4 - ANDY COLONICO W/ ADDI JOHN
Paddy's Underground
\$15 - 8 p.m. - All Ages/Licensed

OCT. 4 - STUNT
The Copper Mug
No Cover - 8:30 p.m.

OCT. 10 - 50+ KARAOKE
Tillsonburg Senior Centre
1:30 p.m.

OCT. 11 - IAN BW
Paddy's Underground
\$15 - 8 p.m. - all ages/licensed

OCT. 15 - EUCHRE NIGHT
The Copper Mug
6:30 p.m.

OCT. 18 - BACK TO THE 50'S CONCERT
St. Paul's United Church
\$50 - 2:30 p.m. - All Ages



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Weekend Quiz

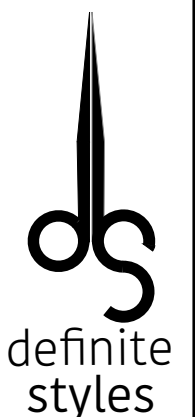
By Jake Grant

- What is the capital of China?
- Which TV show follows the lives of the Bluth family?
- What device uses sunlight to tell time?
- What kind of food is an olive?
- What is the outer layer of a tooth called?
- What is Beyoncé's last name?
- Where does "the Muffin Man" live, according to the nursery rhyme?
- When the stock market is performing well, it's called a _____ market?
- Charlie Kirk was assassinated in what state?
- Who does Meghan Markle play in "Suits"?

This week's answers are found on pg. 26



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TOWNSHIP OF NORWICH NEWS



Planning rules for additional residential units to be updated

LUKE EDWARDS

Post Contributor

Norwich township councillors have signaled their support for township and Oxford County staff to develop tighter rules around additional residential unit (ARU) applications, especially to curtail unwanted issues of swapping.

Oxford County policy planner Hanne Yager gave an update to Norwich councillors at the Sept. 9 council meeting regarding a review of changes made in ARU policy to reflect new provincial legislation enacted in recent years.

One of the main areas of concern for planners and councillors alike are what is described as a “swap.” Essentially this means when an ARU becomes a principal dwell-

ing. While Yager said there’s “no inherent problems” with these types of situations, they can be used in ways that go against the intended purpose. When that happens, it can have negative consequences on the township’s and county’s agricultural land.

“ARUs are intended to provide affordable housing options, not a second single detached dwelling. Therefore, ensuring an ARU is secondary and subordinate to the principal dwelling has beneficial impacts for the agricultural reserve,” Yager said.

A review of ARU applications made since the new zoning rules came in place found nearly 40 per cent involved a swap and most were occurring in the agricultural reserve.

“Applications involved in a swap are more likely to request relief for both max-

imum gross floor area and distance from the principal dwelling compared to applications not involved in a swap,” Yager said.

In some cases, these requests for relief are significant, but even when it’s minimal, Yager said the cumulative effect is significant.

“I think at the end of the day the concern is not with the act of swapping if they are meeting the intent of policy criteria, but what we’re finding through the research in a consolidated basis is that not only is relief more frequent for swaps but the amount of relief is becoming larger than compared to cases where swaps are not happening,” Yager said.

Norwich councillors acknowledged it’s a concern locally.

“The swaps that we’ve been talking about

where the new building is bigger than the old building, it does seem to me that that’s contrary to the intent of the legislation,” said Coun. Karl Toews.

Staff are looking at some potential changes, including shifting how ARU scale and lot coverage is calculated. They’re also looking at updating definitions to get more certainty around things like distances and rules for driveways.

Toews said he was happy to see staff are looking to address the issues, saying it’s a balancing act.

“We have an issue with the housing crisis, we have to safeguard the use of our farmland, especially in Oxford, but we also... have to be sure that we’re safeguarding the small town character of villages like Norwich,” he said.

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Tantalizing taste testing at the Tillsonburg Senior Centre



Patrons sample the eclectic, delicious dishes and socialize at the Tillsonburg Senior Centre.

(ROBIN KRAFFT PHOTO)

ROBIN KRAFFT

Post Contributor

The Senior's Sampler event, held at the Tillsonburg Senior Centre on Sept. 15, was a great success. Eighty-five tickets were sold and eight vendors served a variety of sample menu items to attendees.

"There was a lineup of people at the door, but it ran really smoothly, especially for a first-time event," said Michelle Wegg, Program Coordinator, "and lots of people asked if we'll do it again."

Wegg looks forward to planning next year's event.

Vendors included SnackRite, The Olive Eatery, The Mill, Heart to Home Meals, Sobeys, Indigo Lounge Eatery, The Copper Mug, and Good Pud. Patrons responded enthusiastically to the event, noting the good value, the great variety, excellent food choices, flavour combinations and generous portions.

"It was really nice to hear how many seniors were trying new items and new restaurants that they've never had before," Wegg said, "and most people ended up

leaving with food."

Gathered around tables, people enjoyed the social aspect of the event as well and mentioned that it was a great opportunity to catch up.

SnackRite owner John Araoye was pleased by the turnout and how many people were willing to try his meat patties, spiced rice and puff puffs, noting that some people came back for more.

"People loved it; the spice, the taste, they enjoyed it," he said, "and people were happy to know that we make the food fresh, so we can control the spice in it according to taste."

Many patrons commented on Indigo's delicious tomato basil soup with aged cheddar, but their taster platter also included Nepalese dumplings, Thai cashew quinoa salad on cucumber crackers and a sesame noodle shot. Proprietor Kelly Spencer said that there was "really good feedback and lots of menus were taken."

Heart to Home Meals brought a variety of their dessert items which were also popular, and Sobeys appreciated the opportunity to introduce some of the



(ROBIN KRAFFT PHOTO)

Owner of The Olive Eatery, Val Valanti (left) and head cook Giecelle Sanjose (right) serve up Greek spanakopita and chicken souvlaki with homemade tzatziki at the Senior's Sampler event.

prepared foods that are available in the store, serving chicken pot pie, maple glazed ham, scalloped potatoes and mini donuts. The Mill served chicken parmesan, and The Copper Mug served meatloaf, pulled pork and apple crisp.

Good Pud owner Sarah Senior said that the event was "a really nice opportunity to meet members of the community and let them sample what we have." Their core range of Belgian chocolate desserts were a big hit. She added that "it was great for me as a business owner to meet others and try their food and build more connections with other food businesses."

Veteran banner program is being expanded

FRANK MOORE

Post Contributor

Royal Canadian Legion Branch 153, Tillsonburg, in partnership with the Tillsonburg Military History Club, were proud to have launched the Memorial Veteran Banner Program in 2023.

A total of 121 banners have been installed to date with the banners being displayed on Veterans Parkway until after Remembrance Day. This program is an exciting opportunity to celebrate, educate, and acknowledge the sacrifices that our service personnel, both past and present, have made so that we can live in peace and enjoy the freedom we have to-

day. The first phase has been tremendously successful and truly a community effort. Thanks goes out to all family sponsors, The Town of Tillsonburg, Tillsonburg Hydro and the initial sponsors, The Lions Club of Tillsonburg and The Rotary Club of Tillsonburg.

To further pay tribute and provide a powerful symbol of collective gratitude, we are launching the second phase of our veteran banner program in collaboration with The Tillsonburg Post. When one views the banners, you may wonder what their story might be with the people honoured. With the support of the sponsor families, we will

bring these stories to you and plan to publish weekly an image of the banner along with a brief (50-100 words) background of the veteran.

Applications for the 2026 program will be accepted up to June 1, 2026 by contacting Dianne Hodges at veteran-bannerprogram@gmail.com. The most asked question is the criteria required to participate in the program. It's open to all veteran families in the Tillsonburg community that have veterans, deceased and or active service members who have served or are currently serving in the Canadian, Allied or Commonwealth forces including the Merchant Marine.



(JEFF HELSDON PHOTO)

A crew with Tillsonburg Hydro Inc. started the annual task of erecting the 121 banners in the veteran banner program to pay tribute to those who served our country in both world wars, and in the military since the end of the Second World War. Linesman Kyle Jacob was using the bucket truck to erect the first of the banners on Friday morning.

Kinsmen revamp banks under Lake Lisgar bridge

PAT CARROLL

Post Contributor

The Kinsmen Club of Tillsonburg recently made good on a previous pledge to Frank Kempf of the Lake Lisgar Revitalization Project to restore both banks of the lake under the Kinsmen/Hawkins Bridge.

The club secured the necessary timbers, a donation from Triple M Demolition who were working to remove the Kinsmen Bridge over Participark. The timbers were to be used to create new walls to stabilize the banks.

Kinsmen Pat Carroll and Walt Ellenberger, supported by Frank on the Kinship 1 barge, unloaded the timbers at the boat ramp and floated them up to the work location.

They were then joined by George Mills of Greenline Earthworks who used some real agility on a mini excavator (provided by East Elgin Concrete Forming) to work his way down the steep incline on the east side of the bridge.

There he was able to excavate a pathway parallel to the water's edge to dig out the old logs and place the new timbers. They were drilled and secured with rebar and tension bars into the soil before the installation of filter cloth and backfill-

ing.

Kinsmen's projects are always supported by companies in town. Some of the equipment used was provided by 3E Power Services and Tillsonburg Equipment Centre. The surplus rebar used was provided to the club by the Periscope Playhouse in Port Burwell.

The following day, the Kin crew tackled the west side and were re-enforced by new member Graham Griffiths. This day the mini ex was operated by Nick Nagy from Greenline, and he also created a pathway for the machine to the bottom.

Again, a track to safely operate the mini had to be excavated into the hill while the club members cleared the foliage and brush before a starting point for the timbers could be established. Some extra cutting and fitting around the corners was required on this side. It was a long day but gratifying for the club members for a job well done.

Before the tools were even packed away in the trucks, the kids were asking if it was okay to use the new fishing platforms.

Greenline Earthworks and EECF are to return to the lake to re-establish the stone covering and create suitable pathways for the anglers to access the new 50-foot fishing benches formed by the timbers.



(CONTRIBUTED PHOTO)

Volunteers with the Kinsmen Club have been working under the Lake Lisgar bridge to reinforce the banks. The first step for this was to remove the old timbers with an excavator and then get the new timbers into place.

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(CONTRIBUTED PHOTO)

The timbers used to shore up the banks of Lake Lisgar under the bridge have provided a new fishing platform. Next on the list is work to improve access to the platform.



A WINNER ON TWO FRONTS (JEFF HELSDON PHOTO)
It could be said that Verne's Carpet One owners Dave Martin and Shawn Winters put their money where their mouth is after receiving the Community Service Award at last week's Tillsonburg District Chamber of Commerce annual awards. Known only to a select few in the audience, the business planned to make a donation to the Tillsonburg District Memorial Hospital Foundation's annual campaign, which they did after receiving their award. Left to right are: Nadia Facca, president TDMH; Martin, Winters and Gerry Dearing, CEO of the hospital foundation. See next week's Post for complete coverage of all the award winners.

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Hospital program provides new potential path home

HOSPITAL HAPPENINGS

APRIL MULLEN

Chief Nursing Executive, Vice-President Clinical Services

Tillsonburg District Memorial Hospital (TDMH) new transitional care unit provides the right level of care while patients await discharge.

In fiscal year 2023/24, TDMH experienced increased emergency department (ED) volumes and high inpatient occupancy rates, ranging from 135-150 per cent. This led to backlogs of admitted patients in the ED, prolonged average lengths of stay (ALOS), and increased wait times within the ED. TDMH was operating over capacity with an average of 12 unfunded operational beds open daily, peaking up to 16 beds. The hospital was often in an access and flow 'code gridlock'.

As background, TDMH is considered a small rural community hospital, and has 34 acute medical surgical beds, 10 Complex Continued Care beds, and six Level Two Advanced Intensive Coronary Care beds.

After discussion with the regional office on the access and flow challenges, TDMH

successfully received funding support to open a Transitional Care Unit (TCU) within the hospital. The TDMH Foundation generously supported capital equipment needs for the unit. On April 1, 2025, the 12 bed TCU unit opened for alternate level of care- long term care (ALC-LTC) patients waiting for placement, where discharge home was not thought to be a safe option. The TCU was to be a short-term solution to allow patients to receive the 'right level of care' while they were awaiting their discharge destination.

The model allows ALC-LTC patients within the hospital to be cared for in a dedicated unit designed to meet their care needs. The unit staffing model includes nursing, personal support workers (PSW), physical and recreational therapy, and medical oversight. TCU patients reside in rooms set up to feel at home, with access to common spaces for socialization.

The TCU model includes a physiotherapist assessment to develop a patient treatment plan aligning with discharge goals. A physiotherapist assistant/occupational therapist assistant provides individual or group exercise classes, and a recreational therapist provides recreational interventions to enhance socialization, engagement and emotional well-being five days a week. An occupational therapist is available as needed to complete functional assessments related to activities of daily living.

A TCU Standards of Care and Documentation policy was created to support senior-friendly nursing, PSW, and rehabilitation practices on the unit, outlining evidence-based standards of care and practices. The TCU team fully embraced best practices in ALC, delirium quality standards and senior friendly care. Initiatives such as congregate dining promote social engagement and help establish a structured daily routine, both essential for seniors' well-being.

Standardized screening and risk assessments are completed on the unit, with particular attention to daily monitoring for fall risk, cognitive changes (using the Confusion Assessment Method), and skin integrity (using the Braden Scale). Patients benefit from a variety of therapeutic programs tailored to the needs of older adults, including horticultural therapy, art and music, as well as physiotherapy programs like Movement Matters and Move On, all aimed at maintaining mobility, independence, and cognitive function.

The TDMH Team received feedback from a family member highlighting the success of the initiative: "The care my mother received was excellent! Everyone was so caring, respectful, and treated my mom with dignity. Before she arrived at TDMH, she was assessed and deemed a candidate for LTC. After being at TCU, she improved to such a degree that she was able to move up to the level of moving into a retirement residence instead.

TDMH should be proud of their new unit and the amazing staff who give such great care to all the patients."

The TCU was co-designed with front line team members and patient advisors to inform processes and meet the principles of patient and family centered care. Setting the model of care to be restorative in nature meeting all ALC and older adult leading practices through team education has been pivotal to the unit's success. Due to the high level of restorative care provided in the TCU, patients have gained more independence and discharge destinations have been altered from LTC to retirement home or home. Due to the high number of TCU discharges, the acute inpatient access and flow pressures have successfully reduced inpatient occupancy rates. Overall, the success in opening this TCU demonstrates the hospital setting can be adapted to meet the needs of ALC-LTC patients, achieving high quality care outcomes at lower care costs than acute care.

Thanks to TDMH team members Angela Stuyt and Brooke MacPherson for their contributions to both this article and the implementation of this great new program at TDMH. TDMH is proud that this was shared in the September edition of the Ontario Hospital Association "Health System News" which is seen across Ontario. The September edition focused on Reimagining Care through Integrated and New Models of Care. <https://www.oha.com/news>

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Military history club speaker to speak about Indigenous people in war

JEFF HELSDON

Editor

A presentation by the Tillsonburg Military History Club has an appropriate topic for the day it's being presented.

Eric Story, an adjunct professor at Wilfrid Laurier and Western Universities, will be presenting *Fighting Injustice - Indigenous People in Canada's Great War* on Sept. 30, the National Day for Truth and Reconciliation. The presentation will be at the Tillsonburg Legion, starting at 7 p.m.

"Since it's on the National Day for Truth and Reconciliation, the idea is to tell a different story about the First World War than we're used to hearing, which is a focus on British-born white people," he said. "This story is going to look at how Indigenous People experienced the war similarly, and also differently, than British-born communities did during the war."

Story has written a number of articles on this topic over the years and taught about it as well.

He said the talk will detail reasons Indigenous People enlisted with the Canadian Expeditionary Forces, which were not a lot different than the reason anyone enlisted. Story named a desire to "pursue adventure and escaping the boredom of Canadian life" as motivators. He said many Indigenous people had recently signed treaties with the king and felt a strong relationship with the Monarchy.

However, Indigenous soldiers faced discrimination on the lines. When they returned home, they faced further discrimination, not being allowed to collect pensions and still not being allowed to vote.

"Many thought if they proved themselves on the battle field they would be rewarded with the ability to vote afterwards," Story said.

An admission fee applies to the event.



PHARMACY CARE

(ROBIN KRAFFT PHOTO)

After thanking her dedicated team, local leaders, the BIA, colleagues, her family and the community, Shoppers Drug Mart pharmacist/owner Christin John, with scissors, cut the red ribbon at the new pharmacy care clinic. The clinic will provide another health care option for Tillsonburg residents.

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

PAUL KNOWLES

Tillsonburg Post Columnist

As soon as I was born, I was taken from my birth mother and put into foster care. Three months after I was born, I was taken to the home of Rose and Ralph Knowles, who adopted me.

And right now, I can hear you ask, “What the heck does this have to do with travel?”

My answer: I have always known those facts about my life – although only in the past few years have I discovered the identity of my birth mother, and met seven siblings I never knew about. But knowing that I had been given up for adoption has always been part of my life, and has shaped who I am.

“But,” you say, “remember the travel part?”

Yes. One of the most impactful destinations I have ever visited is the National Indigenous Residential School Museum of Canada, in Portage la Prairie, Manitoba. This is not a destination that entertains; it's one that informs, educates, enlightens and changes you from the inside out.

I have often heard people wonder why Indigenous people seem so focused on residential schools. It is not rare to hear the phrase, “That was in the past. Can we just move on?”

And that's where my birth story connects, for me, at least. Because those circumstances have been a real, living part of me all my life. And my story of loss is pretty insignificant compared to the tragedies that residential schools brought upon thousands of Native Canadians.

And their story is not ancient history. Touring the Residential School Museum, we were reminded that the last residential school closed only 29 years ago! Most of you, reading this, were adults

while the government of Canada and a number of churches were still operating institutions that were founded, according to the deputy superintendent of the Department of Indian Affairs, “to continue until there is not a single Indian in Canada.” Residential schools were intended as a means to steal the identity of all Native Canadians, to “assimilate” each and every one, in the words of Prime Minister Sir John A. McDonald.

Compare those stated intentions with the mission statement of today's Residential School Museum: “A place where people can learn, share, heal, and move forward.” The museum and its staff are committed to that process.

Our guide was Farah Houle. She led us through small rooms in the museum – which was once the “Portage la Prairie Indian Residential School,” founded in 1916 and in operation until 1988. Each room contains exhibits that reveal the unfolding history – often synonymous with “unfolding tragedy” – of the people of the First Nations.

I learned that from the 1800s, until 1951, residents on reserves were required to have an official government permit simply to leave the reserve. I learned that the massacre of buffalo was not just a ridiculous blood sport, but an organized effort to cause the extinction of native people.

I saw pictures of kids being transported in cattle trucks from their homes to residential schools. Farah described the rounding up of native kids as “Pick and Go.”

One display case held three straps of different weights, all used to administer punishment by school officials. The least heavy was for children eight years and younger. The many reasons for such punishment included speaking their native language, or talking to a sibling. In fact, our guide said, “If you spoke your language, you got a pin through your tongue.”

Farah says, “They were taught not to love each other.” Which laid the foundation for very troubled lives.

A very telling display is found in the dining room exhibit, where the table for priests and nuns was laden with fish, meat, fruit and vegetables, while the children got oatmeal. And, added Farah, “They had to eat it even if there were



(PAUL KNOWLES PHOTO)

The sculpture “Healing Shoes” by Genevieve Lavasseur features ceramic shoes made from mud from four residential school sites in Manitoba. There are 152 sores – one for every year from the signing of the first treaty to the year the artist created the work, intended “to honour lives lost and lived” at the institutions.

bugs in it.”

Perhaps the most shocking exhibit is a simple, empty baby's crib. Farah explained that this is in memory of babies born to young girls in the school, babies fathered by priests and teachers, babies who were then murdered to hide the evidence, and whose bodies were incinerated.

What is truly amazing about the museum is that, in spite of the horrors on display, there is an overriding invitation to find hope. But first, we need to learn, then to heal, only then to move forward. The exhibits include artworks that capture both suffering and joy.

We thought that the best example of the need to know the past to move to a positive present was our guide, herself. She told us, “I was raised by a residential school survivor, and I wondered why he didn't say, ‘I love you.’ Now, I know why.” She added, “People need to know what happened. I'm going to continue to tell the story of those who never made it home alive.”

And while Farah said that part of the story is “how religion was forced on the children,” she also shared that she continues to be a practicing Christian – to me, an incredible, living example of forgiveness and faith.

Clearly, the Residential School Museum is not a destination you will visit if you're looking for entertainment. But this is a place that will change your life

more than a thousand visits to Canada's Wonderland. And as a guy who has discovered how one's personal, childhood history impacts the rest of your life, I could not recommend it more highly.

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)

Farah Houle, our guide at the National Indigenous Residential School Museum of Canada.

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RIDDLES

I change my coat from green to gold, then let it go when days turn cold. What am I?
Leaf

Round and orange, carved with a grin; by candlelight I glow within. What am I?
Jack-o'-lantern

I stand in a field with button eyes; I guard the corn from hungry spies. What am I?
Scarecrow

I'm warm and soft with sleeves that squeeze; you pull me on when nips the breeze. What am I?
Sweater

I'm tiny and brown with a cap on my head; plant me now for oaks ahead. What am I?
Acorn

Sip me hot with spice and cheer; I taste like orchards every year. What am I?
Apple cider

You'll wander my walls and look for a way; left, right, dead end—come back another day. What am I?
Corn maze

I'm a circle of light in a crisp night sky; I rise in autumn, big and high. What am I?
Harvest moon

I crackle and glow as stories are told; gather 'round when nights turn cold. What am I?
Bonfire

I scratch and scrape across the lawn, chasing colors that have gone. What am I?
Rake

SUDOKU

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

Level: Beginner

Solutions on Page 26

PET OF THE WEEK



SKYE & STORM

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

WORD SEARCH
FALL DAYS

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

- PUMPKIN
- HARVEST
- LEAVES
- CORNMAZE
- SCARECROW
- ACORN
- BONFIRE
- CIDER
- HAYRIDE
- GOURDS
- SWEATER
- CHILLY
- MAPLE
- THANKFUL
- AUTUMN

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ST. PAUL'S UNITED CHURCH FELLOWSHIP CLUB PRESENTS:

OKTOBER FEST+ BACK TO THE 50'S CONCERT

October 25: 2:30 p.m.

88 Bidwell St., Tillsonburg

Non-alcoholic beer, live music, food. \$50 advanced ticket sales only. Join us after the concert for authentic German food + fellowship. Contact Dianne Parnell @ 519-871-3454 or stpaulsaots84@gmail.com.

LET'S FALL INTO COUNTRY MUSIC WITH THE INGERSOLL COUNTRY MUSIC JAMBOREE at the Masonic Hall, 190 Thames St., Ingersoll, 1-4 p.m. every other Friday.

October 3, 17 & 31, November 14 & 28, and December 5.

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

HAM AND SCALLOPED POTATOES DINNER at the Tillsonburg Legion

Friday, September 26: 5-6 p.m.

Includes dessert, tea, and coffee. Cash only \$18 per person. All Welcome. For more info call 519-842-5281.

KEN LIGHTHEART AND THE NORTHSORE RAMBLERS

at the Tillsonburg Legion

Friday, September 26: 1-4 p.m.

\$7 entry. All Welcome!

The Ingersoll Rotary Club is proud to host THE 2025 INTERNATIONAL SOFTBALL CONGRESS (ISC) MEN'S FASTBALL TOURNAMENT in Ingersoll September 26-28 at Victoria and Garnet Elliott Parks.

Games begin 7 p.m. Friday. See some of the best league teams vying for a berth into next year's World's ISC Championship Tournament in Kitchener, Ontario in August 2026. At press time, registered teams are Georgian Bay, Sebringville, Saugeen, St. Thomas, Puslinch, Wiarton, Waterdown, Jarvis, Walton and Kitchener.

OTTERVILLE'S LIVING HISTORY RE-ENACTMENT

Sat. Sept. 27: 10 a.m. to 4 p.m.

Sun Sept. 28: 10 a.m. to 3 p.m.

Candlelight Tour Sat. at 7 p.m.

Skirmish Sat. at 2 p.m. & Sun. at 1 p.m.

225422 Main St. W. Otterville

SNHS Food Booth

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Free Class/Open House

Monday, September 29: 9-10 a.m.

St. John's Anglican Church,

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MESSY CHURCH AND "AN APPLE A DAY" EVENT

October 4: 10 a.m.-12 noon.

St.Paul's United church 88 Bidwell St., Tillsonburg.

Crafts,music,games,story,snacks and lunch.

Children must be accompanied by an adult.

LYME DISEASE: WHAT IS HAPPENING IN ONTARIO?

Saturday, October 4: 2 p.m.

The Edison, Vienna & Area Museum, 6209 Plank Rd, Vienna

Dr Andrew Peregrine from the University of Guelph will

speak to the prevention of Lyme Disease, the ticks that

cause it, how to prevent it. Further info if needed email

bayhamhistoricalsociety@hotmail.com

This is a free event and made possible by our members that

volunteer at Jackpot Time, St Thomas Ontario!!

THE DO-OVERS BAND FROM LONDON IS AT THE TILLSONBURG LEGION

on Saturday October 4: 8 p.m. -12 a.m.

Come dance to all your favourite country and rock hits. Check them out at www.doovers.ca. Advance Tickets \$15. All Welcome!

ROTARY BOOK FAIR

The Tillsonburg Rotary Club is holding it's fall book fair **at**

the Tillsonburg Mall from Monday, October 6 to Saturday,

October 11. Give your used books, CD's and puzzles a new

home! Help the environment by bringing your own bags to take

home your purchases.

TILLSONBURG SNOOKER LEAGUES AND SHUFFLEBOARD START OCTOBER 7

If you are interested in playing please drop in to the **Tillsonburg**

Legion Canteen Tuesday thru Saturday between 1 and 5 pm

for more information! Must be 19 and over.

OXFORD PHILATELIC SOCIETY CIRCUIT BOOK FAIR

October 25: 10 a.m. - 4 p.m.

Church of the Epiphany, 560 Dundas Street, Woodstock

Ontario N4S 1C7

Free Admission & Parking

Stop in and buy some stamps and meet fellow stamp collectors.

About 8 participating stamp clubs.

Contact: Don Eaton dhfe@silomail.com

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

CHRISTMAS WITH COMMUNITY LIVING

Friday, December 5 – Free will donation.

St. John's Anglican Church,

46 Ridout Street West, Tillsonburg, Ontario

Join us, with our friends from Community Living, to start the

Christmas season off with Christmas music and a good old Carol

Sing. Christmas treats for all.

MODERN SQUARE DANCING IS FOR YOU!

Looking for something to do in the evening or something new

to try? Modern square dancing is a great way to learn something

new, have fun, meet new friends, relieve stress, and get some

exercise! **At Thames Valley Dance Club, we dance on Monday**

nights from 7 - 9 p.m. All you need is comfortable shoes and

casual clothing. No experience or partner is required and anyone

over the age of 12 is welcome (children from 12-15 with an adult, please). **The 2025-2026 season has started at the Ingersoll Pipe Band Hall, 108 Wonham St. S. Ingersoll.** The first night is free, and after that the cost is \$7.50 per person each Monday, paid monthly at the start of the month. For more information, contact Julie at 519-535-3314. Hope to see you on Sept 8th at the Ingersoll Pipe Band Hall!

INTERESTED IN BRIDGE?

Join us every Friday at the Tillsonburg Duplicate Bridge Club at 1 p.m. at The Senior Centre. Don't have a partner?

Come anyway and we will match you up with someone. For

more information, visit their Facebook page: TburgBridge.

TILLSONBURG LIONS

The Tillsonburg Lions meet on the 1st and 3rd Tuesdays.

You are invited to their dinner meetings in the Lion's Den at

the Community Centre. If you are interested in giving back

to your Community contact Jim at 519 409 0876 for more

information.....all are welcome.

OXFORD GRIEF CARE:

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Register at: oxford.griefsupport@von.ca or 519-539-1231 Ext 6299 or 6296

TILLSONBURG

WHEN: 2nd Tuesday of every month

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

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

INGERSOLL

WHEN: 4th Tuesday of every month

WHERE: Ingersoll Public Library 130 Oxford St., Ingersoll

TIME: 10:30 a.m. –12 Noon

WOODSTOCK

WHEN: 3rd Saturday of every month

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

TIME: 10:30 a.m. –12 Noon

MEMBERS GENERAL MEETING

1st Wednesday of every month

Starting at 7 pm

Not a member contact us to join

The Wagner Memorial Teeterville Legion Branch 526. 3890

Teeterville Road, Teeterville, Ontario. For More Information

Call, the Legion 519-443-5588

<https://www.teetervillelegionbranch526.ca>

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

The Wagner Memorial, Teeterville Legion Branch 526

3890 Teeterville Road, Teeterville, Ontario

You do not need to be a member to Volunteer, Just contact

the legion and leave your name and number and purpose

of your call. Someone will get back to you as to where you

might be needed. Students and Adults welcome. Open hours.

Wed.-Fri. 3 pm-10 pm, Sat.1 pm-10 pm, Sun.1 pm-6 pm.

For More Information call, the Legion at 519-443-5588 or

[teetervillelegionbranch526.ca](https://www.teetervillelegionbranch526.ca)

COMING EVENTS

OXFORD PHILATELIC SOCIETY

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

Church of the Epiphany, 560 Dundas Street, Woodstock
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If you have never belonged to a stamp club, now's the time.

Meet new friends, grow your knowledge and collection.

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

CWL RUMMAGE SALE

St. Mary's Church in TILLSONBURG,
corner of Venison and Rolph Streets.

Saturday, October 18: 9 a.m. until 1 p.m.

A large selection of clothing and footwear for the entire family. Houseware, glassware, linens, home decor, paintings, toys and trinkets. Christmas decor, jewelry, books and much more. Find us in the fully accessible church hall.

Everyone is welcome. Admission is free. Please bring a bag (or two) to bring home your treasures.

JOB FAIR+

Thursday, October 2: 1 p.m. - 5 p.m.

Tillsonburg Community Centre, 45 Hardy Avenue

MORE than your average job fair. The Job Fair+ in Tillsonburg is a great place to network and make local connections! Meet employers that are actively recruiting, training providers offering exciting career opportunities, and community partners to help you on your path.

Rotary Club celebrates 75 years in Tillsonburg

JEFF HELSDON

Editor

The influence of the Rotary Club is visible throughout Tillsonburg. From the Rotary Clock Tower downtown to the Anandale track and Theatre Tillsonburg to the less-obvious influence on the individuals in the community through the international student exchange, the group has made a difference.

To celebrate its anniversary, the Tillsonburg Rotary Club is holding a 75th anniversary gala celebration at the end of October at the Tillsonburg Soccer Club. A committee comprised of club president Gloria Aykroyd and members John Gilvesy and David Vallee is organizing the event.

"I think it's going to be an interesting, fun evening," said Vallee, who is the chair of Tillsonburg Rotary's fundraising committee.

Although the program isn't finalized, one of the features will be three guest speakers who are students in the Master's of Peace and Conflict Studies program at the University of Waterloo. The Rotary District Peace Committee provides scholarships to students in the program annually, which the local club contributes to.

"Peace is a cornerstone of the mission for Rotarians around the world," Gilvesy said. "Rotarians believe when people work to create peace in their communities, that change can have a global effect."

Gloria is a new Rotary member, but has a long history with the club and an interesting story that involves her husband Bob, who has been a member since 1981.

"Back in those early days Rotary didn't allow women to join, but I was always by Bob's side," Gloria said. "Women were Rotary Anns."

Gloria has been a Rotary Ann, which is a separate but related group, since Bob joined.

Over the summer, the Aykroyds have been going through boxes of scrapbooks and Rotary history, looking back at the past 75 years.

Club history

The Tillsonburg Rotary Club was chartered on June 9, 1950, with 19 members, all of whom were male. These included. Dr. James Clark – father of present member Brian Clark, Cyril Demeyere, W. H. Gibson, Dr. Charles Lee, and Bill Popham.

In 1952, the first Rotary show was presented. It started with a minstrel show and then evolved into the format local residents may remember. The show moved from the former town hall, to the community centre to Theatre Tillsonburg.

And speaking of Theatre Tillsonburg, Rotarian Tom Heeney was instrumental in establishing the present theater on Potters Road in the building that was formerly the Hungarian Hall. Gloria understands that the hall was purchased jointly by the Rotary Club and Theatre Tillsonburg.

In the late 1970s, the club started the Rotary phone check program.

"That's where Rotarians would call elderly people who need a check-in call to ensure they were okay if they didn't have family around," Gloria said.

They saved a few people's lives," Bob added.

In 1955, when the community was raising money for Rotary Westmount School for what is now Community Living Tillsonburg, the Rotarians raised \$30,000 for the cause. They also built the track at Annandale and contributed to the construction of the Tillsonburg Community Centre. The area where the Tillsonburg Seniors' Centre sits today was formerly the Rotary Wing.

The clock tower was built in 1994 with the club selling "bricks", which were the pavers around the tower with the donor's name engraved. Club members hosted New Year's Eve fireworks at the clock tower for years, but ceased due to rising costs. They ended up turning the clock tower over to the town because of increased maintenance costs.

One of the events the club is known for now is its semi-annual book sale in the Tillsonburg Town Centre, which dates back to 1976.

"People love it and it's in demand so they'll keep doing it," Gloria said. "It's



(CONTRIBUTED PHOTO)

This photo from the Tillsonburg Rotary Club's archives shows the charter members of the club who gathered 71 years ago to launch it.

just amazing the generosity of the people of Tillsonburg to allow the Rotary Club to have a wide selection of books."

Three local Rotary members have made a mark at a higher level within Rotary. Don Watkins was district governor in 1991, Gilvesy held that role in 2018-2019, and John Lohuis is currently assistant district governor.

The exchange program

Vallee was a Rotary exchange student in 1983-84, going to Sweden.

"Rotary was a real springboard for me into more of an international life in politics, in communications," he said, adding the program changed him. Vallee then went on to a career that included television over the years.

The Tillsonburg club became involved in the exchange program in 1968, and received an award for 90 exchanges in 2014. After a hiatus due to COVID, Tillsonburg was back in the program this year.

"I'm so excited we have an inbound and outbound Rotary Exchange student this year," Aykroyd said, explaining a Tillsonburg youth went to Germany and a Japanese student is here. "It gets kids excited about learning about other places and other cultures. It just opens so much up for them."

The present

Seeing the issue with homelessness locally, the local club members wanted to do something more than just the donations to the food bank and youth backpack program they had been doing. The concept of having a food pantry that could "fill in the gaps" was born. The hope is that this pantry will be located by the Station Arts Centre in 2026.

Club members are busy working on two fundraisers, the Rotary roses program run by Dave Palmer, and the duck race.

Gloria has another goal for the club during her presidency.

"As with many service clubs, members are getting older, and we certainly want people to become aware of Rotary," she said. "The motto for Rotary is service about self. What can you do for Rotary and what can Rotary do for you?"

The club has dinner meetings on the third Monday of the month at the Salvation Army church.

"If people can see where they can carve out a few hours and see how they can make a difference in the community and beyond, they might be surprised," she said.

For more information on joining the club, or the dinner, the contact is gloria.aykroyd@rotarytillsonburg.ca

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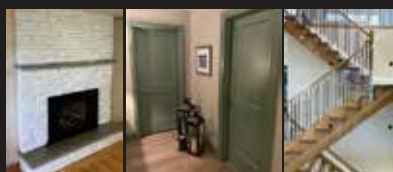
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9. Utah
10. Rachel Zane

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

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CLASSIFIEDS

OBITUARY

BONEHAM, THOMAS WILLIAM (MARCH 21, 1923 - SEPTEMBER 19, 2025)



On September 19, 2025, the world truly lost one-of-a-kind. Born on March 21, 1923, in a small cottage in the village of Shotteswell, Warwickshire, England, Tom Boneham was a rare treasure. With only love in his heart, this kind and gentle soul made a lasting impression on everyone who had the honour of knowing him. He passed away at his home at the grand age of 102 "and a half" exactly how he lived his life - very peacefully.

Lovingly remembered by his sister Joan Sheasby and her sons David (Reta) Sheasby and Micheal (Kate) Sheasby and family in England; nephews Andrew (Nancie) McAuley and family and Bryan McAuley; niece Rosemary (Mark) Fitzgerald and family. Also survived by extended family and many friends, including close friend Christine Grim. Predeceased by his beloved wife Cathy McAuley (1994) and sisters Hilda (2025) and Molly (1948).

A true English gentleman from humble beginnings, Tom worked on the family farm from a very young age. During WWII he served in the Home Guard from the age of 16 and later felt a duty to enlist. On his eighteenth birthday Tom joined the Royal Marines, following in the footsteps of his father who had served during the First World War. He was assigned to the 5th Battalion after completing training but soon volunteered

for 'hazardous service' and joined the newly formed Special Intelligence Unit, 30 Commando. After being wounded and medically discharged, Tom was an honoured recipient of the Italian Star, African Star and General Service Medal.

Tom went on to attend Southampton University to study electronics and subsequently worked for Marconi, testing radio transmitters for the R.A.F. In October 1952, he emigrated to Canada and settled in Toronto pursuing a career using his technical expertise with RH Nichols (9 years), then Weston Instruments (24 years). Eventually, Tom met his wife Cathy and moved to Mississauga. Whether going ballroom dancing or to the opera, soccer matches or horse races, theatre or travelling, or just staying home watching old classic movies or football on television, Tom always said, "every day with Cathy was fun". The pair also joined a local Catholic Church where Tom later became a life long member of the Knights of Columbus (Council #8668).

Years following Cathy's passing, a new neighbour, Christine, moved in next door along with her dog and they soon became good friends. During this time Tom's deep love of animals and nature, his wide range of musical interests, as well as his talent for storytelling and reciting Shakespeare became very evident. After living next door to Tom for fifteen years, Christine made the decision to move back home to Tillsonburg while Tom was considering a retirement home. She then made an offer he could not refuse - to move to Tillsonburg as well where he could have a "grampy suite" and a big back garden. Tom accepted and was able to live the next twelve years healthily, independently and very happily while also becoming part of the extended Grim family. Being very spontaneous with a curious and open nature, Tom never said 'no' to expanding his knowledge or embracing new experiences which kept his mind sharp and his spirit alive and engaged which certainly contributed to his longevity.

Tom's quiet strength, gentle presence and loving accepting nature will



continue to inspire all who knew him and his memory will forever remain in our hearts.

To commemorate Tom's incredible life, a funeral service will be held on Sunday, Sept. 28 at 11:00 a.m. in the Maurice J. Verhoeve Funeral Homes Chapel, 262 Broadway, Tillsonburg by Jack Grim and Pastor Paul Robinson. Public Visitation will be held on Saturday, Sept. 27, between 2:00 to 4:00 p.m. and 6:00 to 8:00 p.m. in the Maurice J. Verhoeve Funeral Homes Chapel. All are invited to attend a Royal Canadian Legion Branch 153 Poppy Service on Saturday afternoon at 5:30 p.m. in the funeral home chapel. Inurnment in Assumption Cemetery, Mississauga will be held at a later date where Tom will be reunited with Cathy forever. Immediately following the funeral service, all funeral attendees are invited to join in a time of fellowship at the Royal Canadian Legion (16 Durham St., Tillsonburg). Favourite memories, photos, personal condolences or memorial donations to "Covenant House" (Toronto) or to "War Amps" or to "Oxford County Animal Rescue" would be appreciated and can be made via Tom's online tribute page at www.verhoevefuneralhomes.com or by contacting the Maurice J. Verhoeve Funeral Homes- Burial and Cremation Service Inc., Tillsonburg (519)842-4238, which has been entrusted with all funeral arrangements, with confidence.

OBITUARY

LYNN BUCHNER

It is with great sadness that we announce the passing of Lynn Buchner (née Breen), who was lost to cancer on September 16, 2025.

Lynn spent her 64 years giving to others—serving her community for three decades in municipal government and supporting her family as a loving mother to daughters Erin (Mike Nguyen) and Jill (David Gilvesy), and grandmother to granddaughters Bryce and Ellis, as well as her beloved grand-dogs. She was known for being dedicated and meticulous in everything she did—from writing policies and reports to making perfectly flaky pie crusts and beautiful quilts. There wasn't a project she couldn't tackle, and she inspired many with her determination and unwavering integrity.

She will be dearly missed by her daughters, her brother Murray (Grace) Breen, sister Devona (Randy) Allin, as well as her nieces and nephews. She is predeceased by her father George Breen (2009), mother Elizabeth "Betty" Breen (née Sinden) (1995), and brother Richard Breen (Bertha) (2009).

An intimate memorial will be held in her honour. Donations may be made to Woodingford Lodge or the Oxford County Library.

OBITUARY

IN MEMORIAM ERNIE TURNER SEPTEMBER 28, 2024

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and grandfather.

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missed.

*Barbara, Brad,
Elijah and Noah*

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