


# Tillsonburg POST

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## Kempf lauded at citizen of the year ceremony

JEFF HELSDON

Editor

Accolades were aplenty as the town honoured the man hailed as the keeper of Lake Lisgar at its Citizen of the Year ceremony on June 26.

Frank Kempf was chosen as Citizen of the Year by the town's Museum, Culture, Heritage and Special Awards Advisory Committee from several nominees. Council endorsed the decision at a meeting earlier this year.



Frank Kempf.

(JEFF HELSDON PHOTO)

Accepting the award, Kempf said he was humbled and paid tribute to Pat Carroll and Tom Logan, who were behind the Lake Lisgar Renaissance Project in the 1990s, as inspirations.

Appropriately enough, Joan Weston, the committee vice-chair and a collaborator with Kempf on maintaining the lake, served as the evening's emcee. She explained the committee looked at the length of service of nominees, the uniqueness of their contributions and also how their service involves other people.

Mayor Deb Gilvesy, speaking on behalf of the town and Kempf's nominators – Shane Curtis and Jush Matheson – started by emphasizing the importance of Lake Lisgar, saying it "has long been a source of beauty, recreation and community pride."

When Gilvesy was first elected, she said Kempf contacted her and invited her to his home to share his knowledge on Lake Lisgar.

"His deep-rooted knowledge, unwavering commitment, and passion for preserving this local gem not only educated me but also provided a foundation that has made decision-making easier over the years," she said.

Kempf's initial goal was to reduce sediment in the north end of the lake, but he was also part of the committee that installed a new aeration system, and he protects turtles, including endangered species. He was a founding member of the Lake Lisgar Revitalization Committee.

CONTINUED TO PAGE 2



(JEFF HELSDON PHOTO)

### STICKS UP

Instead of elbows-up, it was sticks up when Oxford MP Arpan Khanna, right, presented his Canada Day memorabilia while greeting people at Tillsonburg's Canada Day pancake breakfast in front of the Station Arts Centre. Upon being given one of these commemorative sticks, Lachlin raised his stick in the air in celebration of Canada Day. A good crowd turned out for the event with people lined up around the corner. See next week's Post for complete Canada Day coverage.



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# Kempf recognized for its efforts with Lake Lisgar

CONTINUED FROM FRONT

Referring to the initial application put in by Curtis and Matheson, Gilvesy mentioned the hundreds of hours Kempf spends with a weed rake cleaning it up, planting aquatic species, assisting with putting on a concert with the Kinsmen with all proceeds going to the Hawkins bridge and helping Matheson with installation of the aeration every year. The application mentioned Kempf's "years of selfless service to the Town of Tillsonburg."

Curtis, who couldn't be at the awards ceremony, e-mailed a statement, saying since he joined the Kinsmen, he saw "the leadership, passion, and time commitment Frank has put into the preservation of the lake". Curtis mentioned when kayaking on Lake Lisgar with his children, they ran into Frank and they recognized Kempf's passion for the lake.

Weston recounted the first time she met Kempf, saying it was in 2011, when Kempf, an OPP officer at the time, pulled up in front of her house. While she was worried why a police officer was looking for her, she recalled Kempf's words: "He said you should join the Lake Lisgar Revitalization Committee." She said that was the start of the committee.

In the 1990s, the Lake Lisgar Renaissance Committee raised money to install the gazebo and revitalize the lake. In the years after, Weston said a lot wasn't done to the lake.

"Exactly the same thing the Renaissance people did had to be done again," she said.



(JEFF HELSDON PHOTO)  
Tillsonburg's 2025 Citizen of the Year, Frank Kempf, accepted a plaque and certificate denoting his accolade from Mayor Deb Gilvesy at a ceremony on June 26 in the Lion's Den.

Growing up next to the lake, Weston has a long-standing interest in it.

"Last year the water quality was the best it has been in forever," she said. "Those aeration pumps Frank installed have worked."

She also mentioned Kempf picking up garbage from the lake.

"That's something he does and no one knows," Weston said. "He is always thinking of the lake."

Kempf designed the rake mentioned ear-

lier, and Weston said he puts the weeds collected on shore for wildlife to consume.

Prior to presenting Kempf with his award, Gilvesy paid tribute to Weston for working with Kempf to preserve the lake.

"Together, they have set an inspiring

example of commitment to community service, proving that true stewardship is driven by love and an unwavering sense of responsibility," she said

"For years, Frank has stood as its guardian, its caretaker, and its champion," the mayor added. "With steadfast devotion, he has nurtured and protected this beloved lake, ensuring that it remains a pristine and inviting space for residents and visitors alike."

After accepting the award, Kempf gave credit to Weston for her support and noted the water quality improved.

"The water is clean and you can see to the bottom, you can see the turtles and fish," he said.

And Kempf noted the number of people he sees by the lake is increasing.

"The number of people using the lake has exploded – fishing, kayaking, bird watching, turtle watching, or just people enjoying the view sitting by the fountain," he said. "Volunteering is something that is rewarding in itself."

Kempf's dedication to the cause shone through when Weston presented him with a Lake Lisgar T-shirt. Admiring it, his first remark was selling the shirts would be a good fundraiser for projects on the lake.



(JEFF HELSDON PHOTO)

An unexpected part of being Citizen of the Year for Frank Kempf was the presentation of a custom-made T-shirt with a Lake Lisgar graphic from emcee Joan Weston. She works with Kempf on the Lake Lisgar Revitalization Committee.

## 2025 SEASON

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# Tillsonburg not changing model for policing costs

JEFF HELSDON

*Local Journalism Initiative Reporter*

The Town of Tillsonburg is not moving ahead with a possible plan to change the way it charges for policing services.

As it stands now, the total amount the town is billed by the OPP is \$3.85 million, which breaks down to \$425.26 per property. The cost of OPP makes up 17 per cent of the town's \$22.3 million general levy.

A report to council was requested at the Jan. 13 meeting "to determine if the

O.P.P. costs can be added as a separate line on the tax bill with the intent to bill per household to create a system of equalization throughout the municipality." The motion

made reference to the present billing system which sees the town billed for OPP policing on a per household rate, but then the total is put into the levy as a lump sum. The original motion, moved by Mayor Deb Gilvesy, made reference to "unfair and unjust billing practice where households are impacted by different billing rates."

In the report from the town's finance department, it stated the tax billing software is capable of handling a separate line, but there would be extensive calculations required to sort out different levy rates for multi-residential properties and then manually enter 7,000 different charges.

A change in the system would be seen across residential, multi-residential, com-

mercial and industrial properties. Commercial and industrial properties falling into the median (\$190,000 for commercial and \$1.38 million for industrial) and larger categories would see a decrease in the portion they pay for policing. On the residential front, median property owners – assessed at \$242,000 – would pay \$45.57 with the change. Those with larger property assessments (value \$616,000 average) would pay \$541 less for policing and those with smaller property assessments would pay \$252 more.

Overall, the report found that 75 per cent of residential property owners would pay more if the change were implemented and 25 per cent would pay less. Multi-residential property owners would be hit the hardest by

the change, with the amount varying dependent on the number of units. The opposite was seen for commercial property owners, where 35 per cent would pay more and 65 per cent would pay less. Industrial property owners would be the largest beneficiaries of this proposed change.

The report also identified that a separate line on tax bills may be considered a "head tax/lot tax" by the Ministry of Municipal Affairs, and it may not be allowed. A change in how the policing costs are charged could also cause an issue with putting liens against properties and increase the amount of tax arrears.

Council accepted the report as information, deciding not to proceed with it.

# Revitalized Backus Education Centre re-opens

JEFF HELSDON

*Local Journalism Initiative Reporter*

A revitalized Backus Conservation Education Centre opened to the public on June 21.

Located at Backus Heritage Conservation Area outside Port Rowan, the education centre is the centrepiece of the Long Point Region Conservation Authority's (LPRCA) environmental and outdoor education programs. It is also open to the public, featuring numerous displays showcasing the natural history of the Long Point area. Displays also outline the important role conservation groups have played in preserving the area's habitat.

In a ceremony on June 17, a preview was held for donors and former board members.

"Our updated exhibits tell the story of the watershed's journey—from early settlement and deforestation, which transformed Norfolk County into a sandplain, to the efforts of citizens and organizations who worked to restore and protect it," said LPRCA board chair Dave Beres.

The education centre is also part of the outdoor education programs run by LPRCA. Danielle Kershaw, speaking on behalf of Haldimand-Norfolk MPP Bobbi Ann Brady, recalled how, as a student, she looked forward to the programs at Backus and the education centre.

Curator Sarah Pointer explained that fundraising for the revitalization began in 2017 but was halted by COVID-19. The centre has been closed since the Covid pandemic, except for its school programs. Parts of the education centre, such as the Carolinian Life Zone diorama inside the front door, which gives an insight into the wildlife and habitats of the area, and the display on duck hunting traditions, remain a main feature. Other parts are new additions.

In addition to the updates to the displays, accessibility upgrades were also completed.

Tom Haskett, a member of the original building committee, said Harry Barrett and Bill Courtnage, who were the drivers and co-chairs, would be thrilled with the updates.

"They would be not only happy but grateful the building is being uplifted and updated and the education of our youth have a place to see our waterfowling heritage, and then go outdoors and experience it," he said.

One of the new exhibits was from Delta Waterfowl. Local Delta committee member Dave Kennedy pushed for a display from this waterfowl group.

"Backus is rich in duck-hunting heritage and other outdoor education," he said.

For Ducks Unlimited, a donation left by the late Port Rowan resident and DU supporter Sylvia Brady was used



(JEFF HELSDON PHOTO)

**Several displays at the Backus Conservation Education Centre were revitalized as part of updates that included improved accessibility. The education centre is open to the public Wednesday to Sunday until Labour Day.**

to fund updates to the display. Joanne Barbazza, head of communications and outreach for DU in Ontario, said ensuring knowledge of the conservation work DU does is passed on to another generation, is essential.

"This area was important to Jim and Sylvia and their entire family," she said. "It was important to preserve her legacy."

Larry Chanda, a former LPRCA board chair and current member of the Ruffed Grouse Society's local committee, said it was important the organization's display be updated.

"It's educational," he said. "We have a lot of students who go through the Backus Education Centre. It focuses on knowledge of birds and animal in our area, the ruffed grouse being one."

Tillsonburg resident Paul DeCloet, a former board chair and member of the original building committee, was

pleased with the updates.

"It was exceptionally well designed," he said. "So many years later, it still looks excellent."

Haskett also pointed out that the update was funded through fundraising and grants and is not being paid for by taxpayers.

The education centre sees 2,000 school students pass through in a year outside of any tourists who visit.

"The education centre served its purpose and it will go on for a few generations," Haskett said.

The Backus Education Centre will be open to the public until Labour Day, 11 a.m. to 4:30 p.m., Wednesday to Sunday.

Those at the preview also received a preview of the Davidson decoy gallery, a new feature opening in the fall. Decoy donations are being sought for the gallery, and anyone interested can contact Pointer at 519-586-2201.

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# Tillsonburg students honoured by Rotary Club

Two Tillsonburg students were honoured recently by the Rotary Club.

The Rotary Medalist program sees the Oxford County Rotary Clubs come together and present the award to up to two students from each Oxford County secondary school.

Patience Acheta and Lucas Sandham

were the Glendale High School recipients of the Rotary Award. They receive a medal, certificate, lawn sign and \$500 bursary.

“The students must show characteristics, abilities, and interests which would make them both worthy representatives of the school and ultimately personify

the Rotary motto Service Above Self,” said Rotary member Alisha Layman.

Once selected, students create a speech about the other recipient from their school, highlighting the reasons why they were chosen. These speeches are presented the evening of the ceremony.

Students were nominated by the schools. They are selected are based on the criteria of the program, including extracurricular involvement in school, displaying leadership skills, a positive and friendly attitude towards teachers and peers and performing at or above average in grades



(CONTRIBUTED PHOTOS)

(Photo A) Rotary member Alisha Layman presents Patience Acheta with her Rotary Award. (Photo B) Lucas Sandham proudly displays the Rotary Medalist sign on his front lawn.

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## Editor's Note: Talented writers wanted

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

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

Submissions should be 600 to 800 words in length.

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

E-mail editor Jeff Helsdon at [jeff@granthaven.com](mailto:jeff@granthaven.com) with any questions.

**Tillsonburg POST**

### Guiding Principles

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8. Newspapers should be locally-owned and operated



# Will the patriotism last?

Pushed by musings by U.S. President Donald Trump, there has been a recent surge in patriotism in Canada.

In a way never seen before, Canadians have rallied behind the Buy Canadian movement, are avoiding travelling to the United States and there is a new wave of pride in our country. But will it last?

There has always been a friendly rivalry between the countries on the hockey rink, but it hit a fevered pitch this year. One could even say it went too far with the booing of the American national anthem.

Sports fans should never boo another country's national anthem, but outside that our newfound pride is a good thing. Actions are speaking larger than words, but one thing is glaringly missing: displays of our flag.

Drive down the streets of any subdivision and search for a Canadian flag flying in front of, or on, homes. The display of flags is lacking.

As Canadians, we don't have an exam-

ple of what patriotism looks like as the number of flags in Tillsonburg isn't different than in other communities. Look in other countries though, and the situation is different. House after house have flags displayed.

Sixty years ago this February, Canada celebrated the 60th anniversary of its flag. There were a few stories here and there in the media – including in the Post – but the government didn't lead a big initiative or push to celebrate the event. What better time would there have been to promote our flag, maybe through a flag giveaway or some other sort of flag waving?

It's easy for our government to say there is no money for flag promotion, but there are many other programs delivered under the heritage banner which could be trimmed.

There is no better time to promote Canadian heritage than now. Canadians, and our government need to capitalize on this national pride.

*Have something to say?  
Submit your Letter to  
the Editor here:*

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Celebrating Canada.

(JEFF HELSDON PHOTO)

## The bicentennial is time to share interesting historical facts



**THE  
STAGE  
IS THE  
WORLD**

LAUREL A. BEECHEY

*Tillsonburg Post Columnist*

With the Tillsonburg Post now weekly and it being our bicentennial, we have a great opportunity of sharing historical information and stories.

Over the years I have been asked some intriguing questions like has Tillsonburg ever had a: plane crash, bank robbery, terrible flood, train wreck or other disaster? Yes, we have! I can share them with you.

This is the year to save as many memories as possible about the town, especially from our seniors. There are people alive in town who are over 80, 90 and 100 years. Their childhood world was one that children today can't imagine! Ask them questions, they will love talking

about what they did. You need to record or write it down to save and share it with your family, and perhaps the museum. What was your childhood like? Many children growing up in the '30s and '40s went to Grade 8 and had to leave school to work the family farm or business.

The Beechey family originally came from Galt where Roy Sr. and brothers were pulled from school to help run their dad's dairy business and deliver milk. Roy purchased a dairy here in Tillsonburg, and although Peter and Roy Jr. did not have to leave school to work, they still had to work in the dairy or slugging milk in town and surrounding countryside.

I was born in 1952 in Windsor and remember horse-drawn wagons delivering milk, bread, and ice for the ice box! To have a television was a big deal, all shows were in black and white and if you were lucky you received, 13 channels with rabbit ear antenna.

Fortunately, George Tillson wrote notes on his trek to Tillsonburg, and we know what some of his life was like 200 years ago. What else would you like to know about the last 200 years?

Was there someone from our town that became internationally famous or in-

vented something we use today? In the past, items were produced in factories by people. Today goods are produced by machines; and tomorrow by what?

Imagine in Tillsonburg's tricentennial in 2125, someone reading what it was like to grow up today! Will they be amazed that Tillsonburg had large old trees and wildlife could be seen in your back yard!

I now ask you, my readers if you can help answer a few questions for me. Have we had a successful inventor in town? Who do you think is the most famous Tillsonburger? What was the most wonderful event to happen in town? What was the worst event in the town's history. Did Tillsonburg ever have speakeasys, bootleggers or a house of ill repute or a notorious Don Juan? Do you know a hilarious story about Tillsonburg?

Most towns have interesting characters that should be remembered through time. One of my favourite characters was Charlie Laister, who had the history of Tillsonburg in his junk yard. On a tour of the old pea mill, we went to the second floor and there was the most beautiful dark wood curved staircase, basically intact. Charlie was collecting items from homes being ripped down to preserve the history of Tillsonburg. I never could figure out

how he got the staircase up there. There were mill stones, hollow wooden logs that once transported water to homes in town, and from the water tower on Lake Joseph [ravine beside Simcoe St.]. There was a plethora of solid wooden, exterior doors, of which we purchased one for our shed. Charlie had a story for everything. I recall begging Charlie to at least put a tag on his items telling where they were from and the history behind them. He

was generous as well, donating the funds for St John's in town, to have wrought iron, gothic style, lights in the nave.

What makes Tillsonburg special to you? What is/was your favourite building. Why?

What historical resident or family of Tillsonburg, do you think was the integral to taking Tillsonburg's past into the future, besides George Tillson our founder? Why?

I hope you have caught my drift. This is your town. What do you want to know or share about the last 200 years and/or hope for the next 100! Contact me at 519-852-9416 or lbeechey52@gmail.com You may find your response in my column or in the forthcoming Tillsonburg Post's 200th Anniversary Edition.



# Please keep up: a tale of Grade 8 students and an elderly mayor



**EVERYONE  
HAS A  
STORY  
TO TELL**

**NORMA COLLIS**

*Tillsonburg Post Columnist*

The senior public school that I taught at was in Mississauga.

At the time, this municipality was run by much-loved and long-time serving Mayor Hazel McCallion.

She was in that position for 36 years and handily won each municipal election that came along.

After issuing the invitation to be the speaker at our Grade 8 graduation ceremony for several years running, her busy schedule finally allowed her to accept our invitation.

The event was being held in our school gym, which

was situated at the end of a long corridor and at a great distance from the school parking lot.

I was asked to co ordinate some of the younger, Grade 6 students, to be her escort, while it was my job to station myself outside the gym doors. These doors were to be opened to announce the arrival and grand entrance of our esteemed guest.

The mayoress had a reputation of always running late for events. At one time she acted as her own driver, but after receiving a few speeding tickets and warnings, she now had an appointed driver to ferry her safely from one event to the next.

True to form, our famous guest was running very late. I had three Grade 6 students stationed at the doorway leading to the parking lot, and their instructions were to not let our guest out of their sight, once she arrived, and to escort her down the labyrinth of hallways to where I was waiting at the gym doors.

At long last, I saw an “elderly” woman, appear at the far end of the hallway. She was wearing what can only be described as a “Mother of the Bride” outfit.

The bright yellow dress was covered with a matching bright yellow coat that billowed out behind her as she ran down the hallway. Three frantic Grade 6 students were doing their best to keep up with her, but she seemed to

be in

fantastic shape and matching her stride was a challenge.

Our mayoress screeched to a halt in front of the gym doors and then, checking her coat pockets exclaimed, “I have forgotten the notes for my speech. I’ll be right back.”

She pivoted and began to run back up the hallway, with her three frantic escorts in hot pursuit.

Several minutes later, she reappeared and, coat billowing once again, tore at top speed, down the hallway towards me.

She arrived at the gym door and calmly smoothed down her dress and matching coat. She then took a deep breath, and with great dignity, entered the auditorium to meet her waiting audience.

My three Grade 6 kids were flushed, sweaty and gasping for breath.

“And that,” I said to them, “is your mayoress. I hope your will remember this remarkable event forever.”

They all gave me very meaningful looks that said quite clearly, “Oh we’ll remember this alright, but please, don’t ask us to ever do something like this again. Okay?”

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

## Single vehicle collision results in impaired driving charges

Members of the Ontario Provincial Police (OPP), Oxford Detachment responded to a single vehicle collision, resulting in one person being charged with impaired driving.

On June 27, at approximately 8:45 p.m., members of Oxford OPP were dispatched to a collision on Sweaburg Road in South-West Oxford Township.

Three occupants were in the vehicle. No injuries were reported.

As a result of the investigation, Daniel Lawler, a 31-year-old resident of the Town of Tillsonburg, has been charged with:

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

The accused has been released from custody and is scheduled to appear before the Ontario Court of Justice in Woodstock on Aug. 5.

## Traffic complaint leads to impaired driving charges

Members of the Ontario Provincial Police (OPP), Oxford Detachment responded to a traffic complaint, resulting in one person being charged with impaired driving.

On June 22, at approximately 2 a.m., members of Oxford OPP were dispatched to a traffic complaint on Dogwood Drive in the Town of Tillsonburg.

As a result of the investigation, Preston PARKINS, an 18-year-old resident of the Town of Tillsonburg, has been charged with:

- Operation While Impaired

- Operation While Impaired - Blood Alcohol Concentration (BAC) 80 plus
- Operate Vehicle with Open Container of Alcohol
- Novice Driver BAC Above Zero

The accused has been released from custody and is scheduled to appear before the Ontario Court of Justice in Woodstock on July 29.

Calling 911 for suspected impaired drivers can save lives. Members of the public are urged to report Impaired Driving by calling 911. Together we can help keep our roadways safe.

## Measles exposure at Tillsonburg hospital

Southwestern Public Health is advising the public of possible measles exposures at the Tillsonburg District Memorial Hospital Emergency Department.

The possible exposures occurred on June 22 between 4:16 p.m. and 7:05 p.m., and June 24 between 10:01 a.m. and 12:30 p.m.

If you were present at this location during this timeframe, were born in 1970 or later, and are not up to date with your vaccinations, please call public health at 1-800-922-0096. This includes those who were only present briefly as measles is highly contagious and can linger in the air for up to two hours.

Find out what actions to take if you were exposed to measles on the SW Pub-

lic Health web site at swpublichealth.ca. You can also view a list of all known recent measles exposure locations and timelines, vaccination guidance, and a Measles Exposure Risk Assessment tool to understand if you are at-risk from a measles exposure.

Southwestern Public Health issues measles exposure notices when all individuals who may have been exposed at specific locations and timeframes couldn’t be contacted.

Measles is a reportable disease of public health significance that can result in complications such as diarrhea, ear infections, and pneumonia. Rarely, measles can cause brain infections and death.



### NEW PLAYGROUND AT ST. JOE’S

(CONTRIBUTED PHOTO)

Donors gathered recently to celebrate the opening of new playground equipment at St. Joseph’s Catholic School with a ribbon cutting. The donors - The Catholic Women’s League, Knights of Columbus- Council 3212, Lessif Family Fund at Oxford Community Foundation, Cyril Develter (school janitor 30 years ago), Sizzling African Cuisine, Tillsonburg Kinettes, Bre’s Fresh Market, Kelsey’s Tillsonburg, Domino’s Tillsonburg and Techwillow - joined Principal Kristy Babb and Fundraising co-chairs Jenn Schaar and Misty Green for the ribbon cutting.

**tillsonburgpost.com**



# Concession Street temporarily closed by police last Tuesday

JEFF HELSDON

Local Journalism Initiative Reporter

One individual was charged after an incident that resulted in the closure of a portion of Concession Street East on June 24.

Police received a call at about 12:15 p.m., and shortly after closed Concession between Tillson Ave and Maple Lane. Oxford OPP, along with West Region Emergency Response Unit, Canine and members from Crisis Negotiation, resolved the incident without incident.

Police say there was no threat to public safety.

“Out of an abundance of caution, a perimeter was set and there was an increased police presence,” said Randi Crawford, community engagement officer with the Oxford OPP. “Until the investigation could determine there was no threat to public safety a shelter in place was issued for the surrounding area. Fortunately, the situation was resolved without incident and one individual was taken into custody.”

As a result of the investigation, a resident of Tillsonburg was charged with Uttering Threats and held for a bail hearing.



(JEFF HELSDON PHOTO)

A portion of Concession Street East was under an emergency closure by police on June 24. A large police presence was visible in the area during the incident. One individual was charged with uttering threats as a result of the investigation.

# First property sold in VanNorman Innovation Park Phase 2

The Town of Tillsonburg has sold its first property in Phase 2 of the VanNorman Innovation Park.

Development Commissioner Cephas Panschow told council at its June meeting that the first lot was sold to Wise Line Tools. The company, which has a present location on Clearview Drive in Tillsonburg, is doubling the size of that building for its Wise Line Metal Sales division. The metal sales part of the company deals in metal roofing.

A new dedicated retail location for Wise Line Tools will be built on the new property purchased. The property purchased was five acres at a price of \$1.1 million. Proceeds from the sale will be used to offset development costs associated with the remainder of Phase 2.

In Panschow's report, he outlined the company's plans for the property, which include an initial building size of 33,750 square-feet and employment for 20 to 30 people.

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## Weekend Quiz

By Jake Grant

1. What is the former name of Canada Day?
2. Which Canadian singer is the best-selling French language artist of all time?
3. What year were women granted the right to vote in federal elections in Canada?
4. Which province is the dish Poutine from?
5. What is the largest great lake?
6. What is the national animal of Canada?
7. When was "O Canada" established as the national anthem?
8. Which aerobatics flight demonstration squadron performs on Canada Day?
9. What is Canada's national sport?
10. How many provinces make up Canada?

This week's answers are found on pg. 19



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# New and old vendors at Tillsonburg Farmers' Market

STUART BLOWER

Post Contributor

Tillsonburg Farmers Market, across from the Station Arts Centre on Bridge street, is open every Saturday at 8 am until noon.

"We have so many loyal customers it doesn't matter if it is raining, or even snowing, the customers always come out to support us," said Tim Norris owner of Orange Door Acres and organizer for the market.

He pointed to the quality of the products as one of the big draws. Products for sale range from home-grown proteins such as beef and chicken to home-grown and milled flours, baked goods and even micro-greens. New this year, the Hounds of Erie Winery brings their selection of wines, ciders and beer to the market.

Some farmers have experienced a week's delay in their growing season due to weather. As the growing seasons ripples through the region, you will find strawberries one week and sweet corn the next. Unlike grocery stores, the farmer's market products are showcased when they are ready.

Tim makes it clear that farmers markets do not have to be expensive. In many cases cutting out the delivery man, and buying direct from the producer, is not as expensive as some people believe. Buying direct from the farmer has other advantages such as being able to buy grass-fed beef, organic local produce, and pasture-raised chickens.

"For example, Arbour View Acres grows their produce without spraying. I grow my own strawberries without spray," Norris said. "People ask me is it organic. I can't say that, but what I can tell you is it is naturally raised. The most important element



(STUART BLOWER PHOTO)

Keirsten & Avah from Bre's Fresh Market take care of Kelly and Beverly Wilson.



(STUART BLOWER PHOTO)

Dianne De Vriendt ponders over a lettuce at last weekend's market.

is being able to talk directly to the person standing in front of you about their farming practices.

"The food is absolutely fresh and for a lot of our customers they want to understand not just what goes into their food, they also want to understand what is not in their food.

Many of our members use very little pesticides and supplements. Sellers are not only friendly but eager to explain how they handle their produce."

Throughout the summer, the market will feature pop-up vendors that will bring specialty items, such as the previous Tupperware booth.

Originally from Cambridge, Tim and his wife Donna moved here 13 years ago. They needed a change, so they bought a place in the country, a small farm that now produces 3,000 pasture-raised chickens a year along with a big strawberry crop.

"We feel like we are part of the Oxford County and Tillsonburg community," he said. "It is so refreshing how nice the people are. This town is just incredible, we are so blessed."

Refer to the farmer's market Facebook page for vendor announcements and be patient if the pages gets behind, after all Norris does have a farm to run. (<https://www.facebook.com/tillsonburgfarmersmarket/>)

## Provincial grant assists with community centre roof cost

JEFF HELSDON

Local Journalism Initiative Reporter

A provincial grant is assisting with the cost of replacing the roof on the Tillsonburg Community Centre pool.

The province recently announced two successful recipients of the Community Sport and Recreation Infrastructure Fund, including the Town of Tillsonburg receiving \$238,625 to replace the roof covering the indoor pool. The current roof is deficient and at the end of its life cycle.

"Investing in local recreation facilities is an investment in the health and well-being of our communities," said Ernie Hardeman, MPP for Oxford. "I'm proud that our government is providing nearly \$500,000 to support upgrades in Oxford. These improvements will ensure that families, youth, and seniors have safe, modern spaces to stay active and connected."

The other successful recipient was the Township of Zorra for \$259,687 for refrigeration and lighting upgrades at the Embro-Zorra Community Centre and Thamesford District Recreation Centre.



(CONTRIBUTED PHOTO)

Tillsonburg recreation staff recently found out they were successful in a grant application to assist with the cost of replacing the roof on the Tillsonburg Community Centre pool.

Tillsonburg Mayor Deb Gilvesy thanked the province for the grant.

"This grant was very timely after the completion of the renovation and addition to modernize this portion of an aging facility," she said. "I would also like to thank staff for putting forth a successful application in what is a very competitive process."

CSRIF is a key part of the government's plan to protect Ontario workers, businesses and families by unleashing the economy and getting more shovels in the ground, with a historic \$200 billion investment to build highways, hospitals, transit, schools and other critical infrastructure across the province.

"At a time when Ontario families are facing rising costs due to tariffs, our government is proud to support organizations focused on delivering better services for people while breaking down barriers and creating opportunities for children and young people," said Neil Lumsden, Minister of Sport. "With investments in infrastructure like this, we are protecting Ontario jobs, strengthening our communities and building a more resilient and self-reliant economy."






# OUR CANADA - A photo tribute to the country

(JEFF HELSDON PHOTOS)





# SPORTS




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## Martial Arts Canada celebrates 50th anniversary

CHRIS ABBOTT

Post Correspondent

Martial Arts Canada has a long, illustrious history in Elgin, Oxford and Norfolk Counties.

The club has graded 77 blackbelts, and has won 25 world championships. It was ranked No. 5 among the National Blackbelt League and Sport Karate International's Top 25 in the world for Sport Karate Schools in 1999, and No. 21 in 2005.

Today, MAC locations include two in St. Thomas, one in Sparta, two in Aylmer, and one in Tillsonburg and La Salette.

On June 7th, Martial Arts Canada celebrated its 50th anniversary with an open house in Straffordville. Current and past members, along with community supporters, came together to share memories, reconnect with old friends, and celebrate decades of karate, self-defence and fitness at all levels.

Going back to 1983-84, Kyoshi Bruce Shaver (a leader of teachers) remembers taking over MAC from founder Jim Summers with visions of continued success... and expansion.

"It was my goal every year to do the best job I could," said Shaver. "I had no idea where it was going to end up, I just wanted to teach the best I could."

Over the years that goal turned into a passion, 'almost an obsession,' that would turn out world champions.

"Looking back, it's incredible what we've done. While we were doing it, it seemed like 'this is what we're doing every day.' Summer camps, grading, tournaments... they were good. Looking at the video now, it's almost inconceivable."

In its early days, MAC was into high-level kickboxing, a fledgling sport in North America in the mid-70s. Soon after they transitioned to karate and began competing internationally.

Renshi MaryLynn (Maerten) Okkerse, current president/club owner, won a world championship at her first Super Grands in 1996 and the club's success at the NBL Super Grand World Championships took them to elite levels.

"We found that we could compete with the very best and that just inspired us – it made us hungrier to get those titles," said Shaver. "It just fired us up."

Okkerse went on to win four more



Martial Arts Canada celebrated its 50th anniversary on June 7 with seminars and an open house in Straffordville.

(CHRIS ABBOTT PHOTO)

first-place world titles.

In 1999, she was on the main stage competing in the Niagara Falls Super Grand finals, which kicked off with a spectacular flashing green laser light show.

"They did a nice job – they ran the preliminaries in the ballrooms, then all the firsts and seconds battled on stage in night shows."

Not fazed by spotlights, Okkerse said there might have been brief moments of anxiety/anticipation before sparring in front of large audiences that quickly went away.

"Once you start fighting, you're just fighting. You're not worried about who's out there, who's watching. It was really cool, but we were all competitors - all show people - so you kind of live for it."

"We are competing in a different sanction now but we're still competing at that level," Shaver noted. "We've got two going to the worlds this year."

"We just passed the torch to the next ones," Okkerse laughed.

\*\*\*

Shaver remembers the transition from competitor to teacher, soon after switching from kickboxing to the karate circuit.

"I said to myself, I can keep going my route and make myself a world champi-

on in karate, or I can have my club do really well, and have tens... I don't know how many... hundreds of world champions if I really put my energy into it," said Shaver.

That conscious decision not to worry about his own success, but instead focusing on the club's success changed MAC's course.

"It was the right decision to make," he said.

Now a teacher of teachers, Okkerse made a similar decision when she stopped (or slowed down) competing when she was going into post-secondary school, focusing on her education, then raising a family.

"I never stopped training and coaching," said Okkerse. "I just wasn't going to tournaments every weekend. I was training other people to coach when I have to have my attention elsewhere - we have a huge talent base."

"I wouldn't say I'm slowing down, karate has been a constant in my life. But it changes into what you need it to be. So now I teach out of my own shop in my backyard, once a week, and I teach our blackbelts. We're learning, and sharing what we learn with great people."

\*\*\*

Some venues have changed, but the

Martial Arts Canada family continues to grow.

Okkerse remembers past instructors saying many MAC students 'don't leave.' Some stick around for decades and decades.

"It really is like a family," she said. "Mothers, fathers, brothers, sisters – a lot of similar names."

MAC has stressed keeping it affordable and accessible, training in public facilities like school gymnasiums and community centres.

"We standardize our prices across all of our locations."

Slowing down in the summer, programs will be back in full come September.

"The nice thing about martial arts is that you don't have to compete," Okkerse noted. "That is the glamorous part, the flashy part, but martial arts is for everybody, and regardless of age, you can still progress and improve in your own art."

"I've run into a lot of students that I've had over the years and the impression you leave, even if they've only been here a year or two, it stays with them," said Shaver.

Today, his daughter Whitney Shaver runs MAC's Tillsonburg location.



# Red Sox fall to Simcoe Juniors in back-to-back games

GRAHAM NICKERSON

Post Contributor

Walks, walks, walks - even to be exact. Those free passes are what did in the Tillsonburg Red Sox on their June 27th home game against the Simcoe Juniors where they got routed 13-3 in five innings.

Tillsonburg was leading 2-1 early in the game thanks to Bubba DeClark's two-run home run that cleared the fence in right center.

The momentum from the moon shot was quickly sunk with an unraveling in the second. Simcoe sent eleven batters to the plate notching seven runs on just three hits. The merry-go-round of Juniors was aided by three walks, a hit by pitch, a passed ball and a mental fielding error.

Alex Fishback relieved starter Kylen Miners after five runs came across without an out being recorded. Fishback mopped up what was left of the inning then sat down Simcoe in order in the third.

The fourth inning was a costly one with five more runs tallied for Simcoe. Three straight walks loaded the bases. DeClark, now on the hill in place of Fishback, struck out the next batter for the second out. A hard hit ball to short looked to be the end of the inning but a rushed throw by Iron Ring Rachar brought Jordan Vitias off the bag and the ball popped out of his glove allowing two Simcoe runs to come around to score.

Shawn Knelsen went the distance for the Juniors striking out nine, walking one and allowed four hits. The Red Sox were slow to react to the right-hander's fiery fast ball for the majority of the game.

Simcoe..... 170 50 - 13 5 1  
Tillsonburg.....201 00 - 3 4 2

## Red Sox fall to Simcoe Juniors Again

In the words of the immortal Yogi Berra, "It's déjà vu all over again." The Tillsonburg Red Sox with a patchwork of regulars, reserves and players in uniform for the first time this season went to Simcoe to do battle

TILLSONBURG	AB	R	H	PO	A	E
RACHAR, SS	2	1	1	1	1	1
VERHOEVE, RF, 3B	2	1	2	0	0	0
MCPHERSON,C	2	0	0	5	0	0
DECLARK, 1B, P	2	1	1	4	0	1
PROUSE, CF, P	2	0	0	1	1	0
VITIAS, 3B, 2B, 1B	2	0	0	3	1	0
MCMULLEN, EH	1	0	0	0	0	0
POLFLIET*, EH	1	0	0	0	0	0
MINERS, P, RF, LF	2	0	0	1	1	0
FISHBACK, 2B, P	1	0	0	0	2	0
KRELLER, LF, CF	2	0	0	0	0	0
TOTALS *Batted for McMullen in 5th	19	3	4	15	6	2

**Summary:** **ER**, Simcoe 9, Tillsonburg 3; **LOB**, Simcoe 3, Tillsonburg 2; **2B** Nunn (2), An. Auld, Verhoeve; **3B** Al. Auld; **HR** DeClark **RBI**, Nunn (2), An. Auld (2), Al. Auld (2), Baldwin, DeDecker, Verhoeve, DeClark (2); **W**, Knelsen; **L**, Miners; **BB**, Knelsen (1), Miners (4), Fishback (2), DeClark (1); **K**, Knelsen (9), Miners (1), Fishback (1), DeClark (1), Prouse (2)**Time**, 1:48

with the Juniors June 29th and came out on the losing side of an 11-1 decision.

The Red Sox managed to get a man on base in each of their six innings but some of the lesser-experienced bats failed to come through when it counted. Iron Ring

Rachar continued his on base streak, now at 10 games and counting, after a two double performance at the plate. His smash to right field in the fifth was inches from leaving the yard.

Rob Verhoeve came up with the only RBI of the game when he doubled to bring Rachar around in the third.

Zach Kreller started on the hill for Tillsonburg but experienced command issues early and was replaced by Brett Pond while still in the first. Verhoeve worked three innings to hold the Simcoe onslaught at bay allowing two runs on three hits with no walks. Former Chicago Cub farm system pitcher Owen West hurled one inning allowing four walks and striking out two.

Walks are what ruined the Red Sox again. A combined 10 free passes, along with six hits, had the Juniors running circles around the base paths.

Defying the unwritten rule of going base to base and not stealing during a lopsided game, Simcoe's base-runners were swiping bags and advancing on wild pitches like it was a tied game with the season on the line. A near free-for-all fight occurred when Simcoe's eleventh run came across to score on a wild pitch. Rachar was now on the mound for the Sox and made a dash to cover the plate. The Junior runner barreled into Rachar and fiery words were exchanged between the belligerents. Cooler heads prevailed as the teams were separated but jawing continued as they made their way back to respective dugouts.

The Red Sox return home to play the Simcoe Seniors July 4th at Sam Lamb Field with first pitch at 7:30.

TILLSONBURG	AB	R	H
RACHAR, SS	3	1	2
VERHOEVE, 3B, P, 2B, SS	2	0	1
KRELLER,P, CF	3	0	0
LISTAR, C	2	0	0
POLFLIET, 1B	3	0	0
POND, CF, 3B, P	2	0	2
WEST,P, 2B	2	0	1
MCMULLEN, EH	3	0	0
NICKERSON, LF	2	0	0
VANWYNSBERGHE, RF	2	0	0
TOTALS	24	1	6

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EYE ON SLO-PITCH

# Weather playing havoc with slo-pitch games

DAVE WEAVER  
*Post Columnist*

Humid temperatures with rain canceled Monday's Ladies' action as well as the Men's Tuesday 's slate of games.

**Ladies A Division**

The four teams all beat their B rivals with Kyle Nesbitt Trucking and George's Auto only losing by four and five runs, respectively, to Trillium Court and Jays. Simmonds Mortgages won by mercy

over Resting Pitch Face while Foldens Machine Works won by seven over Wildcats. **Simmonds Mortgages-22, Resting Pitch Face-4** Simmonds-Shannon O'neill 4-4; Jackie Davison 4-4. Resting-Danielle Cherewka 2-2; Brittany Wolf 2-2. Game Synopsis-Shannon O'neill drove in five and Jackie Davison four in leading the winners. **Jays-11, George's Auto-6** Jays-Deanna Laemers 5-5; Maddi Obar

5-5. George's-Kristin McDowell 3-4; Emily Goodall 2-3. Game Synopsis-Maddi Obar reached and scored all four times to lead the Jays. **Foldens Machine Works-15, Wildcats-8** Foldens-Jen Francis 3-3; Andrea Deblaire 3-4; Amber Woolgar . Wildcats-Shirley Simmons 3-3; Briana Long 2-3. Game Synopsis-Monica Barnes and Sandy Dekeyser hit triples for Foldens, Amber Woolgar homered and doubled in consecutive at-bats. **Trillium Court-11, Kyle Nesbitt Trucking-7** Trillium-Lyn Hewitt 4-5; Ashley Gee 4-4. Nesbitt-Nicole Morgan 3-3 ; Kim Hurd 3-3. Game Synopsis-Lead-off batter Lyn Hewitt reached and scored four times for Trillium.

**Men's A Division**

Cobra Chickens won a pair of one-run decisions last week over Bill Klyn Carpentry and Hit N Run to move into a second-place tie with Leeswood Construction Dirty Mitts who beat Smitty's Electrical after The Mill had upset them by one the previous night. The first place 1,2 Seal Insulation Hawks beat O&L Duct Design Ducks by 13, O&L rounded out the week's action with a mercy, cooling off the recently-hot Courtland Landscape and Grounds squad. **1,2 Seal Insulation Hawks-23, O&L Duct Design Ducks-10** Hawks-Johnny Epp 5-5, ; Daniel Enns 4-4; Johnny Klassen Evan Bueckert 2 HR; Daniel Klassen. O&L-Josh Dewatcher 4-5; Cistian Devlin 4-5. Game Synopsis-Johnny Epp and Johnny Klassen each were a triple shy of hitting for the cycle for the Hawks.

**Cobra Chickens-16, Bill Klyn Carpentry-15** Cobra-Caleb Reimer 3-3, HR; Wyatt Blatz 4-4, HR; Marcus Peters HR; Marcus Enns HR; Ethan Froese HR; Matthew Reimer 2 HR. Bill Klyn-Dallas Dalby 3-3, 2HR; Nick Joosse 3-4; Nathan Boldt 2 HR; Kyle McDougall 2 HR. Game Synopsis-Marcus Enns ' walk-off double won it for Cobra Chickens. **Cobra Chickens-10, Hit N Run-9** Cobra-Matthew Reimer 3-3; Brian Dyck 3-4, HR. Hit N Run-John Wiebe 3-3; Peter Klassen 3-3; Martin Klassen 2HR. Game Synopsis-A five-run come-from-behind sixth helped Cobra Chickens edge out Hit N Run, Brian Dyck 's three -un homer decided it. **Leeswood Construction Dirty Mitts-17, Smitty's Electrical-9**

Mitts-Alex Penders 4-4, 2HR; Kent Collings 4-4, 2HR; Trevor Stuyt HR. Smitty's-Chris Hass 4-4; Jason Martins 3-3. Game Synopsis-Kent Collings and Alex Penders each homered in consecutive innings to lead the winners. **The Mill-13, Leeswood Construction Dirty Mitts-12** The Mill-Tim Morgan 3-3, HR; Josh Stubbs 4-4, HR; Bryan Deblaire HR. Mitts-Cory Smith 3-3; Alex Penders 4-4. Game Synopsis-A six -run sixth won it for The Mill, Josh Stubbs three-run homer was the decider. **O&L Duct Design Ducks-19, Courtland Landscape and Grounds-3** O&L-Christian Devlin 4-4; Kyle Smith 4-4. Courtland-Brooks Scharr 3-3; Tyler Lamb 3-3. Game Synopsis-Everyone in the winner's order scored at least one run.

**Men's B Division**

Underhill Farm Supply helped bunch up the standings after a big win over Side 2 Side Exteriors Strike Force on Friday night. Only three points separate the top five teams! At My Playground/IQT Logistics remained atop the division after they won a lopsided win over a short-handed Sandy Shore Brew Jays squad. Side 2 Side earlier in the week defeated John Beere by 13. John Beere won their second of the year beating Designated Drinkers by five. **John Beere-18, Designated Drinkers-13** John Beere-Kristian Carrel 4-4; Bob Long 4-4. Drinkers-Johnny Abele 3-3; Mark Vanlagen 3-3. Game Synopsis-John Beere scored seven in two of their five at-bats, Jim and Bob Long and Calvin Smith each scored three runs. **Side 2 Side Exteriors Strike Force 18, John Beere-5** Side 2 Side-Johnny Klassen 5-5; Henry Teichroeb 4-5; Frank Klassen HR. John Beere-Jim Long 3-4; Jesse Anderson 2-3. Game Synopsis-Henry Klassen drove in four runs for the winners. **Underhill Farm Supply-27, Side 2 Side Exteriors Strike Force-24** Underhill-Bruce Hietkamp 5-5; Curtis Chambers 5-5, 4HR. Side 2 Side-Herman Enns 5-6; Frank Klassen 5-6. Game Synopsis-Too much Curtis Chambers for Side 2 Side, Underhill 's Chambers homered four times and doubled once. **At My Playground/IQT Logistics 17, Sandy Shore Brew Jays-4** A.M.P.-Riley Balazs 3-3; Marshall Baker 3-3; Duncan McLean HR . Brew Jays-Dylan Cremery 2-3; Dan Konrad 2-3.

MEN'S A	W	L	T	PTS
1-1,2 SEAL INSULATION HAWKS	13	1	0	26
2-LEESWOOD CONSTRUCTION DIRTY MITTS	10	4	0	20
2-COBRA CHICKENS	10	5	0	20
3-JOHN KLASSEN REALTY HIT N RUN	8	7	0	16
4-BILL KLYN CARPENTRY	5	7	0	10
4-THE MILL	5	7	0	10
5-SMITTY'S ELECTRICAL	4	9	0	8
6-COURTLAND LANDSCAPE AND GROUNDS	3	10	0	6
7-O&L DUCT DESIGN DUCKS	3	11	0	6

MEN'S B	W	L	T	PTS
1-AT MY PLAYGROUND/IQT LOGISTICS	7	1	2	16
2-BAYHAM CONSTRUCTION LUMBERJACKS	9	1	1	15
3-PELICANS	7	2	0	14
3-UNDERHILL FARM SUPPLY	7	6	0	14
4-SIDE 2 SIDE EXTERIORS STRIKE FORCE	6	2	0	12
5-SANDY SHORE BREW JAYS	4	10	0	8
6-DESIGNATED DRINKERS	3	7	1	7
7-COPPER MUG-LUBRICARE WANNABEE'S	2	6	1	5
8-JOHN BEERE	2	10	0	4

MEN'S C	W	L	T	PTS
1-SHAW'S ICE CREAM SLUGGERS	9	1	0	18
2-STICKY BANDITS	7	2	0	14
2-TOWLINE EQT. INC. SMOKIN ACES	7	4	0	14
2-N.I.M.	7	4	0	14
3-TAILGATORS	5	3	1	11
3-BIRD'S GOLF	5	4	1	11
4-TEAM SWINGERS	4	3	0	8
5-R.L.P. MELANIE LUKSYS	3	5	0	6
6-J/E BEARING	2	7	0	4
6-DIAMOND KINGS	2	8	0	4
6-C.R. CUSTOM ENGRAVING SMOKIN BASES	2	11	0	4
7-CAIN'S BRICKHOUSE BOYS	1	5	0	2



CONTINUED FROM PAGE 12

Game Synopsis-Everyone in the fleet-footed winner's lineup reached base at least twice.

Men's C Division

Sticky Bandits swept a doubleheader with Tailgators to move into a three-way tie for second with N.I.M and Smokin Aces. Shaw's Ice Cream Sluggers continue to lead after they narrowly beat N.I.M. Bird's Golf moved over the .500 level doubling up C.R. Custom Engraving Smokin Bases. Bird's Golf-30, C.R. Custom Engraving Smokin Bases-15  
Bird's-Damion Bancroft 5-5; Matt Wood 5-5.  
C.R.-Reg Burnett 5-5; Ian Barrett 4-5.  
Game Synopsis-Ryder Terry scored five runs for the winners.  
Sticky Bandits-22, Tailgators-7

Bandits-Bowen Thiessen 4-4; Andrew Wiebe 4-4.  
Tailgators-Prabhjot Singh 3-3; Tyler Marques 2-2.  
Game Synopsis-Tyson Krahn scored four runs for the winners.  
Sticky Bandits-17, Tailgators-2  
Bandits-Caleb Enns 4-4; Logan Froese 4-4.  
Tailgators-Kevin Hmeil 2-2.  
Game Synopsis-Bowen Thiessen scored four runs for the winners.  
Shaw's Ice Cream Sluggers-12, N.I.M.-10  
Shaw's-Sebastian Plain 4-4; George Gortzen 4-4; Layn Wells 2HR.  
N.I.M.-Jeff Wheeler 4-4; Cory Chambers 4-5.  
Game Synopsis-Layn Wells hit a pair of two-run homers for the winners.

LADIES A	W	L	T	PTS
1-JAYS	9	1	0	18
2-SIMMONDS MORTGAGES	7	3	0	14
2-FOLDENS MACHINE WORKS	7	3	0	14
3-TRILLIUM COURT	4	6	0	8

LADIES B	W	L	T	PTS
1-KYLE NESBITT TRUCKING	6	4	0	12
2-WILDCATS	4	6	0	8
3-RESTING PITCH FACE	2	8	0	4
4-GEORGE'S AUTO	1	9	0	2



**ADULT SOCCER UNDERWAY** (JEFF HELSDON PHOTO)  
Friday nights are busy at the soccer part when the adults take to the field in the recreation league. This recent game between TEAR systems and Ostrander's Funeral Home was a close one, ending in a 1-1 tie.



**GRAM THE CRUISER** (ROBIN KRAFFT PHOTO)  
Every two months, staff at Metro volunteer their time to assemble donation bags for the Helping Hand Food Bank prior to their Cram the Cruiser events. Store manager Kim Macdonald, center, echoed the sentiments of the auxiliary OPP officers that it was a great partnership. On June 28, 487 lbs of donations were collected.

**SEASON RUNS**  
**SEPT. 6<sup>TH</sup> - NOV. 8<sup>TH</sup>**  
**AT COWAN SPORTSPLEX**

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# Harvard association celebrates 40th this weekend

JEFF HELSDON

Editor

The 40th anniversary of the Canadian Harvard Aircraft Association (CHAA) this weekend is a testament that the volunteers who promote and care for the aircraft are as enduring as the Second World War trainers.

Planned for Saturday, CHAA spokesperson Terry Scott said, “We’ll have all sorts of displays for the public to see. It’s a great opportunity for the public to go out, learn about our association, and if they are keen, to go for a flight in one of our warbirds they can do that.”

The association has eight Harvards – the iconic yellow trainer – and one Yale, which is another trainer from that era. Six of the aircraft are airworthy, and five are currently flying. Work is underway on restoring the others.

“Rather they will fly again remains to be seen,” Scott said. “They may just be used for display purposes.”

Manufacturing of the Harvards started in the late 1930s, and they were the main trainer used by the British Commonwealth Air Training Plan.

“We have aircraft that are 84 years old, and that speaks to the resilience and the construction of these aircraft,” Scott said. “They were solid, they were workhorses. As long as they are maintained well, they will keep going.”

The Royal Canadian Air Force used Harvards until 1965. Other countries used the Harvard even later, including South Africa that used it up until the early 1990s. Even today, the Beechcraft the RCAF use are nicknamed the Harvard 2.

“The Harvard played an instrumental role in the Second in it helped to train 130,000 air crew to become pilots, radio operators, and ground crews,” Scott said. “If it wasn’t for the BCATP, and Canada



(JEFF HELSDON PHOTO)

**The Canadian Harvard Aircraft Association will hold its 40th anniversary celebrations this weekend at the Tillsonburg airport. The event will run 9 a.m. to 4 p.m.**

stepping up to do this, the outcome may have been different. As we know air superiority helped to defeat the Luftwaffe and played a pivot role in the success of the Second World War.”

Scott said the 40th anniversary is an “amazing story” for a group that receives little government funding. The majority of the funding is raised through donations, activities and membership fees.

The association owns nine aircraft, two hangars, two portable buildings attached to the hangar and a number of artifacts and parts.

Membership currently sits between 500 and 600. Core activities are maintenance and restoration of the aircraft. More pilots are also needed. Every year the association has a ground school modeled after the original RCAF program. Pilots must

have many hours under their belts, and ideally a commercial rating so they can take up passengers.

That the association is located in Tillsonburg is appropriate given that the airport was established as a secondary (back-up) airport for the BCATP base in Aylmer.

The 40th anniversary celebration runs 9 a.m. to 4 p.m.

## Tillsonburg fair receives grant from town

JEFF HELSDON

Local Journalism Initiative Reporter

Last year was a tough one for the Tillsonburg Tri-County Agricultural Society with weather impacting its premier event, the Tillsonburg Fair.

To say Mother Nature put the damper on the fair is an understatement. Rain on all three days of the fair, and the threat of a tornado on the Sunday, set back attendance. Rosemary Dean, speaking on behalf of the Tillsonburg Tri-County Agricultural Society, told council the fair’s gate revenue was down \$19,000 in 2024.

The Tillsonburg fair is going into its 171st year, first established in 1854. The

volunteer-run event relies on grants from the community. Besides the rides and games on the midway, the fair still stresses its agricultural roots.

“We aim to make awareness of agriculture in our community through education, communication and entertainment,” Dean said.

Family ties to the fair start a young age with the baby contest, and continue with contests with connections to agriculture, such as largest vegetables and animals, and other fun activities.

“Our fair is a place where generations have come together to make memories,” Dean said.

“Unfortunately, our struggle is not a rare

one. Fairs and festivals have become unsustainable for many community groups to continue to operate. Many other fairs have had to cut back on entertainment at their events, and some have had to close their doors permanently. We refuse to see this happen in our community.”

Dean asked council for a \$5,000 grant to assist with bridging the financial gap from last year.

Coun. Kelly Spencer asked Dean how many community sponsorships they receive.

Saying they send out about 100 requests, Dean answered, “We’re lucky if we get 10 back, and they’re usually from outside our community, which is the sad

part.”

Spencer asked for a friendly amendment to the motion to fund the Tillsonburg Tri-County Agricultural Society for \$5,000, suggesting the addition of advertising the fair on the town’s social media.

Coun. Chris Parker, who made the motion, asked treasurer Renato Pullia the balance in the Tax Rate Stabilization Reserve. He was told it was \$271,000.

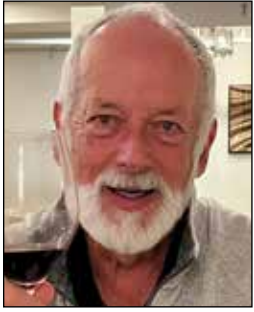
“With the other people we have turned down in the past, do we have enough to cover their requests when they start asking,” remarked Coun. Chris Rosehart.

Council approved the request and agreed to promote the fair on social media.

*Tillsonburg Post is available for free in print and online: [www.tillsonburgpost.com](http://www.tillsonburgpost.com)*



# Canada: the best destination anywhere



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

**PAUL KNOWLES**

*Tillsonburg Post Columnist*

O, Canada! What a wonderful country!

In this week in which we give particular attention to Canada, I again realize how grateful I am to have been born and raised in this, perhaps the best country in the world.

I know Canada is not perfect. We have a horrendous record in our treatment of Indigenous Peoples, and in spite of some important steps being made in this area, there is still much to be done.

But while we have significant flaws, this is still an amazing country. And I have been very fortunate, having been able to visit eight of our ten provinces within the past year. Every stop, from Cape Breton Island to Elk Ridge, Saskatchewan, left me feeling grateful and a bit awe-struck.

So here, during Canada Day week, I invite you to make a flying trip across much of our country.

Newfoundland and Labrador: like al-

most anyone who visits our newest province, I fell in love with The Rock. I was gob-smacked by the stunning shorelines, and quickly smitten with the warmth of the Newfoundland people. And, of course, there is the music, always the music. St. John's is one of the most visitable cities I have ever been in – the shops, restaurants and pubs exude hospitality, not to mention the nearby villages like Quidi Vidi. I am going back, and soon.

Nova Scotia: Don't try to do the whole province – you'll either miss a lot, or rush madly through everything. There are several regions each worth your holiday time, and I love them all. Last summer, we spent several days on Cape Breton, enjoying every second. We also dropped into Halifax for a couple of days, and freely admit that was not nearly enough.

My previous trip to Nova Scotia was spent at the south-west tip, in Yarmouth and the Acadian district, and that is a perfect destination for a visit lasting week or two – there is so much heritage to discover, lobster and scallops to eat, golf to play, boats to sail... maybe, like my friend Richard, you will visit and never come back!

New Brunswick: New Brunswick has become one of my favourite destinations. It's a province of unique, quirky, fascinating attractions, ranging from the Railway Interpretation Centre in Edmundston, the labour of love of railway devotee Guy LaForge; to the Maxim Albert House-Museum, celebrating bootlegging in Saint-Hilaire where



(CONTRIBUTED PHOTO)

**Lobster fishers off the coast of Newfoundland.**

you'll meet Reg Nadeau, the local expert; to Potato World, in Florenceville-Bristol. And that's just a small sample; New Brunswick is knee-deep in off-the-beaten-path attractions all worth a visit.

Prince Edward Island: Yes, there are all things "Anne", but there is so much more. Great beaches, great golf, great food, and great theatre. Also, charming coastal villages, and like everywhere in the Maritimes, marvellous live music, feasts for the ears. As for feasts for the appetite, PEI is home to the astonishing Fireworks Feast at Chef Michael Smith's Inn at Bay Fortune. Expensive but exquisite!

Québec: You could travel Québec constantly, and never take it all in. La Belle Province has so many richly rewarding districts. Three that we have enjoyed last year or two were the Eastern Townships, with quaint villages, dark sky experiences, and terrific food and local wines; the southern Laurentians, where exploring the foodie trail – le Chemin du Terroir – provided one of the most delicious days of my life; and the Saguenay, a strikingly beautiful region along the unique fjord.

Ontario: Sure, we all know Ontario – or do we? When was the last time you spent time in Kingston and Gananoque, or Ottawa, or Sault Ste. Marie, or ... you get my point. A recent highlight for me was a visit focused on the waterfronts of Kingston and Gan, where I learned about fresh-water diving, great lakes luxury liners, and the challenge faced by Thousand Islands tour-

ism promoters who have always collaborated with their American colleagues – not so easy, in today's political environment.

Manitoba: Winnipeg is an overlooked destination that deserves far better. This city is home to the absolutely essential Canadian Museum of Human Rights; the amazing Winnipeg Art Gallery collection of traditional and modern Inuit art; and most recently, The Leaf, a new attraction featuring gigantic tropical and Mediterranean biomes. The Leaf is located in the wonderful Assiniboine Park, and close to "The Forks" – the shopping, dining and entertainment area located at the forks of the Assiniboine and Red Rivers.

Saskatchewan: My June visit to Saskatchewan was the first time I had stayed in the province. It was quickly apparent that ignoring this province was a big mistake. Saskatoon is a vibrant, interesting city, and I got the chance to explore the countryside north of Saskatoon, on a golf trip that took me all the way to Prince Albert National Park. The landscape ranged from prairie to wetlands to something darned close to mountainous... and all beautiful.

So, yes, I am grateful for the opportunity to explore our wonderful country. In every good way I can imagine, there is no place like home.

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



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# MUSIC CORNER

## Saturday evenings with Dave Bellaire: A local legend returns to The Mill Patio



**BEN ADDRESS**

*Tillsonburg Post Columnist*

With summer in full swing, one of Tillsonburg's most charming settings is once again reverberat-

ing with the warm sounds of live music. The Mill, a riverside restaurant overlooking the Otter Creek in Tillsonburg, is hosting the return of local musician Dave Bellaire for a summer-long residency on their rustic patio every Saturday evening in July and August (except July 12). Dave's performances run from 5:30 p.m. to 8:30 p.m. while offering a perfect backdrop for dinner, drinks and connection.

For those who have spent time in Tillsonburg, Dave Bellaire is a familiar name. Dave studied radio and television broadcasting in 1972 and volunteered

on Rogers Television as a news show host and reporter. A lifelong musician and seasoned performer, Dave's career began in 1974 and spans everything from rock band frontman to wedding band guitarist to solo entertainer. Dave is also a real estate agent and community volunteer, however his heart has always been with the music.

"My approach has always been to have my audience enjoy their experience at the venues I play," says Bellaire who now performs acoustic solo sets featuring songs from classic rock, old country, folk, bluegrass and Top 40. "I try to pick

up one or two new songs every year to keep my material fresh and up-to-date and my mind sharp."

His thoughtful curation of each performance is part of what makes his live show feel personal.

"I try to judge the age of the audience and pull out songs that I feel would please them. Songs by Simon and Garfunkel, Eric Clapton, Jim Croce and Cat Stevens seem to play well to a general audience."

The Mill's patio, which sits just above the banks of the Otter, has become a favourite for guests looking to unwind and enjoy the blend of natural scenery,

quality cuisine and live music that doesn't overpower conversation. Bellaire understands that balance better than most.

"I think volume is important at any venue I play and especially at The Mill," Bellaire explains. "When I go to see a live band, I'm not there to talk, I'm there to listen and watch the band. When someone comes in to have a nice meal, they are there to relax and enjoy the company of family and friends. I like to be loud enough to have a quality mix on my guitar and vocals and quiet enough that I can see people talk across the table comfortably."

Bellaire reflects on his time at The Mill with gratitude. "I've been blessed with a venue where man-

agement treats staff like family, where staff treat me as family, where sound technicians look after my setup and make sure I'm comfortable. Both the outdoor and indoor experiences have been phenomenal. I'm glad I can be part of this experience at The Mill in my hometown of Tillsonburg."

There is no cover charge to catch Dave Bellaire live on The Mill patio every Saturday from July 6 through August 31 (excluding July 12) from 5:30 p.m. to 8:30 p.m. These patio concerts are also all ages family friendly events with a licensed menu. More information and details are available online at [www.tillsonburgmill.com](http://www.tillsonburgmill.com) or [www.facebook.com/Mill-alesinn](http://www.facebook.com/Mill-alesinn)

## UPCOMING SHOWS

**JULY 5 - DAVE BELLAIRE**  
The Mill  
No Cover - 5:30 p.m. - all ages/  
licensed

**JULY 6 - BACK TO THE FIFTIES**  
Annandale NHS (Music On The

Lawn Series)  
No Cover - 7 p.m. - all ages

**JULY 11-13 - +BÜDDIES FEST**  
The Mill/Paddy's Underground/The  
Copper Mug  
\$69 per day/\$175 weekend pass - 3  
p.m. - all ages/licensed

**JULY 16 - EUCHRE NIGHT**  
The Copper Mug  
6 p.m.

**JULY 18 - RUSTY & THE HALF SMOKE**  
Paddy's Underground  
\$35 - 8 p.m. - all ages/licensed



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RIDDLES

I can be cracked, made, told, and played.  
What am I?

Joke

I don't have lungs, but I need air. I don't have  
a mouth, but I drown in water. What am I?

Fire

I'm not alive, but I grow. I don't have eyes,  
but I show. What am I?

Shadow

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

Hole

You'll find me in school, but I'm not a  
student. I'm full of words, but I never speak.

What am I?

Book

I have a face and hands, but no mouth or  
eyes. What am I?

Clock

I'm always ahead of you but never seen.  
What am I?

Future

I'm tall when I'm young and short when I'm  
old. What am I?

Candle

SUDOKU

by PeterS 2025

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Solutions on Page 19

PET OF THE WEEK



COMET

Comet is a fluffy  
creamsicle cat who just  
turned 1 year old. He loves  
to be near his people, but  
on his own terms. He likes  
to sit in odd places and  
watch everything going on  
around him. Even though  
he can be a little bitey  
when he's playful, he also  
has a sweet side. He loves  
to be brushed and will  
do tricks for his favourite  
treats.

Nominate your pet to be Pet of the Week by emailing [info@tillsonburgpost.com](mailto:info@tillsonburgpost.com)

WORD SEARCH  
NATURE IN JULY

X	J	E	I	F	I	R	E	F	L	I	E	S	K	Q	D	U	J	D	B
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- DAISIES
- DRAGONFLY
- CICADAS
- FOREST
- LAKE
- CAMPFIRE
- WILDFLOWERS
- PINECONES
- SUNSHINE
- HIKING
- FIREFLIES
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## NEW BUS SHELTERS

(JEFF HELSDON PHOTO)

Tillsonburg will soon have 12 new bus shelters throughout town for riders of the T:Go bus system. Vadgm Romanko of Trades Sync works on the finishing touches for the roof support system for the shelter in front of the library. Other locations are: Tillson Ave. by the Livingston Centre, 8 North St. E., 15 Lisgar Ave., 16 Devonshire Ave., 17 Broadway, 18 South Ridge, Tillsonburg hospital, 28 Badwin, 33 Simcoe St., and Harvest Crossing Retirement Centre. Many of the shelters are already in place.



# COMING EVENTS

**CLINTON, ONTARIO 150 ANNIVERSARY**  
July 4,5,6

**BARTLIFFS BAKERY AND RESTAURANT REUNION**  
**Library Park, July 5, 11 -4 pm**  
Meet and greet! Memories and Laughter!  
Hosted by Liz Bartliff

**CANADIAN HARVARD AIRCRAFT ASSOCIATION OPEN HOUSE & FLY DAYS**

**July 5 (Rain Date: July 6)**  
**August 16 (Rain Date: August 17)**  
**Sept 13 – Wings & Wheels**  
**All event dates take place from 9am – 4pm**  
**Tillsonburg Regional Airport**  
Join us for our Open House & Fly Days during our special 40th anniversary season. These monthly family-friendly outdoor events are always FREE and offer the opportunity to see our collection of Harvard aircraft up close, tour our hangars, explore restoration projects, purchase souvenirs, and best of all, purchase a flight! Pre-booking your flight experience is recommended by contacting [crewflights@harvards.com](mailto:crewflights@harvards.com).  
**On July 5th, Join us for a very special Open House & Fly Day that will officially celebrate our special 40th anniversary!**  
This FREE family-friendly outdoor event will offer lots of fun and entertainment and we invite you to be a part of it. As with all our Open Houses, visitors will have the opportunity to see our collection of Harvard aircraft up close, tour our hangars, explore restoration projects, purchase souvenirs, and best of all, purchase a flight! Pre-booking your flight experience is recommended by contacting [crewflights@harvards.com](mailto:crewflights@harvards.com).

**DECORATION DAY FOR FORESTVILLE CEMETERIES**  
Fairview Cemetery, 698 Charlotteville Road 1, Forestville  
**Sunday July 20th , 2025 @ 2:00 p.m.**  
Rain or shine. Bring your lawn chair, a friend, and umbrella. Music will be provided

by “Blue Chickory”. Everyone welcome!

**PIZZA FEST**  
**Thursday July 24, 2025: 4 pm - 8:30 pm**  
**Downtown Ingersoll**  
Live Music - Rated Blue, Street Performers, Car Show, Vendors, Stores Open Late, Children's Activities, Hands On Exotics Safari Adventure, and lots of Pizza! Seating available. Free Admission - Food Tickets: \$1 ea. Pizza Slice: 3 Tickets Pop/Drink: 1 Ticket. Proceeds to local charities. Visit us on FB/Instagram: Ingersoll BIA

**NORTH OF SIXTY OPEN MIC AND JAM**  
**at the Tillsonburg Legion on Saturday July 5 from 1pm-4pm.**  
\$7 cash at the door. Jumbo Hot dogs with potato chips available for \$5 from 12-2pm. For more info call 519-842-5281.

**TILLSONBURG LEGION PATIO DANCE**  
**on Saturday July 19**  
featuring live band "North of Sixty" from 5pm-8pm. Tickets \$10 in advance or \$15 at the gate. Vendors craft tables open. Cash bar. Food available. All Welcome. For more info call 519-842-5281.

**DELHI & DISTRICT HORTICULTURAL SOCIETY ANNUAL POT LUCK**  
**at the Quance Dam Gazebo**  
**Monday July 14th/25. Set up at 5:30 pm**  
Bring your favourite dish to share, plate and utensils. Also, a special thank you to the community & surrounding areas for supporting our Plant Sale. Much appreciated.

**KIDS' ACTIVITIES CRAFTS, GAMES, AND STORIES**  
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**THE EDISON, VIENNA, & AREA MUSEUM SUMMER PROGRAMMING SCHEDULE**  
**The Edison, Vienna, & Area Museum**  
**6209 Plank Road, Vienna, ON**  
**July 5:** Pioneering  
**July 12:** The Edison Phonograph  
**July 19:** Cars (Coinciding with the Car Show)  
**July 26:** The Edison Lightbulb  
**August 2:** European Vienna  
**August 9:** Party Time! (Coinciding with the Ontario Trillium Foundation Recognition Gala)  
**August 16:** Movies  
**August 23:** Brownie Cameras  
**August 30:** Back to School  
FREE admission, no pre-registration necessary. Contact [bayhamhistoricalsociety@hotmail.com](mailto:bayhamhistoricalsociety@hotmail.com) for more details.

**OXFORD GRIEF CARE:**  
FREE Monthly Grief Support Group  
Register at: [oxford.griefsupport@von.ca](mailto:oxford.griefsupport@von.ca) or 519-539-1231 Ext 6299 or 6296

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

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

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

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

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

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

**WOULD YOU LIKE TO VOLUNTEER TO HELP AT ONE OF OUR EVENTS? WE WELCOME YOU!**  
**The Wagner Memorial, Teeterville Legion Branch 526**  
**3890 Teeterville Road, Teeterville, Ontario**  
You do not need to be a member to Volunteer, Just contact the legion and leave your name and number and purpose of your call. Someone will get back to you as to where you might be needed. Students and Adults welcome. Open hours. Wed.-Fri. 3 pm-10 pm, Sat.1 pm-10 pm, Sun.1 pm-6 pm. For More Information call, the Legion at 519-443-5588 or [teetervillelegionbranch526.ca](mailto:teetervillelegionbranch526.ca)

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

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## QUIZ ANSWERS

1. Dominion Day
2. Celine Dion
3. 1918
4. Quebec
5. Lake Superior
6. Beaver
7. 1980
8. The Snowbirds
9. Ice Hockey & Lacrosse
10. Ten

## SUDOKU

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

**Tillsonburg**  
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35,985 km's, Dual Top Group, Leather Heated Seats, Navigation. F25-031

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29,125 km's, 2nd row Entertainment System, Adaptive Cruise Control. F25-044

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### 2023 JEEP WRANGLER SPORT

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22,346 km's 3.5L, 10 speed automatic, Navigation, Dual A/C. F25-017

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89,548 km's, Leather heated seats, Navigation, Power Liftgate, Remote start. 25-079A

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### 2021 FORD BRONCO SPORT

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20,303 km's, Extended Service Contract w/ oil changes included, sunroof, power liftgate. 25-098A

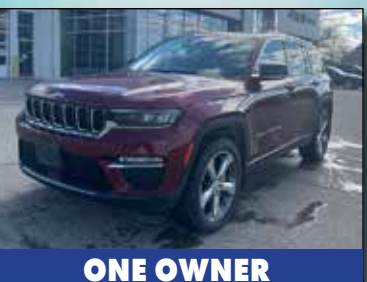
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Call 519-842-5953

Click [www.eichenberg.ca](http://www.eichenberg.ca)

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