

# Tillsonburg POST

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## Many ways to contribute to the Salvation Army's Christmas Campaign

ROBIN KRAFFT

Post Contributor

The Tillsonburg Salvation Army will not be sending out their Christmas appeal letter this year, but there are many other ways to contribute.

Traditionally, funds raised through the traditional mail out campaign amounted to 48 per cent of the goal, with 52 per cent coming from the kettles. Proceeds are used specifically for Tillsonburg and the surrounding area.

"The Salvation Army Tillsonburg has traditionally sent out a local appeal letter as part of our Christmas efforts - wanting to thank the community for their incredible support and to make them aware of our ongoing commitments to service in the community, and need for financial support," said Major Denise Walker. "Naturally, we were concerned with the uncertainty surrounding postal services when we began planning for Christmas."

When it was announced in November that undressed ad mail would not be processed or delivered, planning shifted to provide other ways to receive public support. While strike action has paused, a cheque can be sent through the mail, but donations can also be dropped off in person at the church office at 110 Concession St. W. or at the Thrift Store at 155 Broadway.

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(JEFF HELSDON PHOTO)

### THE MAGIC OF SANTA'S BELLS

Kellam MacKenzie, right, was awestruck when he had the opportunity to ring Santa's bells when the jolly old elf visited Annandale National Historic Site during the Christmas Open House on Friday night. Kellam's brother Jack watched the interaction. Santa's appearance followed turning on the lights on the front lawn and the opening of the Pioneer Christmas display in the Pratt Gallery. Attendees also had a chance to see the Christmas decorations in each room, completed by volunteers. The exhibit runs until Jan. 6.

## BIA expansion not proceeding

JEFF HELSDON

Local Journalism Initiative Reporter

A proposal to expand the boundaries of the Downtown Tillsonburg Business Improvement Association will not be proceeding.

The BIA boundaries, which are confined to the downtown core have not been changed since the formation of the BIA in 1978. The proposed expansion would have stretched from the middle of Concession Street on the

north, along the Stoney Creek gully on the west to Otter Creek, across to Young Street on the south, and then up Vienna Road, crossing the Otter and towards Maple Lane. It would have added 30 properties to the BIA zone.

Throughout a process that took several months, both BIA Executive Director Mark Renard and town Development Commissioner Cephas Panschow said the expansion would allow the possibility of more commercial land. However, Panschow did have concerns about the industrial land included in the boundary.

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# Many ways to contribute to the Salvation Army's Christmas Campaign

CONTINUED FROM FRONT

Donations can also be made at the various kettle locations: Sobeys, Zehrs, Metro, Canadian Tire, the Liquor Store and Walmart. A QR code is available at each kettle, as well as donating online by visiting <https://donate.salvationarmy.ca>.

"Many of the local churches have been contributing food for our Christmas food hampers, they have been amazing," Walker said, adding that local service clubs like the Kinettes and WOW (Women on Wilson) have donated winter coats and boots and scarves and mittens.

The Salvation Army was founded in 1865 in London, England, with a fo-

cus on outreach to the poor, homeless, hungry and destitute. The organization began its work in Canada in 1882 and continues to provide hope and assistance to those in need. ([salvationarmy.ca](http://salvationarmy.ca))

"The Angel Tag program has been a great help," Walker said, enabling the public "to contribute to the Christmas dreams of children and youth."

Volunteers are still needed for taking kettle shifts, helping to sort food, or by helping with hampers on distribution days. Call Jenny at 519-842-3231, ext 104 for more information.

The Christmas mail-out campaign will return next year.



## HICKORY HILLS CHRISTMAS BAZAAR

Hickory Hills Christmas Bazaar was a busy place on Nov. 22, with a bazaar, book sale, silent auction and penny auction. One of the most popular draws was the tea room that featured tea, sandwiches and cookies served at the tables.

(JEFF HELSDON PHOTO)

# Further collaboration to follow with stakeholders on future BIA expansion

CONTINUED FROM FRONT

Commercial properties within the BIA area pay a BIA levy that funds the operation of the BIA and its business promotion activities. There is no impact on residential home owners.

The expansion procedure, which is outlined in provincial statute, allows for comments by businesses in the area. If one-third of businesses in the area object, the expansion cannot go ahead. Although that threshold was not reached, council sought more input from its Economic Development Committee and the BIA Board of Management before proceeding.

The latest input from the committee and board of management was captured in a report presented by Acting Clerk Amelia Jaggard at the Nov. 24 council meeting.

The BIA board's latest motion was: "At this stage, the DTBIA recommends continued collaboration with stakeholders, including the Tillsonburg District Chamber of Commerce, Tillsonburg Economic Development Advisory Committee, Office of the Development Commissioner,

and DTBIA representatives. The goal is to achieve consensus on the proposed boundary and determine an appropriate course of action moving forward."

The Economic Development Committee motion was to halt the process and "a collaborative community group be created to discuss a potential sustainable, commercial boundary expansion."

Throughout the process, Mayor Deb Gilvesy and Councillor Chris Rosehart declared a pecuniary interest and did not take part in the debate due to family members owning property in the current BIA core. Deputy Mayor Dave Beres also started declaring a conflict for the same reason after a complaint to the town's integrity commissioner, which was dismissed and he was found not in violation of policy.

Despite the controversy, there was no debate or comments from the four remaining councillors at the Nov. 24 meeting and the report was accepted as information, meaning the expansion will not proceed.

## PHOTOGRAPHERS WANTED

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

**The Tillsonburg Post is looking for images to display in this space from community members who would like to share their art work. All images must be taken in Tillsonburg, or the immediate area, and should not be of people.**

**Images should be high resolution jpegs.**

**Please send only one image per e-mail, and send no more than three images.**

**Images should be sent to [jeff@granthaven.com](mailto:jeff@granthaven.com)**

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## EDITORIAL

# Tillsonburg is a good place to live

Tillsonburg is one of the top places to live in Canada. Many of those who live here know this, but another survey backed what we all know.

Zolo recently released a study finding Tillsonburg was the ninth best place to live in Canada, and it was the smallest place in the top 10. That's a pretty impressive rating.

But then again, this isn't the first time our town has been held in high esteem by others. In September, the Comfort Life Retirement Living Guide placed Tillsonburg at sixth. And four years ago, Macleans magazine ranked Tillsonburg at 25 in a much-more extensive list.

So, this means the town's planners, council members and businesspeople must be doing something right. The town's population growth reinforces this.

With the latest rating including access to health care, many of the thousands of Tillsonburg and area residents without a primary care provider might argue this. This is not to take away from the excellent health care at Tillsonburg District Memorial Hospital, though, which could have helped the town make the list. Still, like many towns, Tillsonburg needs more primary health care providers, and needs to attract

them without pushing up taxes.

Another survey in today's Post highlighted another downfall of the town. Youth surveyed wanted more recreational facilities such as arcades, gaming and a movie theatre. The town does have Skill Shot Pinball, and although pinball may not be the latest video game, perhaps the youth should give it a try. As the residents know we just lost a movie theatre, and usually when that happens, it's because it isn't getting enough business. And despite smaller Aylmer and Delhi having bowling alleys, this is a strike against Tillsonburg. The youth also mentioned lack of shopping.

Council can't force private businesses to locate in town, especially with past closures, but can create more commercial zoning to allow it to occur. This is something that is presently underway, but will take time. And on the list of positives, let's not forget Winners is finally coming to town, or the Norfolk Mall on the edge of town.

There's no doubt Tillsonburg is a great town to live, and it's reassuring to have others feel the same way. Let's all not rest on our laurels and work at making it even better.



(STACIE EDEN PHOTO)

**We want to hear from our community!**  
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# Secret passages, attic rooms and creating new décor in the manse



## WRITER'S CORNER

**NORMA COLLIS**

*Tillsonburg Post Columnist*

As a child, moving into a Victorian home with a tower running up one side of the house, was a dream come true for anyone with a vivid imagination.

I was a big fan of the Enid Blyton books about the Fabulous Four who were always exploring castles and mansions in the English countryside. I was sure that our new home, the St. Paul's manse, must have at least one hidden passageway. I spent a good deal of my spare time rapping on walls and looking for some architectural detail that might be the key to opening a secret door into a tunnel. My bedroom was directly above the downstairs dining room. The dining room had a fireplace set into the wall between two bay windows. My bedroom had the same two bay windows and the blank wall in-between had a definite hollow sound when I knocked on it.

You can imagine my disappointment when my parents told me that I was absolutely not allowed to knock a hole in that wall to see what was behind it. I was certain that there was another fireplace back there and I thought it would make a very attractive added feature to an otherwise, quite ordinary bedroom.

My husband still laughs at this story. We have renovated three different older homes during our marriage, and he says, "I don't believe it. Even back then you wanted to tear down walls and create architectural features."

When my wall tapping ran its course, I retreated to the large attic of the home which was almost as magical as a hidden tunnel would have been. The area had been divided into rooms and each room had plastered, finished walls and hardwood flooring.

The first room had obviously been a bedroom as it still contained an elaborate antique bed and a towering dresser to match. We had been told that a past minister had a large family and that an attic bedroom had been put into use to accommodate some of the children. While beautiful to look at, the bed was extremely hard and lumpy. It was not the place to curl up and read a good book. The bed eventually was pressed into service to hold out-of-season clothing, which rendered that room quite uninteresting to a kid looking for adventure.

The next room was long and skinny and ran the width of the house. It was here that boxes full of our Christmas decorations, served their out of season assignment.

From this space, one entered a large room used to store antique furniture surplus to use in our living quarters down below. I remember a horsehair love seat, an oval lamp table, a huge and heavy armchair, as well as a well-worn oriental carpet rolled up in a corner of the room.

Just off this room, was a low doorway that led to the small room at the top of the tower that gave the house its' special, unique aura. The small windows that encircled the room, were set at floor level.

Now here was a perfect place for a kid to curl up and read. I "borrowed" the pillows from the antique bed in the other room and set up a comfy literary "nook" that I thought only I knew about. When one stretched out on these pillows, one was rewarded with a perfect view of the tops of people's heads as they walked by on the public sidewalks below.

Many of the downtown shop merchants and their workers, parked along our street. I soon had intimate knowledge of each persons' cranial details. I knew who was going bald and I definitely knew who needed to have their roots touched up. I was viewing the world from too lofty a perch to determine if anyone had a dandruff issue, but I had my own theories regarding "problem scalps."

One of my best friends, named Dorothy, came to our house for a playdate. I didn't reveal my attic oasis to just anyone, but Dorothy was a very trustworthy person. After exploring each of the rooms and giggling at the passers-by we viewed from the tower room, Dorothy and I decided that the large room needed some "feng shui" rearrangement of furnishings. We unrolled the thread bare carpet and dragged the heavy pieces of furniture into what we considered to be a stylish arrangement.

"I wonder what is in these boxes over here?" asked Dorothy.

In those boxes, were left over rolls of various patterned wallpaper from years gone by. It was a virtual history lesson of "what's hot and what's not" from years past. There were rolls of paper displaying huge pink cabbage roses. These rolls were followed by a variety of flocked papers sporting red velour type swirls and medallions of colour. I particularly liked the rolls of paper showing large green fronds of un-

identifiable tropical plants. A more demure roll of paper sporting nosegays of forget-me-nots, paled in comparison to the riot of paper styles spread out before us.

I'm not sure where we got the wallpaper paste, but I suspect it was hidden in one of these boxes as well. The lower bathroom wastepaper pail served as our water bucket, and we began our great home improvement venture.

When we ran out of one pattern of paper, we moved on to the next. It didn't matter to us that one garish pattern butted up to a totally different and equally colourful paper. We were sure that we were giving that big attic room a new lease on life.

We were quite proud of ourselves by the time we had finished.

I was disappointed when my parents were not as impressed with the finished results Dorothy and I were.

That wallpaper paste must have been the best that money could buy because that paper stayed firmly in place for years to come.

Much later, when my parents moved to a different church in a different town, Dorothy had the occasion to speak to the daughter of the new minister who now resided in the church manse.

"How do you like living in the manse?" Dorothy asked the young girl.

"Oh, I like it" the girl replied, "Except for one thing."

"What is that?" asked Dorothy.

"Someone with terrible taste in decorating has wallpapered the large attic room," said the girl.

Dorothy wisely said nothing. She truly was and still is "a friend for all seasons."

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

# Town council briefs

## Town to look at anti-harassment policy

Tillsonburg council asked staff to prepare a report to explore options for establishing a municipal civility and anti-harassment policy focused on public conduct towards municipal staff and council.

The motion followed discussion in closed session at the Nov. 24 meeting “regarding communications from an identifiable individual.”

It mentioned municipalities “experiencing increasing incidents of harassment, threats and abusive behaviour directed at municipal staff and elected officials.” The motion also acknowledged the Association of Municipalities of Ontario called for proposals to support municipalities in creating such policies.

The staff report will be brought back to council at a future meeting with recommendations and next steps.

Coun. Kelly Spencer said she and Deputy Mayor Dave Beres went to AMO, they attended a seminar on harassment and the AMO initiative.

“There was a rise of harassment all over in all of the municipalities, with the top two being from citizens or from candidates who didn’t get elect, and those were the focus,” she said.

Spencer said most interactions with the public are positive, but some situations cross to harassment, intimidation or personal attacks. She emphasized this policy would not restrict constructive criticism or passionate debate.

“This is about strengthening our workplace safety, supporting the people who service this community and ensuring the Town of Tillsonburg remains a place where civic participation is both welcomed and conducted respectfully,” she said.

## Official plan update

Hanne Yager, Policy Planner and April Nix, Manager of Policy Planning, Oxford County updated council on the process to update the county’s official plan.

The plan is being updated to improve conformity to provincial regulations, streamline review processes and add clarity for existing processes.

Economic development committee endorses growth es-

timates

A revised goal for the town’s allotment of institutional and commercial land was given a thumbs-up by the town’s Economic Development Committee.

Committee chair Jesse Goossens appeared before council earlier this year asking the county to update its percentage of institutional and commercial land in the Oxford County Growth Analysis and Land Needs from 15 to 30 per cent. The request was made because of a shortage of commercial/institutional land in town.

Since then, the county updated the percentage of commercial/institutional to 19 per cent, and the Economic Development Committee’s input was sought.

## And the youth survey says . . .

A survey of the town’s youth by the town’s Youth Advisory Council revealed several desires for the town’s youth. Some of the highlights were:

- Youth seek activities beyond traditional sports
- 89 per cent of youth want more non-sport options such as gaming, arcades and movie theatres
- Only six per cent of youth attend arts and cultural events monthly, showing low engagement
- Youth want more festivals, art classes, community murals and teen events
- Youth had concerns about safety, ranging from wanting better lighting in skate parks and parks to concerns about harassment, drug use and homelessness in public areas
- 66 per cent of youth expressed dissatisfaction with current shopping options.

Before council accepted the report as information, Coun. Kelly Spencer said new members of the youth council are engaged and hoped they will work on the survey results.

Grant to Garden Gate approved to assist with accessibility

Council endorsed a Community Improvement Plan application for 167 Simcoe Street for a matching Accessibility Renovation Grant for \$3,000.

The application from Tillsonburg Garden Gate Ltd. was for adding barrier-free access, including automatic doors.

## The Great Pumpkin to the Rescue

The Great Pumpkin of Peanuts fame may not be coming to Tillsonburg for Halloween next year, but the Great Pumpkin Rescue will become a permanent fixture.

Locally, the program sees bins located through Oxford County, including in Tillsonburg. The program was launched in 2021 at the urging of Coun. Chris Parker. The pumpkins, gourds and squash deposited by town residents are then donated to a local farmer, who uses them pig feed.

Council’s motion at the Nov. 24 meeting included a mo-

tion to the program permanent.

## A historical agreement

Tillsonburg council approved updated its agreement with the Tillsonburg and District Historical Society.

Although the society has been assisting with the museum, there hasn’t been a formal agreement since 2011. The new agreement “outlines mutual responsibilities: the town provides meeting space, staff support, and facility access, while the society supports the museum through annual financial contributions, provision of historical content, and collaborative activities.

## Upgraded security cameras for community centre

Updated security cameras for the Tillsonburg Community Centre were amongst the projects approved by council for surplus capital funds.

In a report to council, Director of Recreation, Culture and Parks Andrea Greenway recounted that a security review by the OPP identified the need for more cameras and that there was low quality with some of the existing cameras. She recommended 22 new cameras, at a cost of \$88,000. She suggested reallocated \$100,000 in excess funds from the replacement of the pool liner to fund the cameras.

The report also suggested reallocated unspent money from other projects to install bollards at the fire hall and public works, plus emergency lighting at public works.

Coun. Bob Parsons asked if the cameras would be live feed and monitored by staff.

When Greenway said the cameras are monitored by recreation staff at present, Parsons suggested having fire dispatch monitor after hours.

## Crier compensation

A motion by Mayor Deb Gilvesy will see a review of compensation for the town crier.

Gilvesy said this was not something requested by the town crier, but came about after a third party wanted to compensate the town crier for an event beyond the \$50 per event fee presently being paid.

The present bylaw is the original one, with the original fee. Gilvesy found Tillsonburg’s fee is significantly below what is offered in other municipalities.

“In my seven years on council, I don’t recall this ever being investigated,” she said.

The motion passed called for a review for fairness and to ensure current standards are met.

*Jeff Helsdon  
Local Journalism Initiative Reporter*

# Tillsonburg POST

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# Canadian and imported infectious diseases old and new vs vaccines



**THE  
STAGE  
IS THE  
WORLD**

LAUREL A. BEECHEY

Tillsonburg Post Columnist

To take or not to take vaccines? That is the question on many people's minds.

This is something you need to work out, to make sure you truly understand what happens to *your or your child's* body. Do not believe everything you hear from people you know on either side of the debate. 'They' do not have your body. There are several questions you should ask yourself. How strong is your body to fight that disease? What are the chances of dying or permanent health changes you have to live with? Planning on kids? What happens when pregnant? Then learn the same about the vaccines, and take any questions or concerns to your doctor.

One of the common fears with vaccines is new technology. Although there are new vaccines, the concept is not new. The Medicology Home Encyclopedia of Health University Medical Society stated in 1901 "It may be said that during the past five years the treatment and cure of general diseases has entirely changed; that more important discoveries and new and successful methods for the curing of disease have been proven and adopted during this time than in any similar period during the past century. The treatment of five years ago that was considered the best has given way to a better one. It is not too much to say fatalities of all diseases have diminished more than one half."

What was said nearly 125 years ago rings true today, and perhaps more so.

The Canadian Encyclopedia online has an excellent list of devastating infectious diseases that have ripped through our history, and you will realize the miracle that vaccines are.

The first smallpox vaccination in Canada date back to 1801, when Dr. John Clinch of Trinity, NL vaccinated 700

people in the area.

The knowledge the pioneer doctors and scientists had in 1800 has continually improved and today there are over 30 vaccines for life-threatening diseases. A wonderful word, in the world of diseases is 'eradicated', but nothing is truly eradicated until it is gone globally. Thus far only smallpox has achieved the goal. Close, but not quite, is polio as two of the three types are eradicated. Central Asian countries are still battling the last polio and when they win it will be globally eradicated!

There were students both the elementary and high school that I attended in Windsor, who had polio. A few lived in an iron lung for varying lengths of time, until they could breathe on their own again. You could usually tell who had polio by the crutches and often a withered leg. A hieroglyph from the 19th Dynasty in Egypt depicts a person the same way. Today, we have vaccines.

My Aunt Betty, while pregnant with her third child, in 1948 contracted measles. The baby was born with complications, mentally challenged, and was institutionalized. In the 1950s, my brother and I, and virtually every kid on the block and at school caught the measles. Then chicken pox, and mumps and assorted other childhood diseases followed. Thank heavens few mothers worked back then as they were kept busy with the lists of childhood disease which were passed around with lighting speed.

Today, we can jump on a plane and be on a different country in hours or another continent. You need to be vaccinated for the diseases where you are travelling to. Unknowingly, we pick up a disease, from a sneeze, water, food, something you touched without even realizing it and when we come home, we spread it again. Sound familiar? Measles, a disease that was declared eliminated in Canada in 1998 has returned!

It is a lot to think about, as diphtheria, tetanus, pertussis (whooping cough), polio, and measles, mumps, and rubella measles (MMR), rotavirus, pneumococcal, and hepatitis B, & Covid are all diseases you don't want to you or your family to experience domestically or internationally. Research, consider carefully and talk to those educated in the field so you know if you should or not get the next vaccine.

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# West Region OPP hosting auxiliary constable information sessions in December

West Region Headquarters of the Ontario Provincial Police (OPP) is thrilled to announce that it will be hosting auxiliary constable information sessions in London this December.

The OPP information session provides participants with the opportunity to gain knowledge, insight and helpful advice relating to the Auxiliary OPP recruitment process. The session includes an overview of how to apply, prerequisites, expectations of an applicant and an overview of how to prepare for each stage of the process. This presentation will benefit those candidates who want to learn more about the OPP recruitment process to ensure that they are at their competitive best before they apply.

The first event takes place on Monday, Dec. 15, 2025, 7 p.m. to 9 p.m., at West

Region Headquarters located at 6355 Westminster Drive, London.

<https://www.eventbrite.ca/e/auxiliary-information-session-london-tickets-1975601173291?aff=odddtcreator>

The second event takes place on Saturday, Dec. 20, from 12 p.m., to 2 p.m., at West Region Headquarters.

<https://www.eventbrite.ca/e/auxiliary-information-session-london-tickets-1975600467179?aff=odddtcreator>

Participants must pre-register by visiting the links provided and adhere to the cancellation policy, dress code, and instructions on the registration page. Parking will be available on-site.

For more information about OPP careers, and a list of upcoming events, visit [opp.ca/careers](http://opp.ca/careers). You can also visit [opp.ca/auxiliary](http://opp.ca/auxiliary) to learn more about the program.

# Norwich man charged after fraud investigation

A fraud investigation has resulted in a charge of fraud over \$5,000.

On March 23, 2023, members of the Oxford Ontario Provincial Police (OPP) received a report of a fraud. Further investigation revealed the accused was involved in fraudulent activity, where six victims were defrauded of a total of approximately \$223,000. It is alleged that the accused was selling items to the victims, to which they never received product for.

On Nov. 20, 2025, Abraham Koolmees, 61-years-old of Norwich, was arrested and charged with: Fraud Over \$5000.

The accused was released from custody and is scheduled to appear before the Ontario Court of Justice in Woodstock on Jan. 6, 2026.

Anyone with information is asked to contact the Oxford OPP at 1-888-310-1122. Information can also be provided anonymously to Crime Stoppers at 1-800-222-TIPS (8477).

**GIFT A MEAL**

Stop by Tillsonburg Swiss Chalet and purchase a meal for individuals supported by The Salvation Army this holiday!

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# Pick-up truck stolen in Tillsonburg

Police are requesting the public's assistance in locating a stolen pickup truck and identifying those responsible for the theft.

On Nov. 24, at approximately 10 a.m., the Oxford OPP responded to a report of a stolen vehicle on Barker Street in the Town of Tillsonburg.

Police determined that sometime between 6 p.m., on Nov. 23, and 10 a.m., on Nov. 24, one or more individuals entered the property and stole a 2005 Dark Green Chevrolet Silverado with a topper. The pickup truck has Ontario licence plates

2992RJ.

A stock photo of the pickup truck is attached for reference.

Police are actively conducting an ongoing investigation and are appealing to the public for assistance. Anyone with relevant information is urged to contact the Oxford 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](http://www.helpsolvecrime.com) where you may be eligible to receive a cash reward of up to \$2,000.

# Police seeking information on damage to railways

The Oxford and Norfolk Ontario Provincial Police (OPP) are seeking the public's assistance following reports of mischief to railway crossing equipment.

Between Nov. 24, at approximately 10 p.m., and Nov. 25, at approximately 8:30 a.m., members of the Oxford and Norfolk OPP responded to multiple reports of mischief, where unknown suspects attended rail crossings causing mischief to railway equipment, rendering the railway crossing arms inoperable. A person of interest was observed leaving the area on an all-terrain vehicle (ATV).

The locations that were affected were Vi-

enna Road in Tillsonburg, Spruce Street at Bell Mill Side Road and Plowman's Line, near Highway 3 in Norfolk County.

The investigation is ongoing.

The Oxford and Norfolk OPP would like to remind the public that tampering with and/or causing mischief to railway equipment could have tragic consequences.

The Oxford and Norfolk OPP are seeking the public's assistance with identifying suspects involved in this incident. Anyone with information is asked to contact the Oxford OPP at 1-888-310-1122. Information can also be provided anonymously to Crime Stoppers at 1-800-222-TIPS (8477).

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**GRANT HAVEN MEDIA**

# Driver charged with impaired in Norwich Township

A traffic complaint of a possible impaired driver has resulted in multiple charges.

On Nov. 20, at approximately 1 a.m., members of the Oxford County Ontario Provincial Police (OPP) Detachment were dispatched to a traffic complaint of a possible impaired driver, on Highway 59 and Potters Road in Norwich Township.

Upon locating the vehicle, officers attempted a traffic stop. The vehicle failed to stop and fled from police. Through investigation, police later located the occupant at a business in Norwich.

Jan DaSilva, 24-years-old of Cambridge, has been charged with:

- Flight from Peace Officer
- Dangerous Operation
- Operation while Impaired - Blood Drug

## Concentration

A 90-day Administrative Driver's License Suspension (ADLS) and a 7-day vehicle impoundment was initiated as per statute.

The accused was released from custody and is scheduled to appear before the Ontario Court of Justice in Woodstock on Dec. 16.

The OPP is committed to safety for all who utilize Ontario's roadways. Members of the public are urged to report Impaired Driving by calling 911 in emergency situations. Complaints of impaired, aggressive, or careless driving can also be made by calling 1-888-310-1122.

For more information on the consequences of drinking and driving, check out:

<http://www.mto.gov.on.ca/english/safety/impaired-driving.shtml>

# Impaired charge follows collision

An individual is facing impaired driving charges following a single motor vehicle collision.

On Nov. 20, at approximately 9:30 p.m., the Oxford Ontario Provincial Police (OPP) Detachment were dispatched to a report of a single vehicle collision on Cuthbert Road, in the Township of South-West Oxford. It was reported that a vehicle had collided with a hydro pole and came to rest on the front lawn of a residence. There were no reported injuries.

Tyson Jones, 22-years-old, of the Town-

ship of South-West Oxford, has been charged with:

- Operation While Impaired - Blood Alcohol Concentration (80 Plus)
- Operation While Impaired - Alcohol
- A 90-day Administrative Driver's License Suspension (ADLS) and a seven-day vehicle impoundment was initiated as per statute.

The accused was released from custody and is scheduled to appear before the Ontario Court of Justice in Woodstock on Jan. 6, 2026.

## tillsonburgpost.com

# Holiday Arts Market starts at Station Arts Centre on Dec. 5

JEFF HELSDON

Editor

Tillsonburg's longest running seasonal craft show starts on Dec. 5 and runs until Dec. 18.

The Holiday Arts Market, which is hosted by the Station Arts Centre, has a unique format in the entire station is transformed into a wonderland of Christmas crafts of all sorts. This ranges from metal crafts to knitted hats and stained glass to jewelry, Christmas tree ornaments, stationary and even cookies. Artisans set up their tables, and items are available through the entire time period when the Station Arts Centre is open, with station staff looking after sales.

Potter Jennifer Marchant is one of the artists who will be taking part, selling ceramic Christmas ornaments and mugs and plates with a festive theme. She will also have mugs and plates without a holiday flare.

Hattie Idsinga's needle felting is wall art with a 3-D touch. Her art works are akin to a painting, but the Norfolk Fibre



(JEFF HELSDON PHOTO)

Three of the artists taking part in the Holiday Arts Market were preparing their tables for the event, which opens tomorrow. The two-week-long show runs until Dec. 18 at the Station Arts Centre.

Arts Guild member uses felt instead of traditional paints or other mediums.

Cindie McCormack's intricate

quilling Christmas decorations are actually strips of paper rolled into coils and pinched into strips.

The event has a unique format, one that started during Covid. For many years, the Station Arts Centre hosted the Down Home Country Christmas, which was held in the former Special Events Centre and resulted in a town-wide celebration. When that facility was sold, the event moved, and eventually faded. Tabitha Verbuyst, Station Arts Centre executive director, in her persition while Covid restrictions were in place.

"Covid hit and we were trying to figure a way we can bring people in in a safe manner and came up with the Holiday Arts Market," Verbuyst said.

The event stuck and has expanded to the largest yet this year with more than 40 vendors. Verbuyst believes the two-week-long event helps.

"Obviously, it's a busy time of year and it's hard for people to get to weekend shows, plus it's free," she said.

With artists restocking their booths as items sell, there is always something new for shoppers as well.

The Holiday Arts Market runs until the Station Arts Centre closes at 4 p.m. on Dec. 18.



The Royal Canadian Legion Varnavair Branch 153 wishes to thank the following for helping to make the 2025 Poppy Campaign another success:

Padre Paul Robinson	Oxford E.M.S.	Comrade Jason Pankratz
Rev Karlene Brown-Palmer	Oxford Reformed Christian	Comrade Don Showers
Autoneum Canada Ltd	School Choir	Tillsonburg Fire Department
Beta Sigma Phi Mu Zeta	Optometrists on Broadway Dr.	Tillsonburg Glass & Mirror
Chapter	Matthew Michniewicz	Tillsonburg Schools
Boss Tooling/1000206610 Ont. Ltd.	Nathan Pol, bugler	Tillsonburg Medical Centre
Dr. Bossy/Dr. Bamford/Dr. Puente	Mike Pritchard, C.D., piper	Town of Tillsonburg
Execulink	Dave Morris	Tillsonburg Parks & Recreation Department
James G. Battin	R.C.L. Branch 153 Colour Party	Tillsonburg Post
Jenkins & Gilvesy	R.C.L. Branch 153 Ladies Auxiliary	Trinkets Gift Shoppe
Knights Of Columbus	R.C.L. Branch 153 Members	VLG Insurance Group
Tillsonburg	R.C.L. Varnavair Air Cadet	Wave Wellness Retreat
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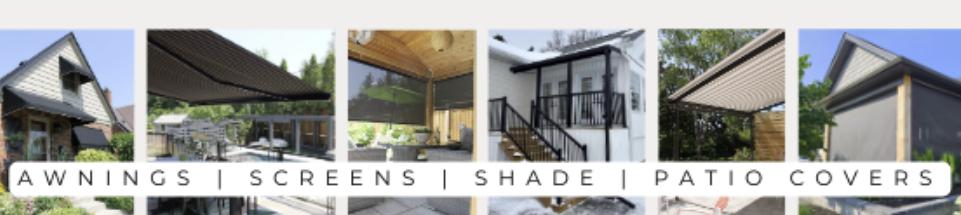
All Businesses that displayed Poppy Boxes, window displays, electronic messages, and sign boards.  
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# Oxford County releases 2026 draft budget

JEFF HELSDON

Local Journalism Initiative Reporter

Members of Oxford County Council recently had their first look at next year's document, which comes in with an operating budget of \$227.8 million and a capital portion of \$127.9 million.

The largest portion of county expenditures is water and wastewater, at 28 per cent, followed by 19 per cent spent on roads, and the three Woodingford Lodge sites account for 11 per cent of the total budget.

If approved in its current form, residents of the lower-tier municipalities — such as Tillsonburg — would see a 5.1 per cent increase, equivalent to a \$75 rise in the average tax bill. City of Woodstock residents would see a 5 per cent increase, or about \$66 more.

“\$96.3 million is what we are requesting for the budget, which is a \$6.5 million increase or a 7.2 per cent increase required to be raised from taxation,” explained Manager of Finance Carolyn King, who presented to council.

“It is important to note there is supplementary growth within the property taxes, resulting in about a 5 per cent increase to the average residential property bill.”

The budget began back in June with the launch of a community budget survey. Those results were presented to council in September. County staff started their work on building the document in June, including five meetings with the senior leadership team to debate the budget behind the scenes.

“About 3 per cent of the increase is delivering the same level of services in 2026 as we did in 2025,” explained Warden Marcus Ryan, who added inflation is the main factor behind the hike.

“The average resident experiences the Consumer Price Index, but municipalities see a mix of that, along with the Construction Price Index, which is generally one to two per cent higher. About two per cent of the increase is service level improvements or changes, and that’s where the opportunity is for council to decide if they are worth it or not.”

He added most of the extra expense comes from areas identified by taxpayers as depart-

## OXFORD COUNTY TAX LEVY INCREASES FROM 2020 TO 2025

YEAR	GENERAL LEVY AMOUNT	LEVY INCREASE OVER PRIOR YEAR
2020	\$62.8 million	5.8 %
2021	\$63.7 million	1.4 %
2022	\$66.6 million	4.6 %
2023	\$70.8 million	6.3 %
2024	\$82.6 million	16.7 %
2025	\$89.8 million	6.6 %
2026 (proposed)	\$96.3 million	5.1 %

The levy rose from \$62.844 million in 2020 to \$89.8 million in 2025, a total increase of just under \$27 million or 43 per cent. The average annual levy increase from 2020 to 2025 was 7.7 per cent.

ments they wanted to see improvements in.

“There is an allocation of \$400,000 for housing and homelessness to better integrate with the HART Hub and start moving people out of encampments and emergency shelters, and into the Hub for treatment. I don’t think anyone (on council) wants to cut that.”

Ryan admitted he has had discussions with some councillors about some potential cost savings, but time will tell if those conversations result in any savings for taxpayers.

The operating budget supports key county services that residents rely on every day — from affordable housing and support for vulnerable people to clean drinking water, safe roads, paramedic services, long-term care, community planning, and libraries.

The capital plan for municipal infrastructure includes \$75.3 million in capital reserve transfers for future funding of roads, bridges, water and wastewater infrastructure, facilities, information technology and more, as outlined in Oxford County’s Asset Management Plan.

The budget introduces several new initiatives, including the creation of a Homelessness Support Services Fund, a review of paramedic services deployment and facilities, and the development of a new official

plan to guide future community growth and development.

In addition, 25.5 new full-time equivalent (FTE) staff positions are also proposed, including 5.6 at Woodingford Lodge, 5 in paramedic services, 2.8 in facilities and 2.5 for the public library system.

“A lot of those, depending on what department they are in, are covered under grants or other levels of funding. A large chunk of those FTEs are paramedics and council did get a report in the fall outlining our response times.”

Grant Haven Media reached out to the county to find out how many of the new FTEs are funded and was given a confusing explanation. It appears 0.6 of the 25.5 will be funded directly from grants in 2026, but the rest will come directly from the taxpayer, at least for now.

“Some FTEs will be funded through other sources. Some examples include 7.0 FTE for paramedic services — will be eventually funded through future provincial grants (county will receive 50/50 provincial funding, but this lags one year),” said a statement from the county.

Ryan said the county has seen a six per cent increase in ambulance calls over the last few years, but only two per cent in population growth.

“Where is that other four per cent coming from? There is a demographic shift. As we all get older, we tend to call on all forms of healthcare more frequently, but some people don’t have access to primary care.”

He added homeless people experiencing exposure to the weather or having mental health and addiction issues have also put a strain on the system.

“Unless we want to accept longer response times for ambulances, we are going to have to allocate more resources. I think we also have to look at our municipal partners in Perth, Elgin and Middlesex, to see if there are ways we can collaborate to try and meet acceptable response times.”

Ryan said he didn’t want to rule out council cutting any of the new FTEs or other budget expenditures, but added the county has a long and extensive process for councillors to have a full picture of what is in the draft.

“I am always reluctant to speculate where council is going to go. I have had one-on-one discussions with every member of council to figure out where they were at, and some of them have some pretty creative ideas to bring forward.”

The warden did single out a request from staff for a dedicated road safety person which amounts to .2 per cent on the overall levy.

“That person would be assigned to specifically look at situations to see if an intersection should be changed to a four-way stop or a roundabout. Do we need to implement other forms of traffic calming and almost every member of council will tell you one of the most common calls from residents is about traffic safety and speed control.”

Ryan said it is an item council could easily cut, but it would make the county less responsive to traffic safety concerns.

“That’s the hard debate council is going to have. There is an opportunity to cut the tax increase, but do we want the service?”

2026 municipal property taxes would fund just under a quarter of the budget at 23.4 per cent. Other funding sources include provincial and federal funding, reserves (funds earmarked for future expenses), user fees, and other charges and debentures.

Special budget meetings are streamed live at [www.oxfordcounty.ca/livestream](http://www.oxfordcounty.ca/livestream). The final document will be up for a final review and vote on Dec. 10.

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GRANT HAVEN MEDIA



# MPP Ernie Hardeman introduces bill to establish Hospitality Workers Appreciation Day in Ontario

Oxford MPP Ernie Hardeman moved his Private Member's Bill one step further in the Legislative Assembly of Ontario, with the bill reaching second reading on Nov. 27. The bill would designate Feb. 23 each year as Hospitality Workers Appreciation Day.

The proposal shines a spotlight on the people who power Ontario's hospitality sector.

"Behind every memorable experience, whether it's a welcoming place to stay, a delicious meal, a vibrant cultural moment, an outdoor adventure, or the journey that takes you there, are dedicated hospitality workers bringing it all to life," said Hardeman. "This bill is about giving them the credit they've earned and long deserved."

If passed, Hospitality Workers Appreciation Day will celebrate the skill and dedication of those who keep Ontario's vibrant hospitality sector running. It's intended to not only foster pride and elevate recognition of their vital contributions, but also to help attract and retain talent in an industry that is a cornerstone of Ontario's economy. The bill further encourages Ontarians to support local restaurants, hotels, tourism operations, arts, culture, and heritage, as well as small businesses.

This landmark initiative has been championed by industry leaders, most notably Danny Murrell, whose company, Harrison Staffing, has become a model for ethical and empowering employment in the hospitality sector. Drawing on his own journey as an immigrant

who found his footing in Ontario's hospitality sector, Murrell worked closely with Hardeman to bring forward the idea for this bill, ensuring that the voice and experiences of frontline workers were central to its development.

"Hospitality gave me my first chance to work, build stability, and start toward my Canadian dream," said Murrell. "I'm grateful to see this bill move forward, not only as overdue recognition for hospitality professionals, but as a meaningful step in supporting workers' well-being and long-term success. At Harrison Staffing, we see every day how powerful it is to value, empower, and celebrate the people at the heart of this industry."

Ontario's hospitality sector is one of the province's largest employers, with more than 426,700 people working in accommodation and food services in 2023, about 5.4% of the provincial workforce. While the United States recognizes Hospitality Workers Appreciation Day on Feb. 23, Ontario has not yet had an official day to honour its own hospitality professionals.

"Hospitality isn't just where careers start; it's where they grow," added Hardeman. "These workers do more than provide a service; they support communities right across Ontario."

Industry organizations, including the Ontario Restaurant, Hotel and Motel Association (ORHMA), the Greater Toronto Hotel Association (GTHA), the Tourism Industry Association of Ontario (TIAO), Smart Serve Ontario, Restaurants Canada, and leading employers

such as Harrison Staffing, have voiced strong support for this important step forward.

With Ontarians increasingly supporting local travel, independent restaurants, and home-grown businesses, this is a pivotal moment for the province to formally recognize the people

who make those experiences possible. Hospitality Workers Appreciation Day aims to honour the workers who contribute so much to Ontario's economy and community spirit, and to inspire continued growth and excellence across the sector.



(CONTRIBUTED PHOTO)

Top academic students at Glendale High School were recognized at the recent awards assemblies. These students had the top marks in Grades 9, 10 and 11 for the 2024-2025 school year. Left to right are: (first row) Tatum Redling, Layla Desmond, Aliyah Desmond, and Layla Townsend (all Grade 9s last year), (second row) Sri Ganesh, Theodore McCarter, Alex Jones, (all Grade 10s last year) and Meghan Scanlan (Grade 11 last year) (Third Row) Ethan Layman and Aidan Frei (both Grade 11s last year).

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# Event promotes trades to students

JEFF HELSDON

Editor

Mention trades and most people think of plumbers, electricians or mechanics, however registered trades are much more than that.

In fact, there are more than 125 registered trades in Ontario. Some jobs that may not be typically thought of as trades include hairstylist, horse groomer, herdsman, carpenter, cabinet maker and so much more.

Trick of the Trades at Glendale High School on Nov. 18 promoted the trades and opened students' eyes to possibilities in the trades. The event was a partnership between Glendale, the Multi-Service Centre and the Town of Tillsonburg.

Fanshawe College was at the event, promoting the institution's technology programs.

"Whether it's Woodstock, Simcoe or London, there are so many

technical programs so close to home. We really are fortunate," said Eric Collins, student engagement specialist with Fanshawe.

For instance, he mentioned heating, refrigeration and air conditioning technician are offered in Woodstock, as well as hairstylist.

At the LiUNA booth, students could assemble a small-scale structure and see what it's like to be on a job site through a virtual reality program.

Kyle Hodgins of LiUNA gave the example of construction craft worker, a program that requires 4,000 apprentice hours and brings with it a top rate of \$40 per hour.

"It's a great opportunity, short-term apprenticeship if individuals like working outside with their hands," he said. "It's a rewarding career."

The Ontario Federation of Agriculture informed students there is much more to agriculture trades than growing up

on a farm. Laura Fraser, member services representative for Oxford County, said there are 40 different agriculture-related careers available.

"Sometimes in agriculture there's a misconception you need to be from a farm background, but it's very much the opposite," she said.

Goga Hadwen, sales and human resources with Townsend Lumber, attended Trick of the Trades to promote the many different options

the company is always hiring for. These include log buyer, lumber grader, tree marker and truck driver.

As students passed through Trick of the Trades, they could collect stamps at each booth to encourage learning about each trade.

"We wanted to ensure students are aware of the many options in trades here locally," said planning committee chair Heather Burke of the Multi-Service Centre.



(JEFF HELSDON PHOTO)

W.D. Bronz/Braunz Construction used a Tim Horton's gift card as the prize in a nail-hammering contest to entice students into the booth. Billy Braun, centre, encourages students, from left, Kyton Lofthouse, Gavin Wernham, Drew Hunter, and David Lamers during the event.



(JEFF HELSDON PHOTO)

The passport system that saw students collecting stamps at the booths was used to encourage learning about each of the trades. In the foreground are, clockwise from the left, Marlee Marshall, Leighton Holmes, and Breanna Strathearn.



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## Weekend Quiz

by Jake Grant

- How many times does the International Space Station orbit the Earth each day?
- Which Allied codebreaking center famously cracked the German Enigma cipher during World War II?
- What is Tungsten also known as?
- True or False. Most of the dust in your home is made of human skin.
- "The Mighty Ducks" movie and the Mighty Ducks of
- Anaheim NHL expansion team, both debuted in what year?
- What is the capital of British Columbia?
- What is currently the safest country in the world?
- Tony the Tiger is featured on what cereal brand?
- How often do your taste buds regenerate on average?
- What is the most flexible muscle in the human body?

This week's answers are found on pg. 23

# TDMH outsources laundry services

The Tillsonburg District Memorial Hospital (TDMH) leadership team recently made a decision to outsource laundry to London Hospital Linen Services (LHLS) effective Nov. 14 2025.

LHLS is a not-for-profit organization which has provided services in healthcare industry linens successfully for over 50 years; delivering over 12 million kg of linen each year to 45 healthcare and related facilities in Southwestern Ontario. LHLS operates to the highest industry expectations, meeting or exceeding major national standards – including Health Canada's laundry standards and other health-care field standards – ensuring every item processed meets rigorous safety, cleanliness, and quality criteria. LHLS utilizes the best chemistry in the laundry business, providing the highest level of wash efficacy available. Their wash process sanitizes and disinfects linens, ensuring bioburden, viruses and any other contaminants are removed from the linens.

The TDMH leadership team worked closely with LHLS to ensure that all of the unique linen needs of our patients could be met in this transition. The TDMH team also has learned about the ways that soiled linen bags and cart lids are recycled, in conjunction with their use of 100 per cent recycled soil bags.

“Transitioning laundry services was a tough decision to make as it meant a change to one of the hospital's long-standing departments,” said Nadia Facca, CEO/President of Alexandra Hospital, Ingersoll and TDMH; both sites are a part of Rural Roads Health Services.

Normal labour processes were followed in this transition, and no jobs were lost. For the TDMH team members in laundry services, this transition eliminated tasks requiring transport of heavy carts and eliminated working in an environment with heat generated from machines.

“Overall, these changes improve the safety of our team members in the work environment,” Facca said.

This transition means TDMH will no longer require a surplus of certain linens previously used in operations. Rather than allowing these linens to go to waste, the possibility of donating the items to United Way Oxford is being explored. If there are any other opportunities with community partners, please reach out to Ryan Prong, AHI/TDMH Director of Support Services.

“This change reflects TDMH's commitment to continuously improving our operations in an effort to provide the best possible care in our community,” Facca said.

# Survey finds Tillsonburg one of top 10 spots to live

JEFF HELSDON

*Local Journalism Initiative Reporter*

Tillsonburg has made another list of the top 10 places to live in Canada.

Tillsonburg came in at number nine in the survey released on Nov. 13. It took a number of factors into account when making a determination of the best place to live. These included: home price, household income, population growth, unemployment rate, crime rate, access to a primary health care provider, number of sunny days per year and walkability.

Tillsonburg was the smallest town to make the list, with the next smallest being Kingston. Tillsonburg was cited for cost of living 10

per cent below the national average, average household income of \$87,600, benchmark average home price of \$564,300, its industries (manufacturing and food processing).

“These factors, combined with a lower-than-average benchmark home price, showcase Tillsonburg as a desirable place to live in Canada,” the Zolo article stated.

Guelph was number one on the list. The other area municipality to make the list was London, which was one spot above Tillsonburg. The list was founded out by larger centres across the country.

Both Councillor Kelly Spencer and Mayor Deb Gilvesy mentioned the survey at last week's council meeting.



(JEFF HELSDON PHOTO)

## COMMUNITY LIVING TILLSONBURG CARNIVAL

Community Living Tillsonburg wrapped its 70th-anniversary year celebrations with a carnival held in the Lion's Auditorium of the Tillsonburg Community Centre on Nov. 21. The event featured a variety of carnival games and food for people supported by CLT, their families, staff, and children in the day care and their families. About 250 people came out for the event. (Bottom photo) Carolina Salmeron is seen here getting tips from volunteer Peter Conick on trying to hit the highest level on the Ice Smasher while Lisa Neufeld watches.

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## OBOA's Dean Symons celebrating fifty-second year of basketball refereeing

JEFF TRIBE

*Post Correspondent*

Trivia question: which member of the Oxford Basketball Officials' Association (OBOA) is refereeing his 52nd season this year?

Hint: he was invited to Toronto to Maple Leafs training camp in 1976.

Second, he officiated 122 games last year and doesn't plan on slowing down any time soon.

Finally, if his legs hold up, he plans to still be blowing his referee's whistle in three years at the age of 75.

"That's my goal," said Dean Symons. "As long as I can still run."

Born in London, Symons grew up in Woodstock, attending Victoria and Central Public Schools, and Grade 9 at Woodstock CI. With his father's passing, his mother moved to Port Elgin to open a hotel, Dean following at the end of the school year. He played shortstop on community fastball teams - with and against legendary pitcher Brad Underwood, if never getting a hit off him - and high school soccer and basketball, scoring 54 points one game against Lion's Head.

"A lot of two pointers and foul shots - no three-pointers back then," he laughed.

Symons credits sport for getting him through life, giving him focus and keeping him in school.

"I had to keep my marks up to play."

Symons' minor hockey career had ended in Woodstock with the family's move, but he was able to pick back up with high school friends in a local industrial league. Beyond one season with

the University of Windsor Lancers, his Port Elgin Sunocos won the Intermediate C title when Symons was 21. He earned an invitation to the Durham Senior Huskies, where he led the league with 72 goals. Symons played against Lucan, London, Stratford and returned to the site of his minor hockey days in the Perry Street Arena, a sign there "welcoming" (coach) "Jim Nixon's travelling animal show."

"Everybody hated us," said Symons, whose large, physical teammates created space for his offensive talents to shine.

He attracted the attention of London Kings' opponent Jim Keon, Toronto Maple Leaf Dave Keon's brother, whose positive review resulted in an invitation to the NHL team's 1976 training camp. Red Kelly was coach at the time of a Leafs roster that included Darryl Sittler, Lanny McDonald and Borje Salming.

"That was Mike Palmateer's first year," said Symons, who was first into the dressing room and first onto the old Maple Leaf Gardens ice for his first practice.

"I stood at centre ice and looked around and thought, 'Man, this is pretty cool.'"

Symons scored the team's first goal of the pre-season during an all-rookies game against Dallas, taking a pass from the corner in the slot.

"I put it upstairs in the top corner... stick side."

He also recalled the outgoing nature of Bruce Boudreau, nicknamed 'Gabby' for his constant humorous chatter.

"He was a hoot in the dressing room."

CONTINUED TO PAGE 13



(JEFF TRIBE PHOTO)

Long-time official Dean Symons refereeing during the recent captains veterans basketball evening.



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# OBOA's Dean Symons celebrating fifty-second year of basketball refereeing

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 12

Admittedly, Symons was something of a 'lone wolf', an industrial league invitee among college grads and draft picks. Further, it was in the Broad Street Bullies era, back-to-back Philadelphia Flyers Stanley Cup runs based on physical intimidation.

"The whole training camp was just fighting," said Symons, a skill player then and now running around 170 pounds, soaking wet. He remembers one short stocky campmate in particular, who getting on the team bus for a ride to an alternative arena, would stare everyone down, take off his shirt and do push-ups for the entire drive.

"As soon as they dropped the puck, he'd take anybody who'd take him on."

Symons lasted a week and a half, returning to a couple of more industrial league hockey seasons in Port Elgin, accompanied by a unique lifelong memory.

"I was a scorer not a fighter and they had their scorers."

He also returned to refereeing basketball games. Recruited at the game of 20 by a friend due to a shortage of officials in the area, Symons quickly found an affinity for

being part of the live competition combined with opportunity to stay in shape.

He continued to officiate while moving from the family bar and restaurant to a career with the LCBO, onward through promotions to Norwich in 1991, Delhi and eventually his adopted community of Tillsonburg, connecting with the OBOA through Stan Rekstis. Symons continues to referee high school games - an invitation to officiate at an OFSAA A girls' tournament near Windsor remains a highlight - and with OBA and OBL club competition. However elementary games hold a special attraction, given a combination of both refereeing and teaching, acting in part as an on-court instructor for young players still learning the game.

"I like that part of it."

His 34-year officiating history in this area means he referees kids of kids he started with, quite possibly grandkids, a progression reflected in his own family. Dean and wife Sue's daughters Brandi and Brooke and their children enjoy sports, Brooke going on to play basketball at Fan-

shawe college and captaining the women's team during her second season there.

Recalling every name of players he's officiated through the years may not be Dean's strong suit, however he does recognize faces, thoroughly appreciating reconnecting with previous generations while connecting with new players, trading 'high fives' with elementary athletes following games.

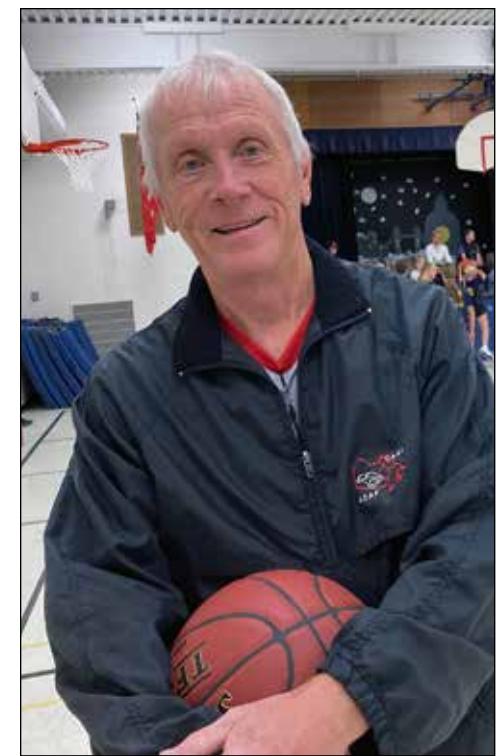
"That makes me feel good."

OBOA assigner Nino DeLuca has a tradition of going around the table during the association's first meeting, combining introductions with a question on years of service.

"He always comes last to me," said Symons, whose ascending total never fails to surprise newcomers. "The young guys are 20 years old."

In conclusion, Symons' goal is to turn this year's '52' into '55', which would coincide with turning 75.

"I might just be doing (Grade) 7/8," he concluded. "But if I can make it that far, at least I've done it."



(JEFF TRIBE PHOTO)

**Dean Symons particularly enjoys officiating at the elementary school level, combining refereeing with education for young players.**

## ReMax, Fody's continue battle for first in Club Oxford A

JEFF GWYN

Post Contributor

After 11 games played, only one point separates first-place ReMax, from second-place Fody's as the two teams met last week.

### Nov. 23 A Division

#### **ReMax 4, Fody's 2**

ReMax kept pressure on all night, led by Jordan Kobayashi's hat trick. They did very well to keep Fody's from sustaining any pressure. Fody's had some rush chances, but couldn't get any rebounds. They played hard, but couldn't get the bounces.

Jordan Kobayashi had a hat trick for ReMax. Brad Martin had two points for Fody's.

#### **Apple Shack 4, Health Hut 4**

Apple Shack had their top line going and were dangerous all night. They played well defensively and didn't give up late. Health Hut answered back every time Apple Shack scored. They played a better game than recently, and hopefully they can build off that.

Brady VanYmeren had a hat trick for Apple Shack. Hayden Noels had three points for Health Hut.

### **B Division**

#### **RND 2, Glass 0**

RND played a disciplined game and tightened things down defensively, with a strong effort at both ends of the ice. Glass couldn't get much going offensively, but did play a solid defensive game.

Cody VanDeCappelle and Dawson Hussey had goals for RND.

#### **Royal LePage 2, Source 1**

Royal LePage has played better recently and did very well to keep the Source offence at bay. They had chances offensively and pushed to the buzzer. Source seemed thrown off a bit when their breakouts didn't work. They played great defensively, but couldn't get a bounce at the other end.

Nick Brotz had two points for Royal LePage. Jamie DeSouza had a goal for Source.

#### **B-Line 7, Carquest 3**

B-Line exploded for seven goals from seven different scorers. They were dangerous every shift. Keeping Carquest limited in chances helped a lot in the game. Carquest didn't have the chances they were used to, which caused some frustration. They couldn't hold off B-Line pressure in the defensive zone.

Ethan Hepditch had three points for B-Line. Brad Henderson had two points for Carquest.

#### **Jeff Prouse Mortgages 7, Airmount 1**

Prouse Mortgages came out strong in this one and cut the ice off at centre. They were dangerous every shift and played a game of quick passes and shots. Airmount didn't get many chances offensively, but didn't seem to be playing a bad game. They just couldn't keep the front of the net clear in this one.

Kyle Underhill had five points for Prouse Mortgages. Darrick French had the goal for Airmount.

### Nov. 26 A Division

#### **Fody's 6, Apple Shack 4**

Fody's were in control for the first half, but had to stave off an Apple Shack push. Fody's has great passing and makes every rush dangerous. Apple Shack started strong, but couldn't break up Fody's chances early. They pushed back to make this one close until the end.

Shayne Johnson had four points for Fody's. Quinn VanBoekel had two points for Apple Shack.

#### **ReMax 3, Health Hut 2**

ReMax started quick, but couldn't build on their start. They did well to limit Health Hut's chances, which helped secured the win. Health Hut was playing short, but had the speed game tonight. They had

their chances, but couldn't close at the end of this one.

Parker Terryberry had two points for ReMax. Travis Horvath had a goal for Health Hut.

#### **RND 3, Airmount 2**

RND has found a rhythm lately and are meshing as a team. They were able to play both ends of the ice and didn't let Airmount get in close in this one. Airmount fought hard, but couldn't get sustained pressure. The team did have some nice breakouts and rushes.

Johnathan Bouck had two points for RND. Brett Vandenbrink had two points for Airmount.

CLUB OXFORD A DIVISION	GP	W	L	T	PTS
REMAX REALTY	11	8	2	1	17
FODY'S AUTOMOTIVE	11	8	3	0	16
THE HEALTH HUT	11	2	7	2	5
THE APPLE SHACK	11	2	8	1	4

CLUB OXFORD B DIVISION	GP	W	L	T	PTS
SOURCE FOR SPORTS	11	9	2	0	18
JEFF PROUSE MORTGAGES	11	5	3	3	13
TILLSONBURG GLASS	11	5	3	3	13
CARQUEST AUTO PARTS	11	5	4	2	12
B-LINE TRUCKING	11	5	4	2	12
ROYAL LEPAGE	11	3	6	2	8
RND CONSTRUCTION	11	3	6	2	8
AIMOUNT FARMS	11	2	9	0	4

# Community service bonspiel has a full draw



(JEFF HELSDON PHOTO)

Members of the Knights of Columbus prepare to sweep as their rock travels down the ice in a game against the Tillsonburg District Memorial Hospital Foundation team.

**JEFF HELSDON**

*Editor*

The longest standing event at the Tillsonburg District Curling Club, the annual Community Service Bonspiel, saw a full draw competing for fun and bragging rights while helping local charities.

This bonspiel, which took place on Nov. 27, sees teams from local service

clubs, groups, churches and businesses enter teams in a friendly competition. Many of those on the ice were not experienced curlers. Good Redden Klosser LLP donated \$2,500 in prize money for the event, along with another \$1,000 from the curling club. All prize money is donated to all local charities. Cash prize winners are decided by random draw and can choose their charity of choice.



(CONTRIBUTED PHOTO)

The winning team in the annual Community Services Bonspiel was Two From Away – Two Not. Left to right are: Ches Sulkowski, Frank Vandeslyke, Sonny Pennington, skip Barnie Joosten, and event convenor Les Peter.

Winners this year, with their charities were: Tillsonburg Rotary donated \$500 to Cycles of Life, Community Living Tillsonburg donated \$300 to Community Living Tillsonburg, St. Paul's United Church donated \$250 to Camp Bimini; the Ice Rescuers donated \$250 to the Helping Hand Food Bank, the Knights of Columbus donated \$200 to the Salvation Army Christmas Food Hamper program, the Multi-Service Centre do-

nated \$200 to the Multi-Service Centre; the Fire Rockers donated \$150 to the Helping Hand Food Bank and the Tillsonburg District Memorial Hospital Foundation donated \$150 to the hospital foundation.

The winning team, based on points was Two From Away – Two Not. Team members were Ches Sulkowski, Frank Vandeslyke, Sonny Pennington and Barnie Joosten.

## Thunder duel in two tight weekend games

**MICHAEL HOLLY**

*Post Contributor*

It was a difficult weekend for the Tillsonburg Thunder.

It started on Friday night against the second place Petrolia Squires. Anyone that has been to Petrolia know the challenge it is to play there. The Squires are two different teams at home and on the road. The Squire fans are ravenous. It is an old and very loud barn.

Petrolia opened the scoring twice, but

Symon Reddin unassisted responded before the period ended. Jaden Vansevendant from Braden Roberts and Andrew Oosterveld tied it up. Petrolia countered with two to finish the second period. The third period saw the Squires take a three goal lead and it looked dire for your Thunder.

But the Thunder would not yield. Another unassisted goal by Braden Roberts brought the Thunder to within two. Back came the Squires to take a three-goal lead. There was no quit in the Thunder

as another unassisted goal by Oosterveld and then another from Roberts and Mike Stolar brought the Thunder to within one with 2:15 left. Alas, even with the goalie pulled and massive pressure by the Thunder, the Squires held on for the win.

Sunday saw the Thunder travel to Milverton to play the Four Wheel Drives. Sebastian Guastadigsegni from Symon Reddin and Tye Johnson. Milverton tied it up with 1:55 left in the first. The second did not have any scoring. Milverton took a 2-1 lead early in the third and an

empty net goal ended the contest with a Milverton win despite Tillsonburg outshooting Milverton. Kurtis Heggie got in a tussle with a Milverton player in the third as the game was physically contested. Milverton is in the Thunderdome for the annual Teddy Bear Toss on Dec. 13 so emotions should be running high.

The Thunder start a three-game home stand on Dec. 6 versus the Delhi Flames. It is always a spirited affair between these two close rivals. Puck drop is at 7:30

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# Area pharmacies prepared for seasonal vaccinations

JEFF HELSDON

Editor

The changes in seasons brings with it all varieties of viruses and illnesses associated with people spend more time inside in conditions often ideal for the transmission of bugs.

Vaccinations are one defence against many common ailments, and one common question for pharmacists is what is publicly funded, and what isn't.

David Lopes, pharmacist/owner at Roulstons Pharmacy, hears this question all the time, along with the additional question of whether the person should go to the doctor for a shot or to the pharmacy.

Flu and COVID shots are the main vaccines delivered through pharmacies, and are publicly funded. Lopes said others can be injected at the pharmacy, as well. As researchers discover more about viral illnesses, he said they are finding the importance of vaccines for seniors.

Roulstons is open daily for vaccine administration, with both standard and high-dose flu shots, as well as Covid vaccines. Covid shots are only administered on Wednesdays and Fridays. Injections are by appointment through [www.roulstons.com](http://www.roulstons.com) or by calling the store.

Coward's PharmaChoice has a pharmacist available to administer vaccinations between 9 a.m. and noon, and

2 p.m. and 5 p.m. It is available on a walk-in basis only.

"Usually it's crazy-busy the first two weeks, and then it slows down at the end of November," said Samuel Ibrahim, owner/pharmacist.

Shoppers Drug Mart has had a steady flow of customers seeking vaccines since Thanksgiving, and the new care clinic has helped make shoppers in-store aware it's vaccine time.

"The demand has gone down a little bit but it's still steady," said Megan Kelly, pharmacy manager, in late November.

Vaccines are available at Shoppers from 8 a.m. to 10 p.m. Both online booking and walk-in service are available.

"A lot of people may not think ahead and they're here and think they should get their shot while they're here," Kelly said, adding the Tillsonburg location also has several doses of high-dose flu vaccination.

One vaccine that has come into the spotlight in recent years is the Respiratory Syncytial Virus (RSV) vaccine, which requires a prescription from a health care provider but can then be administered at a pharmacy. It is publicly funded for seniors over 75, but Lopes said it is warranted for people over 60.

"Those over 60 who have private coverage get a prescription from their primary health care provider and come



(JEFF HELSDON PHOTO)

Treacy McIntyre of Roulstons Pharmacy administers a seasonal vaccine to customer Dan Cotnam. Shoppers Drug Mart and Coward's PharmaChoice also administer seasonal and travel vaccines.

to the pharmacy," he said.

A prescription is also needed for the pneumonia vaccine, which can then be administered at a pharmacy.

Shingles vaccine is publicly funded, but only for people between the ages of 65 and 70. It is administered in the doctor's office.

## Travel vaccines

Winter is also the time when many Canadians escape to warmer climates. Some of these locations pose a heightened risk of contracting Hepatitis A, Hepatitis B, cholera, typhoid, and other diseases and viruses.

Both Roulstons and Shoppers have

travel vaccine clinics where a person can write the necessary prescriptions for the vaccines. There is a consultation fee at both pharmacies. Coward's does not have a travel clinic, but can administer vaccines if the doctor provides a prescription.

OHIP won't cover the cost of travel vaccines, but some private insurance plans will. In some instances, there is a charge for administering the vaccine.

Kelly noted that some customers also pack their suitcases with a dose of antibiotics in case they contract a stomach virus while travelling.

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# MUSIC CORNER

## A very Bobnoxious Christmas coming to town



BEN ANDRESS

Tillsonburg Post Columnist

If your idea of a Christmas party involves loud guitars, big choruses and a little bit of seasonal chaos then Bobnoxious has got you covered.

On Friday, Dec. 12, the London, Ontario rock band Bobnoxious will roll into town for a holiday stop on their Ho Ho Ho tour turning the cozy underground venue underneath The Mill into

something halfway between a rock show and the kind of Christmas party HR would absolutely not approve of.

Bobnoxious is led by long-time Canadian metal and hard rock mainstay Bob Reid, who first made his name fronting the cult status thrash band Razor, before carrying that loud rock spirit into his own band in the early 2000s. Over the years, Bobnoxious has built a reputation across Southwestern Ontario as a dependable party band with big riffs, fun lyrics and absolutely no interest in copying other band's formulas. The band has carved their own path in the Canadian music scene.

The current lineup making the trip to Tillsonburg features Bob Reid on vocals and guitar, Aaron Murray handling lead guitar and vocals, Darcey Maudsley on bass and

vocals, and Richie Oosterbosch on drums and vocals. Together, they bring the kind of tight, road-tested energy that only comes from years of loading vans, crossing snowy highways and playing your favourite music venues.

This is not your typical soft focus Christmas concert. There might be tinsel, but it will be hanging off a guitar amp. The band has embraced the holiday theme in their own way including a studio album titled 'Ho Ho Ho' which was released in 2005.

"We play Christmas songs but with the Bobnoxious twist," Reid explains.

That twist usually means turning familiar holiday tunes like 'Santa Claus Is Coming To Town' into heavy bar-room anthems. The kind of versions that feel more at home beside a round of shots than a mall

Santa. The band also took the time to write their own Christmas songs including the classic hit 'Police Nabbed My Dad' and 'Santa Bring Me Money.' The whole concept of a Bobnoxious Christmas show made sense right away for the band.

"A Bobnoxious show is always about partying and having a good time not unlike a Christmas party which is kind of the same thing so the two seemed to meld together quite well," Reid describes. "For a lot of people Christmas parties are really the only time of year that they go out so they can definitely get rowdy."

If you've been saving up your one big night out of the year then this tour stop in Tillsonburg might be it.

Like a lot of Canadian bands, Bobnoxious has done their fair share of winter driving to make gigs happen. The band

shared one of those on-the-fly-in-Ontario stories that feels made for rock 'n' roll.

"We had to get from Owen Sound to Sarnia and it was during a blizzard and most roads were closed and we could not see anything during a white out," Reid reminiscences. "So we pulled over and when we opened the door we were right in front of a liquor store."

It is the kind of moment you can almost hear as a song. Whiteout conditions, closed roads and somehow the universe still manages to line them up with exactly the kind of pit stop a band named Bobnoxious would appreciate.

Seeing the band in an intimate room this holiday will feel like Christmas came early. The kind of spot where you are close enough to the stage to see the set list taped to

the floor and feel the kick drum in your chest. There is a good chance that this concert will feel a bit like inviting the loudest uncle to your family dinner and handing him the aux cord. For some, it will be the unofficial office Christmas party. For others it might be the only night of the year they get out.

Bobnoxious brings their Ho Ho Ho tour holiday show to Paddy's Underground Friday, Dec. 12. Advanced tickets are \$20 and are available online at [www.eventbrite.ca](http://www.eventbrite.ca) and in person at The Mill. You can purchase tickets the night of at the door for \$30, limited to availability. This concert is an all ages/licensed event with doors opening at 8 p.m.. For upcoming tour dates and more information on the band you can visit them on their official website at [www.bobnoxious-rock.com](http://www.bobnoxious-rock.com)

## UPCOMING SHOWS

### DEC. 5 - STUNT

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

### DEC. 7 - MUSIC TRIVIA

The Copper Mug: No Cover - 5:30 p.m.

### DEC. 10 - EUCHRE NIGHT

The Copper Mug: 6:30 p.m.

### DEC. 11 - YOU HAD ME

The Copper Mug: No Cover - 8 p.m.

### DEC. 12 - BOBNOXIOUS

Paddy's Underground: \$20 - 8 p.m. - All Ages/Licensed

### DEC. 12 - SUGAR KINGS

The Copper Mug: No Cover - 8 p.m.

### DEC. 13 - KING CASHEW, PRINCESS PEACE &

Rotten Epples

The Copper Mug: No Cover - 8 p.m.

### DEC. 14 - TOO COUNTRY

The Copper Mug: No Cover - 5 p.m.

### DEC. 22 - DAYGLO ABORTIONS W/

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Paddy's Underground: \$20 - 8 p.m. - All Ages/Licensed



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# Destinations and celebrations for the holidays



## OCL BOOK TALK

KATELYN BENNETT

*Literacy Program Specialist,  
Oxford County Library, Tillsonburg branch.*

For some, travelling to a warmer climate during our cold Canadian winter is a must. For others, holiday decorating with family is greater than any beach.

If your family would like to escape the snow but you don't have your flights booked, let reading take you on vacation this winter. Reading can transport us anywhere in the world from the comfort of our own homes. Whether it be a new city, a magical kingdom or a beach in the Caribbean, books can take you anywhere with a little imagination. If your family prefers to embrace the cold and immerse in all things holiday, reading new or classic holiday tales together can be a memorable tradition.

From picture books to novels, these recommendations are filled with new destinations and holiday celebrations for everyone in the family.

**Picture books for young readers,  
ages 4-8:**

**The Digger and the Christmas Tree –  
Written by Joseph Kuefler**

As the latest 2025 release from the popular "Digger" series, this picture book is sure to be a new holiday favourite. This story follows Digger and his construction machine friends as they decorate the site and problem solve with the help of animal friends.

**Dasher and the Polar Bear – Written by Matt Tavares**

An all-new holiday tale from author Matt Tavares. Adding to his popular "Dasher" series, "Dasher and the Polar Bear" highlights the importance and beauty of friendship.

**Juvenile chapter books for older readers, ages 9-13:**

**Strangeworlds Travel Agency – Written by L.D. Lapinski**

This magical children's chapter book series features twelve-year-old Flick Hudson who accidentally discovers an unusual travel agency. Their secret? Strangeworlds Travel Agency reveals hundreds of magical lands accessible through suitcase gateways. One of the worlds is in danger. Will Flick win the race against time to save it?

**Finn and the Intergalactic Lunchbox –  
Written by Micheal Buckley**

Have you ever wanted to travel to space? In the first book of Micheal Buckley's "The Finniverse Series", Finn and his friends take an intergalactic trip to help save Earth from destruction. Follow Finn on more adventures in the "The Finniverse" chapter book series as they time travel and become microscopic.

**Chapter books for teens, ages 13-19:**

**Right Where we Belong – Written by Farrah Penn – For Teens**

Farrah Penn has been featured on Netflix, Buzzfeed and Readers Digest for her writing. "Right Where we Belong" is her latest 2025 teen novel that follows Delaney Carmicheal in her last year of boarding school. When a handsome, mysterious boy enters Delaney's life, it is revealed that he is from another timeline. Problems begin to arise, and disastrous consequences begin to unfold. Will Delaney be able to return him to his own time before the past begins to intertwine with the present?

**For the Rest of Us: 13 Festive Holiday Stories to Celebrate All Seasons**

Explore holidays all year long with this newly published, festive anthology for teens. Featuring thirteen short stories written by acclaimed authors, discover the beauty and diversity in celebrations all around the world.

**Fiction novels for adults:**

**The Traveling Cat Chronicles – Written by Hiro Arikawa**

For animal and travel lovers. This story features Satoru and a cat, Nana, whom he took in as a stray. As they travel across Japan together, Satoru sets out to find a new home for Nana, connecting with old friends and observing the beauties of Japan.

**People we Meet on Vacation – Written by Emily Henry**

For those who wish to vacation, this novel is sure to transport you all over the world! With witty banter and hilarious punch lines, this book will make you feel like you're laughing pool side.

**A Seaview Christmas – Written by Julie Klassen**

Travel to the Devonshire Coast in the UK. This 2025 release follows the Summers sisters as they plan Christmas at The Sea View. Will a second chance at love be their long-awaited Christmas of their dreams?

Looking for more book recommendations for all ages? Check out our website at ocl.net to view our online catalogue, recommendations lists and more!

# Yes, it's that time again – Christmas is coming fast!



*Share the Spirit of Christmas with the*

## Tillsonburg POST

Get a head start on the season with the **Tillsonburg Posts's Christmas Greetings**, publishing **December 18** – a great way to wish the community a Merry Christmas and thank your customers for their support.

A portion of proceeds will be **donated to Tillsonburg District Memorial Hospital Foundation**, helping provide care and comfort to local families.

**Don't wait — reserve your greeting today!**

**heather@granthaven.com  
226.261.1837 | granthaven.com**



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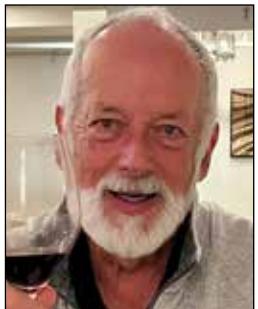


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**ZeroWasteOxford**

# A qualified “yes” on visiting two popular Toronto attractions



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

**PAUL KNOWLES**

*Tillsonburg Post Columnist*

Their beginnings are almost a century apart, but the Royal Ontario Museum and Ripley's Aquarium of Canada have a lot in common. They are two of the most-visited attractions in Toronto. They both are part of the Toronto CityPASS program that provides some significant discounts on admission prices. And they both offer a blend of entertainment and education to people of all ages.

So, all that being said, should you plan to brave the horrendous traffic and head to Toronto right away, to take in these two attractions? My answer would be a qualified, “yes.”

Why “qualified”? Different reasons for the two places. Let's start with the ROM. Most of us remember school trips to the ROM in decades past. After all the Royal Ontario Museum has been open since 1914, so it predates all of us.

If you are like me, your three main memories are of dinosaur skeletons, Egyptian mummies, and row after row of jam-packed cases loaded with a mind-boggling assortment of historical artifacts.

That's not the ROM of today – although you can find most of these things in the museum, somewhere. The ROM is modernizing, big time. And this is actually the reason for my “qualified” yes – because the museum is smack in the middle of a three-year, multi-million-dollar revitalization of the main floor and some of the second floor. The “transformation”

impacts 86,000 square feet on the main floor, and creates 6,000 square feet of new gallery space on the second floor. So lots of the building is closed to visitors.

Change is certainly in the air at the ROM, and not only concerning the physical space. After a decade in the position, Director and CEO Josh Basseches has resigned, and Yoke Chung and Jennifer Wild, already part of the museum's executive leadership team, are becoming Co-Directors and CEOs, as of January 1.

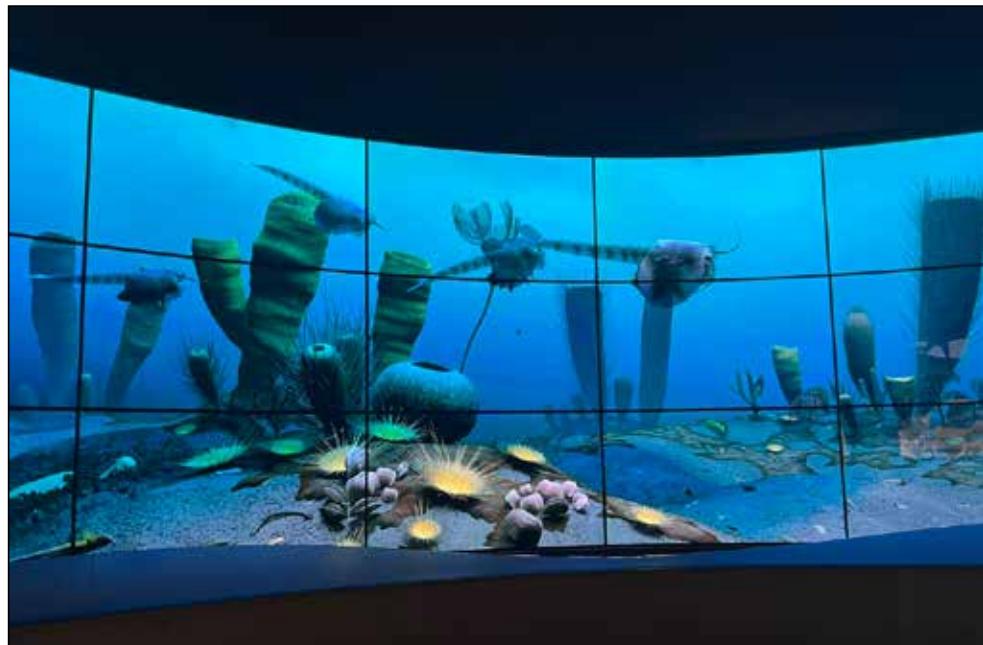
So the ROM is in transition, and visitors need to be aware of this. That does not mean there is nothing to experience here – there is still a lot of the permanent collection on display, there are new innovations to enjoy, and there are many current, temporary exhibitions, ranging from “Saints, Sinners, Lovers and Fools: 300 years of Flemish masterworks”, to “Sharks”, to a. intriguing exhibition entitled “Layers in Time”, focused on southwestern Ontario's unique, meromictic lake, Crawford Lake.

And, in a slightly obvious segue, thinking of water takes us south from the ROM to Ripley's Aquarium.

It's a much newer part of the Toronto scene, having opened in 2013, 99 years after the ROM welcomed its first visitor. And while the ROM is working toward being a modern, state-of-the-art destination, Ripley's accomplished that goal from the get-go.

So why do I also give the aquarium a “qualified yes”. Here, it all depends on when you go. We visited recently, on a Saturday, and the place was jammed, wall to all with family groups. Great for the kids to be there, but a challenge to navigate. So my qualification is – Ripley's Aquarium is a terrific place to visit, but do avoid high-volume days. Ripley's recommends avoiding the hours of 11 a.m. to 2 p.m. on weekdays, and 11 a.m. to 4 p.m. on weekends and holidays. I agree!

But if you can miss the uber-crowds, there is a lot to love about the place. The moving sidewalk that carries you inside



(PAUL KNOWLES PHOTO)

**A new, high-tech feature at the Royal Ontario Museum: a video featuring undersea creatures of the Cambrian period.**

the aquarium, where you are surrounded by sharks, sea turtles, and dozens of species of fish, are amazing. The “Ray Bay” which allows visitors to actually touch a ray is magical. And while the big features draw the most attention, there are marvels in smaller exhibits as well – including sea horses and sea dragons.

Ripley's has also taken their Canadian location seriously, with really fine exhibits of Canadian species, both freshwater and ocean. Everyone loves the blue lobsters.

The attraction has, from the beginning, been over-the-top kid friendly. In fact, there are tunnels through water features, viewing areas and other nooks and crannies that are only accessible to children, which I personally think is very unfair. Heck, I'd like to crawl through a school of fish – except I would most certainly get stuck. So, let's leave it to the kids – who love it.

I mentioned the Toronto CityPass.

Here's the current math, for one adult. The CityPASS costs \$129.96. (A child's pass is \$92.92).

That gets you into the CN Tower, Ripley's Aquarium, and three other attractions from a list including the ROM, the Toronto Zoo, Casa Loma, and more. If you did all five, you would be paying \$182 for an adult. Even visiting just three, you save money with the CityPASS.

But whether you use that pass, or simply plan a visit to one or two places, the aquarium is definitely worth a visit – away from peak hours – and the ROM, even under construction, still offers many of the wonders that we remember from when we were school kids – and promises a lot more to come.

*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](mailto:pknowles@golden.net).*



Yes, there are still dinosaurs to be found at the ROM.

(PAUL KNOWLES PHOTO)



Peak hours at Ripley's Aquarium can mean large crowds.

(PAUL KNOWLES PHOTO)



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## RIDDLES

I appear after rain, but I'm not the sun. I have many colors, but I'm touched by none. What am I?

Rainbow

I start out long and get shorter each day. I'm sharpened to help you work or play. What am I?

Pencil

I come in pairs and go on your feet. I travel the world, but never leave the street. What am I?

Shoes

I go up and down but never walk. I carry people, but never talk. What am I?

Elevator

I capture moments, big and small, but I never see them at all. What am I?

Camera

I have bristles but no hair. I fight cavities with daily care. What am I?

Toothbrush

I speak and sing without a mouth. You turn me on, and I fill the room. What am I?

Radio

I have a handle and four small feet. I carry your clothes when you travel the street. What am I?

Suitcase

I stand on the street with three colored eyes. I tell you when to stop and when to drive. What am I?

Traffic light

I'm soft and light and filled with fluff. Under your head, I'm comfy enough. What am I?

Pillow

## SUDOKU

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

Level: Beginner

Solutions on Page 23

## PET OF THE WEEK



**COCO**

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

## WORD SEARCH

### MUSICAL INSTRUMENTS

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

PIANO

GUITAR

VIOLIN

CELLO

FLUTE

CLARINET

TRUMPET

TROMBONE

DRUMS

BASS

HARP

OBOE

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**WE ARE KICKING OFF THE CHRISTMAS SEASON WITH AN EVENING OF BEAUTIFUL MUSIC**  
 Please join us for an evening of Christmas Carols on Thursday December 4 at 6:30 at **Burgessville Baptist Church in Burgessville**. Featuring locale soloist, T.J Veld who has blessed us in the past with her amazing voice. Our pianist Carey-Sue Pilkey will accompany the audience with your favourite Christmas Carols. Feel free to bring a friend! All are welcome. Snacks to follow.

**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.

**LET'S FALL INTO COUNTRY MUSIC WITH THE INGERSOLL COUNTRY MUSIC JAMBOREE**  
 at the Masonic Hall, 190 Thames St., Ingersoll

December 5, 1-4 p.m.  
 Join us. Walk ins welcome. Qualifications, love 50-70's country music, perform, listen, dance, and enjoy.

**TALK TILLSONBURG'S 10TH CHILDREN SHOP FOR CHRISTMAS**  
 Saturday, December 6: 9 a.m. - 2 p.m. Upper Deck Youth Centre, 19 Queen St., Tillsonburg

Free for children Ages 1-12 accompanied by a parent/caregiver. Christmas treats & hot cocoa, free gift basket draws & more! Find us on Facebook.

**CHRISTMAS BAZAAR**  
 December 6: 10 a.m.-2:00 p.m. Delhi United Church, 105 Church St W, Delhi, ON N4B 1V9  
 Featuring baking, attic treasures, gift table, frozen apple and elderberry fruit pies, frozen beef and chicken meat pies, a penny table, vendors and a luncheon. For more information, please contact Dorothy Stedman: 519-717-6109 stedmanles@gmail.com

The Bayham Beachfest Committee invites you to the **PORT BURWELL CHRISTMAS PARADE** December 6: 6 p.m. Meet Santa after the parade at the Marine Museum. Grab a candy bag from the Vienna Swans and enjoy a hot chocolate or cider courtesy of the Port Burwell Historical Society. **Floats are to arrive at the Legion at 5:30 p.m.**

## JOIN US FOR THE TILLSONBURG KINETTES' ANNUAL BREAKFAST WITH SANTA

**Saturday, December 6: 8 a.m. - 11 a.m.**  
 Tillsonburg Community Centre, Lions Auditorium

- Enjoy a yummy pancake breakfast
- Meet Santa and take a photo with him!
- Sing along to your favorite Christmas songs.

## AND TO ALL A GOOD NIGHT

**December 6: 10 a.m. - noon**  
 St.Paul's United Church, 88 Bidwell St. Tillsonburg  
 It's a pajama party as Messy Church celebrates "And to all a good Night." Christmas crafts and lots of fun plus a hot lunch.  
 We ask that children be accompanied by an adult.

## TILLSONBURG ANNUAL SCARF BOMB

**December 6**  
 Drop off at Tillsonburg Sobeys or Tillsonburg Zehrs  
 We are looking for donations of gently used or new, hats, mittens, scarfs, snow pants, boots, and coats. We accept socks in sandwich bags.

## CEDARVIEW'S CHRISTMAS BAZAAR

**December 6: 1 p.m. - 4 p.m.**  
 Cedarview Senior Living, 511 Finkle St., Woodstock, ON  
 Enjoy unique artisan and handmade goods, festive crafts and decor, seasonal snacks, and live holiday music. Plus - don't miss a special visit from Santa Claus for kids and kids-at-heart! All are welcome! Admission is free! Please bring a non-perishable item or donate to support our local food bank.

## DELHI & DISTRICT HORTICULTURAL SOCIETY

**Meeting December 8: 6 p.m.**  
 Delhi Friendship Centre, 418 Queen St., Delhi, ON  
 AGM, AWARDS, ELECTIONS & INSTALLATION OF DIRECTORS. ALSO OUR CHRISTMAS POT LUCK SUPPER. Bring your favourite dish to share, plate & utensils. Enter the parking lot off William Street.

## ST. JOHN'S ANGLICAN CHURCH CANDLELIGHT CHRISTMAS CONCERT FEATURING THE JAREK STRING QUARTET

**Friday, December 1: 7:00 p.m. - 9:00 p.m.**  
 Tickets are \$25.00. Complementary Spiced Apple Cider and Christmas goodies. 519-842-5573.

## MUSIC JAM AT THE TILLSONBURG LEGION

**Friday, December 12: 1 p.m.-4 p.m.**  
 Featuring Ken Lighheart and the Northshore

Ramblers. Only \$7 admission. Cash only. All welcome.

## TILLSONBURG LEGION LUNCH

**Wednesday, December 10: Noon-1 p.m.**  
 Homemade turkey pot pie, stuffing, cranberries, coleslaw, coffee and tea for \$15 per person (hst included). Cash only at the door. Everyone Welcome!

## MUSIC JAM AT THE TILLSONBURG LEGION

**Saturday, December 27: 1 p.m.-4 p.m.**  
 featuring Ken Lighheart and the Northshore Ramblers. Only \$7 admission. Cash bar available. All Welcome.

## 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:

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:** 6:30 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](http://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](http://teetervillelegionbranch526.ca)

**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 Ontario N4S 1C7**  
 If you have never belonged to a stamp club, now's the time. Meet new friends, grow your knowledge and collection. Contact: Don Eaton [dhfe@silomail.com](mailto:dhfe@silomail.com)  
 Website: <http://www.rpsc.org/chapters/oxford>

## TILLSONBURG SENIOR CENTRE WEEKLY PROGRAMS FOR 50+

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**UPCOMING EVENTS AT THE WAGNER MEMORIAL, TEETERVILLE LEGION BRANCH 526**  
 3890 Teeterville Road, Teeterville, Ontario  
**For More Information call the Legion at 519-443-5588 or check out our website at [teetervillelegionbranch526.ca](http://teetervillelegionbranch526.ca)**

## PROGRESSIVE EUCHRE

**Friday, December 12**  
**Registration at 6:30 p.m., Starting at 7:00 pm**  
 Everyone is Welcome.

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## QUIZ ANSWERS

1. 16 times
2. Bletchley Park
3. Wolfram
4. False
5. 1993
6. Victoria
7. Iceland
8. Kellogg's Frosted Flakes
9. Every 10 days
10. Tongue

## SUDOKU

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

# CLASSIFIEDS

## TREES

Hundreds of shade trees, fruit trees, apples, pears, peaches, plums, sweet and sour cherries, apricots, nectarines, blueberries, haskapp grapes, raspberries, elderberries etc. Lots of spruce, pine, cedars for windbreak and privacy hedges. Sizes 1-8 ft. in containers ready to go. Flowering shrubs and much more. Mon-Sat 7:00am to 6:00pm. Martin's Nursery, 42661 Orangehill Rd Wroxeter, ON N0G 2X0 (1 Conc. North of Wroxeter on Belmore Line)

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**GRANT HAVEN MEDIA**

**WE ARE HIRING**

**JOIN OUR TEAM AS A  
NEWSPAPER ADVERTISING  
SALES REPRESENTATIVE!**

Are you a motivated self-starter with a passion for sales and marketing? Do you thrive in a flexible work environment where you can set your own schedule? If so, we have the perfect opportunity for you!

**Location:** Work from Anywhere!

**Schedule:** Your Own Schedule

**Type:** Commission

**About Grant Haven Media:** At Grant Haven Media, we are committed to delivering top-quality news and information to our readers. As a leading newspaper company, we take pride in our dedication to journalistic excellence and community engagement. As we continue to grow, we're looking for enthusiastic individuals to join our dynamic sales team.

If you are interested, contact  
Heather Dunbar at:  
[heather@granthaven.com](mailto:heather@granthaven.com)



## LOCAL MATTERS.

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

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

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

**NO PAYMENTS FOR 90 DAYS (OAC)**

**EICHENBERG**

Jeep Dodge Ram

Vist us at  
164 Simcoe Street, Tillsonburg  
or online at  
[www.eichenberg.ca](http://www.eichenberg.ca)



**Bob's Deal of the Week**



**COMPANY CAR**

**2024 JEEP COMPASS LIMITED**

F25-074, 15,358 kms

**\$33,799<sup>+HST</sup> & LIC.**

**\$108  
WEEKLY + HST  
96 MO.**

**Aaron's Deal of the Week**



**2024 CHEVROLET TRAX 2RS**

F25-070, 51,677 kms

**\$25,000<sup>+HST</sup> & LIC.**

**\$80**

**WEEKLY + HST  
96 MO.**

**Andrew's Deal of the Week**



**2023 CHEVROLET COLORADO LT 4WD**

F25-071, 32,163 kms

**\$45,000<sup>+HST</sup> & LIC.**

**\$143  
WEEKLY + HST  
96 MO.**

**Dave's Deal of the Week**



**FORMER DAILY RENTAL**

**2023 CHEVROLET TRAILBLAZER LT AWD**

F25-067, 56,540 kms

**\$23,999<sup>+HST</sup> & LIC.**

**\$77**

**WEEKLY + HST  
96 MO.**

**Ann's Deal of the Week**



**EXTENDED WARRANTY**

**2023 VOLKSWAGEN TAOS HIGHLINE**

**4MOTION \*LTD AVAIL\***

F25-072, 65,618 kms

**\$28,999<sup>+HST</sup> & LIC.**

**\$93  
WEEKLY + HST  
96 MO.**

Weekly payments calculated \$0 downpayment plus applicable taxes (HST Ontario), licensing. APR 6.99% OAC. Pricing and rates subject to change without notice. Availability based on date of publication.