

Tillsonburg POST

AUGUST 28, 2025

VOLUME 1 • ISSUE 31



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Tickets are on sale for Shriner barbecue

JEFF HELSDON

Local Journalism Initiative Reporter

Tillsonburg's largest food event of the year is right around the corner.

With the Tillsonburg Shrine Club Pork Barbecue drawing 500-plus people, it's the kind of event where locals see acquaintances who they haven't seen in a long time, or friends they just saw a few days ago. This year's event will be on Friday, Sept. 5, at the Tillsonburg Community Centre's Memorial Arena.

"It's a huge networking type thing," said barbecue chairman Cedric Tomico. "There are always people I haven't seen in ages, and you always connect back with them. Even for us (Shriner members), there are other Shrine Club members whom we haven't seen, and we reconnect with them."

Tickets are \$25 for barbecued pork, corn, salads and bread. And there's the secret barbecue sauce, the ingredients for which sauce master John Danbrook holds close to his chest. The best part is it's all you can eat.

"As long as you keep your plate with you, you can come back up as many times as you want," Tomico said.

Last year saw attendees devour more than 1,200 pounds of pork and 50 gallons of barbecue sauce.

The barbecue has been a tradition for 65 years, and is an event many people look forward to each year.

Last year marked the return of the event after a Covid-19 hiatus and a facility availability issue. Although the Shriners tried live entertainment last year, Tomico said club members decided they wouldn't continue this.

CONTINUED TO PAGE 2



(CHRIS ABBOTT PHOTO)

Hilde Makkink from Makkink's Flower Farm and Bakery Cafe, 'where memories bloom,' sells fresh bouquets at the Tillsonburg Farmers Market on Saturdays from 8 a.m. until 12 p.m. Flowers are available from Makkink's 'until the frost' but the Farmers Market continues until the end of October.

New Glendale High School principal makes history as first grad in that role

JEFF HELSDON

Editor

There will be a familiar face behind the principal's desk when students return to Glendale High School this fall.

Melissa McKibbin, who grew up in Tillsonburg and is a Glendale graduate, started as principal on July 1. Being the administrator of her alma mater is not a position McKibbin thought she

would be in.

"It's a very pleasant surprise," she said.

It's almost certain that Melissa is making history as the first graduate of the school to become its principal, although there is nothing official from the Thames Valley District School Board (TVDSB). Former head of guidance Brian O'Rourke, who started at Glendale shortly after it opened, said while several teachers were graduates, none of the past principals at the school attended there.

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Planning underway for Shriner barbecue

CONTINUED FROM FRONT

Traditionally, the barbecue was accompanied by a car draw, but Tomico said that is a thing of the past. The car draw hasn't been done the last few years due to the "cost of the cars has gone up so drastically it's made that not worthwhile anymore."

Instead, the club hosts a fish fry in January, featur-

ing an elimination draw. There are 400 tickets printed at a \$100 cost and a guaranteed \$20,000 grand prize.

Last year saw 500 people in attendance, but historically the event has drawn as many as 1,000 people.

"We're really trying to grow it bigger," Tomico said.

Years ago, the event was

a stag format for men only, but that is a thing of the past. Wives often accompany their husbands to the pork barbecue. Take-out is also available for the pork lovers at home who aren't old enough to attend.

Tickets can be purchased at the door for \$25 in cash, or online at www.tillsonburgshrineclub.com



(FILE PHOTO)

The annual Tillsonburg Shrine Club Pork Barbecue is the largest food event of the year in Tillsonburg, drawing more than 500 people. Tickets are now on sale for the event.

Station Arts Centre gala held on Oct. 4



(FILE PHOTO)

Station Arts Centre staff dressed the part for the Alice in Wonderland-related theme at last year's Station Arts Centre gala. Tickets are no on sale for this year's event, which will have a theme related to the Netflix series Bridgerton.

JEFF HELSDON

Editor

The Tillsonburg Community Centre's Lions Auditorium will be transformed back in time on Saturday, Oct. 4, taking on the look of the early 1800s when the Station Arts Centre's fundraising gala takes place.

The gala, which is the

Station Arts Centre's largest fundraiser of the year, will have a theme of "The Ton's Night Out", a play on the popular Netflix romance series on British high society in the 1800s. As is often the case, dressing to fit the part will be part of the event.

"We are hoping people will get excited and dress up," said Station Arts Centre Executive Director Tabitha Verbuyst. "It's not mandatory, but it's fun and some people do dress up."

Wearing a costume also qualifies attendees for the Diamond of the Season, an award chosen from among the guests.

The meal, catered by Jed Lau of It's All About You Catering from Woodstock will feature local foods where possible. This includes chicken wing appetizers from Orange Door Acres and produce from Arbour View Acres.

"We are trying to stay as local as we can," Verbuyst said.

Included with the meal will be a special drink to go along with the theme, sponsored by TD.

Following the meal, silent and live auctions will take place. While silent auction items range from donations from local businesses, such as certificates for automotive detailing, chiropractor, and massage, to art and

home décor items, the live auction will be more focused on experiences.

"People don't always have room for furniture and paintings, so we have experiences like private pottery lessons or excursions to Toronto," Verbuyst said.

Organizers are still finalizing the packages for the live auction, which Verbuyst said is always entertaining with Ewart McLaughlin and John McKenzie sharing auctioneer duties, but already includes a Toronto trip with visits to galleries and museums and a Sue Goossens original painting. Along the theme, there will be some "gossip" about the live auction items from Lady Station Arts on the station's web site and social media.

"It's really a fun night out – the room is all decked out, there's music playing, great food," Verbuyst said. "It's a nice way to get out of the house, support something local and be part of the community."

All funds raised are used to support Station Arts Centre programs.

Tickets are \$95 and are available at the Station Arts Centre, by phone at 519-842-6151 or email at tverbuyst@stationarts.ca. Tickets are going fast, so Verbuyst advised getting them early.

Rocking Tillsonburg for over 70 years

2025-26 Curling Season Registration is now available online

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New Glendale principal was a graduate of the school

CONTINUED FROM FRONT

The name McKibbin is familiar to many long-time residents, with the current principal coming from a lineage of Tillsonburg teachers. Her father, Jim, was principal at South Ridge and Rolph Street, amongst other Oxford County schools. Originally from Port Burwell, he started teaching at the former Tillson Ave Public School, where he met his future wife, Sheila, when both taught there. She also taught at Rolph Street and South Ridge.

Melissa was involved in the music program in high school and was president of the house council. She also worked at the pool and water park.

Still living in Oxford County, Melissa was glad to be back at Glendale.

"It's been lovely," she said. "I had a number of people reach out to welcome me back and to say they're glad I was coming to Glendale."

Melissa started school at Rolph Street and attended Maple Lane Senior Public School before "proudly graduating" from Glendale. Then, she attended Wilfrid Laurier University before completing her Bachelor's and Master's of Education at the University of Western Ontario.

After practice teaching at Glendale, Melissa started her first job at the former Norwich District High School, and then went to Clarke Road in London. Returning to Oxford County as head of English, and then head of guidance at Huron Park Secondary School in Woodstock, she moved back to London for stints at H.B. Beale and A.B. Lucas as vice-principal. She worked for three years at Lord Dorchester before accepting the Glendale

post.

"As administrator, you say what area you're interested in, and there is a conversation with the superintendent about what area you're interested in," she said.

School started early for Melissa with 196 Grade 9s in the school over four days last week as part of the High School Here I Come program. This TVDSB-wide program allows students to receive their timetables, locate their classrooms, and explore the halls.

"It helps with their transition," Melissa said.

The program also provides a social aspect.

"Since they're all coming from different feeder schools, it's an opportunity to meet people before classes start," she said.

Melissa is anticipating meeting all the staff on the PA Day before classes start on Sept. 3.

"I've heard wonderful things about the staff here and look forward to working with them," she said.

Her goal is to be a principal who builds relationships with the students, parents, and community.

"I will be out and about in the halls quite a bit – that's where I get to meet people," she said.

While academics are important in a school, Melissa recognizes that social aspects are just as critical. She wants to get students involved in athletics, clubs, music, and drama. "Being able to support that is important work," she said.

Vice-principal Tracy Streutker will be returning to Glendale to work with Melissa.



(JEFF HELSDON PHOTO)

Melissa McKibbin is the new principal at Glendale High School. She is also a graduate of the school, and accepting the position as principal, she made history as the first principal who was a student there.

Announcing Integrated Chief of Staff Dr. Clay Inculet, and Integrated Deputy Chief of Staff Dr. Joel Wohlgemut

HOSPITAL HAPPENINGS

NADIA FACCA

Integrated President TDMH and AHI

I am pleased to announce that through a competitive selection process, the AHI and TDMH Common Board of Directors has chosen Dr. Clayton Inculet, as Integrated Chief of Staff, beginning July 1, 2025 for a three-year term.

Dr. Inculet has been Chief of Staff at TDMH for the past three years, heading strategic leadership and clinical initiatives reflecting our commitment to high-quality, patient-centred care. With his background in surgical practice and a demonstrated track record in strategic medical leadership, Dr. Inculet brings both clinical insight and innovative vision to the chief of staff role. He was actively involved in planning the

integration of professional staff bodies at AHI and TDMH and the alignment of our professional staff bylaws. Dr. Inculet has played a significant role in TDMH's Department of Surgery, providing orthopaedic surgical care since 2021.

As chief of staff, Dr. Inculet is accountable to the board of directors under the Public Hospitals Act and the Professional Staff Bylaws, and will serve as Chair of the Integrated Medical Advisory Committee (MAC). In this role, he will lead medical governance and support the delivery of high-quality patient care, aligned with our hospital's mission and values.

Dr. Inculet brings a strong combination of clinical excellence, academic involvement, and community commitment to this important role. He earned his medical degree from the Royal College of Surgeons in Ireland and completed his Orthopaedic Residency and Fellowship in Orthopaedic Trauma and Foot and Ankle Surgery at the University of Western Ontario. He is active in medical education and research and has presented internationally at orthopaedic conferences. He also holds a Master of

Engineering Science, reflecting a multidisciplinary foundation that supports innovation and evidence-based care.

It is also my pleasure to announce that Dr. Joel Wohlgemut has accepted the role of Integrated Deputy Chief of Staff for a term beginning July 1, 2025 until March 31, 2026. Dr. Wohlgemut has previously held the role of Chief of Staff at AHI from 2012 to 2021. In that role, he has provided leadership for a number of key transitions, including implementation of computerized provider order entry (our current electronic medical record system), and participated in the earliest discussions about joint ventures with the Tillsonburg Memorial District Hospital (leading to the formation of the current joint board structure). In the role of interim Chief of Staff at AHI since July 2024, he has been actively involved in integration planning, and has led discussions at the Medical Advisory Committee pertaining to integration of the professional staff. On the clinical side, Dr. Wohlgemut played an important role in developing the policy framework for having a physician assistant (PA) in the AHI Emergency Department.

Dr. Wohlgemut brings a strong belief in the ability of AHI and TDMH to provide vital medical services to the community, having proven this commitment throughout his tenure with our hospitals. He earned his medical degree from the University of Western Ontario and also completed post-graduate training in family medicine with a rural/regional focus. He is in active practice with the Alexandra Family Physicians, continues to provide emergency and hospital inpatient care, and has published articles in medical journals throughout his career.

As Integrated Deputy Chief of Staff, Dr. Wohlgemut will work in partnership with Dr. Inculet as the Integrated Chief of Staff to provide leadership in the establishment of an interdisciplinary approach to patient and family centred service, collaborate with representatives of other disciplines to create an environment that promotes commitment to continuous improvement of patient outcomes, enhance education and research throughout the organization and champion and participate in organization and development at a strategic and project level.

Colleagues present scholarship to honour Bruce Vance

JEFF HELSDON

Editor

Graduates of the Glendale High School Class of 1978-79 honour one of their ranks who recently died by contributing to a scholarship.

Former Tillsonburg resident Bruce Vance passed away last October after a battle with cancer. After graduating from Ryerson University with a degree in Radio and Television Arts, he headed west to work as a sportscaster in Dawson Creek, BC. He moved to Medicine Hat and then Lethbridge, AB. In Lethbridge, he was also part of a men's national championship team.

In 2001, Bruce and his family moved to Prince Albert, SK, where he lived until his passing. He was heavily involved in the sporting community in Prince Albert, working for the Prince Albert Raiders of the Western Hockey League as marketing director and spearheading a campaign to renovate the arena.

Cindy Bes, who was part of the '78-'79 graduating class, said something similar is done when one of their former classmates passes. She headed up the effort for Vance, collecting donations from across the country.

"I'm so proud of the grads that donated to this scholarship," she said. "I know there are more classmates that would have helped out if I could have found them."

After the money was collected, Bes approached the Glendale guidance team and provided outlines of the students they wished to receive the scholarship. The intention was the students be taking sports management, radio/tv broadcasting, communications, event management or business management.

The committee chose Owen Fulton, who will be taking advertising and marketing communications at Conestoga College, and Alexander Dunbar, who will be taking business marketing at Fanshawe College, as the recipients.

"It's important to give back to the community," Bes said. "When we went to Glendale, there were those who helped us out."



(JEFF HELSDON PHOTO)

The class of 1978-79 came together to create a \$3,000 scholarship in memory of classmate Bruce Vance, who died last year. Left to right are: Scott Patterson, class member and a friend of Bruce's; Owen Fulton, recipient; Cindy Bes, class member and scholarship organizer; Alex Dunbar, recipient; and Derek Partlo, Glendale Guidance counsellor.

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Publisher

Stewart Grant • stew@granthaven.com

Editor

Jeff Helsdon • jeff@granthaven.com

Graphic Design / Sales Inquiries

Stacie Eden • info@tillsonburgpost.com

Business Development

Heather Dunbar • heather@granthaven.com

Administration

Jen Gaetan • jen@granthaven.com

Contributors

Jeff Tribe, Laurel Beechey, Debbie Kasman,
Paul Knowles

36 Water St. St. Marys, ON, PO Box 2310 N4X 1A2
info@tillsonburgpost.com | 519.655.2341 | granthaven.com



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MP Khanna to host pancake breakfast

Arpan Khanna, Member of Parliament for Oxford, invites you to join him in marking the end of summer with an 'Oxford Appreciation Pancake Breakfast', held in partnership with the Dairy Farmers of Ontario, Jake-man's Maple Syrup, Kintore Coffee Co., and Nor-pac

Beef.

Date: Saturday, September 6, 2025

Time: 9:30 a.m. – 11:00 a.m. while supplies last

Location: MP Khanna's Woodstock Office (4-208 Huron Street, Woodstock, ON)

Tillsonburg POST

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

EDITORIAL

Celebrate Tillsonburg this fall

With the buy-Canada movement sweeping the nation, it's time to localize it in the next few weeks.

Readers will notice promos for several events in this week's paper, and there are more to follow in the next few weeks. In short, there's a lot going on in Tillsonburg.

First up, the annual Shriner's Pork Barbecue is slated for Friday, Sept. 5. This event used to draw 1,000 people, and had about half that amount last year after a hiatus due to several circumstances beyond the Shriners' control. This is the largest food event of the fall in town, one where you can run into people you haven't seen in years. And best of all – beyond the excellent food – is it's only \$25.

There are still a few openings for the Tillsonburg District Memorial Hospital Foundation's annual golf tournament the following Friday. This is a great day on the links.

On Saturday, Sept. 13, the Canadian Harvard Aircraft Association's annual Wings and Wheels is its largest fundraiser of the year. Besides the classic cars and food, there is an opportunity to fly in a vintage Second World War Harvard. That is an experience that can't be matched.

It's time to get out the costumes and dress for an 1800s ball at the Station Arts Centre's annual gala. This year the theme is related to the Netflix series *Bridgerton*, which is set in the early 1800s in England. This promises to be a fun night out.

In October, Scott Foster and his crew of ghouls and goblins are starting to gear up for the haunted house and Halloween. This event, organized with the BIA, benefits the Helping Hand Food Bank.

Fall will also see the Thunder hitting the ice again.

There is something to do for everyone in town this fall – Buy Tillsonburg!



(STACIE EDEN PHOTO)

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

WRITER'S CORNER

Aunt Trudy's Basket was a solution for disadvantaged students

NORMA COLLIS

Post Columnist

I once taught in a senior public school where most of our students were bussed to school each day. Lunchtime found several hundred students eating their lunch in an area called the "triple" gymnasium.

Supervising at lunch hour was not for the faint of heart and along with on duty staff members, we also had three paid lunch supervisors. One of these ladies was a tiny little woman who spoke with a very musical Scottish accent. The kids called her "Aunt Trudy." She was loving and kind towards her charges but was a force to be reckoned with if there were any unacceptable lunch-time antics.

With most of our kids leaving by bus at the end of each school day, all our sports, choir and drama clubs etc. were held at lunch time. The kids tended to race through their food, gobbling down the packed lunches at an alarming speed so that they could get to their extra-curricular activities.

Trudy became alarmed at the amount of food that was jettisoned into the lunchroom garbage pails each day. As she made her rounds, she noticed that while some students had enough food to feed several ravenous adolescents, others had very little in their lunch bags. Some had brought no food at all. These students might tell her that they never ate lunch or that they were not hungry. However, she could see them enviously eyeing the bounty that overflowed some of their classmates' lunches. Aunt Trudy came up with a plan.

Trudy began to meet the kids as they approached the garbage pails before they exited the gym. She held a me-

dium-sized wicker picnic basket, and she asked the kids to place any uneaten food into the basket. The next day, the food filled basket was placed discretely on a table in a corner with a sign that said, "Eat me." The signage would not have been out of place at that Alice in Wonderland mad hatters' tea party.

At first, only a little of the food disappeared but soon the basket was empty by the time that lunch hour ended.

It did not take long, before Aunt Trudy had to provide a second basket to hold all of the donations. The number grew to three and four and her initiative soon needed an entire table to hold many more baskets.

Those students who came from more advantaged homes, were bringing extra food to place in Aunt Trudy's baskets. As Aunt Trudy made her rounds, she would surreptitiously pass a sandwich, or a piece of fruit to someone who was too timid or too proud to be seen taking something from the baskets. Her "pass off" technique would have made most-sleight-of-hand artists marvel, as it was never obvious who was receiving that extra bit of nutritional help.

Aunt Trudy put in extra, unpaid hours, sorting and deciding which items needed to go into the staff refrigerator until the next day's lunchtime and which items were past their best-by date.

At Christmas time, several seasonally decorated baskets appeared filled with Aunt Trudy's homemade Scottish shortbread cookies. Everyone made a bee line for those goodies, including staff members.

The following school year, some of us noticed that Aunt Trudy was beginning to look a little frail. She quietly told anyone who inquired about her health, that she was battling cancer.

Our students were typical adolescents, caught up in the business and drama of their own lives. Soon, even the most self absorbed of our pre-teen charges, noticed that Aunt Trudy was not well. They quietly asked their teachers about Trudy's health and were very respectful of her privacy. They never let on to her that they knew about her private battle.

I don't know how she managed to do it, but Aunt Trudy missed very few lunch hours that fall.

By December, she had to ask for a leave of absence. Without being asked, the students organized themselves to take Trudy's place collecting uneaten food and making sure that full baskets were placed on Aunt Trudy's table before every lunch.

Our dear little lunch lady lost her fight with cancer in mid-December. On the last day of school before the Christmas break, the kids arrived at the lunch time gym to find.....basket and baskets of Scottish short bread cookies waiting for them.

Every student and every staff member in that huge room, solemnly filed past those baskets. With care and reverence, they each took a cookie. There was no pushing or shoving and no one tried to take an extra cookie from the display.

The students returned to their seats and most sat quietly, looking down at Aunt Trudy's last gift of love.

Heroes are remembered for their great acts of heroism. I can not imagine a greater heroine than that tiny little Scottish woman who taught us all what it really means to carry out acts of kindness even when we know that we won't be there to receive any thanks or any praise.

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

Trillium grant assists Community Living job program

JEFF HELSDON

Editor

A \$99,300 Ontario Trillium Foundation grant played a big role in the Community Living Tillsonburg job program.

In a recent ceremony, eight graduates of the program, dressed in caps and gowns, accepted graduation certificates and a congratulations scroll from MPP Ernie Hardeman. The day was also an opportunity to express gratitude to the Ontario Trillium Foundation (OTF) for providing funding to hire a full-time facilitator for the program.

JobPath is a 6-week comprehensive employment preparation program designed to equip participants with the skills and confidence needed to succeed in the job market. This project will enable participants to become job-ready in the community and to utilize and develop marketable skills. They received ongoing support with their performance and paid placement. Participants raised self-awareness about their skills and how and where to put these skills to use. Evaluations give specific feedback for students' strengths and areas for improvement.



(JEFF HELSDON PHOTO)

Mike Bratton, employment specialist with Community Living Tillsonburg, left, presented a graduation certificate to Brodie McCooey, a recent graduate of the Job Paths program.



(JEFF HELSDON PHOTO)

The important role that an Ontario Trillium Foundation grant played in Community Living Tillsonburg's Job Path program was recognized at the graduation ceremony. Left to right are: Mike Bratton, employment specialist with CLT; Brodie McCooey; Corey Janzen; Eric Depeste; Curtis Gauvin; Paul Bognar; Ernie Hardeman, Oxford MPP; Alan Dale, Trillium review team member; and Deb Gilvesy, mayor of Tillsonburg.

"The impact of this Ontario Trillium Foundation grant cannot be overstated," said Lorie Arends, Employment Coordinator of Community Living Tillsonburg (CLT).

"Without the funding, our program couldn't exist," said Mike Bratton, CLT employment specialist.

The grant allowed CLT to hire a full-time facilitator as well as provided funding for a venue.

"Congratulations to Community Living Tillsonburg on receiving this important Trillium grant to support vocational training and job coaching for individuals with dis-

abilities," said Ernie Hardeman, MPP for Oxford. "Your commitment to building skills, confidence, and independence is helping create a more inclusive and empowered community."

Family and employers who took part in the program were also in attendance. Mike Gayzley, who owns three of the Tim Hortons outlets in town with his wife, Christina, spoke highly of the CLT clients whom they employed.

"It's been a good breath of fresh air for our staff," he said.



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Drug trafficking investigation results in charges

A Haldimand/Norfolk Ontario Provincial Police (OPP) Community Street Crime Unit (CSCU) investigation in Tillsonburg has resulted in an individual facing multiple charges related to drug trafficking.

On Tuesday, Aug. 19, at approximately 12:15 p.m., members of the Haldimand/Norfolk OPP CSCU arrested an individual on Broadway Street in Tillsonburg, in connection with a Norfolk County drug trafficking investigation. The individual was also wanted on an outstanding warrant issued by the Niagara Regional Police Service.

During the search of the individual, officers seized suspected cocaine, crack cocaine, fentanyl, Canadian currency, and

drug-related paraphernalia.

As a result, 42-year-old Jean Pierre Au-Clair from Fort Erie, ON, was charged with the following alleged offences:

- Possession of a Schedule I substance for the purpose of trafficking - cocaine - two counts,
- Possession of a Schedule I substance for the purpose of trafficking - opioid (other than heroin),
- Possession of proceeds of property obtained by crime under \$5,000 - in Canada.

The accused remains in custody and is scheduled to appear for a bail hearing at the Ontario Court of Justice in Simcoe on Wednesday, Aug. 20.

Recovered stolen ATVs lead to charges in property investigation

Two stolen all-terrain vehicles (ATVs) have been recovered, and one individual has been charged in connection with a stolen property investigation near Tillsonburg.

On Wednesday, Aug. 20, at approximately 10:34 a.m., the Norfolk County Ontario Provincial Police (OPP) Preventing Auto Theft Unit, with support from the Haldimand/Norfolk OPP Community Street Crime Unit, executed a search warrant at a property on Goshen Road, located on the border of Norfolk and Oxford Counties, as part of a stolen property in-

vestigation.

During the search of a garage on the property, officers located two Honda ATVs that had previously been reported stolen -one in Norfolk County and the other in Elgin County.

As a result, 37-year-old Jayme Partington of Elgin County has been charged with the following alleged offence: Possession of property obtained by crime under \$5,000 - in Canada - two counts.

The accused is scheduled to appear at the Ontario Court of Justice in Simcoe on Tuesday, Sept. 9.



HOPPING THE DECADES

(JEFF HELSDON PHOTO)

With Hop the Decades being the theme of the weekly children's programs at Annandale National Historic Site, participants had a variety of experiences from making tie-dyed bags that were reminiscent of the 1970s, to '80s pop art and making duct tape wallets that were popular in the 2000s. Corbin Ralph, left, and Aubrey Vero were hard at work on their new wallets last Friday.

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JEFF HELSDON

Editor

In March of 1825, George Tillson walked from Normandale to the site on the banks overlooking the Otter Creek to found the town that would bear his name. Two hundred years later, three individuals are repeating a part of that walk to provide insight into what the town's founder endured, and what he saw on his journey

The idea started as a story for the upcoming bicentennial issue of the Post to compare the route today, and image what it would have been like two centuries later. Kate Bakos, cultural heritage manager/curator, expressed interest in participating to imagine what Tillson endured. Carrie Lewis, Chair of the town's Museum, Culture, Heritage and Special Awards Advisory Committee, will also be taking part.

"It's a celebration of the founding of Tillsonburg," Bakos said. "We are looking at retracing George Tillson's steps from the Normandale Furnace to Delhi."

The approximate seven-hour journey will follow a similar route to what Tillson used, and was called the Tillson Trek by Bakos.

Although the roads today don't compare to what were likely rut-filled muddy trails two centuries ago, the journey won't be without challenges, including several hills in the south end.

"We know the roads now are better than the

roads back then, and we're doing this without the impediment of an oxen cart," Bakos said. "It will be a good way to experience the old-fashioned travel of walking."

Tillson had previously travelled to the area to scout it before he undertook his settlement journey with oxen pulling a wagon.

"This is when he made the trek to settle the area after he purchased the land," she said.

Bakos is hoping to gain insight into what Tillson discovered, although she was upfront the modern walk will have the luxury of walking on paved roads, and not being encumbered by a wagon, which likely slowed the town's founder.

Bakos added another twist to the journey, and is seeking sponsors for the walk. Proceeds from the event will go towards the Founder's Festival, planned for Oct. 18 at Memorial Park. Donations can be made over the phone or in-person at the museum. Any donors of more than \$25 will receive a tax receipt.

The hope is this could become an annual fundraiser for the museum, as Bakos already has a couple of colleagues who expressed interest in partaking in the future. For this year, to test the Tillson Trek concept, it will be limited to three people.

"It would be cool if it grew and grew and became an annual celebration of Tillsonburg," she said.

The deadline for sponsorship is Sept. 2 to allow sponsors to be listed in the program for Founder's Fest.



IMPROVING FITNESS FOR A GOOD CAUSE (JEFF HELSDON PHOTO)

Several members and coaches at TRC CrossFit took part in a six-week fitness challenge that started in May and included tracking workouts, nutrition, hydration and healthy habits. Each participant contributed \$50, which would go to the winning team's charity of choice. The coaches were the winners and chose to donate the \$1,000 proceeds to the local JumpStart, which was doubled by the Canadian Tire dealership for a total donation of \$3,000 that will assist with the cost of athletic programs for those in the community who can't afford it. From left are Nathan Pol, William Van Lagen, Marianne Van Lagen, Dena Jenkins, Canadian Tire co-owner and participant Rena Pit-tao-Bortolussi, Sandra DeBoer, Alida Roloson, TRC owner Patti McCarragher, Jessica Evans and Maria Howlett.

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MUSIC CORNER

Tillsonburg feels like family for Jeremy Porter



BEN ADDRESS

Tillsonburg Post Columnist

Detroit songwriter Jeremy Porter has carved out a reputation over the last few decades as one of the Midwest's most steadfast rock 'n' roll voices. With his mix of heartfelt lyricism, gritty guitar work and the ability to shift seamlessly between electric swagger and acoustic intimacy, Porter has a long history of connecting deeply with audiences. Porter is no stranger to Tillsonburg and he returns Thursday, Sept. 4 for a solo acoustic set at Paddy's Underground, bringing songs from across his career including selections from his 2024 album Dynamite Alley.

"Dynamite Alley has been a great vehicle for me since it came out a year ago. The songs have been fun to play live and the response to the record has been wonderful," Porter reflected. "It is a record that I have had in me for several years and the timing was right with The Tucos sort of stepping back from the road for a bit to get it out, so yeah, musically, it is absolutely where I am at these days. I still have the drive to plug in and turn up and get rowdy, but doing the acoustic thing with these songs has been really fun and fulfilling."

While Porter has been touring extensively as a solo artist, he has also been hard at work with his longtime band Jeremy Porter & The Tucos recording a new album at Black Sheep Audio in Novi, Michigan with producer Tim Patalan of the band Sponge.

"No one outside of the band has influenced The Tucos sound more than Tim, and on the first couple Tucos records, his brother Andy. They have mixed every Tucos record and Dynamite Alley and produced some of them too," Porter explained. "He has got an amaz-

ing ear and a great talent for getting things to sound the best they can, not only sonically, but performance, arrangement and instrumentally too. On top of that they are great humans, a great hang and just a big part of everything we do. I'm really grateful to be able to work with Tim as much as I do."

For Porter, the return to Tillsonburg is a gig he always looks forward to with a recent performance here this past July during Buddies Fest.

"Tillsonburg is such a special place. It feels like family even though our experiences together have only been a couple. Buddies Fest was the best weekend I have had in years," Porter says with a smile. "The vibe was so positive and every person, from the bands to the fans to the bartenders, was just the best. It was one for the ages for sure."

Jeremy has been touring for years and continues to explain why Tillsonburg is one of his favourite spots to perform.

"I play big cities and small towns and they each have their pros and cons. The small towns like Tillsonburg tend to have more character and are more appreciative of original

live music, maybe because there are fewer options. Of course, there are great venues in big cities but Tillsonburg is a place that is always great to come back to."

This upcoming show in Tillsonburg will feature Porter's songs, both old and new, and he is particularly excited to share the stage with a friend.

"I'll be solo acoustic playing stuff from Dynamite Alley, some Tucos songs and some newer stuff too. My pal Trevor has been added to the bill. He's a great talent, some beautiful songs and another amazing human that I count myself lucky to know, so I am stoked to finally get to see him play too!"

While Porter continues to enjoy his solo acoustic touring the balance between band and solo life is always on his mind.

"What drives me to explore both paths is pretty much just availability. The Tucos are not able to travel like we used to so I'm out on my own. I need to be out there and this is my only option at the moment," Porter elaborates. "While I have had a blast doing the solo thing this past year or two, I would always prefer to be out

with the band. I like to say that touring with the band is way more work but it is more fun and touring solo is way less work but not quite as fun. It is awesome to only have myself to deal with. The logistics of traveling and playing are way more flexible, less expensive, less gear, bigger catalog, all that. I do enjoy playing acoustic and it is something very different than The Tucos but there is nothing like the camaraderie of climbing into the van with the boys and the smell of burning amp tubes and late night revelry after the show."

That balance between nostalgia and new horizons was also present earlier this summer when Porter reunited with his first band The Regulars for their 40th anniversary show.

"It is insane to ponder that," Porter reflects. "Our first gig was in Marquette in Michigan's Upper Peninsula where we grew up in May of 1985, and here we are in 2025 playing a show in those same woods. It came up quickly. Our drummer John lives in California and was going to be in town so we threw together a house party and I drove up

and next thing you know a couple hundred people were coming in from all corners of the country. It is all covers but so fun and these guys are my brothers so it was great to get together again. Being out there solo acoustic for the last couple years it was great to get the amps back into service."

With Dynamite Alley still resonating, a new Tucos record on the way and a constant drive to stay on the road, Jeremy Porter shows no signs of slowing down. Tillsonburg audiences can expect an intimate night of storytelling, gritty melodies and the kind of warmth that has already made him feel like part of the local family.

Jeremy Porter performs at Paddy's Underground with local buddy Trevor Kostyria of the band The McBains. Advanced tickets are \$10 and are available online from Eventbrite or \$15 night of at the door. The concert is an all ages/licensed event with doors opening at 8pm. For music, upcoming tour dates and more information on Jeremy Porter you can find him online at his official website at www.jeremyportermusic.com

UPCOMING SHOWS

AUG. 30 - DAVE BELLAIRE
The Mill
No Cover - 5:30 p.m. - All Ages/Licensed

SEPT. 4 - JEREMY PORTER & TREVOR KOSTYRIA
Paddy's Underground
\$10 - 8pm - All Ages/Licensed

SEPT. 6 - FM96 PRESENTS ALAN CROSS
Paddy's Underground
\$25 - All Ages/Licensed

SEPT. 10 - SPAGHETTI FUNDRAISER FOR AMY & ERIC
The Copper Mug
4:30 p.m.

SEPT. 13 - THE MCBAINS, THE SLIMETONES, WHINE PROBLEM
Paddy's Underground
\$15 - 8 p.m. - All Ages/Licensed

SEPT. 13 - KARAOKE NIGHT
The Copper Mug
No Cover - 8:30 p.m.

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Weekend Quiz

by Jake Grant

1. Moose Jaw is a city in what province of Canada?
2. The U.S. Marine Corps' motto is "Semper Paratus" which means what?
3. In Curious George, who is George's right hand man?
4. Apart from eggs what is in an Arnold Bennett omelette?
5. A gemshorn is made from what animal?
6. Who wrote the famous book: Lord of the Flies?
7. Which playing card is known as The Devil's Bedpost?
8. Name Batman's crime-fighting partner?
9. Which singing voice is the highest pitch? Soprano, tenor or baritone?
10. What kind of tree do prunes come from?

This week's answers are found on Page 19

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Great Cycle Challenge helps fight kids' cancer

CHRIS ABBOTT

Post Correspondent

There's a tradition in The Great Cycle Challenge when you reach your August cycling goal. You lift your bike up over your head for a photo.

That day was August 20 for Scotting Gooding who completed his personal goal of 150 km.

The fundraising in support of the Sick-Kids Foundation – and to help kick kids' cancer's butt - continues until the end of the month, and even beyond that.

Now in his sixth year, Gooding is riding in memory of his mother Betty Gooding, and Xavier Garrett, the son of a former Glendale HS student.

'Kids should be living life, not fighting for it,' he says online on his Great Cycle Challenge page (greatcyclechallenge.ca/riders/ScottGooding). 'Right now, over 1,700 children are diagnosed with cancer every year, and it's the biggest killer of children from disease in Canada.'

'I am raising funds through my challenge to help these kids and support Sick-Kids Foundation to allow them to continue their work in developing treatments and

finding a cure for childhood cancer.

'Please support me by making a donation to give these kids the brighter futures they deserve. Every dollar matters. Your support will change little lives.'

Donations can still be made, he says, through the Great Cycle Challenge website.

So far, in the month of August, Gooding has helped raise more than \$3,500 in support of SickKids Foundation. Over the last six years that people have donated, Gooding has raised more than \$45,800.

'I lowered my (km) goal this year, just knowing that I am getting older, and my knees...'

He recalls cycling almost 700 km the first year, but his second year, that was the big one.

'I don't even know what I was doing... 1,072 km,' he laughed, checking his stats on the Great Cycle Challenge website.

Then it was 493 km, 383 km, and last year 202 km, all in and around Tillsonburg. As of Monday, August 25, he was just 59 km away from reaching 3,000 km over the six years.

'You're challenging yourself, and you want to reach your goal, but last year I



(SUBMITTED PHOTO)

Scott Gooding lifts his bike to mark the completion of his cycling goal during the Great Cycle Challenge.

found it really difficult to get the 200 km. This year (150 km)... it wasn't easy."

Gooding participated in his first Great Cycle Challenge in 2020.

"Years ago, at the beginning of Covid, I was riding my bike to get out and about, and my wife Kathy, who saw this thing about the Great Cycle Challenge for childhood cancer, said 'You're doing the biking, why not do something for benefit?'"

"There are so many fundraisers out there, and so many different ones for cancer. I think this is one – when you're talking about kids – that kind of hits home."

In 2024, he received a donation from Glendale HS grad Carla Garrett of Woodstock. Her almost eight-year-old son Xavier had passed away from brain cancer, and she reached out wanting to support the SickKids Foundation.

"So I am riding in honour of my mom,"

said Gooding, "but also Xavier who passed away (in 2017)."

The Great Cycle Challenge, which started in 2016, has grown to become one of the biggest cycling fundraiser events in Canada. People of all ages and abilities across the country set themselves a personal riding goal and challenge themselves to pedal throughout August to fight kids' cancer.

In the past nine years, cyclists from the Great Cycle Challenge have ridden a total of 27,961,719 kilometres, and together raised \$54,249,870 in support of research to develop treatments and find a cure for childhood cancer.

As awareness of the Great Cycle Challenge grows, more local people have joined the cause, including Jonathan Arnel, who cycled more than 300 km in August and raised more than \$1,000.

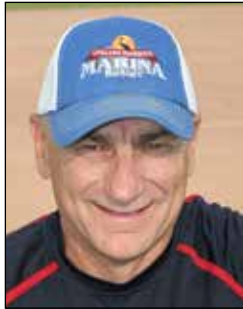
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(SUBMITTED PHOTO)

Scott Gooding of Tillsonburg has helped raise more than \$45,000, through the support of generous community donations, for the Great Cycle Challenge, which supports the Sick-Kids Foundation and research to develop treatments and find a cure for childhood cancer.

Trillium Court staves off elimination against Jays



**EYE
ON
SLO-
PITCH**

DAVE WEAVER

Post Columnist

It took me a few years lol, but I finally played on a Provincial winner this past weekend in Niagara Falls.

My 65-plus team Agway Steelers fought back from a 10-run deficit eventually winning by one over previously unbeaten Windsor Chiefs in a game that took two extra innings.

Two members of the Simmonds Mortgages team - Jackie Davison and Elaine Roswell - were members of the winning Masters 50s team. Roswell was also named MVP.

Anita Dahl and Jackie Wood-Van Santen from Simmonds were on the third-place finishing team in the 35A division.

Ladies A Playoffs

Trillium Court staved off elimination against the Jays on Wednesday winning 4-3 in a low scoring affair. Jays had gone up two games after winning by five on the Monday.

Simmonds Mortgages went up by one game winning 9-7 on the Wednesday. Foldens had tied their series with a three-run decision on the Monday.

Jays 14, Trillium Court 9

Game 2

Jays: Heidi Teichroeb 4-4, Sara Dyck 4-4

Trillium: Katy Wilkinson 4-4, Kelly Dygos 3-4

Game Synopsis: Jays went up by nine after two complete en route to victory. Heidi Teichroeb, Jessica and Sara Dyck each scored three runs for Jays.

Trillium Court 4, Jays 3

Game 3

Trillium: Brooklynn Carroll 3-3, Michaela Wilford 2-3

Jays: Kirstie Jones 2-3

Game Synopsis: Trillium got some solid defence, especially from their shortstop Brooklynn Carroll. Ashley Gee scored the eventual game winning run in the third.

Foldens Machine Works 17, Simmonds Mortgages 14

Game 2

Foldens: Amber Woolgar 4-4, Lisa Howey 3-3

Simmonds: Rachele Platteeuw 4-4, Amanda Stubbs 3-4

Game Synopsis: Foldens broke up a tie game with a three-run sixth, and 11 of Fold-

ens 13 batters scored at least one run.

Simmonds Mortgages 9, Foldens Machine Works 7

Game 3

Simmonds: Shannon Oneill 4-4, Katie Hahn 3-4

Foldens: Jenn Francis 3-3, Trisha McKenzie 3-4

Game Synopsis: Simmonds fought back from an early six-run deficit. Jackie Wood-Van Santen drove in four of their nine runs.

Ladies B Playoffs

Kyle Nesbitt Trucking won twice to close out their series sweep with Resting Pitch Face. They mercied them in the second game and won it by six in the clincher.

Wildcats rebounded from an opening game loss to George's, mercying them in the second game. They took the series lead with a seven-run victory in Game 3.

Wildcats 26, George's Auto 6

Game 2

Wildcats: Ling-Li Wong 5-5, Nikki Lama 5-5

George's: Justine Hanson 4-4, Erin Jefferies 4-4

Game Synopsis: Wildcats plated 15 runs over their final two at-bats. Kyla Long scored four runs.

Wildcats 13, George's Auto 6

Game 3

Wildcats: Ashley Anderson 4-4, Krystal Sivyer 4-4

George's: Allison Sage 3-4, Justine Hanson 4-4

Game Synopsis: Ashley Anderson had a double and scored three runs to lead the winners.

Kyle Nesbitt Trucking 18, Resting Pitch Face 1

Game 2

Nesbitt: Nicole Morgan 4-4, Chani Homewood 3-4

Resting: Jenna Wilford 2-3, Taylor McLean 2-2

Game Synopsis: Nesbitt took advantage of a short-handed Resting squad scoring 17 runs over three innings. Carrie MacDonald hit three doubles and scored four runs, and Nicole Morgan had a triple and pair of doubles.

Kyle Nesbitt Trucking 14, Resting Pitch Face 8

Game 3

Nesbitt: Gemma Ladosz 4-4, Tammy Griswold 4-5

Resting: Hailee Beckett 4-4, Brittany Wolf 4-4

Game Synopsis: Gemma Ladosz led the winners with four hits and three runs scored. Tammy Griswold hit a pair of doubles.

Men's A Playoffs

TILLSONBURG

Wastewater treatment plant



Oxford County is aware of recent complaints of odour from the Tillsonburg wastewater treatment plant.

Oxford County regularly monitors its treatment plants for odour issues and is taking immediate steps to address the situation. In the meantime, Tillsonburg residents can be assured there are no safety or performance issues at the wastewater treatment plant, and that it is operating reliably and meeting all government standards.

The odours are being released through the new rooftop HVAC system following recent major upgrades to help prepare for future growth in the community. This situation has also been affected by higher temperatures.

Steps we are taking to address this situation include:

- refreshing the biofilter media to ensure it is operating optimally;
- reviewing our treatment process to see where we can make adjustments to reduce odours; and,
- seeking funding approval from Oxford County Council to add new odour abatement equipment to eliminate odours from this source.

Thank you for your feedback and patience. We are working to improve this situation as quickly as we can.

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Mark Bruder
Financial Advisor

32 Brock Street West
Tillsonburg, ON N4G 2A2
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mark.bruder@edwardjones.com
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Trillium Court staves off elimination against Jays

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 11

The Mill won their series with Bill Klyn Carpentry defeating them by four. They will now go on to face top seed 1, 2 Seal Insulation Hawks which should prove to be an exciting series.

The Mill 21, Bill Klyn Carpentry 17

Game 4

The Mill: Ethan Morgan 4-4, Bryan Deblaire 4-4, Josh Stubbs HR, Steve Derks 2HR, Billy Wilson 2HR, Ryan Black HR, Darren Pace HR

Bill Klyn: Dallas Dalby 3-4, Nathan Boldt 3-4, Randy Miller HR

Game Synopsis: The Mill broke a close one courtesy of a seven-run fifth. Josh Stubbs, Steve Derks and Billy Wilson each drove in four in the game.

Men's B Playoffs

Pelicans won the last two of their series to eliminate Copper Mug-Lubricare Wannabee's. They evened the series with an easy win in Game 4, then won the fifth and deciding game in the second extra-inning game of the series.

It took one extra inning but At My Playground/IQT Logistics eliminated Side 2 Side Exteriors Strike Force in four games winning their first ever playoff series. Three of the four games were decided by one run.

Pelicans 19, Copper Mug-Lubricare Wannabee's 7

Game 4

Pelicans: Kevin Buchner 4-4, Joe Kingsbury 4-4, Steve Leacock HR

Copper Mug-Lubricare: Phil Beauvais 2-3, Ajay Johnson 2-3

Game Synopsis: Eleven of Pelicans' 12 batters scored at least one run. Steve Leacock hit a homer and a double.

Pelicans 17, Copper Mug-Lubricare Wannabee's 16

Game 5

Pelicans: T.J. Neville 3-4, Joe Kingsbury 2-3

Copper Mug-Lubricare: Dawson McMillen 4-5 2HR, Jeremy Hill 4-5, Cody Long HR

Game Synopsis: Copper Mug-Lubricare tied it in the seventh and scored one in the top of the eighth to take the lead. Pelicans got triples from Ryan Marques and Ryan Verbuyst in the bottom half. Verbuyst's triple ended up being the winning run as a throw on the play went out of bounds, allowing him to score.

At My Playground/IQT Logistics 20, Side 2 Side Exteriors Strike Force 19

Game 4

AMP/IQT: Gavin Balazs 4-4, Logan Partlo 3-4

Strike Force: John Klassen 5-5, Tony Klassen 4-5

Game Synopsis: Gavin Balazs and Logan Partlo scored runs in the extra inning for the winners.

The series are set with the number one seed Bayham Construction Lumberjacks taking on the fourth place At My Playground/IQT Logistics. Second place Pelicans meet up with third place Underhill Farm Supply.

Both series should be close ones!

Men's C Playoffs

J/E Bearing pulled the upset ending second-place Shaw's Ice Cream Sluggers' season.

Townline EQT Inc Smokin Aces swept their series with N.I.M.

Sticky Bandits eliminated Bird's Golf in three games and Tailgators disposed of Team Swingers in three games.

Sticky Bandits 13, Bird's Golf 4

Game 2

Bandits: Logan Froese 4-4, Caleb Enns 3-4

Bird's: Jason Lichti 2-3, Ryder Terry 2-3

Game Synopsis: A seven-run first keyed the Bandits' victory.

Sticky Bandits 24, Bird's Golf 11

Game 3

Bandits: Ivan Enns 4-5, Makaio Thiessen 4-5

Bird's: Justin Lockstein 4-4, Tom Gammage 3-3

Game Synopsis: Andrew Knelsen scored four runs for

the winners.

Townline EQT Inc Smokin Aces 22, N.I.M. 17

Game 2

Townline: Peter Klassen 4-5, Jakie Froese 4-4, David Klassen HR, Jakob Froese HR

NIM: Brodie Earls 3-5, Justin Dygos 3-5

Game Synopsis: N.I.M. hung in there till the last inning when the winners plated six runs. David Klassen hit a two-run homer in the rally.

Townline EQT Inc Smokin Aces 19, N.I.M. 17

Game 3

Townline: Isaak Froese 4-4, Jakie Froese 4-5, Daniel Unger HR, Jakob Froese HR

NIM: Jeff Wheeler 5-5, Wes McDougall 3-4

Game Synopsis: N.I.M. rallied with seven in their last at-bat but came up two runs shy. Jakob Froese drove in five for the winners.

Tailgators 19, Team Swingers 8

Game 2

Tailgators: Matt Pitt 6-6, Terry Jones 5-6

Swingers: Jacob Lloyd 3-3, Rex Martain 2-3

Game Synopsis: Glenn Hunt scored three runs for the winners.

Tailgators 16, Team Swingers 13

Game 3

Tailgators: Prabhjot Singh 4-4, Ryan Lafleur 3-3

Swingers: Shawn Knelsen 4-4, Parker Morris 4-4 2HR

Game Synopsis: Jarryd Roest led the winners hitting three doubles and scoring four runs.

The C semifinals are set, the top-seeded Townline EQT Inc Smokin Aces will take on the upstart J/E Bearing squad.

The other semi will be between third-place Tailgators and fourth-place Sticky Bandits.

Men's Consolation D

This best of three series will go to a third and deciding game on Tuesday night.

R.L.P. Melanie Luksys squeaked out a one-run victory over C.R. Custom Engraving Smokin Bases in the opener.

C.R. tied up the series with a three-run decision in the second one.

R.L.P. Melanie Luksys 19, C.R. Custom Engraving Smokin Bases 18

Game 1

R.L.P. Luksys: Caden Craggs 4-4, Trent Lamb 4-5

C.R. Custom Engraving: Ian Barrett 4-4, Joe Miller 4-4

Game Synopsis: Cole Toth had the walkoff hit for R.L.P. plating Braedon Redling.

C.R. Custom Engraving Smokin Bases 15, R.L.P. Melanie Luksys 12

Game 2

C.R. Custom Engraving: Matty Galan 3-3, Ryan Scott 3-3

R.L.P. Luksys: Cole Toth 3-4, Natan Granger 3-4, Davin Ramer HR

Game Synopsis: Colton Trudel scored three runs for the winners.



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Homick, Buelow gaining international experience

CHRIS ABBOTT

Post Correspondent

Ice dancers Summer Homick, from Tillsonburg, and Nicholas Buelow, from Barrie, will be skating together at their first 2025-26 ISU Junior Grand Prix of the season in Varese, Italy, Sept. 3-6.

A few weeks after returning to the Mariposa School of Skating in Barrie, the two 18-year-olds will once again head overseas with a coach to compete in a second Junior Grand Prix event in Baku, Azerbaijan, Sept. 24-27.

“Going into the (2025 NextGen) event, we already had our Junior Grand Prix in Italy, but we had to qualify for our second Junior Grand Prix,” said Homick. “When we got back, we found out we are headed to Azerbaijan. So it worked out well in that way.

“It’s hard to get two – you have to earn both those spots. So it’s a huge accomplishment, getting two, and a big step up for us from last year.”

Homick and Buelow had first officially skated together in April 2024, and after the NextGen that year competed at their first Junior Grand Prix in September 2024.

“I think it was a good learning curve for us,” said Homick. “It was our first event together and I think we took so much in, and brought so much out of it at the same time. It was beneficial for us, for sure.”

Italy will be Homick’s second Grand Prix with Buelow, who will be going to his fifth Grand Prix – three with a previous ice



(CHRIS GRIMO PHOTO)

After returning from an ISU Junior Grand Prix in Italy, Summer Homick and Nicholas Buelow will be competing at their second grand prix of the season in Baku, Azerbaijan, Sept. 24-27.

dance partner, including a ‘double’ in Turkey and Hungary their second year together.

“For us, we’re just focused on getting that international experience,” said Homick. “It’s a new season, a new program. I think we learned so much from our last one, I hope we take all of that experience with us.”

Homick said her goal is to improve any way she can – and have fun.

“These events are so fun, and

to represent Canada, that is the most important part.”

Buelow said they want to treat every competition as a learning experience – no matter where it is – but especially at a Grand Prix.

“It’s international, so the judging is going to be a little bit tougher, and the competition is going to be different – it’s not people you compete against all year,” said Buelow. “It’s just going out there and focusing on yourself at a Grand Prix and not really getting caught up on who’s doing what.”

“It is always changing for us,” said Homick. “We are still learning, of course, the rules and new criteria for rhythm dance specifically, but I feel like we’re always trying to improve our technical skills... We’ve been focusing on that a lot in the last few weeks, and I think a lot of the time it comes to speed, which is a big one for us.”

“We like to say ‘we’re just working on everything,’” said Buelow. “Just fine-tuning and finding the efficiency in it, figuring out how to do it, but also using less energy to do it as well. Those technical things, the levels, and yes, obviously speed and performance.”

During ‘run-throughs,’ he said they try to maintain a high level of speed and performance throughout the entire skate, not letting it fade toward the end.

“There are definitely teams out there that are still faster and we’re trying to catch up to them,



(CHRIS GRIMO PHOTO)

Summer Homick, from Tillsonburg, and Nicholas Buelow, from Barrie, will be skating together in ice dance at their first 2025-26 ISU Junior Grand Prix of the season in Varese, Italy, Sept. 3-6.

speed-wise,” he said.

“When we get back from Azerbaijan, the end of September, we’ll take the week off from training,” said Homick. “That’s kind of like our mid-season break – a little bit of a mental and physical break – and then we’re coming back to get ready for Sectionals after that.”

“It’s a very emotional whirlwind, the two Junior Grand Prix’s, and quite exhausting, so our bodies will need it by then,” added Homick, who is still proud to represent the Tillsonburg Skating Club.

“I have represented the Tillsonburg Skating Club my whole life and I think it’s something I never want to change. I owe so much to them, so I’m going to keep it that way.”

Ice dance was a completely new experience for Homick in 2024. She had transitioned from exclusively singles skating with the Tillsonburg Skating Club to singles and pairs in Brantford, instructed by coaches including Alison Purkiss at the Brant Skating Club.

“I feel like we definitely had chemistry the first tryout we had,” said Homick. “I was kind of new to dance so I was just learning the process of everything, kind of exploring it. I felt like I had so much chemistry with Nick, which kind of drew me into the whole ice dance discipline.”

“On the ice, too, everything kind of worked pretty well to-

gether,” Buelow agreed. “Usually there are kind of some struggles with a new partnership – learning how to skate with someone new – but I didn’t notice that quite as much with Summer. She was pretty good.”

Buelow got his start in ice dance at a much younger age.

“I think about 10 years ago, about when I was eight. It was fairly young,” he said. “I have an older brother who skated as well, and our coaches wanted him to do a (ice dance) tryout. We were really attached at the hip... and my parents said, ‘if you’re going to get him to do it, you’re going to have to get Nick to do it as well.’”

Both continued in singles while skating in their partner disciplines.

“I did both until about 2018-2019, then it (ice dance) just took over naturally,” said Buelow. “I was probably about 14-15 and I didn’t have a double axel. Only really up to my double loop, double flip. By then, I was higher in dance.”

During the school year, they would skate from 6:30-10:30 a.m. in Barrie, followed by a few hours at school, then a few hours off-ice training (workouts, ballet or hip hop classes).

Homick, who graduated from high school in June, is taking the next school year off to focus on skating, training and competing.

Buelow also graduated Grade 12, and will return to school this fall to finish up a few credits.

chris@granthaven.com



(CHRIS GRIMO PHOTO)

Summer Homick and Nicholas Buelow train at the Mariposa School of Skating in Barrie.

SWOX NEWS



Province extends Strong Mayor Powers to SWOX Township, some powers delegated back

DEBBIE KASMAN

Post Contributor

On April 9, the Province of Ontario announced the expansion of Strong Mayor Powers to 169 additional municipalities, including the Township of South-West Oxford (SWOX), effective May 1, 2025.

These powers are intended to support shared provincial-municipal priorities, particularly the acceleration of housing approvals and the construction and maintenance of infrastructure such as roads and transit.

The expansion is part of the province's strategy to build 1.5 million new homes by 2031 and was enacted under the Strong Mayors, Building Homes Act and the Better Municipal Governance Act, which amended the Municipal Act, 2001.

Staff provided a high-level overview on the mayor's additional powers at the council

meeting on June 8, 2025.

In July, SWOX council opted to delegate all powers that are eligible to be delegated, back to SWOX council or the municipality's chief administrative officer (CAO), through a formal delegation bylaw.

The powers delegated back to council include choosing to appoint the municipality's CAO, creating committees of council, assigning their functions and appointing the chairs and vice-chairs of committees of council. Powers given to the CAP include hiring municipal department heads and establishing and re-organizing.

Certain powers under provincial legislation are not eligible for delegation and must be retained by the mayor. These include the power to bring matters to council that advance certain provincial priorities and to veto any bylaws passed by council that may interfere with the advancement of those

priorities, proposing the township's budget subject to council amendments, a mayoral veto and a council override process. Council can pass these bylaws if more than one-third of all council members vote in favour.

Recent advocacy by the Association of Municipal Managers, Clerks and Treasurers of Ontario (AMCTO), Ontario's largest municipal professional association, states that while the government continues to justify the expansion of strong mayor powers as a tool to build housing, there is no evidence to suggest this legislation has any impact on the number of housing starts in municipalities that have been granted the powers.

Alternatively, the association has found that strong mayor powers have blurred the political-administrative authority between the roles of mayors and CAOs, threatening the neutrality of the public service and politicizing local government leadership.

The association has expressed opposition to strong mayor legislation, calling specifically for the removal of mayors to directly hire or terminate any municipal staff.

Several municipalities, in addition to SWOX, have exercised this delegation authority in the interest of maintaining a collaborative governance model. The City of Woodstock, which has had Strong Mayor Powers since November 2023, adopted a formal delegation bylaw that returned many of these authorities to council, including the hiring of the CAO and committee appointments.

The District Municipality of Muskoka has also taken a similar approach. In Bracebridge and Huntsville, the respective mayors passed written decisions to delegate CAO hiring and organizational structure authority to council and the CAO, while retaining budget-related powers.

Changes coming to waste collection programs in SWOX, including garbage bag tag increase

DEBBIE KASMAN

Post Contributor

There are big changes coming to waste collection programs in South West Oxford Township (SWOX), and all other parts of Oxford County, including Tillsonburg, beginning in 2026.

The garbage bag tag fee will increase for all of Oxford County beginning Jan. 1, 2026 from \$2 a bag to \$3 a bag to cover rising costs of curbside collection.

Residential recycling pick-up for all parts of Oxford County will be moving from a municipal responsibility to a new provincial agency

called Circular Materials. The move to this new province-wide recycling program will begin Jan. 1, 2026. More information and a list of acceptable materials for the new blue box program will be sent to homes this fall.

A new organics, or green bin, program will be introduced to collect food scraps and other biodegradable waste. This collection will begin in SWOX and Woodstock in January 2026 and in all other area municipalities in May 2027. Residents living in SWOX and Woodstock will receive their green bin containers this fall.

A six-day collection cycle for both garbage and organic waste will be in effect in SWOX and Woodstock starting January 2026. (SWOX

already follows a six-day cycle for garbage.) The six-day cycle for garbage will come into effect in Tillsonburg and all other area municipalities beginning in May 2027. This schedule will move collection days forward one day from week to week, skipping weekends and holidays.

For SWOX or Woodstock residents, starting Jan. 1, 2026, the recycling

pick-up day could be on a different day than garbage and organics pick-up. For all other Oxford municipalities, including Tillsonburg, recycling will continue to be picked up with garbage until the organics collection program begins in May 2027. Then recycling

pick-up could be on a different day than garbage pick-up day.

Many small businesses, commercial properties, and institutions, including not-for-profit and public sector organizations in Oxford County will not be eligible for recycling collection under the new province-wide recycling program. In response, in February 2025, Oxford County Council approved the development of a local recycling program to continue to offer recycling collection to these groups. To register for this program, visit www.oxfordcounty.ca/business-recycling.

For more information, visit oxfordcounty.ca/wasteline.

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The colours of summer bloom brightly



**IT'S
STILL
JUST
DIRT**

SUE HEALEY

Tillsonburg Post Columnist

I'm always a bit anxious at the end of July. The last hot and heavy days of the month are saturated with colour; blue and yellow, deep coral, apricot and red. So much colour that I fear there will be nothing left for August.

What could follow the riot of roses, bellflower and iris? I count the buds on the daylilies, estimating the last day of bloom, adjusting my schedule to ensure I witness it. I scan the garden for what is to come and fret there isn't enough, or what is left to bloom will pale in comparison. But, come August, I am always relieved to see that the show continues even if it's in a gentler tone. There is still plenty of colour to be seen in this final phase of the summer. Perennials and annuals with late season bloom offer us not only colour for the garden but food and shelter for the host of creatures that inhabit it. There are a range of easy to grow specimens to extend the season and often, display attributes well beyond bloom time.

In my own gardens, the rich blue of balloon flower (*Platycodon grandifloras*) still lingers into mid August. Among them, the last of the *Crocsmia* wink out like sparks in the evening sky. Beyond that fading vignette is Russian sage (*Perovskia atriplicifolia*), it's ghostly spires covered in a mist of smoky blue blossoms and finely cut, silvery leaves. This shrubby perennial thrives in the hot, dry summer we've had this year. Native bees and wasps and other little things come to drink at the tiny cups offered over July and August. I leave it all winter, those stiff, bleached branches snag the snow and the light and give me a reason to go out when it's cold.

Across the way, in an echo of colour is sea lavender (*Limonium latifolium*). August is its peak bloom time and it does so with abandon. Large, multibranching stems hold tiny flowers, by the hundreds, and open in slow succession

over the weeks. Blue black sand wasps favour this late bloomer and make the perfect accent to the purple or white flowers. Deep rooted, *Limonium* is well suited to my dry, sandy soil and can even withstand the salty conditions of seaside gardens. In my landlocked yard, this perennial blooms until late summer, drying easily for winter arrangements. A self seeder and tenacious once established, it should be carefully deadheaded when grown in sandy soil.

Against all that blue is lovely *Helenium* (*Helenium autumnale*) in buttery yellows, bronze, or copper. Often maligned by it's common name of sneezeweed; this member of the Aster family blooms at the same time as the allergy inducing ragweed. A clump-forming perennial that likes moist, fertile ground, the extra coddling that *Helenium* needs to survive my sandy soil is well worth the trouble. Sunny flowers bloom atop sturdy, waist-high stems in late summer. Petals, pleated and crimped, are arrayed in single or double rows around a velvet brown dome. A generous clump of these late-blooming perennials, in a sumptuous mixture of colours, becomes a magnet for butterflies and other pollinators seeking nectar as the season progresses. *Helenium* does best with frequent division and an annual topping of composted manure to ensure good health.

In the oldest of my beds, August belongs to the Grape-leaf Anemone (*A. tomentosa*). There she reigns supreme, just at the edge of the witch hazel. Her pale pink, single blooms float among the lower branches, giving the tree a second flowering. I grow a variety of Anemones from this large and diverse genus, from spring blooms to this last, hardy specimen. *A. tomentosa* is impressive from start to finish. Bold and vigorous, with three-part leaves and sturdy stalks, this mid-to-back of the border perennial is long lived once established. Buds, covered in deep pink corduroy, dangle on stately stems splitting and curling to reveal, silken petals and lime green centres. The flowers come in shades of white to deep pink and are a favourite of the local bumblebees. The August air is filled with their joyful buzzing as they scramble through the golden tipped anthers. The last of the Anemone show is late in the year and may be my favourite part. When the seed heads dry, those tightly packed centres begin to give way. They spool out in the most dramatic way, like art unfurling before our eyes. I have spent long hours

bent in trying to capture that art, many more just mesmerized by it.

There are other blooms to be had in August; Phlox in all it's lavenders and pinks and individual perfumes. My ground supports pure white "David" who needs no work and is mildew resistant. If you have a moist, sunny spot, any variety will add colour for a month. For yellows in dryer earth, look to *Rudbeckia* and all it's kin. *Hydrangea paniculata*, in creamy whites, pinks and greens begin to show their colours in mid-August, creating a striking backdrop for garden beds. *Salvias* and se-

dums, geraniums and asters are all yet to come and remind us that there is much to enjoy in the landscape as the summer matures.

Your local horticulture society is back from summer holiday with regular meetings commencing in September. The featured speaker is Sherry Burgess of St. Thomas Horticultural Society, sharing her experiences with the St. Thomas Elevated Park.

The meeting is Tuesday, Sept. 2, at the Tillsonburg Seniors Centre at 7:30 p.m.

\$20/year \$5/meeting

Come as guest, stay as a member.



Pink Anemone.

(SUE HEALEY PHOTO)



Anemone seed head.

(SUE HEALEY PHOTO)



Caryopteris - Blue mist shrub.

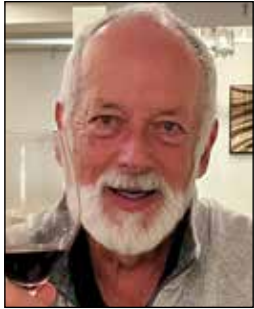
(SUE HEALEY PHOTO)



Helenium with company.

(SUE HEALEY PHOTO)

Exploring the unexpected on the Toronto Islands



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

PAUL KNOWLES

Tillsonburg Post Columnist

As we boarded the ferry to Hanlan's Point, we could see the crowd of passengers swarming onto the neighbouring ferry, destined for Centre Island. Our much smaller craft was anything but cramped, and we started to wonder if all those Centre Island folks knew something we didn't.

In truth, they probably did – they knew that the heart of the action of the Toronto Islands is Centre Island, home to the Centreville amusement park, the pier, beautiful gardens, paarks, picnic areas, a beach, bike rentals, and lots of other activities.

But from the moment we left the dock at

the Jack Layton Ferry Terminal, we were entirely happy with our choice of destinations.

Because Toronto Island Park – made up of several islands, all about a 15-minute ferry ride from Toronto's waterfront – is home to a wide variety of activities, attractions, and opportunities for leisure. Which is a good thing, I must note, since Toronto has generally done such a lousy job of making its waterfront attractive or enticing. Compared to other cities – Halifax, Kingston and Victoria come immediately to mind – Toronto has sacrificed waterfront quality of life to the gods of condominium investment. But I digress.

As my partner noted during our brief voyage, perhaps Toronto Island Park is the saving grace, offering a different kind of wonderful waterfront of Toronto residents and visitors.

Visitors to the islands have the choice of three ferries – bound for and from Hanlan's Point, Centre Island, and Ward's Island. All the islands are linked by walking/biking trails.

Our whimsical choice of the Hanlan's Point ferry immediately paid dividends. The ferry was small but by no means crowded. And upon landing, we were immediately captured by the amount of history represented at this end of the Toronto Islands.

When you disembark, – you immediately encounter an imposing statue. It's a sculpture of Edward Hansan, namesake of this part of Toronto Island Park, and memorialized as "the most renowned oarsman of any age whose victorious career has no parallel in the annals of sport. Born and died in Toronto. July 12, 1855-January 4, 1908."

Full disclosure – until meeting his bronze likeness, I had never heard of Ned Hanlan. But having done some post-visit research, there is no doubt that he was a very significant figure in Canadian and international sport. I am happy to have finally "met" him.

Hanlan Point is historically significant for another reason. A little farther down the path past Ned Hanlan, is a prominent sign: "Welcome, you are entering Canada's oldest queer space. Hanlan's Point has been a gathering place for 2SLGBTQ+ people for nearly a century. Canada's first Gay Pride celebration was held here on August 1st, 1971."

The script concludes: "This space is



A Toronto Islands Ferry arriving at the Centre Island terminal.

(DAVID HOU PHOTO)

built on freedom, acceptance, respect and diversity. While you are here, we ask that you keep these values in mind." That seems like really good advice – and in our current climate of looming repression, it seems especially important to espouse those values.

We opted to walk from Hanlan's Point to the Centre Island Ferry terminal, which should take about 45 minutes, if you don't wander from the main road. Which, of course, we did – to have a look at the clothing optional beach (which was also people-optional on the day of our visit... we were the only folks there, and remained fully garbed), at the other beaches, at the historic Gibraltar Point Lighthouse (built in 1808, it's the oldest surviving lighthouse on the Great Lakes – who knew?), the pier, the amazing gardens along what was once Manitou Road, and of course, Centreville, the venerable amusement park that was clearly the number one destination of the crowds on the Centre Island ferry.

We didn't press on to Ward's Island, but had we done so, we would have seen the homes of about 600 people who live on Ward's Island and Algonquin Island. These determined folks live without the benefit of cars, stores or public transportation.

We did wander off the main route to

stroll through the amusement park, where folks were having a heck of a good time riding a roller coaster, a mini-train, a flume ride, swan-shaped boats and much more. We took a break to have ice cream from a shop that had a sign advertising American-made ice cream, but which has switched its actual product to Canada's own Chapman's ice cream. For which we thanked them.

I admit that I approached our visit to Centre Island with a very limited concept of the place. So our time there was a delightful revelation.

And the cost? Well, the ferry ride costs \$9.11 for adults, \$5.86 for students and seniors, \$4.29 under 14. And that's for the round trip. There is plenty to enjoy that won't cost you anything (we were impressed with the frequent placement of water fountains, so you don't need to buy hydration, and with the large number of picnic tables); an all-day pass for a family of four at the amusement park costs \$182. The smiling families seemed to suggest it was a good investment.

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.



(DAVID HOU PHOTO)

The statue of Ned Hanlan, a world-champion oarsman, for whom Hanlan's Point is named.

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RIDDLES

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I have a head and a foot but no body; I have four legs but cannot stand.

What am I?

Bed

I have a bow but no arrows; What am I?

Violin

It has wheels and flies, yet it's not an airplane. What is it?

Garbage truck

Which month has 28 days?

All of them

The more I'm shared, the more I grow; keep me to yourself and I shrink.

What am I?

Happiness

I start with "P," end with "E," and hold thousands of letters. What am I?

Post office

I have teeth in rows but never eat; one pull opens or closes me. What am I?

Zipper

I guard your treasures with a word; share me and I'm useless. What am I?

Password

I sit in the middle of water but never get wet. What am I?

The letter "T"

SUDOKU

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

Level: Beginner

Solutions on Page 19

PET OF THE WEEK



RAPTOR

5 years ago, a man was driving down a country road in his car when he noticed an old garbage can at the side of the road. With the weather being windy, he stopped to pick up the can and toss it over the fence so it wouldn't blow onto the road.

The can never made it over the fence because when he looked inside, there were 6 baby kittens, no more than a day or two old. The man knew where a cat rescue/shelter was - www.purrfectcompanions.ca

Purrfect Companions of Norfolk is a group of local citizens that have come together to help the many stray cats and kittens in the area. We are dedicated to finding loving homes for these wonderful souls that deserve the chance at finding their forever homes and families and headed there immediately. The shelter accepted them and the staff were amazed at how small/young they were. Incredibly, all 6 kittens survived and were all adopted when they were old enough.

For awhile I was thinking about adopting a kitten for companionship. I made up my mind to adopt and a kitten and guess what, I ended up adopting one of those male kittens, now named "Raptor"(named after the Toronto Raptors. I'm so happy and love him so much and I'm positive Raptor is happy and loves me too.

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

WORD SEARCH

OCEAN LIFE

D	S	Z	E	Y	O	M	W	X	E	Q	C	L	O	W	N	F	I	S	H
R	H	D	G	C	B	N	N	I	V	W	V	C	F	A	A	R	K	J	J
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J	C	C	W	J	N	M	A	N	A	T	E	E	M	W	H	A	L	E	G
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- DOLPHIN
- CORAL
- STARFISH
- SEAHORSE
- OCTOPUS
- TURTLE
- JELLYFISH
- SHARK
- WHALE
- CLOWNFISH
- SEAWEED
- KRAKEN
- MANATEE
- ANEMONE
- BARNACLE

COMING EVENTS

THE EDISON, VIENNA, & AREA MUSEUM SUMMER PROGRAMMING SCHEDULE
The Edison, Vienna, & Area Museum
6209 Plank Road, Vienna, ON
August 30: Back to School
 FREE admission, no pre-registration necessary. Contact bayhamhistoricalsociety@hotmail.com for more details.

DELHI & DISTRICT HORTICULTURAL SOCIETY
Meeting Monday September 8: 7:30 p.m. at the Delhi Friendship Centre, 418 Queen St. Delhi.
GUEST SPEAKER - Dave Rusnak
TOPIC: Delhi Photos & Historic Trip
 All welcome to join us. Enter at the parking lot off William Street.

CANADIAN HARVARD AIRCRAFT ASSOCIATION OPEN HOUSE & FLY DAYS
September 13 – Wings & Wheels 9-4 p.m.
Tillsonburg Regional Airport
 Join us for our Open House & Fly Days during our special 40th anniversary season. These monthly family-friendly outdoor events are always FREE and offer the opportunity to see our collection of Harvard aircraft up close, tour our hangars, explore restoration projects, purchase souvenirs, and best of all, purchase a flight! Pre-booking your flight experience is recommended by contacting crewflights@harvards.com.

TILLSONBURG LEGION GOLF TOURNAMENT
on Saturday September 13 at Tillsonview Golf Course.
 Meal and 18 holes of golf for \$70.00 per person. Tee times available at the Legion. For more info call 519-842-5281.

TILLSONBURG TERRY FOX RUN
Sunday, September 14
Tillsonburg Soccer Club,
275 Quarterline Rd. Tillsonburg
Registration: 9:30 a.m. Opening Ceremonies: 10 a.m.
 Everyone welcome

TILLSONBURG SENIOR CENTRE IS HOSTING A FOOD TASTING EVENT
Monday, September 15: 1 p.m.
In the main auditorium at the senior centre (45 Hardy Avenue)
 Featuring samples of unique and delicious dishes from more than 10 local eateries and restaurants. For info and to sign up call 519-688-2520.

LET'S FALL INTO COUNTRY MUSIC WITH THE INGERSOLL COUNTRY MUSIC JAMBOREE at the Masonic Hall, 190 Thames St., Ingersoll, 1-4 p.m. every other Friday. September 5 & 19, October 3, 17 & 31, November 14 & 28, and December 5.

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

MESSY CHURCH
September 6: 10 a.m. - 12 p.m.
St.Pauls United Church
88 Bidwell St.Tillsonburg
 We're off to a good start.(help celebrate our 8th year with a birthday party.) Snacks crafts,games & music.Lunch to follow.Children accompanied by an adult please.

NEW DURHAM CEMETARY DECORATION DAY SERVICE
Sunday, September 7: 2 p.m.
 Service of Remembrance by Lola Mather-Dyer. Music by the Norwich Musical Society Band.

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). **We will be starting our 2025-2026 season on Monday, Sept 8 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!

TILLSONBURG FIREFIGHTERS ASSOCIATION IS HOSTING ANNUAL STEAK BBQ FUNDRAISER
Saturday September 13
Meal is served from 4 p.m. - 8 p.m.
45 Hardy Ave, Tillsonburg
Lions Auditorium
 \$30.00 per person
 Children under 12- Free Hotdogs
 Tickets Available through one of the local Firefighters or email dvan.occ@gmail.com

CELEBRATION OF ST. JOHN'S 125TH ANNIVERSARY
Sunday, September 14
Please join us for our Sunday Morning Service at 10:30 a.m.
St. John's Anglican Church,
46 Ridout Street West, Tillsonburg, Ontario
 Celebrated by The Bishop of Huron: The Right Rev'd. Robert Todd Townshend, Th.D. There will also be soloists and other instrumentalists during the service. Followed by the dedication of our new church outdoor sign, blessed by the

Bishop Todd. Followed by an authentic Ukrainian Lunch, a fundraiser for Alongside Hope's project in the Ukraine (Free will offering). This is an experience you won't want to miss, with our Chef Rudy working his magic with food again.

The Ingersoll Rotary Club is proud to host THE 2025 INTERNATIONAL SOFTBALL CONGRESS (ISC) MEN'S FASTBALL TOURNAMENT in Ingersoll September 26-28 at Victoria and Garnet Elliott Parks. Games begin 7 p.m. Friday. See some of the best league teams vying for a berth into next year's World's ISC Championship Tournament in Kitchener, Ontario in August 2026. At press time, registered teams are Georgian Bay, Sebringville, Saugeen, St. Thomas, Puslinch, Wiarton, Waterdown, Jarvis, Walton and Kitchener.

THE DO-OVERS BAND FROM LONDON IS AT THE TILLSONBURG LEGION on Saturday October 4: 8 p.m. -12 a.m.
 Come dance to all your favourite country and rock hits. Check them out at www.doovers.ca. Advance Tickets \$15. All Welcome!

OXFORD PHILATELIC SOCIETY CIRCUIT BOOK FAIR
October 25: 10 a.m. - 4 p.m.
Church of the Epiphany, 560 Dundas Street, Woodstock Ontario N4S 1C7
Free Admission & Parking
 Stop in and buy some stamps and meet fellow stamp collectors. About 8 participating stamp clubs.
 Contact: Don Eaton dhfe@silomail.com
 Website: <http://www.rpsc.org/chapters/oxford>

CHRISTMAS WITH COMMUNITY LIVING
Friday, December 5 – Free will donation.
St. John's Anglican Church,
46 Ridout Street West, Tillsonburg, Ontario
 Join us, with our friends from Community Living, to start the Christmas season off with Christmas music and a good old Carol Sing. Christmas treats for all.

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

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

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

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

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

WOULD YOU LIKE TO VOLUNTEER TO HELP AT ONE OF OUR EVENTS? WE WELCOME YOU!
The Wagner Memorial, Teeterville Legion Branch 526
3890 Teeterville Road, Teeterville, Ontario

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

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

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

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QUIZ ANSWERS

1. Saskatchewan
2. Always Faithful
3. The Man with the Yellow Hat (Ted)
4. Smoked Haddock
5. Chamois (goat)
6. William Golding
7. Four of clubs
8. Robin
9. Soprano
10. A plum tree

SUDOKU

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

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If you are interested, contact Heather Dunbar at:
heather@granthaven.com

LOCAL MATTERS.



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

Neither do we!

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



LATE SUMMER CLEARANCE DEALS

WHILE SUPPLIES LAST

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