

Tillsonburg POST

FREE

OCTOBER 23, 2025

VOLUME 2 • ISSUE 6



**B.R.'s
PLUMBING & HEATING
Inc.**

1 Vance Drive, Tillsonburg P: (519) 688-5999 F: (519) 688-5554



\$1000 OFF

**ANY OIL CHANGE
USING OUR PRODUCTS**

Expires November 23/25
Bring in this coupon

LUBRICARE

14 MINUTE OIL CHANGE, OIL RUSTPROOFING

**127 Simcoe St, Tillsonburg
519-842-5230**

Tillsonburg celebrates 200 years at Founder's Festival

JEFF HELSDON

Editor

Tillsonburg residents came out to celebrate the 200th anniversary of the founding of the town at the Founder's Festival on Saturday in Memorial Park.

The event provided a wide array of entertainment with a historical flair from the crowd-pleasing Great Canadian Lumberjack show, to pipers, booths displaying both historical and modern wares, souvenirs, and a chance to talk to members of the town's founding family. All, save the

souvenir clothing, was free of charge.

About 2,500 people turned out for the event. Kate Bakos, Cultural Heritage Manager/Curator, said the event was possible due to the Founder's Day sub-committee, town staff, volunteers, and community members.

"It was an incredible day at Founder's Festival, celebrating 200 years of Tillsonburg," she said on Monday. "Our history is rich because of the people who continue to care for it, and it's been an honour to share this milestone with all of you."

CONTINUED TO PAGE 2

Town council asks for boundary adjustment to include the Norfolk Mall

JEFF HELSDON

Local Journalism Initiative Reporter

A request from the property owners of 400 Simcoe Street for a boundary adjustment to include it in the Town of Tillsonburg revealed that a Winner's store is coming to the location in 2026.

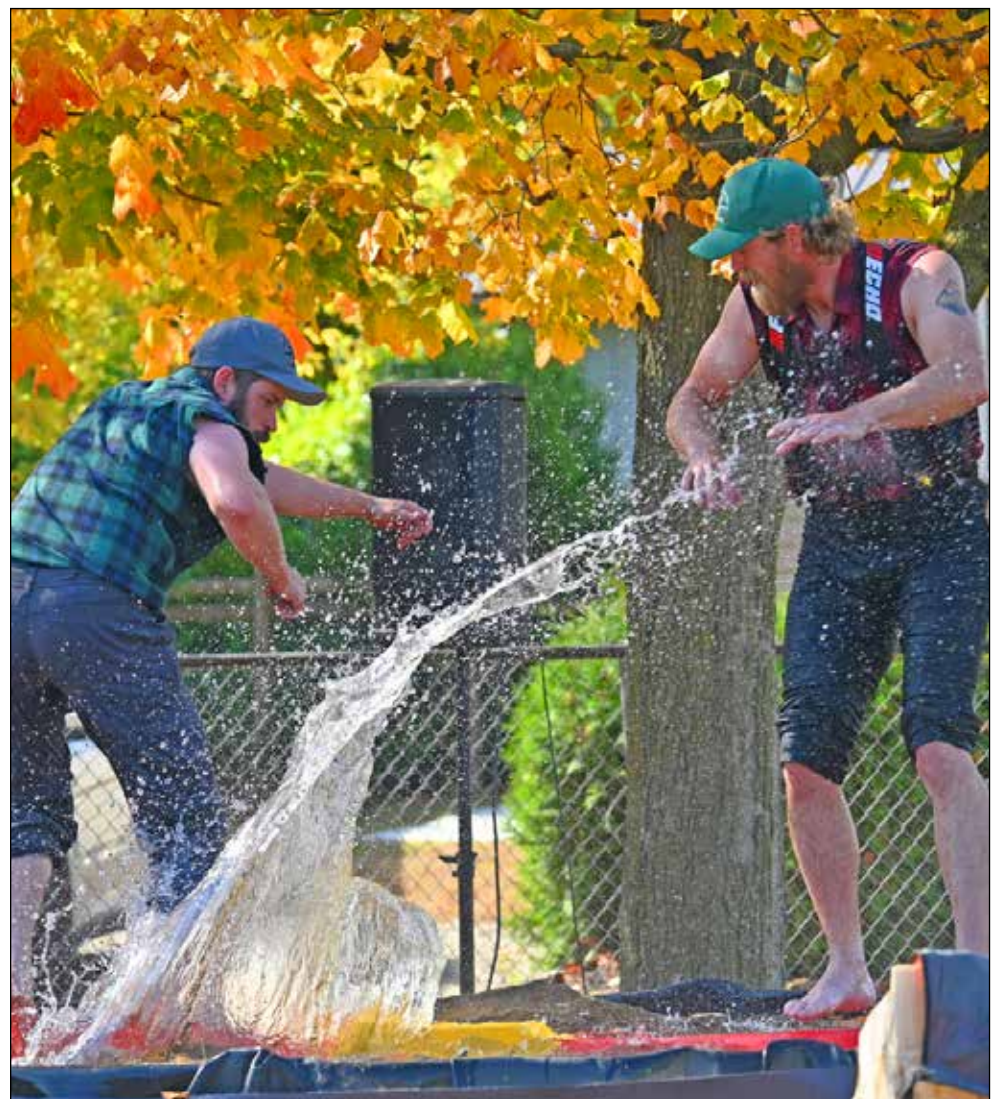
A letter from E & E McLaughlin Ltd. to council, discussed at the Oct. 14 meeting, stated that 22,500 square feet of the former Walmart space will be-

come a Winners store, set to launch in July 2026. TK Liquidation will continue to occupy the remainder of the former Walmart location.

Furthermore, a new standalone 40,000-square-foot building will be constructed on the property to house two to three additional businesses.

In her letter, Cassandra Way, Chief Operating Officer with E & E McLaughlin, stated that there have been ongoing issues with loitering in the parking lot,

CONTINUED TO PAGE 2



(JEFF HELSDON PHOTO)

FOUNDER'S FESTIVAL

Although Tillsonburg was founded as a forge, hence its original name of Dereham Forge, lumber was a large part of early industry with a saw mill following after the forge. The Great Canadian Lumberjack show displayed some of the skills early settlers in Ontario would have used on a daily basis, such as log rolling pictured here, as entertainment at the free-of-charge event on Saturday in Memorial Park. The event featured much more as the bicentennial of the founding of the town was celebrated. See additional photos on Page 7.



R.E. Wood Realty
Brokerage

Independently owned and operated

519-842-8418

woodrealty.ca

55 Brock St. E | Tillsonburg ON N4G 4H5



Rob Koppert
Broker of
Record/Owner



Brandon Koppert **



Dane Willson **



Linda Coldham **



Crystal Ketchabaw *



David Bennett **



Bob Arppe *



Taylor Thoonen *



Samantha Hamilton *



Scott Hamilton *

Explore our
current listings!



** Broker * Sales Representative



Derrek de Jonge *



Eva Krahn *



Deepanshu Pal *



Jennifer Dalley *



Samuel Koppert *



Breanna Averink *



Grant Sumler *

Founder's Festival pays heed to the town's heritage

CONTINUED FROM FRONT

The day started with opening ceremonies led by Carrie Lewis, chair of the town's Museum, Culture, Heritage and Special Awards Sub-Committee. She paid tribute to committee members Penny Eseltine, Doug Cooper, Rosemary Dean, Michelle Wegg, and Joan Weston for their support.

Lewis said Tillson arrived to the area with a dream that has flourished into a town.

Oxford MP Arpan Khanna, MPP Ernie Hardeman, Oxford Warden Marcus Ryan, and Mayor Deb Gilvesy brought greetings.

"It's from his (Tillson's) vision, his values, that we have such a beautiful town of Tillsonburg," Khanna said.

Gilvesy paid tribute to Tillson's vision and ambition.

"He faced hardships, braved uncertainty, and worked tirelessly to create a settlement that would endure," she said. "Together with his wife, Nancy, they raised nine children, though tragically only three survived into adulthood—a reminder of the rugged, often unforgiving realities of pioneer life."

The mayor spoke highly of the town's first official mayor, E.D. Tillson, who was George's son, and how he built the town's early industries.

"From those humble beginnings, our community has witnessed remarkable progress and transformation," she said. "Mills and factories gave way to new industries, farms flourished into neighborhoods, and small shops grew into thriving businesses. Yet through all this change,

we have never lost sight of the values that define us: hard work, strong families, and neighbors who care deeply for one another. Our schools, businesses, churches, and homes stand as living reminders of the perseverance and vision of those who came before us."

Tamsen Tillson, great-great-great granddaughter of George Tillson, talked about the challenges facing George's wife Nancy as she walked 43 kilometers through the wilderness for three days with an oxen and cart. In the early days, there were only six families in the town, and the nearest neighbour was five miles away.

Their son, E.D., then built a lumber mill, a cereal mill, and launched Tillson's Pan Dried Oats, before constructing Annandale House.

"By the time of his death in 1902, E.D. Tillson had transformed Tillsonburg into the thriving town it is today," she said.

Before the Ingersoll Pipe Band's performance, Lewis spoke of the significance of the piper to Tillsonburg. More than a century ago, E.D. changed the oat-drying process, launching his revolutionary pan-dried oats. Tillson's Pan-Dried Oats were a national and international success before Quaker Oats bought the company. A piper graced the box of Pan-Dried Oats as part of an advertising campaign.

"It was a tremendous success, earning the campaign a national award," Lewis said, adding the piper stayed after the campaign was complete.

The day ended with fireworks at the fairgrounds.

Winners coming to Norfolk Mall in 2026

CONTINUED FROM FRONT

Speaking to the letter, Coun. Chris Parker said, "This has been a key property that has been in a number of discussions dating all the way back to the boundary adjustment committee in 2021. It has a direct impact on our commercial growth even though right now it's outside the boundary of the Town of Tillsonburg. This is an opportunity to try to work to try to bring it in the town of Tillsonburg."

Mayor Deb Gilvesy commented property owners can request to have their property in a particular municipality.

Council passed a motion acknowledging the need for more commercial land, noting that the County of Oxford currently provides servicing to the mall, and requesting support from the county to include 400 Simcoe Street in the town's boundaries.

Production ceases on CAMI's BrightDrop

JEFF HELSDON

Local Journalism Initiative Reporter

Workers at CAMI's Ingersoll automotive plant woke up to bad news on Tuesday morning with the announcement that General Motors is ceasing production of the BrightDrop electric van produced at the facility.

In a letter to employees obtained by the Post, Kristian Aquilina, GM Canada President Managing Director and Plant Director Bill Harkness, broke the news that the electric commercial BrightDrop van is being dropped "due to slower than expected market growth". The letter states that team members at CAMI will remain on layoff, and the site will be assessed for future opportunities.

"Over the past three years, we've worked hard to build a steady customer base for BrightDrop including expanding dealer distribution," the letter said. "Despite everyone's effort, it's been a real struggle. We've faced long periods of downtime at the plant, and for the last six months, operations have been completely stopped."

The next step outlined in the letter is working with Unifor to follow the collective agreement, which includes full pay

for the next six months.

When the BrightDrop was launched in 2021, it was promoted as a step towards further converting North America to electric vehicles. However, the vehicle was met with slower-than-expected uptake from the start, with AMI operating below capacity since 2022.

The plant employs 1,200 people, plus there are further jobs with suppliers spread across the area.

"Obviously, as an Oxford County member, we're saddened to hear the news because it affects not only Oxford County, but surrounding counties," said Tillsonburg Mayor Deb Gilvesy.

Tillsonburg Economic Development Commissioner Cephas Panschow said while GM won't release details about the addresses of its employees, he knows anecdotally there are a significant number of people who live in or around Tillsonburg who work at CAMI and expects this will impact the local economy.

Based on his knowledge of local companies that may produce parts for CAMI, Panschow said as far as supply chain jobs, there should be "minimal impact to Tillsonburg's economy."

More details will follow as this story develops.

**Tillsonburg Post is available for
FREE in print and online:
www.tillsonburgpost.com**



Stacked

OPEN EVERY DAY
7AM-3PM

**BUY 1 GET 1
ENTRÉE FREE**

**Buy 1 entrée
+ 2 beverages
& get the 2nd
entrée FREE**

Limited Time Offer.

Valid at 200 Broadway St., Tillsonburg location only.

2nd entrée must be \$15 or less in value, before tax.
Offers cannot be combined. Not valid on statutory holidays.
Valid Monday–Thursday, dine-in only. STACKEDFREE

FIND US AT 200 BROADWAY ST., TILLSONBURG • 519-842-7141

\$6⁹⁹*

**MON-FRI
7AM-9AM**

Breakfast Special

*Taxes apply | Not valid
on statutory holidays
Valid dine-in only



Express (710-950 Cals)

FULL MENU AVAILABLE

SKIP UBER eats

DOORDASH

EDITORIAL

Letter to the Editor

Legion gearing up for annual poppy campaign

At this time of year, the Royal Canadian Legion Varnavair Branch 153 is busy preparing for the upcoming Poppy Campaign. The 2025 campaign runs from Oct. 31 to Nov. 10.

Thanks to local businesses that made contributions, local merchants that allowed us to display poppy boxes, and to the general public of Tillsonburg and area, the 2024 campaign raised \$30,000. These funds are used to support the Veterans Care & Comfort Fund and the Veterans' Arts Programs at Parkwood Institute, local veterans' needs, sponsoring of bursaries at Glendale High School; Varnavair Air Cadet Squadron, veterans' coffee hour every other Thursday morning and a veterans' dinner on Nov. 11.

This year the Royal Canadian Legion and the Tillsonburg Military History Club worked together to honour our

local veterans with a banner program. You can see these banners on Veterans Memorial Way going north from Baldwin to Monsignor J.H. O'Neil Catholic School on Quarter Town Line. It is a beautiful sight to see.

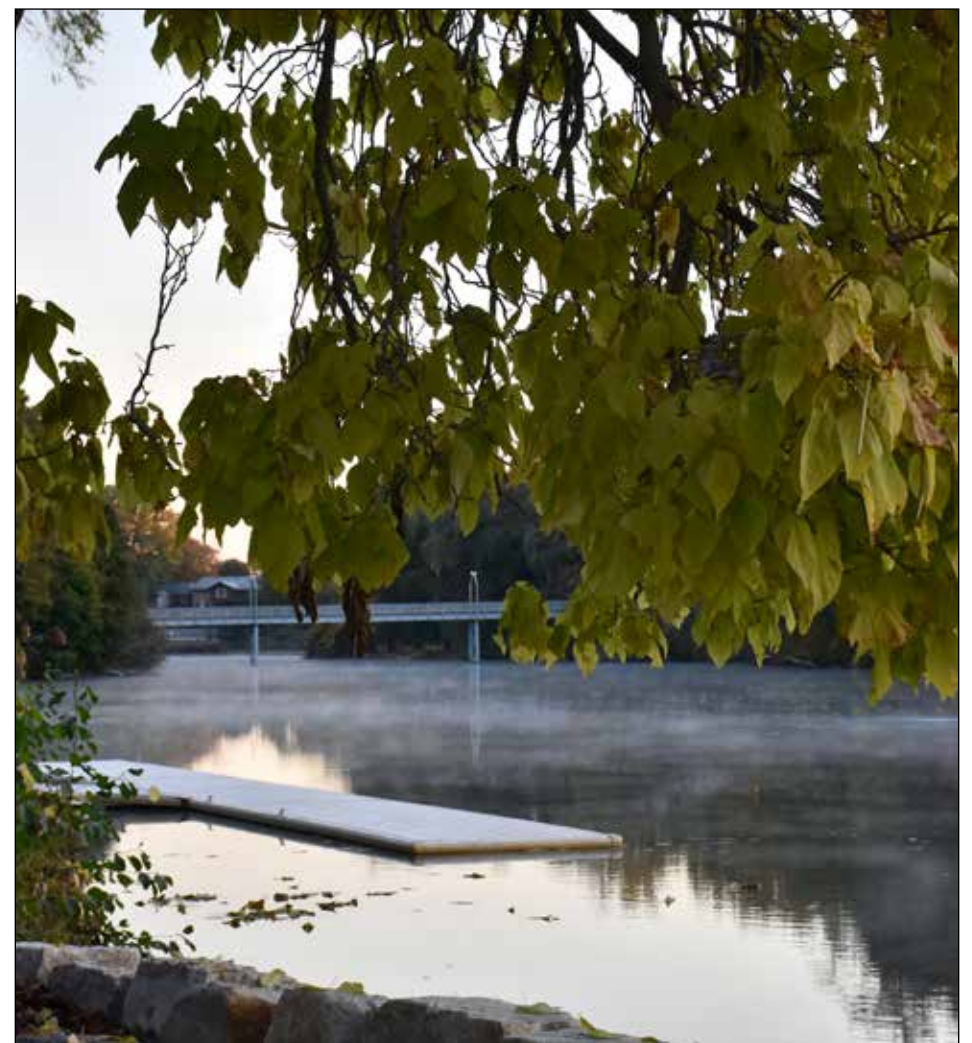
Anyone wishing to donate two-and-a-half hours of their time to man one of the four locations in town can contact the Legion office at 519-842-5281, or drop into the canteen and add their name to the volunteer list.

This year the Legion has metal lawn poppies available for \$17 each. They can be purchased through the office or canteen during regular business hours.

Once again, thank you to all for your support of the 2024 Poppy Campaign and we look forward to your continued support this year.

*Yours In Remembrance,
Don Burton,
Royal Canadian Legion
Poppy Chairman Branch 153*

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



Lake Lisgar.

(JEFF HELSDON PHOTO)

My father's diaries: Recounting an air crash close to home



**WRITER'S
CORNER**

NORMA COLLIS

Tillsonburg Post Columnist

Many people have attended the stage play called "Come from Away", a musical by David Hein and Irene Sankoff. It is a heartwarming and patriotic presentation about the incredible hospitality shown by the people of Gander Newfoundland towards the 38 airplanes containing approximately 7,000 passengers who were ordered to land in Gander after the attack on the World Trade Center and other areas in the US on Sept. 11, 2001. All the stranded passengers were housed and fed and entertained for a week until air travel was again resumed.

The gracious and many kindnesses extended to these passengers is something, we as Canadians should remember with great pride.

Few people know about a similar story of Canadian bravery and hospitality that happened near the tiny hamlet of Lawrence

Station, just 15 miles (24K) northwest of St. Thomas.

My father and mother had moved to Lawrence Station in 1938 as a newly married couple. It was just after 10:30 p.m. on a frosty Oct. 31, 1941.

An American Airlines DC-3 crashed in the oat field in front of a farmhouse, owned by the Howe family one half mile east of the hamlet of Lawrence Station.

My dad was outside the house at the time. He never said what he was doing out there, but I suspect he was fetching more wood for the furnace. My older sister Laura was born on September 1, 1941, so he may just have even been catching a "breather" from a new born's cries.

Along with many other people in the area, he heard the roar of the plane's engines, and it was obvious from the noise that the plane was in trouble. Some witnesses claimed they saw the lights on the wings of the plane just before it crashed. In later years, my dad, who had an excellent memory, swears to the fact that he saw some sort of mid-air explosion before the plane plummeted to the ground in an oat field belonging to a Mrs. & Mrs. Howe.

The newspaper accounts tell of Mr. Howe rushing from the barn as the impact shook the building. Mrs. Howe had witnessed the crash from the windows of their farmhouse. She was terrified that the plane was going to hit their home and later reports speculated that the pilot had taken

action to make sure that the plane did not hit the house, landing in the Howes' field instead.

The airliner Flight 1 dubbed the "New Yorker" was a regularly scheduled passenger flight on route from La Guardia airport to Chicago Municipal airport. The official name of the plane was "American Airlines Flagship Erie."

This flight had already made stops at Newark New Jersey, Buffalo New York, Detroit Michigan, and South Bend Indiana. At that time in aviation history, airplanes navigated based on signals that they received from airbases positioned along the great lakes.

When Mr. Howe reached the crash site, he realized from the blazing fire that engulfed the wreckage, that there would be no survivors. Indeed, all on board had perished. 17 passengers and three crew members perished in that fiery crash.

Upon impact, Mrs. Howe immediately rang up the switchboard operator who was in the village of Iona, five miles away. The operator immediately alerted the Ontario Provincial Police and NO.4 Bombing and gunnery School at RCAF station Fingal.

The Howes' home became "disaster central." They first fed and sheltered the first responders. Then investigators from Canada and the US arrived, plus many members of the press from both sides of the border.

Mr. and Mrs. Howe welcomed everyone into their home and provided food and

drink. Their landline became a focal point as the press made their reports back to their editors using the Howes' phone. Concerned family members and employers also phoned the Howe home. Mrs. Howe had to tell one family member of one of the deceased, that there had been no survivors of the crash.

Despite two different investigations, the exact cause of the crash was never determined.

This influx of investigators, the press and eventually family members of the deceased, went on for weeks. Each person was welcomed into the Howe home with warmth and boundless hospitality.

As the investigation unfolded, many theories as to what had caused the crash came to light. One theory was that the plane had hit a flock of birds. Conservationist and bird expert, Jack Miner was called to testify at an inquiry, but he stated that as the plane was flying at an altitude of 4,000 feet it was too high to have encountered any birds.

Another theory was that the weather conditions were adverse, causing poor visibility or that the plane's carburetor might have iced up. Others stated that the pilot was not very experienced in flying this type of aircraft. The pilot had radioed his position to a station in Jarvis Ontario at 10:20 p.m. Twenty minutes later the plane crashed. There had been no sign from the pilot that anything was amiss.

CONTINUED TO PAGE 5

Changing temperatures are impacting plants and wildlife



**THE
STAGE
IS THE
WORLD**

LAUREL A. BEECHEY

Tillsonburg Post Columnist

The last block of homes in Tillsonburg on North Street West is a haven for birds and small mammals. Not quite a forest, but compared to most areas, it has an impressive amount of older, larger trees, including a variety of nut trees. Peter and I live here and have a little pond and clover instead of grass in our backyard, so we get a variety of insects, and pollinators as well.

Have you paid attention to the wildlife where you live or when walking in the park? Have you noticed that in the last few weeks there seem to be smaller birds and animals?

My first orphaned wildlife rescue was 45-plus years ago, when wildlife babies came in April and May. Squirrels, raccoons, birds, bunnies and continued through May with the addition, of skunks, opossums and other mammals into June. Spring was the wildlife birthing season.

Back in the 1990s, I realized a change in the pattern, as did the other two rehabbers I knew then. There were occasionally babies born in late July or August. They were weaker, smaller and coming too late for some to be released before winter. Unlike skunks and raccoons, which pack on fat to get through the winter, squirrels do not. They most store enough food to get through the winter. Often late babies had to be overwintered by rehabbers.

"The sight of two fuzzy goslings waddling after their mother on a dreary Wednesday afternoon in late December put Londoners in awe, but it's also raising concerns among environment experts," said Arfa Rana of CBC News on

Dec. 30, 2023.

Brian Salt, director of Wildlife Rehabilitation at Salthaven in London, also noted "a lot of strange wildlife behaviour in the last few months." He pointed out eastern gray squirrels in this area, at least in southwestern Ontario, have had not two litters as they normally do in spring and fall, but this year they had three, which he hadn't seen before.

Fluctuating temperatures cause problems for wildlife, finding no food after an overnight freeze.

Writing today, Oct 17, I gazed out the front window to see three tiny finches fluttering up to get into our dragon, cedar hedge. Momma finch looked to be almost twice as large. In our backyard, we have eight trees of varying ages, and juvenile to teenage squirrels dining in our back yard. Six little ones seem to be living on their own in our black walnut tree. It is quite amazing to see them exiting the tree's hole in parade formation, single file, down to the back fence, tottering along its top, fully exposed to the local hawk. Eventually they get to the big elm tree, still with no mother in site. Oiled black sunflower seeds are tossed in the large root system of the elm tree, which offers some semblance of protection from flying predators. They run up and down the tree, playing tag and wrestling on the ground. They stay close to the elm tree and eventually parade back to their home tree.

This is October, not springtime! They don't know to store food for the winter. The Canadian Wildlife Federation reminds us that Canada is supposed to have winters. Already "some cities and regions have lost more than two weeks of

winter weather compared to what they would have without human-caused climate change, including Vancouver (19 days), B.C.'s Greater Nanaimo region (18 days) and Ontario's Niagara region (15 days), the CWF points out in its publications. How fast will it continue? Seasonal shifts have happened, but over thousands of years. At the rate they are changing today, will flora and fauna have time to adapt? Migration patterns have changed.

In the high Arctic, people are watching the sea ice shrink and changing the coastline. Robins, barn swallows and salmon have moved to the Arctic and white spruce and dwarf birch are popping up over the tundra.

Rising CO2 levels are also changing the chemistry of our plants! A study done by USDA Agricultural Research on CO2 and pollen interactions, found that increased CO2 levels have resulted in decreased protein content in pollen across varying plant species. This is a big threat to the wild pollinators

The CO2 traps the heat. Scientists at Imperial and the London School of Hygiene and Tropical Medicine used peer-reviewed techniques to calculate that about 2,300 people in 12 cities likely died from the heat during this summer's bout of high temperatures in Europe, with nearly two-thirds of them dying because of the extra degrees that climate change added to the natural summer warmth."

If you don't wish to go north with the birds and mammals, you might want to think about what you can do to help!



(CONTRIBUTED PHOTO)

Mike and Christina Gazley, owners of the Tim Hortons on Simcoe Street, Oxford Street and in the Tillsonburg Town Centre, donated \$10,000 to the Tillsonburg Fire Department during the annual fire prevention week open house. The Gazleys made the donation as a tribute to firefighters contribution to the community through fire fighting and fire safety.

**GRANT
HAVEN
MEDIA**

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

Tillsonburg POST

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



Funded by the Government of Canada
Financé par le gouvernement du Canada



Tillsonburg POST

Guiding Principles

1. Everyone has a story
2. The news should be free for all to enjoy
3. Good news beats bad news
4. A Newspaper should be a community effort (contribute to your local paper!)
5. Newspapers document history
6. Newspapers strengthen communities
7. Advertisers, big or small, should profit from their ads (meaning sensible ad rates)
8. Newspapers should be locally-owned and operated

My father's diaries: Recounting an air crash close to home

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 3

There was also serious speculation that the plane had been sabotaged. There were two United Auto Worker officials on board. Later, in 1970, the UAW founder Walter Reuther, also died in a plane crash, adding fuel to this earlier theory.

As this event occurred during World War 2, my dad always believed that there might have been war documents on board as well as individuals key to the war effort.

I know that he was interviewed as a witness to the crash and sworn to secrecy. He was instructed not to talk about the event for 50 years. It is noticeable, to me, that his diary entries end in July of 1941 and do not resume until a year later.

Dad did not speak of the crash until he was well into his early 80s. He told us then about being sworn to secrecy by the government officials who had interviewed him. He was quite elderly when he was interviewed by a young woman who was doing research for the writing of a book about the event.

A book titled "Final Descent: The Loss of Flagship Erie" written by Robert D. Schwyer was Published by the Schwyer Family in 2014.

The book has also been made into a stage play titled "Lawrence Station, the crash of American Airlines Flagship Erie." It was

written by Len Cuthbert who was inspired to research the event after discovering a roadside, commemorative plaque dedicated to the passengers and the crew who perished on the 30th of October, 1941. The play was presented in Strathroy and at other local theaters.

Many of the events included in the play were taken from a scrapbook kept by Mrs. Viola Howe.

The play pays special attention to the sorrow and shock that encompassed the entire community. As a young minister my dad would have been expected to comfort the members of all 3 of the small churches in his 3-point charge. I can not even imagine how difficult this must have been for him to do.

In 2018, the commemorative plaque was unveiled at the crash site.

Both my sister and I were astonished to hear dad's story for the first time. He had been our father for all these years. We thought we had heard every story that he had to tell but, always a man who stuck to his word, he kept this secret to himself until each of those fifty years had passed on by.

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

Tillsonburg POST

Contribute to your local community newspaper! Send articles, sports or event recaps, and photos to info@tillsonburgpost.com

Charity3dRoses presents Birthstone Roses
Roses with the colour of your birthday's birthstone

Available for order online at charity3drose.ca
or by email to office@charity3drose.ca

All proceeds go to the
Shriner's Hospital for Children
in London, ON

Donation:

1 rose - \$5

1 vase - \$10

3 roses

and a vase - \$20



Charity3dRoses

Free delivery in the Tillsonburg area.
For more information, contact David Palmer at
office@charity3drose.ca

**THIS WEEKEND ONLY!
FRIDAY - SUNDAY**



HARD WOOD SALE!

**6 MONTHS
NO INTEREST**
*with approval from Affirm

**STARTING FROM
\$3.99
/SQFT**

FIRST TIME OFFERING

affirm

Shop Now...Pay Later!

Pay per month with an APR starting at 0%

See in-store or online for more details

SOURCE FLOORING

**SHOP ONLINE 24/7
SOURCEFLOORING.COM**

**1362 VICTORIA ST N KITCHENER
MON-FRI 8AM-8PM
SAT 9-6 SUN 10-5**

Tillsonburg one of the focus areas for new BBBS program

Tillsonburg is one of the focus areas for recruiting high school student mentors for Big Brothers Big Sisters.

The program is part of Oxford County's Teen Literacy Mentoring program. It connects high school mentors with Grades 1 to 6 students for weekly 70-minute one-to-one sessions at a local elementary school held after school. These engaging sessions focus on academic support, including homework help, school projects, and literacy development. Through fun, interactive activities, mentors build meaningful developmental relationships with their mentees, while agency staff oversee each session to provide consistent guidance and support.

Trillium grant launches program

Recently, the Big Brothers Big Sisters (BBBS) of Oxford team met with Oxford MPP to celebrate a \$67,800 seed grant from the Ontario Trillium Foundation that launched the pilot program connecting high students with elementary students.

"Congratulations to Big Brothers Big Sisters of Oxford County on receiving this Ontario Trillium Foundation grant," said Ernie Hardeman, MPP for Oxford. "This innovative mentoring program will not only support literacy, but also build confidence in young students while empowering high school mentors to make a lasting impact in our community."

During the pilot project and launch

of the new program in the 2024/2025 school year, there were 19 teen mentors and 20 mentees. For the 2025/2026 year, there are 19 mentors and mentees matched to start this month with mentor applications and mentee enrollments still open. In Tillsonburg, last year there were five matches, and another five confirmed for this year's program.

"We are thrilled to see the Teen Literacy Mentoring program grow from a small pilot into a thriving initiative that is already making a real difference for children in Oxford County," says Kristen Ralph, BBBS Oxford Executive Director. "This year we are excited to welcome teen mentors who are ready to inspire, encourage, and support younger students in their learning journey,

while also developing key leadership skills of their own. With the Ontario Trillium Foundation's support, we are able to give both mentors and mentees an opportunity to shine, grow, and build brighter futures together."

During the pilot project and launch of the new program in the 2024/2025 school year, there were 19 teen mentors and 20 mentees. For the 2025/2026 year, we have 19 mentors and mentees matched to start in October with mentor applications and mentee enrollments coming in.

Any high students who are interested in learning more or applying for the program can visit: <https://oxford.bigbrothersbigsisters.ca/volunteer/teen-literacy-volunteer-application/>

Tillsonburg Post is available for FREE in print and online:
www.tillsonburgpost.com



OPTIMIST DONATION

(JEFF HELSDON PHOTO)

Michelle Wegg, president of the Tillsonburg and Area Optimist Club, presents a cheque for \$4,848 to the Town of Tillsonburg for splash pad beautification. Mayor Deb Gilvesy, centre, and Andrea Greenway, director of recreation, culture and parks, accepted the donation. The money will be used for purchasing more benches for the splash pads.



(JEFF HELSDON PHOTO)

About 200 students at Monsignor O'Neil Elementary School enjoyed turkey lunch prior to Thanksgiving. Members of the parent council, parents and grandparents volunteered to serve the turkey donated by Mandy and Aad VanLeeuwen. The event was catered by the Carriage House.

PUT YOUR MONEY WHERE YOUR HOUSE IS

Keep your dollars in Canada to strengthen communities and support local businesses, including your local newspaper.

News Media Canada
Médias d'Info Canada



With over 30 years of industry experience, my goal is to work together with you to develop a successful marketing strategy for your business needs.

Contact Lisa Roberts

Marketing Media Specialist
lisa@granthaven.com | 416.455.4687

GRANT HAVEN MEDIA

.....



St. Marys Independent The Paris Independent The Wilmet-Tavistock Gazette STRATFORD TIMES Woodstock Ingersoll Echo Goderich Sun
Tillsonburg Post SIMCOE ADVOCATE NORFOLK FARMS BRANT FARMS NIAGARA FARMS INDY

TILLSONBURG'S BICENTENNIAL CELEBRATION



(JEFF HELSDON PHOTO)

Representing the family, Tamsen Tillson, cut the anniversary cake for the town her great-great-great grandfather George Tillson started two centuries ago.



(ALIYAH HELSDON PHOTO)

Although what started as Dereham Forge has been known for many things over the years - its mills, Pan Dried Oats, the Livvies basketball team, and the famed Stompin' Tom Connors song - the town started out as a forge in former Dereham Township, turning bog iron into products for the pioneers. This historical connection made the blacksmithing display, complete with a small forge, appropriate for the event. Stephen Wallace of Heatwave Blacksmithing demonstrated his craft during the weekend festivities.



(JEFF HELSDON PHOTO)

Ewart McLaughlin brought his heavy horses and wagon to Founder's Festival to provide free rides for attendees to the event.



(JEFF HELSDON PHOTO)

A commemorative tree planting took place on the lawn of Annandale House as part of the 200th anniversary festivities on Saturday. The tree, a Canadian tamarack, replaced one of two English tamarack that was planted by E.D. Tillson during his 50th wedding anniversary celebrations in July 1900. Guests attended from around the planet, including from England. Amongst those taking part, were in the front row from left, Mary Jean Kekes, Tia Tennent, great-great granddaughter of E.D; Joan Weston, event emcee; Tamsen Tillson, great-great granddaughter of E.D.; Martha Jackson, great-great granddaughter of E.D; Betty Lou Wallington and Mayor Deb Gilvesy.



(JEFF HELSDON PHOTO)

Tillsonburg Fair Mini Queen Lily Wegg enjoyed the petting zoo at Founder's Festival with her grandparents Jim and Shelley Webb.



(JEFF HELSDON PHOTO)

Vendor booths, including two to assist residents in tracing their ancestry and food booths, were a popular draw for those attending Founder's Festival on Saturday.



(JEFF HELSDON PHOTO)

Having a piper lead in the dignitaries speaking at Founder's Festival had a special meaning as a piper adorned the box for Tillson's Oats, which was a popular product that put the town on the map prior to Quaker Oatmeal buying out the company. Amongst those who spoke were MP Arpan Khanna, MPP Ernie Hardeman, Mayor Deb Gilvesy and Tamsen Tillson, great-great-great granddaughter of town found George Tillson.



(JEFF HELSDON PHOTO)

Scott Carpenter, chef for Chrissy's Catering, poured pancakes for the breakfast served in the Lion's Auditorium before the festivities started outside.



(JEFF HELSDON PHOTO)

The Canadian Lumberjack Show provided a mix of wood chopping, chainsaw carving and log rolling, all in an entertaining format that thrilled the crowd.



(JEFF HELSDON PHOTO)

There was a sense of appropriateness that Tillsonburg Town Crier Brenda Boszo led off the official ceremony for the 200th anniversary of the founding of Dereham Forge. While it would be almost a certainty there wouldn't be a town crier in the earliest days of the village with a population of only a handful of people, a person could have assumed that role as the town grew through the 1800s.

Tillsonburg to welcome Canada Connects Nature's Bounty National Mural Mosaic

ALEX HUNT

Post Contributor

A new mural is set to brighten the Tillsonburg landscape. The Canada Connects Nature's Bounty Mural Mosaic is a nationwide collaboration of artists that will be unveiled this fall.

In a collaboration effort with Tillsonburg Station Arts and the Tillsonburg BIA, the town was selected by Global Roots to install a mural mosaic that will showcase the artistic talents of residents of Oxford County and all across Canada.

"We're incredibly excited to present this mural to the community," said Tabitha Verbuyst, executive director and curator at Tillsonburg Station Arts Centre. "When we pull the tarp off, people will see a large, colorful image of an apple tree made up of beautiful tiles created by local artists."

"From a distance, it comes together as one striking image, but when you step closer, you can see all the individual artworks. It's truly a unique experience that connects our community with artists from across Canada."

The mural was installed on the Tillsonburg's Oxford County Library north exterior wall, and an unveiling was held on Oct. 21 at 11 a.m.

Vanessa Fortner, events and marketing coordinator at Tillsonburg BIA, said the Oxford County Library was chosen as the location for the mural due to its central location, accessible space and ability for the community to enjoy the artwork.

Fortner added the project allows a wide range of people to participate, and its nationwide acceptance adds to its significance. With contributions from artists across Oxford County, the province, and the rest of Canada, the mural serves as both a community landmark and a tourism attraction in the downtown core.

"It gives people that connectivity. It's unique because it shows different styles and ideas of creativity and it creates this beautiful scene that comes together



(JEFF HELSDON PHOTO)

Tillsonburg's new mural was unveiled on the wall of the library on Tuesday morning. The Canada Connects Nature's Bounty Mural Mosaic is a nationwide program to bring the country together through art. From left, Mark Renaud, executive director of Downtown Tillsonburg BIA; Tabitha Verbuyst, executive director of the Station Arts Centre; and Vanessa Fortner, events and marketing coordinator with the BIA, unveiled the mural.

and it's a very cool project," said Verbuyst. "I hope people see that Tillsonburg is striving to delve into that community and connection, and we want to celebrate people in all their uniqueness and creativity."

Since 2003, Mural Mosaic's Global Roots Project has been creating large-scale mosaic artworks that

celebrate unity and diversity. The project brings people together, highlighting and honoring each individual's unique perspective. Mural Mosaic has completed installations around the world, inspiring audiences to appreciate the beauty of our differences while contributing to a single, cohesive work of art.



Hear your best
& experience the joy of **sound**.

Service is our Specialty

- Complete Hearing Test by Candice Vande Wetering HIS B.A. (Hons)
- Registered with Ministry of Health ADP
- Hearing Aid Sales, Services and Supplies
- Servicing VAC, WSIB, NIHB and ODSP

Call today for a **FREE Hearing Check-Up** at a clinic conveniently located near you

TILLSONBURG 51 Simcoe Street Unit A2 519-842-5500	PORT ROWAN 1009 Bay Street 519-586-9500
NORWICH 32 South Court (Norwich Medical Centre) 519-842-5500	DELHI 96 King Street 519-582-2300



Candice Vande Wetering
Hearing Instrument Specialist
B.A. (Hons)

AHAC Alternative Hearing Aid Clinics

Family owned and operated since 2009
alternativehearing.ca



You're invited to j.d.lighting's
CHRISTMAS SHOPPING EVENT
November 3 & 4

Grab & friend & enjoy your first look at our Christmas collection! Shop all Christmas decor & home decor 20% off! Afternoon & evening time slots available.

CALL TODAY TO RSVP
519-688-1212
216 TILLSON AVE, TILLSONBURG
WWW.JDLIGHTING.CA

PUT YOUR MONEY WHERE YOUR HOUSE IS 

Keep your dollars in Canada to strengthen communities and support local businesses, including your local newspaper.

News Media Canada
Médias d'Info Canada



tillsonburgpost.com

WE ARE HIRING!
Full and Part Time Cooks

Apply by email:
swiss1906@recipeunlimited.com
or in person.
Serious applicants only.

SWISS CHALET.

400 Simcoe St., Tillsonburg

Impaired driving charges laid following serious collision

An individual is facing charges following an impaired driving investigation on the outskirts of Courtland.

On Friday, Oct. 17, at approximately 1:01 a.m., members of the Norfolk County Ontario Provincial Police (OPP), along with the Norfolk County Fire Department and Norfolk County Paramedic Services, responded to a single-vehicle collision on Highway 19 near the Norfolk-Oxford County border.

The investigation revealed that a sedan travelling on Highway 19 left the roadway and entered a field. The driver was transported to hospital with minor injuries, while the passenger sustained life-threatening injuries and was airlifted to a trauma centre by air ambulance.

As a result, the driver, 23-year-old Brody Mitton of Oxford County, was taken into custody and charged with the following al-

leged offences:

- Operation while impaired - blood alcohol concentration (80 plus),
- Operation causing bodily harm,
- Dangerous operation causing bodily harm.

The accused is scheduled to appear at the Ontario Court of Justice in Simcoe on Nov. 4.

Highway 19, between Norfolk County Road 30 and Carson Line, was closed for several hours, but has since reopened.

The OPP reminds the public that there is no safe amount of alcohol or drugs when it comes to driving. Impaired driving puts everyone at risk and can lead to devastating - and sometimes fatal - consequences.

If you observe a driver or operator you suspect may be impaired, contact the OPP or the nearest police authority by dialing 9-1-1.

Regional “Operation Impact” traffic campaign results

Ontario Provincial Police (OPP) West Region members laid hundreds of charges over the course of this year's "Operation Impact" Thanksgiving long weekend traffic campaign.

"Operation Impact" aims to reduce the number of preventable motor vehicle fatalities, injuries and collisions on roadways through targeted police enforcement and public education. Police focus on the main causal factors in road fatalities in Canada: impaired driving, aggressive driving, failure to wear a seatbelt, distracted driving and driver fatigue.

From Oct. 10, until Oct. 13, officers from OPP West Region's 13 detachments

made 2089 traffic stops, laying a total of 1832 charges for a variety of infractions.

OPP West Region "Big Four" traffic campaign charges are below. 2024 figures are in parentheses for comparison:

- Speeding: 919 (939)
- Failure to wear a seatbelt: 75 (57)
- Distracted Driving: 47 (6)
- Impaired Driving: 36 (54)

West Region members also charged 41 (29) individuals with Stunt Driving/Racing.

A supplementary document with detachment-specific "Big Four" traffic campaign charges is attached to this media release.

Dirt biker charged in dangerous driving incident

Police continue efforts to identify three additional individuals

One person has been charged, and police continue to search for three others in connection with a dangerous driving incident in Tillsonburg.

On Monday, Oct. 13, at approximately 4:43 p.m., the Oxford Detachment of the Ontario Provincial Police (OPP) responded to multiple 9-1-1 calls reporting a group of individuals operating dirt bikes dangerously near Concession Street East and King Street in Tillsonburg.

Officers later located the group of dirt bikers near Hardy Avenue in Tillsonburg, where one individual was taken into custody without incident. The remaining three fled the area.

As a result, 18-year-old Matthijs Heerschap of Oxford County was charged with the following alleged offences:

- Dangerous operation,
- Drive motor vehicle - perform stunt,
- Operate a motor vehicle without insurance.

The accused is scheduled to appear at the Ontario Court of Justice in Woodstock on Tuesday, Nov. 25.

Police continue to investigate as efforts to identify the remaining three individuals are ongoing. Anyone who witnessed the incident or has information that may assist the investigation is asked 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 where you may be eligible to receive a cash reward of up to \$2,000.

"Incidents like this pose a serious risk to both motorists and pedestrians. The OPP extends its gratitude to members of the public whose assistance contributed to the arrest. By working together, we can help ensure our communities remain safe and secure for everyone." - Provincial Constable Andrew Gamble, Community Engagement Officer, Norfolk County OPP.

PRICES IN EFFECT OCTOBER 23RD TO NOVEMBER 6TH



SUNLIGHT DISH DETERGENT  800 ML \$3⁹⁹	CLAXTON FRUIT CAKE  454 G \$7⁹⁹
POPPYCOCK ORIGINAL OR CASHEW  300 G \$8⁹⁹	CHARMIN MEGA ULTRA SOFT  4 = 16 ROLLS \$3⁹⁹
COUNTRY BLOSSOM HONEY  1 KG \$10⁹⁹	TWIGZ CRAFT PRETZELS  130 G \$2⁹⁹
HEINZ TOMATO JUICE  1.36 L \$2⁹⁹	WATERBRIDGE CHOCOLATE BARS  43 G 79¢

SAVE. EVERYDAY. COWARD!

165 BROADWAY STREET, TILLSONBURG
519-842-4081 • FREE DELIVERY WITH PRESCRIPTION

HOURS: OPEN MONDAY - FRIDAY 9 - 9
SATURDAY 9 - 5:30, SUNDAY NOON - 4

Volunteers design a hair-raising haunted house

ROBIN KRAFFT

Post Contributor

Downtown Tillsonburg's Haunted House is back and better than ever, with a chilling story that unfolds as you walk through a maze of 11 themed rooms - if you dare.

Invited by the BIA to take on the task of creating the experience again this year, dark designer extraordinaire Scott Foster, aka the Coffin Man, is the driving force, but he's not alone.

"It's a team effort," Foster said, "and everybody works together. We make zero dollars. It's just for fun and it's all for the town."

Entry cost is \$2 per person or any non-perishable food item, with all proceeds donated to the Helping Hand Food Bank.

Located on the second floor of the Tillsonburg Town Centre, the Haunted House has expanded from 1,450 to 3,700 square-feet, which has allowed the team to let their imaginations run wild and to create a better layout for visitors. The Coffin Man been creating various haunts since 1994, beginning in his own backyard.

"My forte is zombies," Foster said, who has loved spooky things since he was a kid.

He's a horror movie fan, loves Night of the Living Dead in Toronto, and even worked on the crew for Romero's horror flick Survival of the Dead.

"It was fun to get to participate in that," Foster said, "and see the other side of filmmaking."

Some former co-workers and friends who share his penchant for the macabre - Bruce Bennett, Chip Barkhouse, Jeff Lapointe and Mike Bolt - make up the rest of the crew. Many other volunteers contributed their time along the way, like Candice and Kristen Paradise, who designed and decorated the witch's room.

"It's a community effort and we have a lot of sponsors who donate," said Vanessa Fortner, Events and Marketing Coordinator for the BIA. Foster added: "Without them it wouldn't happen."

The Tillsonburg Town Centre offered the space and allowed the team to use it for two months. Foster added they needed the extra two weeks.

A building and fire inspection took place before the



(ROBIN KRAFFT PHOTO)

They didn't want to give away any surprises, so none of the new rooms are shown. The Coffin Man, Scott Foster, left, and Bruce Bennett, right, make some final adjustments to props in Downtown Tillsonburg's Haunted House.

team got started, to ensure a safe and enjoyable experience. After that, the team brought 60 skids up in the elevator and determined the layout before constructing walls and rooms. Windows were blacked out and themes were discussed. Finally, they began to fill the spaces in.

The team sourced props and animatronics from the BIA, Scott's personal inventory (including a coffin he built) and generous loans from enthusiastic individuals like Stacey Hance. Hance used to host a haunted house in Ingersoll, so she's happy that all of her accumulated props

can be used and enjoyed.

The Haunted House will be open October 23, 24, and 25, from 5 to 9:30 p.m. There will also be a kid-friendly afternoon on Oct. 25 from 2 until 5 p.m. Parental discretion is advised, but there will be no live actors or jump scares during that time, and some lights will be on.

Reflecting on his haunted handiwork over the years, Foster said, "You become a tradition, a part of people's Halloween memories. I'm happy, I don't think we could have done much more."

Oldridge
heating & cooling

Established 1961 - Locally Owned

**Your local, full-service
heating, ventilation, and
air conditioning technicians**

**Servicing residential communities and
industrial businesses in the Tillsonburg,
Delhi, Aylmer, Ingersoll, and
surrounding areas.**

"We give you comfort"

**oldridge@execulink.com
www.oldridgeheatingcooling.ca
519-688-2947**

MEET THE PEOPLE OF THE MEMORIAL VETERAN BANNERS



Sister Marguerite VanNorman Sinclair

Nursing Sister Marguerite VanNorman Sinclair was great-granddaughter of George and Nancy Tillson, founding and leading social family of Tillsonburg. She was born Dec 3, 1883. Trained as a nurse in Detroit, and unmarried at 32, she enlisted in Toronto on Feb. 3, 1916, with rank of Nursing Sister. She served in France with the #7 Canadian Stationary Hospital and #1, #8, #16, Canadian General Hospital. During service, she suffered from the loss of special senses, which include the senses of smell, taste, hearing, static equilibrium, dynamic equilibrium, and sight and respiratory system. She also had dental work done in France. Marguerite was discharged and returned to Canada in July 1919, to continue in nursing.

Celebrating an incredible 50 years of nursing at TDMH

HOSPITAL HAPPENINGS

LISA DAHM

Integrated Executive Assistant, AHI/TDMH

At Alexandra Hospital, Ingersoll (AHI) and Tillsonburg District Memorial Hospital (TDMH), there is a regular tradition of gathering for staff appreciation events. Over the years, there have been breakfasts in the spring, Thanksgiving lunches in the fall, barbecues in the summer, and hot chocolate stations in the winter. It's something that makes our small-town hospitals unique, keeping our staff engaged with one another while also taking time to appreciate everything that the team puts into their roles on a daily basis.

During these quarterly events, we also take time to celebrate our long-service award recipients. On completion of each five years of service at the hospitals, team members are acknowledged for their dedication and commitment to the hospital and the patients and communities we serve.

Over the years, there has been no shortage of long-service award winners, but this October, for the first time in the known history of AHI and TDMH, we were able to celebrate a team member who has reached the incredible milestone of 50 years nursing service.

Over five decades, Mary Barons, a registered nurse at TDMH, has cared for patients across nearly every clinical department in the hospital - med-surg, pediatrics, ICCU, and the emergency department - bringing her expertise, compassion, and steady presence to every role she has held.

Mary's career has been remarkable, not only in length but in her ability to connect with her colleagues. She is known

for being dedicated to her patients, paying attention to every little detail, as well as always being on the lookout for ways to improve the department and support her colleagues.

Upon learning of Mary's tremendous achievement, Dr. Karima Velji, Chief of Nursing and Professional Practice, and Assistant Deputy Minister of Health for the Province of Ontario shared a letter acknowledging Mary's contributions to nursing.

Dr. Velji noted, "Over a 50-year nursing career Mary would have been front line to the evolving role of the Registered Nurse. Mary will have experienced the rise of increased independence and autonomy in nursing, changes in formal education requirements and the nurse's role in creating and leading evidence-based practices. The introduction of advanced medical equipment from IV pumps to automated blood pressure cuffs, through to the electronic health record. Over the past 50 years, Mary would have born witness to nursing becoming more diverse and representative. Lastly, models of nursing care have evolved to be more patient centred and holistic with an emphasis on preventative care."

Over the course of her career, Mary has been a mentor and role model to countless nurses, passing along her wisdom, kindness and passion for nursing. She's created a great legacy, woven into the very fabric of TDMH, and even further as some of those she has connected with have moved beyond the walls of our hospital.

Mary is truly an inspiration to everyone completing the vital work of nursing. For five decades Mary has shown unwavering dedication to the wellbeing of others, a testament to her commitment to nursing, to TDMH and the Tillsonburg community. If you have the good fortune to know Mary, please share your appreciation for her continuing contributions, and wish her the best. Cheers, Mary from everyone at TDMH!



(CONTRIBUTED PHOTO)

Tillsonburg District Memorial Hospital RN Mary Barons was recognized recently for an incredible 50 years of service. Taking part in the presentation were, left to right: Jody Stevenson, Manager, Clinical Services; Barons; and April Mullen, Chief Nursing Executive & Vice President Clinical Services.

COUNTRY MILLS

FEED & FARM STORE

Fall into our fresh new look

You are invited to our
OPEN HOUSE
 SATURDAY, OCTOBER 25, 2025
 9 a.m.-2 p.m.

BBQ LUNCH
 All proceeds will go to the 4H Club

SALE REPS ON SITE

SALES & GIVEAWAYS

KID ACTIVITIES

FREE GIFTS
 While supplies last

Louisiana Grills
BLACK LABEL 1000
 NOW \$799.99
 Reg. \$1449.99

Blackstone Deal
28" GRIDDLE
 NOW \$399.99
 Reg. \$549.99
 Includes FREE cover & tools
36" GRIDDLE IS ALSO AVAILABLE
 While supplies last

Seafood Samples
FREE
 Come try our new line of seafood products!
 Chris Seafood

TRAERER Exclusive in-store deals!

De-Icers & HEATED BOWLS
 All your pet's winter needs are here in store!

Introducing
NEW TOUGH DUCK CLOTHING
 Coats, coveralls & more!

Trail Blazin' Deer Mix
COUNTRY MILLS
 Try our textured deer mix today!
 \$15.65/25kg.

RedBack Boots
 Your one stop shop for quality boots!

Bird Seed Sale
\$10 OFF
 Wild Bird No Corn (Elite)
 40lbs ONLY
 NOW \$34.99 Reg. \$44.99

Paint Pail with Lid
5 GALLON
 NOW \$3.99
 Reg. \$6.99

Ingersoll
COUNTRY MILLS
 FEED & FARM STORE

360 Harris Street
 Ingersoll ON, N5C 3J8
 (519) 425-0684
 countrymills.ca

SPORTS



COWARD PHARMACY
PharmaChoice

Part of Tillsonburg's
Independent Spirit Since 1874

Find our weekly flyer at
cowardpharmacy.ca
519-842-4081
165 Broadway, Tillsonburg

STORE HOURS:
MONDAY TO FRIDAY 9AM TO 9PM
SATURDAY 9AM TO 5:30PM
SUNDAY 12PM TO 4PM



wiltshire
REALTY INC. BROKERAGE

We Are Helping Your Friends & Family
519-544-HOME
67B Tillson Ave., Tillsonburg
www.wiltshirerealty.ca

 Bryan Wiltshire** 519-318-0736	 Amanda Wiltshire* 519-777-8801	 Brienne Guralski* 519-983-7885
 Cam Hughes* 519-852-5431	 Craig Todd* 519-550-5212	 Melissa McDonald* 519-688-6916

** Broker of Record * Sales Rep.

Park-Thomas TD 'hat trick', Dodsley pair lead Gemini seniors past Clarke Road Trojans



(JEFF TRIBE PHOTO)

A Gemini defensive swarm featuring Hunter Vinnai, Luke Mullen, Nolan Janzen and Malek Whyte combines for a tackle near the line of scrimmage.

JEFF TRIBE

Echo Correspondent

Is Landon Dodsley a throwing quarterback who can run, or a running quarterback who can throw?

The answer was 'Yes' Wednesday, Oct. 15 at Glendale, in that the Grade 11 pivot proved proficient at both through a 33-28 Thames Valley Regional Athletics (TVRA) Williamson Division senior football victory over the visiting London Clarke Road Trojans.

"I'd say I'm a running quarterback that throws," assessed Dodsley, who contributed two rushing touchdowns, including the game-winner, to the victory.

"Can still sling it, though," interjected Gemini centre Dante Bortolussi.

Dodsley scored the game's final and deciding major with 7:09 remaining in the fourth quarter. The play was set up by advantageous field position resulting from two solid defensive series, the first forcing Clarke Road to punt on third-and-17 from their own 23, returned by Dodsley to the Trojans' 32.

A first-down pass to Kyp-ton Lofthouse and 13-yard Park-Thomas run took Tillsonburg to first-and-goal at the eight. While stalling there and turning the ball over on downs, a swarming gang tackle at the two on first-and-14.5 from the 4.5 featuring Hunter Vinnai, Luke Mullen, Nolan Janzen and Malek Whyte, and open-field solo tackle on a swing pass completion by Gavin O'Don-

nell forced a third-down punt from the endzone.

The Gemini return, compounded by a face-masking penalty, set Tillsonburg up with a first down at the Clarke Road 11. Dodsley took it in from there, again untouched, on an 11-yard fake counter and keep, right up the gut. Park-Thomas ran a two-point covert in, upping the home team's lead to 33-28.

The Gemini defence made the five-point advantage stand up, Ethan Pasztor and Parker Elliott closing out the ensuing series with pressure on the Trojans' quarterback as he pulled the ball down and tried to scramble for a first down to his left.

"Just saw him 'leaking' - had to make sure I contained," said Elliott.

Following the punt, Park-Thomas broke a first-down run up the gut outside to the right for 32 yards to the 13. A third-and-six Janzen end-around finished a half-yard short of a first down, giving the Trojans the ball at their own 4.5.

But that field position gave the Gemini defence enough of a cushion to grind out the clock. Of note, Odin Oatway, Vinnai and Mullen combined on a tackle for a loss of two on one first down, O'Donnell fired up from his defensive half-back position to make another fine solo tackle, and also committed an intelligent pass interference infraction rather than getting beaten as the last-man back in the dying seconds.

That play set the Trojans up on the Gemini 50 with a single second remaining, a desperation pass attempt falling incomplete to conclude the contest.

Tillsonburg's final game of the

regular season played out as a see-saw battle against a worthy foe. The Gemini led 13-6 after a quarter and 19-14 at halftime on a trio of Dorian Park-Thomas touchdowns, the second of which was converted via a Nolan Janzen point-after-try (PAT).

Clarke Road's Tyler Black re-

sponded with the first Trojans' major, added a PAT on his team's second (scored by Brown) and then a second-quarter rouge. Black kicked his second PAT as the Trojans opened second-half scoring on a Carter Los touchdown, giving the visitors their first lead of the day at 21-19.

CONTINUED TO PAGE 13



(JEFF TRIBE PHOTO)

This Landon Dodsley pass was just out of the reach of receiver Kyp-ton Lofthouse.



PROVIDING FIRST-CLASS DOOR INSTALLATION, REPAIR SERVICES, AND LOCKSMITHING SERVICES IN SIMCOE, TILLSONBURG AND SURROUNDING AREAS FOR BOTH RESIDENTIAL AND COMMERCIAL PROPERTIES



519-842-4671



info@doorworld.ca



doorworld.ca

DOOR WORLD
a division of E&E McLaughlin

Park-Thomas TD ‘hat trick’, Dodsley pair lead Gemini seniors past Clarke Road Trojans

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 12

Dodsley scored his first rushing TD on a third-down-and-four gamble from the Clarke Road 14, faking a handoff before heading directly up the middle of the field, untouched into the end zone. His rush restored Tillsonburg’s lead at 25-21, however Black countered with his own third major of the afternoon on a 55-yard-pass-and-run play, converting it for a 28-25 lead with 4:44 remaining in the third quarter. The fourth quarter’s lone touchdown would finally decide the issue.

“Back and forth, back and forth,” said Park-Thomas of what he described as a ‘huge game.’

Both teams had displayed quality offence and defence added the speedy Gemini running back.

“But our offence was better.”

At the time, based on the regular sea-

son-closing victory and 3-2 won-lost record, the Gemini had hopes of opening playoffs at Glendale. However, after sharing a four-team tie for second place in final standings between Clarke Road, Woodstock College Avenue and London Montcalm, Tillsonburg, although technically the ‘home’ team, will begin the post-season Thursday, Oct. 23 at London City Wide Field, ‘hosting’ Clarke Road in a rematch scheduled to kick off at 2:15 p.m.

Although not knowing their opponent at the time of their season-closing win, Dodsley and O’Donnell displayed a similar mindset.

“We’ve just got to focus on our first playoff game and go from there,” Dodsley concluded.

“Can’t get too far ahead of ourselves, take it one game at a time,” O’Donnell added.

The junior Gemini had kicked off a doubleheader sweep with a 35-0 shutout victory over Clarke Road. Strathearn had three touchdowns, a field goal and two PATs, Cato and Thompson a touchdown apiece.

The juniors, who also finished their regular season with a 3-2 won-lost record, are scheduled to open playoffs Thursday, October 23 at Ingersoll DCI with an 11 a.m. start.

Tillsonburg did not face the Blue Bombers during the regular season. IDCI finished with a 3-1-1 won-lost-tied record.

GEMINI SCOREBOARD

Senior Girls Basketball
Thursday, Oct. 16
Woodstock CI 39, Gemini 19
Tuesday, Oct. 14
Lord Dorchester 41, Gemini 23

Junior Girls Basketball
Thursday, Oct. 16
Woodstock CI 30, Gemini 10
Tuesday, Oct. 14
Lord Dorchester 44, Gemini 30

Senior Boys Volleyball
Tuesday, Oct. 14
Lord Dorchester 25, 23, 25, 25; Gemini 17, 25, 22, 16

Junior Boys Volleyball
Thursday, Oct. 16
Woodstock CI 25, 25, 25; Gemini 12, 10, 15
Tuesday, Oct. 14
Dorchester 26, 25, 22, 25, 15; Gemini 24, 13, 25, 21, 8

Early leaders showing in Club Oxford standings

JEFF GWYN
Post Contributor

It’s early in the Club Oxford season, but leaders are showing in the standings already. ReMax is on the top of A Division and B-Line Trucking and Source for Sports are tied at the top of B Division.

Oct. 13
ReMax 3, Health Hut 0

ReMax is seemingly dangerous with each line out there. Even mixing them up, they get great chances and pressure. Health Hut couldn’t seem to get any pressure in front, but if they did, they were turned away by ReMax defence and goal-tending.

Brian Velthove scored the game winner for ReMax.

Fody’s 3, Apple Shack 0

A real back and forth game. Both teams had chances and it looked like it would end in zeroes. Fody’s finally broke through and were able to keep Apple Shack away from the net. Apple Shack just ran out of energy in this one and couldn’t match Fody’s late. A really fun game to watch.

Christian Clifford had the game winning goal for Fody’s.

Source 7, RND 3

This game was wide open. Source continues to use their speed for breakout passes and it’s working. They played well in front of their net to limit RND. RND was able to match Source’s speed in the first with some odd man rushes. They held off a charging Source in the second until late and they ran out of gas.

Christ VanKasteren had a hat trick for Source. Abe Friesen and Gaige Benish had two points each for RND.

CLUB OXFORD A DIVISION	GP	W	L	T	PTS
REMAX REALTY	2	2	0	0	4
THE HEALTH HUT	2	1	1	0	2
FODY’S AUTOMOTIVE	2	1	1	0	2
THE APPLE SHACK	2	0	2	0	0

CLUB OXFORD B DIVISION	GP	W	L	T	PTS
B-LINE TRUCKING	2	2	0	0	4
SOURCE FOR SPORTS	2	2	0	0	4
TILLSONBURG GLASS	2	1	0	1	3
CARQUEST AUTO PARTS	2	1	1	0	2
JEFF PROUSE MORTGAGES	2	0	0	2	2
RND CONSTRUCTION	2	0	1	1	1
ROYAL LEPAGE REALTY	2	0	2	0	0
AIRMOUNT FARMS	2	0	0	0	0

Thunder 2-1 for season, tied for first

MICHAEL HOLLY
Post Contributor

Last weekend saw the Tillsonburg Thunder on the road versus the Elora Rocks. Tillsonburg and the Rocks have a long history between the two clubs and everyone knew it would be a spirited affair and the game did not disappoint.

Elora opened the scoring at 14:52 of the first but the Thunder tied it up at 9:27 by Luke Sinclair from Sebastian Guastadigsegni and Jamie Forslund. Elora answered and took a 2-1 lead into the break. The second period saw the teams exchange goals, with the Thunder goal by Kurtis Heggie from Forslund. Elora added one more in the third, leading to a 4-2 Elora win. The Thunder had two goals called back, however. That’s the way the puck bounces sometimes.

The Thanksgiving weekend saw the Thunder on the road against the Dunnville Aeros.

It was a spirited affair, with both teams coming out flying. Derek Slaght from Morrison and Kam Korab opened the scoring at 15:36 of the first period and the Thunder did not look back. Korab

added another from Slaght and Morrison at 5:19 of the first.

The second saw lots of action, but no goals as both tenders played well. Danny Attridge - no relation to trainer Mike Attridge or GM Sean Attridge - from Sinclair scored the Thunder third goal at 7:15 of the third and another from Guastadigsegni and Sinclair at 4:25.

The heavy play was notched up in the third with an Aeros player running into Ben Blacker. The Thunder defense would have none of that and a scum ensued, thus earning Korab the Gordie Howe Hat Trick and player of the game. That honor could easily have gone to Thunder tender Blacker who earned the shutout with 34 saves.

The October Thunder Road Tour ends Saturday, Oct. 25, with a 7:30 p.m. start versus the Erin Outlaws. Make the trip to Erin and cheer on the team. There has been many times that the Thunder fans outnumber the home team. The Thunder then play four home games, starting on Saturday, Nov. 1 at 7:30 versus long-time rival the Tavistock Royals. Both teams are contending for first place and it is sure to be an intense game.

Tillsonburg POST

Contribute to your local community newspaper!
Send articles, sports or event recaps, and photos to info@tillsonburgpost.com

Pickleball Club advocates for more courts in Tillsonburg due to high demand

ALEX HUNT

Post Contributor

With more than 150 members and growing, the Tillsonburg Pickleball Club is calling on the town to help plan for more courts to meet surging demand.

Currently the town of Tillsonburg operates three pickleball courts next to the Tillsonburg Centre. The courts are heavily used by members of the community and the Tillsonburg Pickleball Club who requested to partner with the town to build more courts alongside the three existing ones.

"I think it would serve our community well to have more courts, it's the fastest growing sport in North America, it became apparent pretty fairly quickly, three is great, we are very grateful, but we are full all the time, there are always people waiting," said Diane Peacock, president of the Tillsonburg Pickleball Club.

Vice President of the Tillsonburg Pickleball Club, Carolijn Verbakel, said that pickleball is a very inclusive sport where people are always invit-

ed to join. She adds that the sport is very versatile as seniors and younger demographics are able to pick up the sport.

"We would love to work with the town to come up with a vision for our future not just for the club but for the community," said Verbakel. "We want the courts all together, so we can have more structured tournaments that will bring economic support to the town."

"The sport is big for all other regions so why wouldn't we want that for our own town as well; we don't have a multipurpose gym in Tillsonburg so indoor pickleball is at minimal, it's just not enough."

The Tillsonburg's Pickleball courts are open for public use and members often invite newcomers to join in on the matches. While they are grateful for the three courts at the community centre, Peacock said pickleball stands out as an interactive sport where players rotate partners, meet new people and gain social and health benefits. She added the activity also helps draw visitors into town.

Peacock adds that pickleball is becoming popular for younger generations because it's an easy, simple game structure. She explains that pickleball is a layered sport and that anybody can play it. As people start playing the sport on a consistent basis, they find out there's a lot of skill and strategy involved. Peacock says it will likely be the next Olympic sport, but it has to grow more in order to gain that attention.

Stonebridge Community Centre, support services manager Abby Malott didn't think the sport would grow as much as it did back when the centre opened its pickleball services for seniors around 2012.

"There is a strong need for pickleball, registration filled up within one minute of its opening, there are still opportunities for people to drop in though," said Malott. "Stonebridge exists to fill the need in the community to keep seniors healthy, fit, well and thriving. Pickleball meets that need to get seniors out and active, there's a need to have as much Pickleball as possible."



(ALEX HUNT PHOTO))

Carolijn Verbakel, left, vice president and Diane Peacock, president, warm up to play a match at the Tillsonburg Pickleball Courts.

Stonebridge has been running pickleball at Annandale Public School and Glendale High School on Tuesday and Friday evenings. They also run it five days a week at the Port Rowan Community Centre as well. She adds that there are still opportunities for people to drop in as well.

"Pickleball gives seniors a reason to get out and it's fun, there's also a lot of social activity that goes along

with it, those social connections happen," said Malott. "The program is volunteer led and it provides an opportunity for individuals to give back and that's what really helped us to grow. We are very grateful for our volunteers, and we are always looking for me."

Anyone interested in volunteering at the Stonebridge Community Centre can call 519-842-3200 or email inquiry@stonebridgeccs.com.

More jobs, made from the Ring of Fire

There's an area in Northern Ontario rich with critical minerals. We can create more than 70,000 jobs across the province by unearthing them.

Learn more at ontario.ca/RingOfFire
Paid for by the Government of Ontario



**PROTECT
ONTARIO**

Ontario



Norwich Musical Society Band - almost a century later...

REBECCA DEWAELE

Post Contributor

The Norwich Musical Society Band continues the legacy, 95 years from when it all began. And with the unofficial 100th Anniversary coming up in 2030 (the official coming up in 2033), the band is looking forward to celebrating this incredible accomplishment, but how did it all begin?

The band originated as a high school brass band in 1930, which included instruments such as trumpets, trombones, baritones, and tubas. During this time, it was originally a boys' band. They would eventually become the Norwich Musical Society Band in 1933 which included more instruments like the flutes, clarinets, saxophones, etc. The band would eventually include women, and anyone at any age was able to participate.

The band had many conductors who led them over the many years of their existence. Conductors included Wilf Manning, who started the Norwich Musical Society Band and helped the band win many trophies during music competitions; James Ford of London; Cameron Marchant, a trombonist who brought a new style of music to the band; James McLellan; Doug and Ginger Pullen; Clarie Martineau, a beloved conductor who had the ability to find music that suited well with the band; Tim Nicholls; Matthew Nace; and Henry Breitkopf, manager of the Long & McQuade Music Store in Tillsonburg. As of July of 2025, the band is now under the leadership of retired music teacher Diana

Haandrikman, who is eager to share the band's musical talents.

Today, the Norwich Musical Society Band is well known in Oxford and neighbouring counties. They continue performing at nursing/retirement homes, churches, schools, cemeteries for decoration days, parks, and special occasions such as Christmas parades and Canada Day festivities. The band hosts two annual concerts per year, a spring concert and a Christmas concert, usually collecting donations for local organizations. In recent years, they've also teamed up with the Mitchell Band, conducted under Nathan Pol, who is also seen performing with the Norwich Band from time to time.

The band's members are known for their dedication to music and their communities, and not only do they come from Norwich, there are members who come from various places throughout Southwestern Ontario, including Delhi, Scotland, Tillsonburg, Brantford, Woodstock, Springfield, Sweaburg and, the furthest yet, Welland.

The band is currently looking for new members, from woodwinds to brass, and anyone can join, regardless of their level of expertise. It's a great way to socialize, not just with the other band members but with other people in the community. The band also encourages high school students to participate as it would help with their 40 hours of community service, one of the criteria needed to graduate from high school.



(CONTRIBUTED PHOTO)

The Norwich Musical Society Band performs at a variety of functions, both indoors and outdoors, and also has two annual performances. The band is currently looking for new band members to join.

If you or someone you know would like to participate in the Norwich Musical Society Band, practices are on Tuesday nights from 7 – 9 p.m. in the band room at the Norwich Community Centre (53 Stover St. South, Norwich). The band is

looking forward to meeting new faces, and they hope to see you there!

Want the latest updates about the band? Or find out about their next concerts? Visit their Facebook page at www.facebook.com/TownshipofNorwich.

Assisted Living

All-Inclusive Retirement Experience

Move in by *December 1st* and receive

The 4th Month FREE!

Limited time offer before winter!

PRICING STARTS FROM \$3,566

Enjoy one month free, including your suite, delicious daily meals, housekeeping, and laundry services.

(Please note: additional care services are not included in the free offer.)

Extendicare

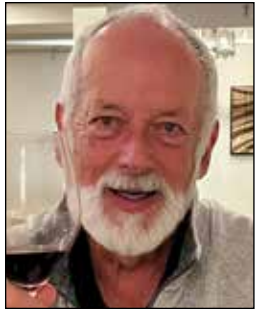
CALL EMILY TODAY!
519-442-8004

**Helping people
live better**

Telfer Place Retirement Residence | 245 Grand River St., N., Paris, ON



An unexpected delight in downtown Toronto



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

PAUL KNOWLES

Tillsonburg Post Columnist

When you put the two words, “Toronto” and “Gardiner” together in the same sentence, the reaction is probably not all that positive. Because it conjures up very familiar images of sitting motionless in your car on the Gardiner Expressway – an experience even more likely this year because of all the construction on the notorious lakeshore highway.

But there is another “Gardiner” in Toronto, and it offers a much more pleasant experience. The expressway was named for Fred Gardiner, a Toronto politician; but, “The Gardiner Museum of Ceramic Art” carries the same moniker because of founders George and Helen Gardiner (no close relation to Fred that I can find).

The Gardiner Museum is, frankly, an unexpected delight. I have written from time to time about attractions that seem less than inspiring in my uninformed opinion, where I anticipate a 20 minute visit, which then turns into a number of intriguing hours. That was certainly the case with the Gardiner Museum.

The institution is located at 111 Queen’s Park, directly across from the main entrance of the Royal Ontario Museum. Once managed by the ROM, the Gardiner gained operational and financial independence about 30 years ago, and has thrived ever since.

But what is it?

The Gardiner was founded by George and Helen to house their collection of ancient American artifacts and European pottery and porcelain. As a former chair of the Toronto Stock Exchange, George was free to indulge in a whimsical hobby,

and so, began collecting ceramic art. That collection formed the foundation for what is now an ever-growing inventory of important ceramic pieces.

George passed away in 1997; Helen in 2008. But their vision – and their continued philanthropy – has sparked two significant expansions to the museum, and its collections. One such program, in 2004, saw the museum close for two years to allow a major expansion. A second is ongoing on the ground floor, this year. The current, \$15.5 million dollar project, is described as “the full-scale reimagining of our ground floor [which] will include the construction of a new fully equipped makerspace, a Community Learning Centre, and an Indigenous gallery space.”

But even with the ground floor closed for reconstruction, there is still a lot in the open exhibits to intrigue visitors to the gallery.

Now, let’s be honest, here. We visited the Gardiner as complete novices, knowing virtually nothing about ceramics, and not sure we really cared. But the exhibitions, the information, and the sheer quirkiness of the art and artifacts on display absolutely captured our attention.

For instance: soon after beginning our visit, we spotted some outrageously bold images on what were apparently dinner plates. The accompanying information told us these were original creations of Pablo Picasso.

Nearby was something completely different – a life-size, bright blue, ceramic chainsaw, the creation of Native Canadian artist Mary Anne Barkhouse.

You might not immediately associate ceramics and porcelain with humour, but to my surprise, we found a great deal to smile about in the pieces on display at the museum. An English piece created in Staffordshire in the 1830s is simply labelled “The Ale Bench,” but there’s a lot going on in the work – a full-on dust-up between a drunken man and a rather aggressive female opponent! It made me laugh – still does, when I look at the photo – and honestly, I think that is as positive a recommendation as I can make for any tourist attraction.



(PAUL KNOWLES PHOTO)

The Gardiner Museum, featuring ceramics and porcelain, in Toronto.

And we also laughed at the highly detailed, admittedly weird, 19-character “Monkey Orchestra”, from the Meissen factory, around 1750.

Like many hobbies over the centuries, the creation and collecting of porcelain has inspired huge excess. And such extravagance is certainly on display here. There is, for example, a 31-piece, gold tea and coffee service, made in Vienna in 1788.

Many of the pieces in the Gardiner collection have historical significance, such as the group of three Sevres vases once owned by French king Louis XVIII.

But one of my biggest surprises came from much closer to home – right here in Canada. I am a bit of a collector of Inuit sculpture, but all of my pieces are soapstone or serpentine or bone. At the Gardiner, I found a wonderful ceramic piece, “Man Skinning Walrus,” by Roger Aksadjuak (1972-2014), a Nunavut artist.

Unlike many such institutions, the Gardiner is open seven days a week, from 10

a.m. to 6 p.m. (until 5 p.m. on weekends and holiday Mondays). The admission fee is very reasonable – what is suggested is \$15 adults, \$11 seniors, 18 and under, free. However, during the current construction project, admission is actually by donation of a loonie or more. And every Wednesday, the museum is open until 9 p.m., and admission is free after 4 p.m.

One highlight of the museum is the Clay restaurant, open every day except Saturday for lunch. The food is really good. It is also not inexpensive.

So... I highly recommend that if you know little or nothing about ceramics, you set your skepticism aside, and visit the Gardiner Museum. I’m confident it will be a pleasant surprise.

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.



Pablo Picasso brought his unique artistic vision to dinner plates. (PAUL KNOWLES PHOTO)



A ceramic chainsaw, by Mary Anne Barkhouse. (PAUL KNOWLES PHOTO)

MUSIC CORNER

Family Harmony: Archie & Sean Wright bring generations of music to The Copper Mug



BEN ADDRESS

Tillsonburg Post Columnist

There is something truly special about a family that makes music together. For Tillsonburg's own Archie and Sean Wright that mu-

sical connection runs deep by spanning more than seven decades, countless performances and a lifetime of memories shared on stage.

Archie Wright, now 75, has been performing since he was just 12 years old. Over the years, he has sung and played his way through big bands, church choirs, community events and nursing homes, always bringing a heart-felt touch to every show. His son Sean, now 47, has followed closely in his father's footsteps by carrying the Wright family's musical spirit into a new generation.

Sean remembers the

start of his musical journey vividly.

"One of the earliest memories was participating in a singing contest at the town centre mall, competing against dad and others at age three, and winning." Sean recalls with a laugh. "Dad was my back-up, back then and I get to return the favour now."

That full-circle moment of a son musically backing up a father beautifully captures what makes the Wright's performances so genuine. Their bond on stage is built on mutual respect, shared joy and a lifelong love of music.

"The best advice he ever

gave, and we continue to live by it, is if we are having fun then the audience will be as well," Sean says about his father Archie. "When music comes from a real and honest place the listeners can tell. If you play for the love of it, you never go wrong."

From Anne Murray to Gordon Lightfoot the Wrights weave classic Canadian songs and timeless compositions into a set that spans eras and styles. Their shows are known for warmth, laughter and sing-alongs. All the moments that make audiences feel like part of the family.

"It has always been about the connections," Sean

adds. "Bringing smiles, watching toes tap and people dance. No matter the venue, music is about joy and sharing it with others."

As Archie and Sean continue to share stages and harmonies, every performance becomes a celebration of both their shared history and the community that has supported them over the years.

"Every song holds special meaning for me," Sean reflects. "I cherish every chance I get to play with dad, especially as we both get older. As far as what to expect this Sunday, hopefully a really great time. We play a wide variety of music so hopefully there

is something for everyone. Any time we blend in harmony still gives me chills and I hope the crowd gets that too."

The father and son duo will bring their timeless blend of harmonies and heartfelt classics to Tillsonburg this Sunday, Oct. 26th. Join Archie and Sean Wright for an evening of songs and smiles that celebrate not just music but family itself at The Copper Mug. The show starts at 5 p.m. and is free with no cover charge. For more information and details you can visit the venue's official website at www.thecoppermugpub.ca

UPCOMING SHOWS

OCT. 23 - WITCHES NIGHT OUT

The Copper Mug

No Cover – 5 p.m.

OCT. 23 - OPEN MIC W/ BILLY GIBBONS

Paddy's Underground

No Cover – 7:30 p.m. - All Ages/Licensed

OCT. 24 - MUSIC TRIVIA

The Copper Mug

No Cover – 8 p.m.

OCT. 25 - KIDS HALLOWEEN KARAOKE

The Copper Mug

No Cover – 2 p.m.

OCT. 25 – HALLOWEEN KARAOKE

The Copper Mug

\$5 – 8 p.m.

OCT. 26 - ARCHIE & SEAN WRIGHT

The Copper Mug

No Cover – 5 p.m.

OCT. 29 - SPAGHETTI FUNDRAISER FOR SEMC

The Copper Mug

\$20 per plate/\$10 Kids 10 and under - 4:30pm

OCT. 30 - OPEN MIC W/ BILLY GIBBONS

Paddy's Underground

No Cover - 7:30 p.m. - All Ages/Licensed

OCT. 31 - RIGHT TURN CLYDE

The Copper Mug

No Cover – 9 p.m.

NOV. 1 - FERAL MINKS W/ GRAVELY

Paddy's Underground

\$15 – 8 p.m. - all ages/licensed



• Live Entertainment • Karaoke • NTN Trivia
• Fundraisers • Birthdays • Anniversaries
• Meetings • & More

Fresh made foods, in house smoked meats and lot of love, just like Mom used to make.

79 Broadway St, Tillsonburg
519-842-6227

Weekend Quiz

by Jake Grant

1. What does the abbreviation USB stand for?
2. Mace is the outer covering of which common spice?
3. Which writer adapted his own book for the 1989 film "Pet Sematary"?
4. The study of human behaviour and mind is called what?
5. What kind of animal is raised in a warren?
6. Who released the 1988 album "Look Sharp!"?
7. What is the most frequent number in the bible?
8. Which element has the atomic number 1?
9. What K-Pop group sings "Dynamite" & "Butter"?
10. The Gulf War involved the liberation of what country?

This week's answers are found on pg. 22

tillsonburgpost.com

GRANT HAVEN MEDIA

Residents in our communities trust our newspapers to provide local news and information, let me help you connect to our readers with your local business.



heather@granthaven.com

226.261.1837

St. Marys Independent The Paris Independent The Wilmot-Tavistock Gazette STRATFORD TIMES Woodstock Ingersoll Echo Goderich Sun
Tillsonburg Post SIMCOE ADVOCATE NORFOLK FARMS BRANT FARMS NIAGARA FARMS INDY

DNA responsible for reuniting siblings decades later

JEFF HELSDON

Editor

DNA was responsible for reuniting siblings who never thought they would see each other again.

The story is the stuff that television documentaries is made about, and involves an affair in a time when those things were hushed up, mothers had few rights, an adoption, and siblings who didn't know their birth mother and ended up scattered across the northern hemisphere.

Local businessman Milt Chesterman is in the midst of the story, although his tale started long before DNA technology's use in ancestry was dreamed of.

Born in 1940 in Montreal, Chesterman's father was in the military and away serving his country shortly after his birth. While his father was away, his wife had an affair and became pregnant. Returning home, the father discovered the affair, and took his three sons from the mother. While the older two brothers went to relatives, Milt was put in a foster home. After the war his father took the boys back in his care.

Chesterman said they all "ran away from home" when teenagers.

"We all left one at a time and went our own ways," he said.

However, his older brother found him working in a factory in Montreal and convinced Chesterman to come to Southwestern Ontario on a vacation.

Chesterman liked it so much, he stayed while his brother joined the army.

Chesterman didn't know much about his mother's family, but then in 1965 received a clipping in the mail from his father's brother with an obituary for his maternal grandfather.

Then some good old-fashioned detective work started. Chesterman noticed one of the surviving daughters was married to a doctor in St. Catharines. Since he had a unique Polish last name, Chesterman travelled to St. Catharines, found his uncle's office phone number in the phone book and left a message. Then he met his aunt for the first time. He discovered he had a large family, and his mother had remarried to a British sailor, moved to Wales and had four more children.

"That's how I discovered about my family in Wales and my mother," he said.

Chesterman met his mother when she came to visit his aunt two years later.

"There's no grudges, things were different in the war," he said of the relationship that developed with his mother and his new siblings.

Little was said about the sister, though, who was the product of the affair, and put up for adoption, except for a small slip-up by his aunt.

"Nobody would talk about it so you couldn't go down that alley to find the story," he said.

Carol's story



(JEFF HELSDON PHOTO)

Milt Chesterman and his half-sister Carol Johnson met for the first time nearly eight decades after her birth. The use of DNA tracing through ancestry.com allowed the family to be reunited, interestingly through a family tie in Wales, where their mother moved after the Second World War.

Carol Johnson grew up knowing she was adopted.

"I remember my mother was my adopted mother," she said. "She asked me on a number of occasions if I wanted information on my biological family."

Johnson was too young to understand the whole situation, but was happy growing up with her adopted parents in St. Lambert, on the south shore of Montreal. All she knew was the Montreal hospital where she was born in 1942.

As an adult, she was a school principal, was married and had her own children. Out of respect for adopted parents, she didn't pursue her roots.

Then, after her parents passed away, she decided to look into her past at the urging of her husband.

Johnson wrote the Department of Social Affairs in Quebec to seek information on her birth mother, knowing only her date of birth and she was born in Notre Dame Hospital. She was told her mother's maiden name was Dorothy Bailey and the father was unknown, but they could divulge no more without a request from the mother.

"They said if they ever have a request from the other side, they would put us together," Johnson said.

What she didn't know was that wasn't going to happen as her mother had moved to Wales after she was born.

As searching for ancestry through DNA grew in popularity, Johnson decided to pursue this route and sent in her DNA about four years ago. She start-

ed receiving names from the process, which would say they were fifth or sixth cousins.

Then she got a closer response — her son. He encouraged her to continue exploring their roots.

"Unknown to me, my son had sent it in because ancestry was a thing," she said. "It made it believable to me."

This was followed by a message that came through from the second name on the list, after her son, saying he believed Johnson was his aunt.

"It was going from the unknown to the known, that was scary," she said.

Her nephew from Wales started calling the relatives in the United Kingdom and reached out to Chesterman as well, putting them all in contact. Finally, the mystery of her birth started to come together.

"Everybody I talked to, or wrote to, gave me a piece of the puzzle," she said.

Since then, Johnson has met Milt, Ilene and their family. Johnson also travelled to Wales and met her two sisters and one brother living in Wales. She also discovered she had a sister that died two to three years earlier.

"I was an only child for all my life until I was almost 80, then all a sudden I have all these siblings, and nieces and nephews," she said.

Johnson visited the Chestermans recently, and while here, shared her story about DNA and ancestry during a presentation to Avondale United Church's United Church Women.



BRODY'S MECHANICAL
KEEP YOU IN COMFORT ZONE



YORK®

Heating and Cooling Solutions
SOLD, INSTALLED, AND SERVICED HERE

NO PAYMENT | NO INTEREST
6 MONTHS & UP TOO \$400US REBATE

5 Third Ave., Simcoe, ON

brodysmechanical.com

(519) 428-4102

24/7 EMERGENCY SERVICE

Job fair draws 245 people



(JEFF HELSDON PHOTO)

The VON table at the Job Fair Plus was popular and attracted many job seekers. VON's focus for the day was looking for people wanting jobs as PSWs or home helpers.

JEFF HELSDON

Local Journalism Initiative Reporter

There were mixed signs in indicators of the local job market.

The Tillsonburg Multi-Service Centre saw fewer people attend the Job Fair Plus held Oct. 2, than at the same event a year ago. This year's attendance was 245, compared to 265 last year, which is a positive indicator.

"It seems things are holding steady," said Gail Lonsberry, employment services manager with the Multi-Service Centre Employment Services. "We hav-

en't seen a lot of layoffs, but maybe people are holding off hiring."

The Job Fair Plus, organized by the Multi-Service Centre, Town of Tillsonburg, London Regional Employment Services, and the provincial and federal governments, featured 28 exhibitors with booths to speak with prospective employees. A post-event exhibitor survey showed 143 applicants will be contacted for follow-up interviews.

Heather Burke, chair of the job fair, said the event wouldn't take layoffs at CAMI into account, though. In the past, she explained anyone permanently laid



(JEFF HELSDON PHOTO)

The Job Fair Plus, held on Oct. 2, attracted 245 people looking for jobs in Tillsonburg and area. A variety of employers had booths, ranging from industrial jobs to positions in the hospital, town and local restaurants.

off wouldn't typically start looking until closer to when their severance pay runs out. She also pointed out that an action centre has been set up to assist with re-training and finding new jobs for displaced CAMI workers.

The situation with CAMI is similar to the closing of the Adient plant in town, where an action centre was also set up to assist employees. Most Adient employees were assisted through the action centre.

Burke did point out there was a spike in Oxford County unemployment numbers, likely due to CAMI, which occurred in

April. Figures from the labour market survey show 5.9 per cent unemployment in March, 6.5 per cent in April, 6.9 per cent in May, and 7.4 per cent in June.

Although not an official employment indicator, usage of the Tillsonburg Helping Hand Food Bank speaks to the financial well-being of the town's residents. Coordinator Samantha Hamilton reported usage is up from a year ago, with 385 households served by the food bank this September. That compares to 291 for the month last year. Of the households assisted this year, 47 have not previously used the food bank.



(CONTRIBUTED PHOTO)

CURLING AT A HIGHER LEVEL

Team King skipped by Tillsonburg Curling Club's Jayden King are competing this week in the Canadian Curling Association Olympic Pre-trials in Wolfville, Nova Scotia. The eight-team round robin event will decide the final entrant team for the Olympic team trials in early November. The team is currently ranked 29th in the world and 16th in Canada.

MEET PASTOR DAVE HEINRICHS



Hello Tillsonburg!

Having grown up in Port Rowan, I've always appreciated the rich history and strong sense of community here. After spending several years out west, I'm glad to be back home and now serving as pastor at **First Baptist Church Tillsonburg**.

I'd love to meet you—feel free to drop by on a Sunday at 10 a.m. or stop in during the week to say hello. We're just regular folks who believe in a God of second chances.

Hope to see you soon,

Pastor Dave Heinrichs

FIRST BAPTIST CHURCH
Tillsonburg

18 HARVEST AVE, TILLSONBURG
WWW.FBCTILLSONBURG.COM

RIDDLES

I creep through the night without making a sound. I'll visit your house, though I can't be found. What am I?
Ghost

I fly on a stick, wear a pointy hat, and stir a pot with a black cat. What am I?
Witch

I sleep in a coffin and hate the light. I only come out late at night. What am I?
Vampire

I'm carved and lit to give a fright. I glow softly through the night. What am I?
Jack-o'-lantern

I live in the attic and spin all day. If you walk through my home, I might ruin your day. What am I?
Spider

I'm wrapped in white from head to toe. I shuffle around and move real slow. What am I?
Mummy

I rattle and howl when the wind blows. I'll chill you to your very toes. What am I?
Haunted house

By day I'm calm, by night I howl; when the moon is full, beware my growl. What am I?
Werewolf

I cross your path on silent feet; nine lives strong and midnight sleek. What am I?
Black cat

SUDOKU

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

Solutions on Page 22

Level: Beginner

PET OF THE WEEK



LINDA

Give Linda words of encouragement on her weight loss journey!

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

WORD SEARCH

HALLOWEEN

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

PUMPKIN

SKELETON

GHOST

WITCH

ZOMBIE

HAUNTED

GRAVEYARD

SPIDER

BATS

CANDLE

CANDY

TRICK

TREAT

COSTUME

CAULDRON

FOG

MASK

MONSTER

SCARECROW

TOMBSTONE

COMING EVENTS

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

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

MUSIC JAM AT THE TILLSONBURG LEGION

Friday, October 24: 1-4 p.m.
Featuring Ken Lighthouse and the Northshore Ramblers. Only \$7 admission. All Welcome!

ROAST BEEF DINNER AT THE TILLSONBURG LEGION

Friday, October 24: 5-6 p.m.
Includes mashed potatoes, gravy, vegetables, buns, homemade desserts, tea and coffee for only \$18 per person inclusive. Cash bar. Everyone Welcome! For more info call 519-842-5281.

TILLSONBURG SENIOR CENTRE MONSTER MASH DANCE

October 25: 6:30 p.m.
Costumes not required but encouraged! Prize for best costume. Call 688-2520 for more details and get your tickets. 50+ event

KIDS HALLOWEEN BINGO AT THE TILLSONBURG LEGION

Sunday, October 26: 1 p.m.
Kids ages 5-14 can dress up in their best costume to win a prize! For more info call 519-842-5281.

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>

BROWN PAPER PACKAGES TIED UP WITH STRING

November 1: 10 a.m.-12 noon.
St. Paul's United Church,
88 Bidwell St., Tillsonburg
Messy Church invites families to have fun at a "Brown Paper Packages Tied Up With String." event. Crafts (get an early start on Christmas gifts), snacks, music, stories and a hot lunch. We ask that children be accompanied by an adult.

CHRISTMAS BAZAAR

Peace Lutheran Church
60 Young St., Tillsonburg, Ontario.
Saturday, November 8: 10 a.m.-2 p.m.
Cabbage rolls, Baked goods, Holiday treasures, Gifts. Soup Luncheon available.

'MISTLETOE MAGIC' CHRISTMAS BAZAAR

Saturday, November 15: 9:30 a.m.-1:30 p.m.
St. Mary's church and the Parish Centre,
Rolph St., Tillsonburg
Please join us for our annual bazaar, with two locations to serve you. In the Parish Centre you will find the Penny table.
Handmade for you; all things local and made by hand, greenery for all your outdoor decorating needs, and limited quantity of ready made wreaths, yummy home baked items, including a small quantity of delicious meat pies, as well as fresh produce and preserves. In the church hall you will find a silent auction, indoor and outdoor Christmas decor, and Timeless Treasures; jewelry,

select clothing, puzzles, and many surprises. Back by popular demand is the Bistro. Both St. Mary's church and the Parish Centre are fully accessible, and admission is free. Please bring a bag or two to carry home your purchases.

CHRISTMAS BAZAAR AND TEA ROOM

Saturday, November 22: 9a.m.-2 p.m.
Hickory Hills Recreation Centre,
48 Wilson Ave, Tillsonburg.
Handcrafted Items, Raffles, Baked Goods, Books, Puzzles, Games and Silent Auction. Find a gift for that special someone. Enjoy lunch in our Tea Room. Hope to see you there!

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.

TILLSONBURG SENIOR CENTRE SOUNDS OF THE SEASON

December 6: 7 p.m.
Lion's Auditorium, Tillsonburg
An all ages Christmas concert with the country music stylings of Crystal Gage accompanied by Rick Loucks, Charlie Agro, Doug Johnson, & Fred Lewis. Call 688-2520 to get your tickets

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 or 519-539-1231 Ext 6299 or 6296

TILLSONBURG

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

INGERSOLL

WHEN: 4th Tuesday of every month
WHERE: Ingersoll Public Library 130 Oxford St., Ingersoll
TIME: 10:30 a.m. –12 Noon

WOODSTOCK

WHEN: 3rd Saturday of every month
WHERE: Sakura House Hospice 715180 Oxford Rd.4, Woodstock
TIME: 10:30 a.m. –12 Noon

MEMBERS GENERAL MEETING
1st Wednesday of every month

Starting at 7 pm

Not a member contact us to join
The Wagner Memorial Teeterville Legion Branch 526. 3890 Teeterville Road, Teeterville, Ontario. For More Information Call, the Legion 519-443-5588
<https://www.teetervillelegionbranch526.ca>

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

The Wagner Memorial, Teeterville Legion Branch 526

3890 Teeterville Road, Teeterville, Ontario
You do not need to be a member to Volunteer, Just contact the legion and leave your name and number and purpose of your call. Someone will get back to you as to where you might be needed. Students and Adults welcome. Open hours. Wed.-Fri. 3 pm-10 pm, Sat.1 pm-10 pm, Sun.1 pm-6 pm. For More Information call, the Legion at 519-443-5588 or teetervillelegionbranch526.ca

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>

TILLSONBURG SENIOR CENTRE WEEKLY PROGRAMS FOR 50+

Scrabble Tues mornings, Drum Fit Wed afternoons, BINGO Fri afternoons, Karaoke second Fri afternoon of month, and many more! Over 35 programs a week! Call 688-2520 for details.

BUSINESS DIRECTORY

AUTO REPAIR

**GEORGE'S
AUTO REPAIR
INC.**

**Tire Services | Oil Changes
Maintenance & Repairs**

519 842-7058 • GEORGESAUTO.CA
10 Bridge St W., Tillsonburg
OPEN MON TO FRI: 8 AM - 5 PM

NAPA AUTOPRO



ORANGE DOOR ACRES

A destination for Families and Foodies alike!

- Pasture Raised Chicken
- Highest Quality Seafood
- Local Cheese
- Ready-Made Meals
- Preserves, and more!

323804 Mt Elgin Rd, Mount Elgin
orangedooracres.ca

CONSTRUCTION

**CC
OTTER CREEK
CONSTRUCTION**

Interior Renovations
Exterior Upgrades
Residential and Commercial

ottercreekconstruction.com
519-983-2008 | dvan.occ@gmail.com
7 McGuire Cres, Tillsonburg

SNOW REMOVAL

**Haul
It Forward**

**Residential Snow Removal
2025/2026 Season**

- Fast & Reliable
- Ice Management Included
- Per Snow or Full Season Pricing

haulitforward.ca
519-550-6350 Call/Text
Haulitforward@outlook.com

CUSTOM WINDOW COVERINGS

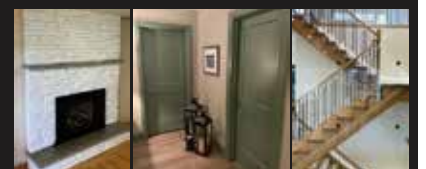
Blinds • Shutters
Rollers • Automation
17 BROCK ST E,
TILLSONBURG
519-550-6770
SHADES3.CA
Free In-Home Consultations

Missed an issue?
View all past issues online anytime:
www.tillsonburgpost.com

PAINTING

**CONTEMPORARY
PAINTING AND DESIGN**

Chris Imhoff
Owner
Main:
(548) 788-1189
Mobile:
(905) 325-1189



ContemporaryPaintingandDesign.com
Chris@ContemporaryPaintingandDesign.com

CLASSIFIEDS

ANNIVERSARY

Please join the family of
Willy and Monique Sys
to celebrate their
65TH
WEDDING ANNIVERSARY



**Open house October 26th 1-5pm
at Otter Creek Golf course.
275 James St. Otterville.
Best wishes only and it's a surprise.**

QUIZ ANSWERS

1. Universal Serial Bus
2. Nutmeg
3. Stephen King
4. Psychology
5. Rabbits
6. Roxette
7. Seven
8. Hydrogen
9. BTS
10. Kuwait

SUDOKU

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

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)

HELP WANTED

PART-TIME DELIVERY DRIVER

We are looking for a delivery driver to join our team at the Tillsonburg Post.

Responsibilities would be taking receipt of bundles of the newspapers from our courier service on Wednesday mornings (delivered to your home) and then distributing the bundles to our various drop-off locations in Tillsonburg and surrounding area on Wednesday and Thursday so that our readers can obtain their weekly news. Our driver shall also take note of which drop-off locations require more or less copies so that quantities can be adjusted in future weeks to meet reader demand.

Compensation based on a combination of hourly wage plus kilometer allowance.

To apply, please contact Stewart Grant at stew@granthaven.com or text 519-868-1290.

OBITUARY

DONOVAN AND AIRABELLA HUTCHESON



The family wishes to announce the passing of their beloved parents, Donovan Hutcheson and Airabella Hutcheson with Donovan at 97 years of age and Airabella at 92.

Loving parents to Linda (Bruce) Chessell, Nancy (Lloyd) Haggerty, Valerie Troyer (the late Mose), Andy (Karen) Hutcheson and Marty Hutcheson (Christine Wilson). Grandparents to Gary (Jen) Wolfe, Heather Fairheart, David (Melissa) Kolodij, Darren Kolodij, Wayne (Wendy) Troyer, Jolene (Troy) Kilby and Devin (Fran) Hutcheson. Donovan and Airabella had 12 great grandchildren. Donovan and Airabella are survived by sisters-in-law Dianne Meharg and Mary Meharg Foster.

Donovan is predeceased by his sisters Hazel Warren-Riley and Eva (Jim) Purtill.

Airabella is predeceased by her siblings Jack (Phyllis) Meharg, Marjorie (Don) Vannatter, Allen Meharg, Jim Meharg and Alice (Don) Marshall.

Dad loved to play pool. Mom loved the casino. She was a fantastic sewer making all her square-dancing outfits. Both Donovan and Airabella loved to travel together and were great travel companions, but of all the trips and adventures, visiting Africa was by far their favourite.

Friends and family are invited to join the Hutcheson family on Thursday October 23, 2025 from 6:00pm until 8:00pm at Ostrander's Funeral Home 43 Bidwell Street, Tillsonburg, ON N4G 3T6 (519) 842-5221. The Funeral Service for Donovan and Airabella will be held on Friday October 24, 2025 at 11:00am. Rev. Karlene Brown-Palmer officiating. Interment will be held in the New Road Cemetery. Donations in memory of Donovan and Airabella can be made to the VON Oxford – Sakura House or the Canadian Cancer Society and can be done online directly with the charity. The Funeral Home will accept donation cheques payable to the Charity being donated to. Condolences can be made at www.ostrandersonline.com

FOR RENT

Newly renovated 1 bedroom apartment, upstairs unit. Located in Tavistock. If interested call 519-801-5454.

Tillsonburg POST

OBITUARY

RONALD R. JAY



Ron Jay, beloved husband, father, friend, and lifelong aviation enthusiast "slipped the surly bonds of earth" on October 16, 2025, at the age of 90, after a well-fought battle with cancer. His wife of 66 years, Agnes, and his daughters Tracy and Kelly were with him when he made his peaceful departure.

Ron embodied all the qualities of a truly good person: he treated all people with kindness and respect, had integrity, worked

hard and responsibly, was honest and trustworthy, and was a dedicated friend and family man. He spent most of his life as part of the Delhi St. Alban's Anglican Church community where he flipped pancakes, barbequed chicken, fried fish, set up and dismantled rummage sale tables, and took up collection with the same friendly and enthusiastic spirit.

Though steady and dependable, Ron was also full of delightful contradictions. He was serious -- always signing his name with the full "Ronald R. Jay", never wearing shoes with no socks, taking meticulous care to keep each owner's manual for every product he purchased. However, he also had a deeply silly streak that revealed itself in unexpected ways. He was always on board with donning any sort of headgear, from reindeer antlers to Easter bunny ears, was very adept with deadpan humour, and took great pleasure to laugh uproariously over slapstick comedy, especially during our holiday viewings of National Lampoon's Christmas Vacation.

He took a tremendous amount of pride in performing his work with diligence and excellence and having a positive impact on his coworkers. He was employed for many years at Delhi Metal/General Instrument in Delhi, made a brief stop in the 80s at Cadman Power Equipment in Courtland, and retired from Vesuvius Canada in Tillsonburg, grateful for all the friendships and sense of purpose that his work life had provided. Retirement allowed him the time he needed to return to his deep love of planes and flying by volunteering to help restore vintage Harvard aircraft. Having had his pilot's license as a young man, he was always so happy when he was close to the world of flight, whether he was airborne in a private plane, working in restoration, attending an air show, absorbed by a story in Canadian Aviator magazine, or simply looking up at the clouds.

On the ground, Ron embraced life with the same enthusiasm. He loved good food and the simple pleasure of sharing a meal with his family and his friends. He had a fondness for a well-made cigar and the occasional glass of wine, and was a connoisseur of cinnamon buns, shrimp rings, and locally-grown corn on the cob.

Above all, Ron was a devoted and kind husband and father. He stuck by Agnes through all kinds of weather, and his joy and pride in his children was immeasurable. In his quiet way, he encouraged them to be adventurous and supported their growth with his unconditional love. He will be deeply missed by Agnes, Tracy, Kelly, his son-in-law Ken, his extended family, friends, and all who were lucky enough to know his warmth, humor, and generosity.

The family will hold a private interment at a later date. In lieu of flowers, the family asks that donations be made to the Canadian Harvard Aircraft Association (<https://www.harvards.com/>) or a charity of your choice. Wareing Cremation Services, 161 Broadway St., Tillsonburg, Ontario has been entrusted with Final Arrangements. Your messages of remembrance and condolence may be shared at www.wareingcremation.ca

Tillsonburg Post is available for free in print and online:
tillsonburgpost.com



**PROUDLY SERVING TILLSONBURG –
YOUR HOMETOWN CHEVROLET BUICK GMC DEALER**

*DeGroote-Hill Chevrolet is where
community and customer care come
together. We'd love to welcome you in
and show you why so many
Tillsonburg families trust our team.*



Joe Huigenbos

Managing Partner



Find your next vehicle with us

Degroote Hill Chevrolet
270 Hwy 3 East Tillsonburg ON
Sales: 226-909-0606
Service: 519-842-9026

NO PAYMENTS FOR 90 DAYS (OAC)



Vist us at
164 Simcoe Street, Tillsonburg
or online at
www.eichenberg.ca

Bob's Deal of the Week



FORMER DAILY RENTAL

2023 FORD EDGE SEL

F25-014, 57,546 kms

\$32,999 +HST
& LIC.

\$106

WEEKLY + HST
96 MO.

Aaron's Deal of the Week



LOCAL TRADE-IN

2021 JEEP GLADIATOR WILLY'S

25-137A, 139,561 kms

\$38,999 +HST
& LIC.

\$138

WEEKLY + HST
84 MO.

Chris' Deal of the Week



LOCAL TRADE-IN

2022 JEEP GRAND CHEROKEE L LIMITED

F25-033A 58,077 kms

\$42,799 +HST
& LIC.

\$151

WEEKLY + HST
84 MO.

Regan's Deal of the Week



FORMER DAILY RENTAL

2023 MASERATI GRECALE MODENA

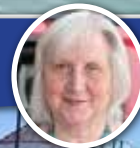
P25-009 22,729 kms

\$68,399 +HST
& LIC.

\$217

WEEKLY + HST
96 MO.

Ann's Deal of the Week



LOCAL TRADE-IN

2020 JEEP WRANGLER UNLIMITED SAHARA

25-148A 116,671 kms

\$34,999 +HST
& LIC.

\$124

WEEKLY + HST
84 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.