

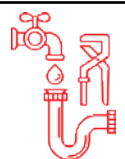


Tillsonburg POST

NOVEMBER 6, 2025

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Several activities planned for Remembrance Day

JEFF HELSDON

Editor

Outside of the ceremony on Remembrance Day, there are several options for those wishing to further their act of remembrance.

Prior to the start of the service at the cenotaph in front of the Tillsonburg Town Centre at 10:45, the silent walk will start at Veteran's Memorial Walkway at the west end of Bridge Street at 10:00 a.m. Participants will walk down Bridge Street to the cenotaph prior to the arrival of the Legion colour party.

The night before, two members of the local Royal Canadian Air Cadets will start their silent vigil, standing next to the cenotaph until 8 a.m. on Nov. 11. The cadets take shifts standing, heads bowed as an honour guard.

At the Station Arts Centre, the Tillsonburg Military History Club will have a display about the Blitz of Britain. It will have artifacts showing the challenges British citizens faced during bombing. Part of the display will also celebrate the 80th anniversary of the end of the Second World War. The display will be in place the entire week of Remembrance Day and there is no admission charge.

Annandale National Historic Site's ongoing military gallery on the second floor is also a source of information about local military heritage.



(PAT CARROLL PHOTO)

A SIGN OF WINTER

It's a sure sign of winter coming when Kinsmen Club volunteers complete the annual ritual of removing the fountain from Lake Lisgar. Kin Just Matheson, a professional diver, disconnected the fountain at the bottom of the lake while club volunteers topside were assisted by Ivor Mann of 3E Power Services to remove the fountain from the water. It takes 50 hours for Kinsmen members to install, remove and maintain the fountain each year.

Tillsonburg Rotary Club celebrates 75th anniversary

JEFF HELSDON

Editor

Members and past members of the Tillsonburg Rotary Club came from near and far to celebrate the club's 75th anniversary since its establishment in Tillsonburg.

On June 9, 1950, 19 charter members gathered to start a local chapter of the growing organization of Rotary International, which was started by Paul Harris in 1905.

"The vision was to unite for good and improve life and community," said John Gilvesy, past-president, past district governor, and emcee for the evening.

Fast-forward 75 years, and Rotary has made a difference in Tillsonburg. Several structures bear the Rotary name through club members' efforts to fundraise for their construction – the clock tower and a part of the community centre are two prominent examples – but Rotary has also made a difference in people's lives. On an international scale, Rotary has pushed for the eradication of polio, providing funding for polio vaccines worldwide. Locally, Rotary has helped seniors stay in their homes alone with its phone check program.

"You have changed lives simply because you believe every human being deserves health and dignity," said Rotary District Governor Susanne Zbinden.

CONTINUED TO PAGE 2



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Rotary celebrates the club's accomplishments in town

CONTINUED FROM FRONT

She paid tribute to the milestone of 75 years.

"That's three-quarters of a century of fellowship, leadership and serving people," Zbinden said.

The Rotary Exchange Program has made a difference in the lives of local students who participate in a year-long exchange to another country, as well as those who come from abroad, and to the Rotary members who serve as host families for visiting students. Several of them spoke, both in person and via pre-recorded videos.

Hannah Northgraves, who went on an exchange to Venezuela in 2012, said she learned lessons about family and home through the exchange. She also paid tribute to the late Bob Marsden, who was in charge of the exchange program for many years.

"It changed my life," said David Vallee, a current Rotary member who went on an exchange to Sweden in 1983-1984.

Rebecca Fink was an exchange student in Peru seven years ago. Two years ago, she joined the club and now oversees the exchange program.

"I have family there now I can go back and visit," she said.

Current exchange student Evan Yallop, who is in Germany, sent a video message discussing the opportunities the exchange has already provided to explore the country.

There was also some reminiscing about the past with the 16 past presidents who were in attendance for the event.

Former Tillsonburg Rotarian Don Watkins was the district governor when he was in town. While he was a mem-

ber, the book sale and phone check on seniors living alone started. Watkins has since relocated to the Peterborough area and remains a Rotary member there.

Deputy Mayor Dave Beres paid tribute to the local Rotary members, saying there are "true leaders in the community". He mentioned the benches, clock tower and contributions made.

With peace being one of the tenets of the Rotary program, three students in the master's program at the Conrad Grebel School at the University of Waterloo spoke about their experiences. Rotary supports this program.

As for the next 75 years, Gilvesy hopes Rotary will continue to work towards peace, improve literacy, health and provide clean water around the world.



(JEFF HELSDON PHOTO)

The Tillsonburg Rotary Club's 75th anniversary celebrations drew 16 past presidents to the celebration. Left to right are: (front row) Jay Weiler, Tom Heeney, Ann Kamenar, Gloria Aykroyd, Harold Moore, Don Watkins, Jack Parker, (back row) Cam McKnight, Bob Aykroyd, Frank Moore, Scott Campbell, Brian Clark, Dave Rushton, John Gilvesy, John Lohuis, and Keith Hodgkinson. Past-president Jim Donaldson was absent from the photo.

"125 years ago, a man had a dream," said current President

Gloria Aykroyd. "Little did later there would still be people carrying on his dream."

Confusion results from reports on boundary adjustment

JEFF HELSDON

Local Journalism Initiative Reporter

A potential boundary adjustment that would bring the Norfolk Mall within the Town of Tillsonburg limits has resulted in some confusion in the media.

A press release issued from the office of Tillsonburg Mayor Deb Gilvesy on Friday stated, "There have been some misconceptions circulating regarding 400 Simcoe Street (The Norfolk Mall) regarding recent discussions surrounding a potential boundary adjustment. These discussions have been mentioned in

both the press and on social media, and it is important that the facts are clearly understood."

The press release recounts the circumstances around the requested adjustment, where the owners of 400 Simcoe Street asked that their property be brought into the town limits at the Oct. 14 meeting. The letter with the boundary adjustment request also stated a Winners store was coming to the site in July 2026. Tillsonburg council then passed a motion referring the request to Oxford County.

"It is important to note that the County of Oxford provides the water and sewer infrastructure servicing this property, and any

significant growth or redevelopment on this site is limited unless it falls within the county's jurisdiction," the press release stated. "Because the town does not own the water and sewer infrastructure for this property, the matter has appropriately been referred to the county for comment and review."

Contacted Monday, Gilvesy said she had no further comment on the issue. The facts above were as reported in the Oct. 23 edition of the Post.

On Oct. 28, Norfolk County issued a press release assuring residents no municipal boundary changes are being considered by Norfolk County at this time. It also assures no discussions have taken place and states "Discussion and negotiation about any municipal boundary change occurs between willing parties and requires agreement from both parties. Often, considerable financial compensation is considered for the municipality giving up land."

"The recent boundary adjustment reported in the media involving the Town of Tillsonburg underscores the importance of protecting Norfolk County's commercial/employment assessments," Norfolk Mayor Amy Martin said in the release. "I want to assure the residents of Norfolk County that I would fiercely defend the retention of employment land to our provincial partners. Norfolk County takes pride in governing based on facts—not rumours—and is committed to ensuring residents have accurate information before drawing conclusions."

In her release, Gilvesy credited Norfolk for the accuracy of what was released. "I would also like to thank Norfolk County for their press release on this matter, which accurately represented the facts. To be clear, no formal application has been submitted by the property," she wrote.

Paul Michiels, Director, Community Planning for Oxford County, said any correspondence from municipalities is published in county council agendas, and a letter from Tillsonburg about the boundary adjustment hasn't yet been on the agenda. The next agenda is due to be released on Nov. 7.

He provided more detail on the boundary adjustment process through the provincial Municipal Act, explaining, "The municipalities involved must develop a proposal that outlines the details of the proposed restructuring. They must then hold at least one public meeting to get feedback from the public before seeking approval to submit the proposal to the Ministry of Municipal Affairs and Housing for approval. The proposal can only be submitted to the province for approval if it receives support from all municipalities involved."

As of Monday, a representative of Norfolk confirmed no correspondence on this matter have been received yet.

NEW ANGELS OF GIVING CAMPAIGN

"Angels of Giving - Light the Hospital"

We will be lighting the Hospital this year with Christmas lights and wreaths in memory or honour of a loved one or friend - Angels of Giving Campaign - Shine the light on the Hospital.

The Lighting Ceremony and Kick Off Saturday November 15, 2025.

Time: 5pm to 7pm; The Christmas Parade will pass by the Hospital at this time.

Location: TDMH Front Entrance area outside under the canopy near Rolph and Bear Streets. (Not Emergency Entrance).

The countdown and lighting will take place just before the Christmas Parade as it passes the Hospital.

Come watch the parade, help kick off our Angels of Giving Campaign while enjoying Christmas music and sipping on hot chocolate and snacks (*generously provided by Chrissy's Catering*).

You also have an invitation to come inside TDMH lobby and view the newly updated Donor Wall and shop at the Volunteer Association Gift Shop.

The Angels of Giving is the Foundation's year end giving campaign to support much needed hospital equipment and beds for 2025. Donate in memory or honor of a loved one and shine the light on the Hospital. The name of the loved one will be displayed on the Angel tree in the Hospital main lobby. All Angels of Giving gifts \$100+ will be included in our 100 for 100 Campaign list as well. **This is a great way to watch the parade and light up TDMH!**

EDITORIAL

We will remember them

In Remembrance Day ceremonies across the former British Commonwealth, two pieces of poetry will be repeated countless times on Nov. 11: *In Flanders Fields* by Dr. John McCrae and *For the Fallen* by Laurence Binyon. Both were penned in the days of the First World War.

In Flanders Fields is famed across Canada, as it was written by one of our own. *For the Fallen* has a more British flair, but portions of Binyon's poem would have hit home for Canadian families who lost their loved ones.

We will hear these words on Remembrance Day, but cannot imagine living through the toil, sacrifice, fear and loss of a time past. These additional words add perspective to a dark time in our history.

They went with songs to the battle, they were young,

The minimum age for enlistment in Canada during the First World War was 18. Estimates suggest that between 15,000 and 20,000 Canadians enlisted in the Canadian Expeditionary Forces who weren't yet 18 years old.

Straight of limb, true of eye, steady and aglow.

Canadian fighters were feared by the Germans, known for their shooting and fighting abilities, and a ferocity unseen in other Commonwealth soldiers. Members of the Canadian Expeditionary Force were referred to as "unpredictable savages" by their foes.

They were staunch to the end against odds uncounted;

There were numerous instances, in both the First and Second World Wars, where Canadian forces achieved exceptional battle wins against the odds. Vimy Ridge is the most famous of these, where Canadians succeeded where others failed, but there are many such occurrences.

They fell with their faces to the foe.

More than 66,000 Canadians made the ultimate sacrifice in the First World War, and didn't return home. This accounted for more than 10 percent of the 650,000 who served. Another 170,000 were wounded, and many more took home emotional scars that often never healed.

They shall grow not old, as we that are left grow old:

Seeing row upon row of crosses marking the graves of those who died during the war is unfathomable. Beyond those in marked graves, many who died still lie where they fell, buried by the battlefield itself. The magnitude of Canadian sacrifice over the last century can also be measured through the more than 6,000 war memorials on foreign soil.

Age shall not weary them, nor the years condemn.

The years did condemn many Canadians who returned from fighting overseas. Estimates are as high as 50,000 more veterans didn't reach their full life expectancy between 1919 and the 1950s. Lingering



(JEFF HELSDON PHOTO)

effects from chlorine gas and wounds are the more obvious causes of death, but post-traumatic stress disorder and alcoholism also took a toll.

At the going down of the sun and in the morning

On the morning of Nov. 11, 1918, the Armistice was signed in the early hours of the day, before dawn. However, it didn't take effect until 11 a.m. to allow word to spread to troops spread across the front

lines. That day, 40 Canadians died before the eleventh hour.

We will remember them.

A concern of those who returned home has always been the sacrifice of their comrades' lives will be forgotten. Time takes its toll, and memories pass with those who took up arms for our country, but there has been a resurgence in remembering the sacrifices of the past in recent years.

We will remember them.

Front stairs or back stairs – a decision in St. Paul's manse



WRITER'S
CORNER

NORMA COLLIS

Tillsonburg Post Columnist

My formative years were spent living in the lovely old manse located beside St. Paul's United Church in Tillsonburg.

I was in elementary school when we moved into this amazing house, and I was totally intrigued by the tower on the one side of the home that ended in a completely round turret room in the attic.

Designed by the same architect as Anandale House, the home had many intriguing architectural features.

There were pocket doors that disappeared back into their door frames. One set of doors closed off the room immediately inside and to the right of the front door. Originally, this room quite likely appeared on the plans as "the front parlour" but for our family's use, it was my dad's office.

Another set of pocket doors separated

the family living room from the dining room. These doors rarely rumbled shut but the ones on my dad's office, were often used to close off the room to allow for complete privacy.

The home had a sweeping front staircase that was beautiful to behold. There was also a back staircase. These back stairs were wooden and painted a utilitarian grey colour. I often imagined, servants scuttling up and down those back stairs while the "lady of the house" swept down the much grander front staircase, trailing the bustle of some impressive dress, behind her.

I always thought that this home would make the perfect setting for a fairy tale type of home wedding. I imagined myself sweeping down those stairs in some frothy wedding gown that would match the historical surroundings.

The user of these stairs had to be wary of the newel post at the bottom of those stairs. It was loose, and if you grabbed onto it, it would swivel, propelling the "descender of the stairs" into the lower hallway in a very undignified manner. One time it swung me completely around and I smacked into the other side of the stair railing. This was not the look I was going for.

The front stairs and the back stairs played a very important role in our family life. If the front hallway door was shut and the office pocket doors closed, my

sister and I knew that someone was in a private meeting with my dad and that the family had to use the back stairs. We were not privy as to who he was meeting with, nor did we ever question the reason for the back stair usage.

In my teen years, the back stairs also provided me with privacy if someone came to the front door when my hair was in jumbo curlers and I was not wearing makeup.

I became quite adept at sneaking up those potentially noisy wooden steps.

Those stairs were an absolute necessity one Saturday when two guys turned up at the same time, hoping to see my older sister.

The less favored "beau" arrived at the side door that faced onto Bidwell Street.

The more favoured suitor, my future brother-in-law, arrived at the front door that faced Ridout Street.

My sister and I were both upstairs when the two men arrived, almost at the same time. Neither was aware of the presence of their competition at another door.

I, as the little sister, was dispensed down the back stairs and it was my assignment to keep the less-favourable guy busy while my sister met her preferred suitor at the front door.

I can't recall exactly what I said to the unfortunate side door guest, but I do remember that it was a very awkward conversation.

Later, my sister and I told our parents about what had happened with the two boyfriends. It was over dinner that we began our story. We were chuckling at our handling of the romantic event that we thought we had coped with quite well.

At the end of our tale, a quiet voice from one end of the table said, "Yes, your aunt had to do the same thing for me one time."

My mother was a soft spoken and a rather sedate lady. Our mouths fell open at this shocking revelation.

"What did you just say," we demanded.

"Well," she replied "Your dad was at the front door, and another guy was at the side door."

This was the first time we had heard about a second boyfriend.

"Who was he," we asked.

"I didn't like him very much," she replied.

"Then why did you go out with him," we asked.

"Well.....he had a nice car," replied our ever-so-proper mother.

From that day on, I viewed my mom with a slightly different level of awareness and respect. Awareness of, and respect for, the younger woman who lived and loved before becoming a minister's wife and our mother.

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

Paying tribute to those in today's military



**THE
STAGE
IS THE
WORLD**

LAUREL A. BEECHEY

Tillsonburg Post Columnist

This remembrance article is about the people currently serving in our Canadian Armed Forces [CAF]. We are not at war, so what do they do?

This is an overview of their operations in several categories, including peacekeeping, humanitarian aid and defence.

CAF supports the United Nations mission in the Democratic Republic of the Congo, Central South America, Pacific Ocean, Caribbean Sea and Gulf of Mexico. This is through humanitarian aid, emergency response and disaster prevention.

Canada is part of a multi-nation force and an observer in peacekeeping in the Middle East, Egypt and the Si-

nai Peninsula. Our CAF members train and assist partner forces in providing security and stability in the Middle East.

They take part in an annual mission to help clear explosive remnants of war in the Baltic Sea for Europe, Estonia, Latvia, and Lithuania. Periodically, they help Australia clear explosives in the Solomon Islands, Asia, Oceania, Solomon Islands, and through the Indo-Pacific.

There is also intermittent support for peacekeeping in Central and South America.

Our military provides support to other Government of Canada programs, both in and outside Canada. Think of weather-related disaster in the country and the military lending a helping hand. For instance, the CAF provides assistance to Parks Canada to prevent avalanches in Rogers Pass.

Outside the country the CAF has assisted with disasters in Haiti, Dominican Republic, India, Panama, and Japan.

Canada's contribution to the United Nations Truce Supervision Organization is the country's longest-running overseas commitment.

Operation Horizon is a mission to the Indo-Pacific to promote peace, stability and the rules-based international order. This involves annual naval deployments, and taking part in joint military exercises with allies in the area.

Search and rescue is another CAF responsibility, one we see locally with the occasional visit to the Tillsonburg Airport from the search and rescue Hercules. Last year,

the CAF conducted parachute exercises at Tillsonburg Airport.

There is also the CAF role in the world's hot spots. Canada provides period support for the United Nations Security Council sanctions imposed against North Korea. It also supplies continuous support to NATO's assurance and deterrence measures in Central and Eastern Europe, Europe, Latvia, Romania, Lithuania, Iceland, Poland, Central Europe, Eastern Europe, and the Baltics.

Canada partners with U.S. Central Command Headquarters, the US Air Force, and Maritime Forces around the globe for counter-insurgency work.

The CAF protect Canadian sovereignty through patrols and surveillances in the Arctic. Missions and training aim to detect threats to Canada's security as early as possible by keeping routine watch over the country's air, maritime, land, space and cyber domains.

Canadian Forces Station at Alert is the most northern permanently inhabited place in the world. It keeps signals intelligence facilities to support CAF military operations and has the technology to detect the location of objects of interest. Alert also supports Environment and Climate Change Canada and other government departments and Arctic researchers.

There is also a commitment to remember and honour Canadians who served in the major wars of the 20th century at Remembrance Day ceremonies across the nation. I'm sure we will see CAF members in Tillsonburg at the Remembrance Day ceremony next week.

Traffic stop leads to impaired charges

An individual from the Eden is facing impaired driving charges following a traffic stop.

On Oct. 31., at approximately 1:30 a.m., the Oxford Ontario Provincial Police (OPP) Detachment were conducting general patrol around Adams Avenue. A traffic stop was conducted after a vehicle was observed driving erratically.

Daniel Myny, 24-years-old, of Eden, has been charged with:

- Operation while Impaired - Alcohol

- Operation while Impaired - Blood alcohol concentration (80 plus)
- Dangerous Operation

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

The accused was released from custody and is scheduled to appear before the Ontario Court of Justice in Woodstock on Dec. 2, 2025.

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

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

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

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Editor's Note: Talented writers wanted

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

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

Submissions should be 600 to 800 words in length.

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

E-mail editor Jeff Helsdon at jeff@granthaven.com with any questions.

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
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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

Station exhibit features pottery, quilts

JEFF HELSDON
Editor

Erica Preston-French’s exhibit at the Station Arts Centre is a combination of stunning pottery and intricate quilts.

Called Ardent Array, the exhibit opened on Oct. 31 and runs until Nov. 28. Preston-French lives near Ingersoll currently, but did live near Springford and was a Station Arts Centre member at the time.

The story of how she came to pottery started when she was young.

“I’ve been sewing since I was nine,” she said. “I went to Sheridan College for the craft and design program. I originally went for textiles, but ended up taking glass blowing. Glass was expensive and could be elitist. Ceramics was more accessible to everyone and was more welcoming.”

The theme to the ceramics is the natural world, and in particular mushrooms.

“The show is about where ideas start and how we move forward and transform them into objects or paintings,” Preston-Foster said.

Many of the songs are in connection to a song she was listening to while crafting the pieces. For instance, the piece Imag-

ined Amanita was completed while listening to the song Psilocybae by Child-ish Gambino. It features a blue amanita, which does not exist.

“I like the idea of this imagined blue amanita and followed the thought process forward in these other pieces,” she said.

Most of the ceramics are functional, either being vases or tea pots. One, though, is a hanging piece that is decorative, that was imagined while listening to a Doe-chii song.

“I just had the idea and made it work,” the artist said.

Preston-French started quilting because of practicality, but continued because of passion. She was making her own clothes and her children’s clothes.

“There was a lot of scrap left over and I hate throwing things out,” she said. “Quilting was a way to use ever last bit of fabric in my house. Then I fell in love with it.”

Now she buys additional material for quilting. The quilts on display were made as wall hangings, but could go on a couch or bed.

“I wanted to include the quilts because I had so many ceramics, I wanted something on the wall to bring everything together,” she said.



Erica Preston-French stands in front of some of the pottery and quilts that are part of her exhibit at the Station Arts Centre. The exhibit runs until Nov. 28.

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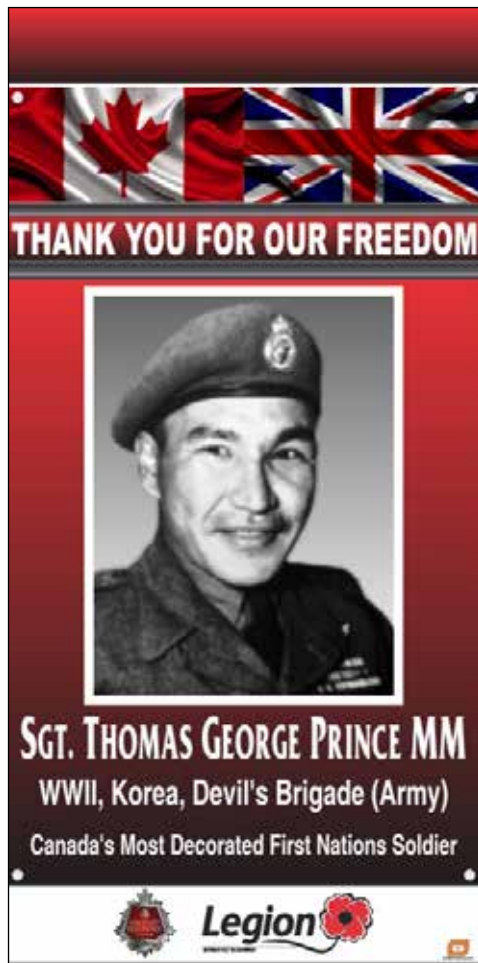
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Remembrance Day 2025

LEST WE FORGET

Canadian war hero recognized on Tillsonburg banners



(CONTRIBUTED IMAGE)

The banner honouring Canadian war hero Tommy Prince.

JEFF HELSDON

Editor

Amongst the veterans recognized on banners lining Quarter Town Line is a Canadian war hero.

Not that all who serve aren't heroes, but Tommy Prince went above and beyond.

The member of the Devil's Brigade was one of only three Canadians to receive both the Canadian Military Medal and American Silver Star. Prince fought in both the Second World War and Korean War, and is recognized on a Canadian stamp.

So how did the Manitoba-born soldier come to be on veteran banners in Tillsonburg? Prince was the great-uncle of Tillsonburg Legion member Brenda Underhill. The connection is a story of wartime romance, where her father, who was from Houghton, was in the air force and met her mother in Winnipeg. They married and moved to Ontario when Underhill was five.

Underhill grew up hearing stories of her great-uncle, the war hero. Later, she made the connection, although it's not surprising she didn't know, as Prince's daughters were unaware of his exploits until his funeral.

Prince was born in Manitoba in 1915 and was the grandson of Chief Henry Prince, who was a negotiator and signed the treaty with the Crown for the Peguis. He enlisted in 1940, initially in the army. When Prince heard about the formation of the 2nd Canadian Parachute Battalion, he volunteered, not knowing this combination Canadian-American unit would become the commando unit known as the Devil's Brigade.

The shooting and stealth skills Prince learned in rural Manitoba would come into play. He developed the skill of using moccasins to quietly enter enemy camps while they were sleeping, and leave undetected.

At Monte Majo, Italy, Prince was assigned to lead a patrol and eliminate the German gun positions on the side of a mountain at night. He led the group part-way up the mountain, then, leaving them, he switched his army boots for moccasins. He took out the soldiers at each gun po-

sition without alerting the other Germans in the succeeding positions. In subsequent fighting, the Devil's Brigade members used the captured gun position to fire on approaching Germans.

The Devil's Brigade was then moved near Littoria, Italy, and charged with holding back a whole German brigade. Prince's mission was to penetrate enemy lines and report on their positions. When he found an abandoned farmhouse 1.4 km behind the lines, he was given a coil of telephone wire and told to set up there and provide updates on German activities. The farmhouse was only 200 meters from the German position. This worked fine until Allied artillery accidentally cut the line.

"When the line was broken, he donned the clothing of a farmer and pretended to be gardening in the fields to fix it," Underhill said.

In France, Prince's efforts to penetrate the German lines led to the capture of 1,000 German soldiers.

Following the Second World War, Prince started a business in Winnipeg that was successful. He became an advocate for abolishing the Indian Act and some of its

outdated provisions, including not allowing Indigenous people access to the same programs as other veterans.

With the start of the Korean War, Prince joined the Canadian Army in 1950. He again gained renown for his stealth operations, although his commanders didn't have the same appreciation for his efforts as the men he fought with did. Prince returned home and was put on administrative duty for a time due to arthritis, but upon improvement, he volunteered for another tour.

When Prince returned from Korea, he found the friends he had entrusted to operate his business had ruined it. He remarried, but his life fell apart without the same support other soldiers had. Prince battled alcoholism and was homeless for a period of time. He was living in a veteran's facility when he died in 1977.

When Underhill heard of the banner program, she knew her great-uncle deserved recognition.

"I'd give anything for my mother to be still alive and see this," she said. "He was a hero."



(JEFF HELSDON PHOTO)

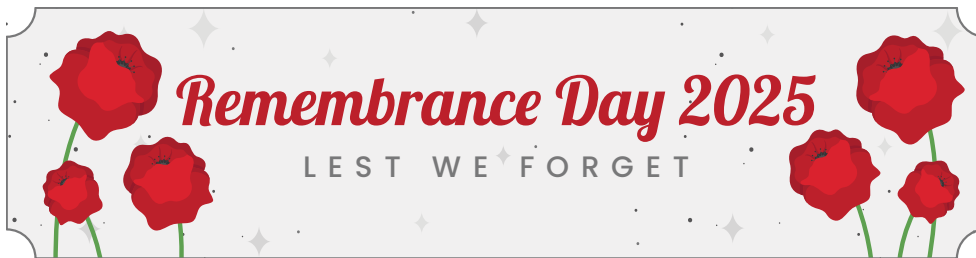
Brenda Underhill holds a book of stamps that commemorate her great-uncle, Tommy Prince. He was the most decorated Indigenous soldier of the Second World War.

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Banner program promotes honouring and recognizing our veterans

ROBIN KRAFFT

Post Contributor

The names and faces proudly portrayed on banners along Quarter Town Line (Veteran's Parkway) invite questions about service and sacrifice.

A humble, but prominent, member of the Tillsonburg Military History Club initiated the Veteran Banner Program after seeing banners in other communities and noting that the program was taking hold across Canada. After conducting research and lobbying to get the necessary approvals, the program was launched. Now in its third year, there are currently 122 banners.

The Town of Tillsonburg, Tillsonburg Lions, Tillsonburg Rotary Club and the Tillsonburg Military History Club were the initial sponsors that provided the funding kickstart. Working in collaboration with the Tillsonburg Legion, the goal is to honour and remember our veterans.

Tillsonburg Hydro provides excellent support, volunteering time and resources to put the banners up in mid-September and take them down after

Remembrance Day.

The second phase of the program launched this year in collaboration with the Tillsonburg Post, featuring print stories provided by families that expand upon the photos and service information on the banners.

Tillsonburg Military History Club charter member Frank Moore explained the mission: "To recognize and honour our veterans (both deceased and active service members) or veterans who have served or are currently serving in the Canadian, Allied or Commonwealth forces." He added that the program is open to all residents of Tillsonburg.

Moore said that the program promotes remembrance, and with three schools on Veteran's Parkway, it is hoped that the children and young people who see the banners will be inspired to ask questions and seek out their stories.

"The program is open to all families who wish to honour their loved ones who served," Moore said, "and applications for 2026 are now available."

Contact veteranbannerprogram@gmail.com for more information.

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Remembrance Day 2025

LEST WE FORGET

A pilgrimage of tears: Local minister recaps experiences visiting war battle sites

JEFF HELSDON

Editor

If the hundreds of wartime graves didn't make a large enough impression on local minister Paul Robinson, the stories of the soldiers who sacrificed their lives left an impression he will never forget.

Robinson was part of the Pilgrimage of Remembrance, organized by the Legion National Foundation, to take selected representatives from across the country to the European battle sites of the First and Second World Wars. The two-week trip takes place every two years, and a limited number of spaces are available to the public who wish to participate by paying a fee.

The Branch 153 Legion padre heard about the trip in 2022 and was selected to go in 2023.

"I am very passionate about 'Lest we Forget' and that we keep on remember-

ing," he said. "The whole purpose of this trip is to keep the story going."

A member of the Canadian Armed Forces from 1966 to 1981, Robinson became a pastor after his time with the military. He was then asked to join the reserves and be the chaplain for the Governor General's Foot Guards, which is an Ottawa reserve unit. His military experience provides him with a unique understanding of what he observed in Europe.

Since returning, he has been doing his part to ensure the stories stay alive, making presentations to service clubs, other Legion branches, and the local Air Cadets. He made one such presentation this week to the Rotary Club and shared an overview with the Post prior to Remembrance Day.

Robinson explained a pilgrimage is a journey to a shrine or sacred place.

"Those battlefields where our valiant soldiers put their lives on the line, and where so many spilled their blood –

those battlefields are sacred, hallowed places."

The Tyne Cot Cemetery, near the First World War battlefield of Passchendaele, was the first stop. Its endless rows of graves – 12,000 of them – made an impression on him, as it had on King George V decades earlier. After seeing the cemetery, the king said, "There can be no more potent advocates of peace upon earth through the years to come than this massed multitude of silent witnesses to the desolation of war."

Robinson learned the stories of the soldiers through guide John Goheen. Each tour participant was assigned a soldier to research and find their graves. The local padre was assigned to find information on Murdock John Munroe, who was born in eastern Ontario and signed up with the Princess Patricia's Light Infantry. Within six months of when he signed up, he was killed in Flanders.

Although it has been more than a cen-

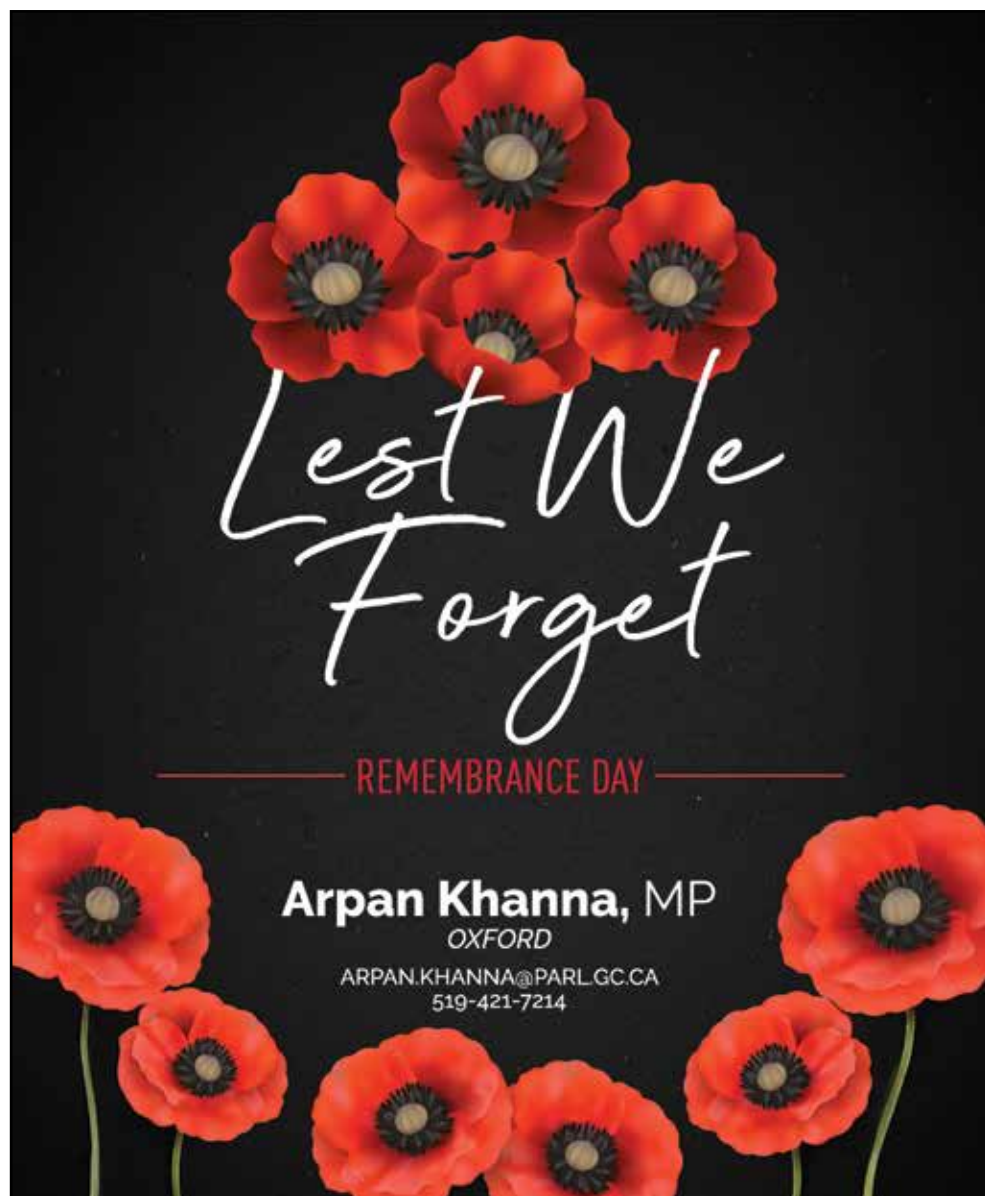
tury since the First World War ended, Robinson witnessed that the scars were still visible on the land. More than 40,000 soldiers who died at Ypres Salient are buried in the mud, and bones still turn up. Somebody on the tour asked about the white flecks in the soil, and was told they were bone fragments. Then, someone found a human bone, and it was reported to the authorities.

Robinson said today, both live rounds, grenades, and spent casings show up in fields. Much of the area around Vimy remains fenced off due to mines.

Robinson recounted the story of Alexander Decoteau, an Olympic runner and Indigenous soldier who was given a gold watch by King George V. When he was killed at Passchendaele, the watch went missing. It was later found on a German POW, from whom it was taken, and returned to the family.

Goheen told an unrelated story to the attendees about a previous pilgrimage,

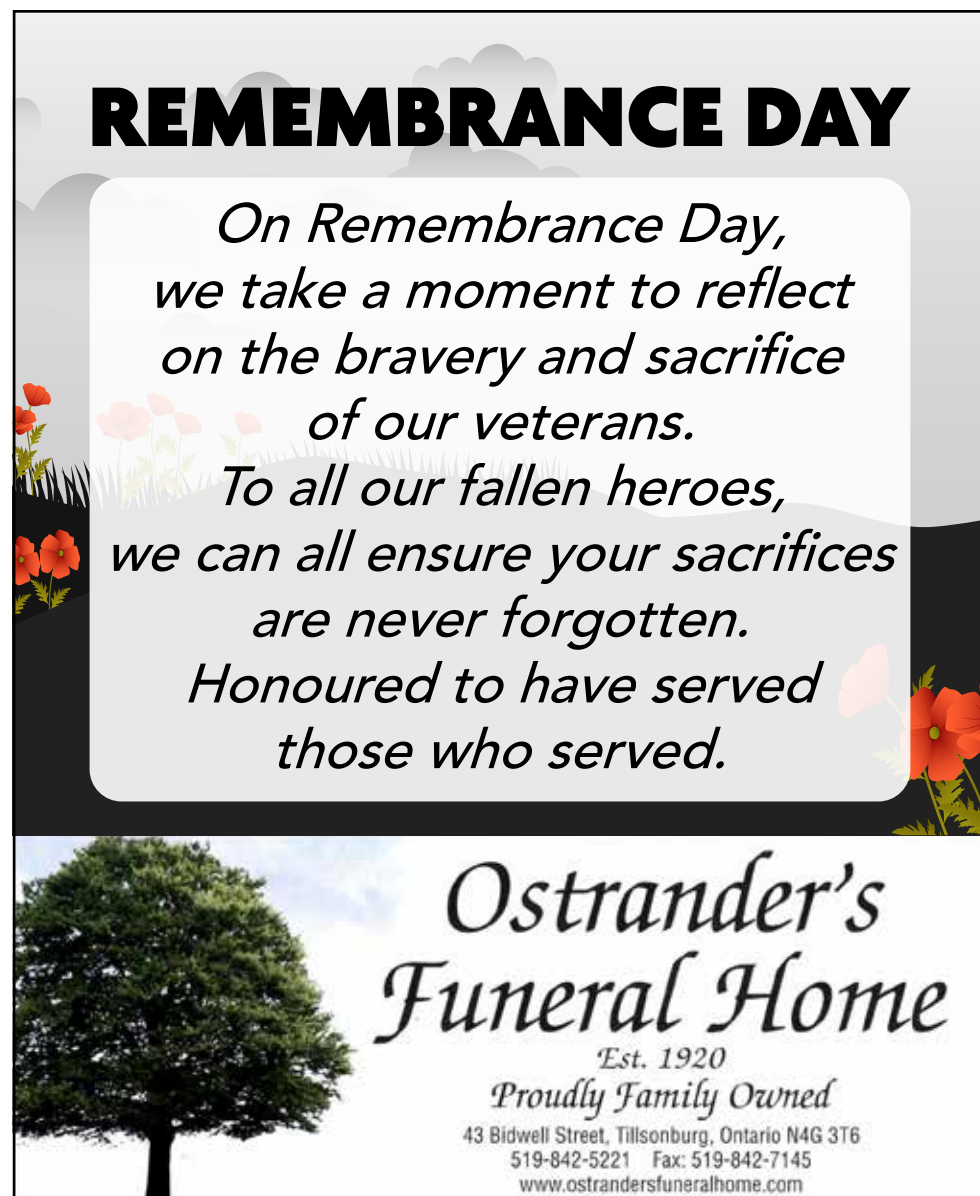
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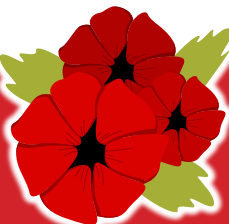
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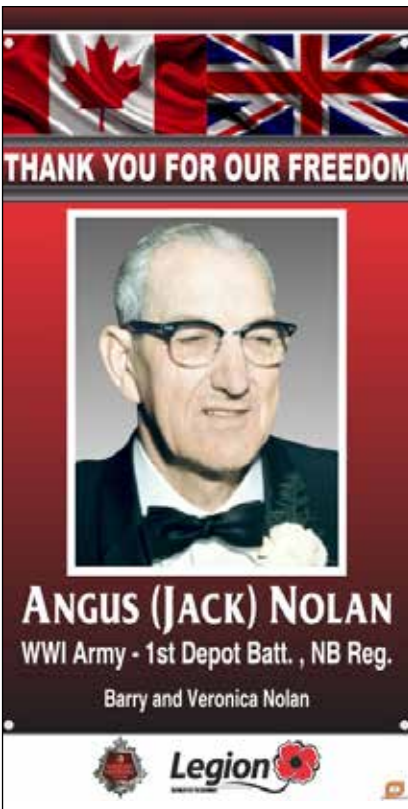
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Angus Jack Nolan

Angus Jack Nolan was born 1899 in Caledonia, Cape Breton County, Nova Scotia.

Jack enlisted, joining the first battalion, New Brunswick Regiment at the age of 19. He was deployed overseas, serving in France and Belgium during WWI as a sapper and member of the "Canadian Railway Troops".

These soldiers were responsible for the maintenance and rebuilding of rail lines, as close to the front lines as possible, to ensure the transport of supplies and for the extraction of wounded soldiers to medical facilities.

Following Jack's discharge from the armed forces in 1919, he moved to Windsor where he was employed by the Ford Motor Company and was one of the early union stewards of the U A W.

The Nolan family moved to Tillsonburg in 1955.

Jack was a member of the custodial staff at the original Annandale High School until his death in 1968.

There was nothing Jack enjoyed more than watching the Detroit Tigers, with a bowl of peanuts and a cold one at his side.

Jack predeceased his wife Dorothy (1975), daughter Barbara Rankin Davis (1997), and son Barry (Veronica) Nolan. Also lovingly remembered by his grandchildren, Debbie Rankin Haley, Veronica Rankin, Nicole Nolan Gubesch, all of Tillsonburg and Michael Nolan of Conestogo.



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Remembrance Day 2025

LEST WE FORGET

A pilgrimage of tears: Robinson wants to ensure we never forget sacrifices made

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 8



(JEFF HELSDON PHOTO)

Rev. Paul Robinson took part in the Pilgrimage of Remembrance, organized by the Legion National Foundation, that saw participants visit First and Second World War battlefields where Canadians played a pivotal role. He holds a head of wheat, which was his reminder of a spot where 35 Canadian soldiers were murdered during the Second World War. Robinson speaks to local groups to keep the stories of Canadian soldier alive.

during which a participant had brought a pocket watch owned by his great-uncle, who had died at Passchendaele. The watch never worked in the ensuing 95 years, but Goheen was stopped in the middle of his presentation at Passchendaele by the nephew of the watch owner, proclaiming that the watch had suddenly started working.

"It hadn't ticked for 95 years but it started ticking at the place where its owner died," Robinson said, adding he can't explain it.

Part of Robinson's presentation tells a behind-the-scenes story about doctor Lt.-Col. John McCrae, the author of "In Flanders Fields".

A direct hit from a shell killed McCrae's friend, Lt. Alexis Helmer, while the doctor was working at a field dressing station. Helmer's body parts were placed in burlap sandbags, shaped as a body, and buried. McCrae conducted Helmer's funeral and wrote "In Flanders Fields" the next day.

Robinson was struck by the enduring tradition of holding nightly Remembrance Day ceremonies at the Menin Gate, which have taken place every evening since July 2, 1928! The names of 7,000 Canadians with no known grave are inscribed on the gate.

Visiting the Second World War battle site of Dieppe, Robinson gained a better understanding of what the soldiers faced when coming ashore in what he called "one of the darkest chapters in our military history". Lacking adequate support, of the 5,000 Canadians who landed in the disastrous raid, 1,000 died, and another 2,000 were taken prisoner. One issue among many arose when the stones on the beach immobilized the tanks during the first amphibious assault for tanks.

Robinson showed the stones during his presentation.

CONTINUED TO PAGE 12

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LEST WE FORGET

A pilgrimage of tears: Robinson wants to ensure we never forget sacrifices made

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 11

"We walked that stony beach in silence, picturing the horrible scene of young Canadians dying for others," he said. "Those stones, too, are silent witnesses to the blood spilled at Dieppe."

They stopped by a wheat field where a Nazi general had 40 captured Canadians sit in a circle on the ground. A German-speaking Canadian understood that they were going to shoot them all, and ordered the men on the outside to run through the field towards the Canadian lines when the firing started. Five of 40 escaped. Robinson noted that there is no memorial at the site of this atrocity, but he kept a head of wheat as his personal reminder.

Stopping by another memorial where the crew of a Lancaster bomber crashed and Pilot Officer Andrew Mynarski sacrificed his life trying to save his tailgunner, the group of Canadians realized there was no flag on the memorial. Robinson remembered that he had one in his suitcase, which he had been carrying the entire journey.

"With a bit of ingenuity, and some zip-ties, our team was able to fasten the flag to the pole, trim the overhanging maple – yes, a maple – step back and salute," he recounted.

Amongst the thousands of graves Robinson saw were some that hit closer to home for him. He paid respects to his grandmother's cousin, British Private Thomas Blakeman, who died less than two months before the war's end. A stop was also made at the grave of Norfolk resident Lance-Cpl. Frank Brinn, killed six weeks before the Armistice was signed, and whose great-nephew is a friend of Robinson's.

As the former padre for the foot guards, Robinson also



(CONTRIBUTED PHOTO)

The Tyne Cot Cemetery, near the First World War battlefield of Passchendaele, Belgium, is the largest Commonwealth Cemetery in the world. It contains nearly 12,000 graves.

sought out the graves of soldiers from that regiment in some of the cemeteries.

"Some of the inscriptions showed the pain the family felt," he said. "I cried when I read them."

Throughout his presentation, Robinson – a proud Canadian – shared some of the brave accomplishments of the country's soldiers during both wars, and how the other countries respected the Canadians.

As the journey came to an end, he realized it had been a pilgrimage of tears.

"As we went from site to site, I kept realizing that my cheeks were wet. I hadn't realized I was crying," Robinson said.

The journey made a lasting impression on him.

"I will carry with me the pain and heartache of those sites and their stories forever."

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Remembrance Day 2025

LEST WE FORGET

Local man served on Canada's air craft carrier

ROBIN KRAFFT

Post Contributor

At the age of 18, in August 1957 after the tobacco harvest was finished on his family farm, Ron Phillips and his cousin joined the navy.

He went to HMCS Prevost in London to join and was later sent by train to Cornwallis, NS. Stepping off the train, Phillips described what they were told in no uncertain terms by their commanding officers, many of whom were Second World War veterans, "Our job is to turn you into somebody fit to serve in her Majesty's navy!" Basic training, or boot camp, was a tough, disciplined 20 weeks, including both military and navy/seamanship training.

"You learned to rely on each other real quick," Phillips said. "You had to be fit, and if you weren't fit they were going to make you fit, but I was a farm boy, I was used to a lot of hard work and getting up and doing things."

He described the pace of that time, saying, "Everything was double time, you went everywhere at a dog trot, the only time we were allowed to walk was Sunday afternoon."

A young division officer suggested that he apply for air crew training, and after numerous assessments and medical clearance he was selected to start the course. Only half of his class got their wings.

He was the youngest of the air crew members, having just turned 20 before his first operational detachment in November 1959 as an Observer's Mate on the flight crew assigned to the HMCS Bonaventure.

"I was Shearwater Ship's Company, detached to the Bonaventure," Phillips said. "When the squadron went to the ship, we became a member of the crew, but not the ship's crew."

The large air crew consisted of 36 pilots and 36 Observer's Mates, later called Naval Air Crewmen, and support crew.

Named after the bird sanctuary in the Gulf of St Lawrence, the light fleet aircraft carrier was the successor to the HMCS Magnificent. Work on the ship, originally the HMS Powerful, had stopped in 1945, resuming in 1952, with improvements such as an angled flight deck, removal of the crash barrier, and a steam catapult. "Bonnie" arrived in Halifax in 1957.

The aircraft onboard originally included McDonnell F2H-3 Banshee jet fighters, Grumman CS2F Tracker ASW aircraft and Sikorsky HO4S helicopters. At sea on exercises, the ship was escorted by destroyers and frigates to aide in their ability to perform as a hunter-killer group.

By 1958, the HMCS Bonaventure was able "to conduct around-the-clock sustained operations, keeping four Trackers and two H04's in the air at all times, saturating an area of 200 square-nautical-miles with anti-submarine warfare (ASW) aircraft." (sevenyearproject.com) During the Cold War, the whole North Atlantic was covered by NATO aircraft carriers, long range patrol aircraft and listening devices. A key area for Soviet submarine activity, it was an exercise in deterrence.

The CS2F Trackers seated pilot and co-pilot in the front and two observer's mates in the back.

"We ran all the anti-submarine equipment and communicated with Morse code, in the dark, in this little narrow seat with a red light shining on your knee and a pad, listening to Morse and writing," Phillips recounted. "This was before satellites, and once we flew out of line-of-sight, that was the only way to communicate, especially when we were flying close to the water."

The other observer's mate had to keep their eyes glued to the radar screen for anything that wasn't supposed to be there.

"You had to be a good multitasker," Phillips explained. "You had to listen to the pilot and the co-pilot, and every communication could be in code, so you had to get your



(CONTRIBUTED PHOTO)

Ron Phillips OSNA (right) with his first operational detachment (VS 880 crew) in November 1959, as a junior ASW and long range radio man.

code book out and decode."

Their typical eight-hour duty included a five-hour flight, wearing an uncomfortable watertight exposure suit that was meant to protect them if they ended up in the water.

"As a NATO member, our job was to make sure that the USSR knew that we knew where they were," Phillips said. "They had to come up to get a real navigational fix so we would try to prevent them from getting into position. They were doing exercises too."

He added that they spent a lot of time monitoring Russian fishing fleets, with their trawlers and processing boats, because they were often used as a cover for submarines.

CONTINUED TO PAGE 14

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LEST WE FORGET

Remembering naval air service on the HMCS Bonaventure

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 13

A hundred Grumman CS2F's were built by deHavilland Aircraft in Downsview, designed to be a carrier-born aircraft and to hunt and kill submarines.

"They were good, tough," Phillips said, "made for being slammed onto an aircraft carrier's deck and designed for low level flights, just high enough for radar to function."

They flew in any weather. Take-off and landing on the aircraft carrier could be quite challenging.

A steam catapult launch was used to get the planes into the air, going from 0 to 90 mph in about 90 feet. A sling was hooked to the front, and a delicate steel weight was attached to the tail to keep it down, designed to withstand so much pressure and then break away.

"The CS2F was capable of taking off from the deck without the catapult if the wind was right, but the jets needed the catapult to launch," Phillips said.

Preparing for landing, "We came in hot, fast, hard in case we had to try again," Phillips said, "and when the ship bounced up and down it wasn't bad, but if it corkscrewed, the runway could move several feet either way as you were trying to land."

The Trackers were equipped with a tail hook that would be lowered to snag one of several wires on the runway before the wheels slammed down.

Phillips spoke with admiration about the incredible flying skills of the pilots, but he also talked about the aircraft handlers, responsible for positioning, launching and recovering aircraft.

"Those were the guys I had the most respect for," he said. "There was howling wind, propellers, they're rolling around the flight deck... It was all choreographed disaster, that's what it looked like until you realized what they were doing."

Everyone on the flight deck wore different coloured skull caps so that they were identifiable. He described the crash crew as, "Two or three guys in bunker suits and



(CONTRIBUTED PHOTO)

Ron Phillips, Leading Seaman Naval Air Crew 37789h (long retired) was selected by the Navy for specialized training, served as an Observer's Mate with an air crew detachment on the HMCS Bonaventure.

fireproof suits with hoses and fire suppression stuff. You were always glad to see those guys on deck."

Phillips referred to his flight log, showing that on Nov. 25, 1959, over the North Sea, they had been unable to land despite making five passes. The weather had closed in on them with crosswinds, rough seas and a low ceiling.

"We came out of the clouds, and we were right over the ship," he explained. They flew to Scotland and stayed for the night, catching the ship the next day.

Phillips left the Navy in September 1962, having flown a total of 1,097 hours in the backseat of a CS2F. He was married and acknowledged that "it's tough life for married people." He took over running the family farm and later got into agricultural real estate appraising work.

CS2F #1577 is located in the Warplane Heritage Museum at Hamilton airport and is presently being restored to flying condition.

"My logbook indicates that I flew in that aircraft six times," Phillips said.

Phillips described the danger and fatalities that occurred, pointing out the inherent risks involved in service, under any circumstance. Remembrance should include all those who served, as well as those who faced combat. Even during training exercises, accidents can occur, and the diligent training required for readiness to respond involves multiple hazards.

"We lost 14 pilots and aircrew in the five years that I served," Phillips said. "I was lucky to be in the right place at the right time."

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Remembrance Day 2025

LEST WE FORGET

Respected speaker shares the untold stories of veterans

ROBIN KRAFFT

Post Contributor

Author, journalist and historian Ted Barris was at the Tillsonburg Legion on Oct. 17 to give a talk that shared the title of his 17th book: "Breaking The Silence", which reveals "veteran's untold stories from the Great War to Afghanistan".

The event was sold out within days of its announcement, and included a roast beef dinner prepared by the Tillsonburg Legion Ladies Auxiliary. Verhoeve Funeral Home and MyMotors.ca were the sponsors for the event. Barris is an honorary member of the Tillsonburg Military History Club, and has written 22 books, and has conducted over 6,000 veteran interviews.

With decades of delving into military history behind him, he opened his talk by saying: "I've learned that some stories you have to search deeper to find." He described how "veterans have developed a script to deflect journalists who ask the tough questions," and how profoundly PTSD has affected their lives. Throughout the evening, there were murmurs of assent from the audience, gasps, and even some laughter as Barris interjected moments of levity to break the darkness of his subject matter.

Barris began by sharing the story of Charley Fox, DFC, CD, "the original torchbearer" who told him: "you are going to tell our stories." It was the beginning of a 20-year friendship. Fox explained he hadn't talked about his own experiences for 40 years because he felt guilty for surviving. He travelled widely, however, sharing the stories of his comrades and veterans at speaking engagements.

Fox joined the RCAF at the age of 20, graduating at the top 10 per cent of his class and earning his wings in 1941.

They made him an instructor, and for the next two years he served at the No 6 Service Flying Training School in Dunnville, accumulating 1,500 hours of instruction and training hundreds of military pilots.

He was sent overseas in 1943, where he trained in Spitfires and completed over 200 combat sorties, including the infamous attack in July of 1944 that left German Field Marshall Erwin Rommel injured and hospitalized. It wasn't until 1992 that his actions were recognized with the headlines reading "Canadian spitfire ace given credit for shooting Rommel". He returned with honours, receiving two Distinguished Flying Crosses. A longtime member of the Canadian Harvard Aircraft Association, Fox is now memorialized on a banner in Tillsonburg, as well as a tribute atop a sculpture situated at the Charley Fox Memorial Overpass in London, ON.

Barris also shared the story of reluctant hero "Ronnie" Egan, WRCNS. Known as "Wrens" in WW2, almost 7,000 Canadian women served in crucial non-combat roles at naval bases, enabling men to be on active duty. Egan had trained in Guelph, and was posted to Halifax in 1944. She was present for the famous Halifax riots on May 7 and 8, 1945, standing up to an arsonist and refusing to allow him to set fire to the store she was leaving.

Barris has also spoken to many veterans of the Korean war, stating that "it took a long time for us to recognize Korean vets." He told the story of Lt. Hal Merrithew, who had received a Military Cross for his heroics on the night of Oct. 8, 1952. He had served with the Van Doos in the Second World War and was deployed to the Korean war-front in 1952 when the fighting was stalemated at the 38th parallel.

On that fateful night, he described hearing explosions

in the darkness out in front of them when a patrol had accidentally entered the Canadian minefield.

"He chose men to go out with metal detectors to find the injured and the mines and those waiting to be rescued. They spent 90 minutes crawling on the ground with bayonets, and they didn't know what was out there," Barris related.

The final story Barris shared moved many in the audience to tears. He described the April 17, 2002 "friendly fire" incident in Afghanistan, and how he had tracked down some of the Canadians who were there. He interviewed Lt. Jeff Peck and Cpl. Brian Decare, who took shrapnel in the face and hand when the bomb fell.

He also spoke with medic Sgt Bill Wilson, saying, "He was there and immediately responded to go in to triage in the dark with a headlamp." When he asked Wilson if the headlamps were standard issue, Wilson said no, explaining that his mom sent them to him from Home Hardware.

Peck, the platoon commander, told Barris that the mountain missions were very difficult, and they often didn't know who the enemy was. When the bomb hit, he was near the ammo truck and responded, although he didn't know what the bomb was. Barris described how "they used fluorescent sticks to mark where they had secured the perimeters of the casualty area."

It was later, when Peck was asked to assist with escorting his comrade Matthew Dawes, who was killed in action, home to rest that the grief overwhelmed him. In the car from Trenton to Toronto, he experienced a roller coaster of emotions, describing how the sight of hundreds of people on the bridges staggered him. "Nothing could have prepared me for the Highway of Heroes experience," he told Barris.

CONTINUED TO PAGE 16



Traditional Karate Ontario

***"They shall not grow old,
as we that are left grow old:
Age shall not weary them,
nor the years condemn.
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sun and in the morning,
we will remember them"***

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Remembrance Day 2025

LEST WE FORGET

Respected speaker shares the untold stories of veterans

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 15

Local author and historian Dr. Jason Pankratz, who introduced Barris as a steward of veterans' stories, offered some words of closure: "It is the honour of the listener to just sit and listen, but also to think about the stories they don't share, that they keep to themselves."

Military History Club President Les Burden thanked Barris, saying "the stories are flowing tonight." He described the impact of trauma with a personal story about his father, who served with the military police during WW2, and was there when they opened the gates at Bergen-Belsen. Burden didn't know what his father had endured until after his death and often couldn't understand him.

"Dad would not break that silence," he said, "but I wish he had."



(ROBIN KRAFFT PHOTO)

Military author Ted Barris spoke to a sold-out crowd at the Legion, sharing tales from the frontlines that were included in one of his books. A captivated audience listened as he recounted stories of heroism.

Remembrance Day

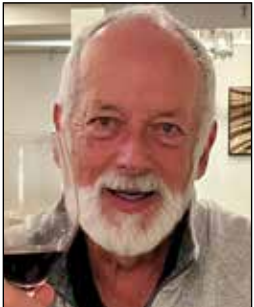
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Remembrance Day 2025

LEST WE FORGET

History, horror and heroism on display



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

PAUL KNOWLES

Tillsonburg Post Columnist

History, horror and heroism: you will find all three on display at the exceptional Canadian War Museum in Ottawa. And if you manage to visit before January 6, 2026, you can also experience a very poignant and powerful temporary exhibit called “Last Voices of the Second World War,” which captures the memories and stories of the last living Canadian WW2 veterans.

In truth, there is no practical way to take in everything this National Museum has to offer, in just one visit. But a few hours’ visit will give you a lot of insight into the reality of Canada’s participation in national and international conflicts – and the impact of this history on our fellow Canadians.

We started by touring Last Voices galleries. Here, the focus is on individuals, and their stories.

And those stories vary wildly. There are some for whom their time in the Canadian Armed Forces is something they look back on with fondness. But for many who saw service in battle, it’s a very different story. Veteran George Morasch is quoted: “I don’t talk about it. They are secrets in my heart.” And veteran George MacDonell, held as a prisoner of war in horrendous conditions in Hong Kong, admits, “I had heavy guilt because so many of my comrades had died and I had lived.”

The story is told honestly, with no holds barred. You learn that while there were benefits for armed forces personnel when they returned home, those benefits were limited to white people – black vets could not access the same assistance. And there is a lot of emphasis on the mental health and economic struggles faced by the vets. Veteran Alex Polowin is quoted: “The thought of ‘Where now? What are you going to do for the rest of your life?’ That’s very, very frightening.”

Not surprisingly, the exhibition underscores the significance of Remembrance Day. Veteran Arthur Dingle

says, “I think Remembrance Day is very important and it’s absolutely essential for people to understand the reason for it.”

You cannot visit this “Last Voices” exhibition without being deeply touched. There were heroes, yes, caught in a global catastrophe, and yet, as veteran Frank Moritsugu is quoted in a caption, when he tells young people his story, “I tell them how old I was when this happened, so that they would understand that I was really an ordinary Canadian kid like they are.”

That’s a theme that recurs throughout your visit to the Canadian War Museum: the story of war is really the story of ordinary people who found themselves in extraordinary circumstances, and responded with a level of courage and resilience I cannot even imagine.

The Museum carries you chronologically through Canadian history, started with the First Peoples and their conflict with Vikings, and with each other, and continuing through the coming of the French, and then the British. There is plenty to think about as you continue through the War of 1812-14, Canada’s involvement in the war in South Africa, and then the World Wars, and the cold war.

And these clashes and their consequences, continue to reverberate right into this present day.

To my surprise, one of the most effective displays at the Museum is an amusing video of three young Canadian men. The video starts with two of them in the frame, one wearing a Toronto Maple Leafs sweater, the other, a Montréal Canadiens jersey. We see the conflict between British and French, and the ongoing issues of French Canada and English Canada, through their eyes.

But eventually, the camera pans back and there is a third guy on the couch – a Native Canadian. The other two are surprised: “When did you get here?” they ask. The “new guy” frowns. “I’ve been here all the time.” And therein lies a fundamental truth about Canada, one we mostly ignore.

There is more “big picture” in the permanent exhibits at the War Museum, but there are thought-provoking individual moments here, as well. I was intrigued by the reconstruction of World War One ace Billy Bishop’s aircraft, accompanied by photos of and information pan-



(PAUL KNOWLES PHOTO)

Veteran Alex Polowin, quoted in 2022, said figuring out the future after returning home from World War Two was “very, very frightening”.

els about Canada’s flying war hero.

Or by what happens when you walk into the World War Two gallery, and are confronted with Adolph Hitler’s limousine, a merely mechanical artifact that nonetheless reeks of evil.

The designers at the Museum have done a very fine job of creating interactive scenes which place visitors in the very heart of war: you pause in a battlefield at Passchendaele, which includes discarded weapons and half-buried bodies. You edge your way through a trench, where a very realistic manikin of a frightened soldier is the only other “person” sharing your space. You stand in a landing vessel behind soldiers about to storm the beaches of Normandy.

And you leave the museum well informed, heavy-laden with thoughts about the horrible reality of war, but filled with admiration for the courage of those people who fought for our country – 66,000 of whom died in World War One, another 45,000 in World War Two. Lest we forget.

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.



World War One Canadian flying ace Billy Bishop.

(PAUL KNOWLES PHOTO)



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Gemini junior volleyball boys advance beyond pre-season '6-7' level of experience as season winds down

JEFF TRIBE

Echo Correspondent

The Tillsonburg Gemini junior boys' volleyball team began its Thames Valley Regional Athletics (TVRA) Southeast campaign a little '6-7' in terms of experience.

But collectively, a Grade 9-heavy roster progressed as the campaign unfolded, improvement hoped to carry over into the next year.

"This was just like a building season," said Gemini power Rudy Lofthouse following a 20-25, 25-12, 25-18, 25-19 playoff loss to the homecourt Ingersoll DCI Blue Bombers Oct. 28 at IDCI. "I think we'll have a strong team next year."

"I thought we got better throughout the year," agreed teammate Michael Gubesch.

That progress showed as the Gemini came out strongly and took the

first set.

"Then we held back a little bit," said middle hitter Stephen Araoye. "Didn't give 100 per cent effort."

Some fatigue might have been understandable, given the previous evening's 18-inning World Series marathon, watched in its entirety by Tillsonburg setter Emerson Hodges.

"Kirk was good, best player on the team probably - and then Ohtani went off."

"That's what happened, none of us got any sleep last night?" smiled coach Melissa Jacko, herself a Toronto Blue Jays fan, albeit with limits.

"Absolutely... did I stay up to 2:30? No."

Unlike the Jays, the 2025 Gemini trajectory did not lead to a TVRA championship final, however the coaching staff was pleased with their development across a nine-

match regular season. It featured a win over the Woodstock College Avenue Knights and a five-set battle with the Lord Dorchester Beavers.

"A good season. Some athletes we had to make volleyballers out of," said Jacko. "Lots of growth this season, lots to build on next year," she added. "Gonna pick up right where we left off."

Senior football team led into the fourth

London Saunders Sabres 17, Tillsonburg Gemini 1

Tillsonburg carried a four-game winning streak and considerable momentum into its TVRA Williamson Division semi-final against the undefeated London Saunders Sabres, a game which played out far closer than the final score would indicate.

The Gemini took a narrow 1-0 lead in the third quarter's latter stages, carrying that tight advantage into the final period.

"It was a great defensive battle," said Gemini coach Lee Janzen.

A series of 'great defensive stops' were compromised by penalties, which gave Saunders the field position it needed to kick a go-ahead field goal midway through the fourth. Late in the game, the Sabres added a touchdown, converted for a 10-1 advantage with minutes to play.

Faced with the loss of their running back, the Gemini were forced to go to the air. Typically, Tillsonburg's passing game is a team strength, but the Gemini struggled to throw the ball under poor weather conditions, said Janzen. Putting the ball into the air against the wind resulted in an interception and short field for Saunders, which added another late TD to round the final score.

"We played with a ton of character

against an undefeated team," credited Janzen. "But untimely mistakes cost you against a good team and our lack of depth haunted us in the fourth quarter when injuries started to pile up."

Junior girls basketball playoffs

Tillsonburg Gemini 41, St. Thomas Central Elgin Titans 28

Having closed out their regular TVRA season the week before with a win over the Titans, coach Keirsten Sanderson was able to adjust her team's gameplan accordingly for the Tuesday, Oct. 28 game.

"The girls ran their plays and were able to steal the ball for fast breaks which helped the score. We were able to keep a distance between us and Central Elgin for the majority of the game."

Point guard Sophia Monsere led Tillsonburg offensively with 14 points, Kate Bruner had 10 and Ashlynne Ivanyshyn contributed nine.

With the win, Tillsonburg travelled to Woodstock CI that Thursday, falling by a 38-18 margin.

"The game did not go in our favour but it was our last of the season and the girls just wanted to go out and have fun," said coach Sanderson.

Up against what she credits as 'an amazing team', the Gemini weren't able to score as they had two days earlier.

"But we did get everyone on the court and it was a nice way to round out the season."

GEMINI TVRA PLAYOFF SCOREBOARD

Senior Football

Williamson Division Semi-final
London Saunders 17, Gemini 1



(JEFF TRIBE PHOTO)

Gemini junior point guard Sophia Monsere drives to the basket against the Woodstock CI Red Devils Thur., October 30.

Junior Girls Basketball

Preliminary Round
Gemini 41, St. Thomas Central Elgin 28
Quarter-Final
Woodstock CI 38, Gemini 18

Senior Girls Basketball

Preliminary Round
Lord Dorchester 36, Gemini 21

Junior Boys Volleyball

Ingersoll DCI 20, 25, 25, 25; Gemini 25, 12, 18, 19
Senior Boys Volleyball
Preliminary Round
Lord Dorchester 25, 25, 26; Gemini 18, 19, 24



(JEFF TRIBE PHOTO)

Tillsonburg junior Gemini Logan de Leye (right) hits the ball against the defensive attention of Ingersoll DCI's Eckjeet Singh (left) and Carson Darlington, with Gemini middle Stephen Araoye looking on.

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Apple Shack earns first win in Club Oxford play

JEFF GWYN

Post Contributor

B Division's Source for Sports remains the only undefeated team in Club Oxford with close to a month of games completed.

A Division

Health Hut 5, Apple Shack 1

After an even first, Health Hut came out strong in the second. They had a bunch of rushes and pressured in front, leading to a 4 goal second. Apple Shack couldn't get going in the second and were hemmed in a lot. They need to find a spark on offence.

Marty Friedrich had a hat trick for Health Hut. Quinn VanBoekel had a goal for Apple Shack.

Fody's 2, ReMax 1

A tough battle. Fody's bounced back in the second and capitalized on their chances. A strong defensive game. ReMax had their chances, but couldn't get many rebounds or sustained pressure. Defensively they shut down the big Fody's offence.

Jeremy Hilliard had a goal for Fody's. Jordan Kobayashi had a goal for ReMax.

B Division

Source 5, Jeff Prouse Mortgages 3

After a quick first, Source was able to put the pressure on in the second. Goals from different lines helped in the game. Prouse Mortgages tried to match Source tonight, they

just couldn't get the second chances in close. A good game between two high scoring teams.

Nate Bisschop had two goals for Source. Jeff Prouse had two goals for Prouse Mortgages.

B-Line 4, RND 2

B-Line found their offence again. They had a very strong three-quarters of a game, did very well to kill off a late five-on-three. RND simply ran out of time in this one. They had their chances to avoid curfew, but not cashing in a full five-on-three was tough.

Ryan Simmons had two points for B-Line. Johnathan Bouck had two points for RND.

Glass 3, Airmount 1

Glass was able to get the lead and hang onto it. A strong defensive game helped them get the victory in this one. Airmount had some chances on rushes but couldn't get any sustained pressure or rebounds. They will breakout on the scoresheet soon.

Brad Schopp had two points for Glass. Justin French had a goal for Airmount.

Carquest 3, Royal LePage 2

Carquest was able to make a comeback in this one, a quick start in the second helped give them momentum. Some line juggling helped out the offence in this one. Royal LePage looked to be breaking out of the scoring slump, but just couldn't get things going in the second.

Brett Ferguson had two points for Carquest. Landon Thibert had a goal for Royal LePage.

October 29

A Division

Apple Shack 7, Fody's 5

Apple Shack fought hard for their first win. They found the offence and kept pressure on all night. Fody's looked to be in control until a late penalty. They had to play both ends of the ice to battle the pressuring Apple Shack.

Matt Wight had a three-point night for Apple Shack. Jeremy Hilliard had a hat trick for Fody's.

ReMax 6, Health Hut 0

ReMax dominated this game. They seemed to have a rush every shift and were getting shots from all over the ice. Health Hut had a few rushes, but couldn't get they sustained pressure at all. They had a bunch of chances broken up in the neutral zone.

Brian Velthove and Cory Campbell-Smith had two points each for ReMax.

B Division

B-Line 2, Carquest 2

B-Line played a pretty good defensive game, not letting Carquest stay in front of the net. They had their chances to score, but couldn't get the rebounds to bounce their way. Carquest was able to come back twice to earn the tie. They had some solid breakouts which gave them some great chances.

Tyler Sergeant had a goal for B-Line. Kyle Hollister had two points for Carquest.

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Thunder fall to Royals in a hard fought game last Saturday night

MICHAEL HOLLY

Post Contributor

The Tavistock-Tillsonburg rivalry is alive and well. The first regular season game between these dreaded foes occurred last Saturday night in the Thunderdome. These two teams have a long history between them with the balance of power

shifting back and forth over the years. This time, the Royals came out on top.

Thunder forward Theo Morrison unassisted opened the scoring at 3:20 of the first period. Tavistock put in two in the second to take the lead after two. Tillsonburg's Nigel Abbott also scored unassisted tying it up at 14:31 of the third, but the Royals scored with only 5:39 left to take the con-



(DOUG COOPER PHOTO)

The Tillsonburg Thunder lost a hard-fought battle to long-time rivals, the Tavistock Royals, in their home opener on Saturday night. The team has successive home games on Saturday nights in November.

test.

The Thunder feature three promotions this year for those in attendance. The Dominoes' 5 is back. If the Thunder score five goals in a game, Dominoes' will provide a coupon for a free lunch after the game. The lunch will vary to give variety. Copper Mug 3 provides a free appetizer if a Thunder player scores a hat trick or the Thunder secure a shutout. Again, coupons will be handed out after the game.

The new promotion is the Dirtiest Car in the Parking Lot. This is sponsored by Mister Auto Wash. After the first period, a Thunder staff member will walk the parking lot and find the dirtiest car. The plate number will be announced in the second period and you will have to describe your car and then receive an Ultimate Car Wash!!

The next Thunder game is Saturday, Nov. 8 @ 7:30 pm. This is the Remembrance Day game. A Legion honor guard will be present.

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Tillsonburg council news in brief

JEFF HELSDON

Local Journalism Initiative Reporter

A sweet donation

A letter from Schep's Bakery Ltd. to the Town of Tillsonburg requesting a town logo made council members aware of the new industry's plan to donate 4,500 individually wrapped Stroop-wafel cookies to attendees at the annual Santa Claus parade.

Surplus allocation

Tillsonburg council followed Director of Finance Renato Pullia's recommendations in allocating the \$2.2 million surplus from 2024.

The breakdown of the allocations was: employment reserve, \$1.25 million; asset management reserve, \$197,150; cemetery reserve, \$90,493; facility infrastructure reserve, \$180,338; fire department equipment reserve, \$57,290; fleet and equipment reserve, \$121,834; police reserve, \$4,614; and tax rate stabilization reserve, \$347,292.

Potter's Gate Park

Town council recommended the development of a park in the Potter's Gate subdivision be included in the 2026 budget.

The developer transferred a piece of land on Beretta Street to the town, along with a \$112,000 payment in lieu of parkland.

Director of Recreation, Culture and Parks Andrea Greenway told council at the Oct. 27 meeting that the town's master plan states there should be parkland within 800 meters of residences.

"Currently, this subdivision doesn't have one in that distance," she said.

Coun. Kelly Spencer said she has heard from people in that subdivision of a need for a park.

"A park would be beneficial for the people in this area," she said.

Deputy Mayor Dave Beres shared that as the subdivision grew, he has seen youth running across the street to play on the grass on the church property, which he didn't consider safe.

Horticultural society agreement extended

Council approved extending the memorandum of understanding with the Tillsonburg Horticultural Society.

Through the agreement, which expires on Dec. 31, the society has maintained many gardens in town, including Annandale House, the Broadway parkette and more.

"The work that is done by this volunteer group

is absolutely awesome in this town," said Coun. Bob Parsons.

The new memorandum of understanding extends the agreement for three years.

Cleaning contracts extended

Contracts for cleaning several town facilities were extended for one year.

Staff recommended exercising a one-year optional contract extension with two cleaning contractors. According to a staff report, cleaning duties for the customer service centre, corporate offices, public works, fire station, police station, and Annandale National Historic Site are shared between Cheema Cleaning Service and Horizon Maintenance.

Council endorsed the recommendation for the extension.

Council to look at alternative physician model

Town council endorsed a motion for a staff report to look at a model used by Colwood, B.C., where the municipality operates the physician clinic, and its possible application in Tillsonburg.

The motion, from Coun. Kelly Spencer, referred to the "municipally-led initiative to directly employ family physicians and operate a clinic model that is designed to be revenue- and cost-neutral, to the municipality and no additional cost to the tax payers," and suggested a report for a partnership-based clinic, including municipal leasing of clinic space and employment of physicians and support staff, funding sources, an implementation plan and possible collaborations with the Ministry of Health. The completed report would then be forwarded to the town's Community Health Care Advisory Committee, the MPP and Minister of Health.

"With more doctors retiring on the horizon in the next couple of years, many folks are driving hours to get to their old offices where they used to live," Spencer said after the motion was read. "Many are still unrostered and there will be more and the needs of our town won't be met."

She said such a model would be cost neutral and it would be in the best interest of the community to explore it.

Coun. Chris Rosehart asked if town staff would oversee such a facility, if it was implemented. CAO Kyle Pratt said it would fall under the manager of innovation's portfolio, but wasn't sure of the exact details of the Colwood model.

"I'm not sure what the financial implications would be to the town," he said.

Town to look at Saturday parking limits

Tillsonburg staff will look at two-hour parking limits on Saturday in the downtown.

Coun. Chris Rosehart, who presented the motion, said, "If you're downtown shopping, you're parked downtown, you stop to get a bite to eat and you're two hours is up before you know it, then your walk back to your car and you have a ticket."

Coun. Bob Parsons said the two-hour parking lot has been in place for years.

"It assists a business by making sure the patrons, potential customers, have a chance to come and go," he said, adding the resulting report should be referred to the BIA for comment.

Rosehart agreed the restriction has always been there, but people didn't used to get tickets on weekends before.

Coun. Kelly Spencer asked if there is a retail study of the downtown, noting Saturday seems to be the busiest day for shopping.

Development Commissioner Cephas Panschow confirmed there is traffic data and Saturdays are the busiest day.

"What's different is we don't have 4,000 people coming downtown to work on the weekend," he said.

Former school to be sold

The former Elliot Fairburn School will soon be for sale.

Located at 31 Earle Street, the facility was declared surplus in 2019 when it was thought that PeopleCare would locate a long-term care facility there. Since PeopleCare relocated to Maple Lane, Development Commissioner Cephas Panschow recommended selling the property to avoid long-term maintenance costs.

The property has been leased to the OPP for a training facility since it was purchased by the town nearly two decades ago. The current lease to the OPP extends to 2029, and could possibly be transferred to a new owner.

Coun. Chris Rosehart questioned if the OPP were informed of the possible sale, and was told this had occurred.

Council endorsed the recommendation to proceed with the sale.

Town looks at municipal right of way bylaw

Municipal right of way

Council sent a staff report to look at a possible municipal right of way bylaw back for more work before being passed.

The municipal right of way is the portion on any property which is owned by the town as access for sidewalks or utilities. Up to this point, issues with the right of way have been dealt with without the presence of a formal bylaw.

A staff report suggested establishing a formal bylaw.

Deputy Mayor Dave Beres asked if water sprinklers were on the right of way if there should be an encroachment permit.

Chief Building Official Geno Vanhaelewyn answered that there should be a permit, which costs \$50. With further questioning from Mayor Deb Gilvesy, Vanhaelewyn explained town staff needs to know the location of sprinkler systems in case there is digging in the area.

Coun. Chris Rosehart asked about provisions potentially restricting running pool water on the right of way, asking where it should be run. Vanhaelewyn said there have been some issues with pool water and it should be dechlorinated before it hits the catch basin.

Coun. Chris Parker raised concerns about the use of skateboard and scooters in municipal right of ways.

The report was referred back to staff to allow investigating the definition and restrictions of "leisure equipment," clarity on snow accumulation placement, the responsibility for property restitution, the regulations on mud tracking, the requirements for draining chlorinated pool water and the encroachment permit requirements.

Community centre safety review

The Tillsonburg Community Centre received passing marks in a safety review of the facility by the OPP through a Safeguard Assessment.

Julie Dawley, Recreation Programs and Service Manager, said the review found areas that security was being management effectively and also contained suggestions for improvements.

One suggestion was to install security gates as there is currently no way to lock off some areas of the building that are closed while other parts of the building are open. For instance, Dawley said when events are occurring, people could wonder down into the new wing.

"For security's sake, it might be nice to lock it off," she said.

The report also suggested an increase in the number of security cameras, installing concave mirrors at blind corners, adding syringe disposal in the washroom, locking dumpsters and other measures.

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Community Futures Oxford offering new loan stream

LEE GRIFFI

Local Journalism Initiative Reporter

Oxford County's Community Futures branch has teamed up with the Business Development Bank of Canada (BDC) to offer \$100 million in financing.

"The Business Elevation Loan will boost entrepreneurship and small businesses. This is all about being able to lend more money to them. When an entrepreneur comes in, they could potentially get up to \$500,000. Right now, we are only able to commit to loans up to \$300,000," explained Community Futures General Manager Allan Simm.

"With BDC partnering, we could each offer \$250,000 on these deals. This is a great opportunity for us to diversify risk and offer more money."

Simm added the name of the loan itself is dynamic, energetic and can appeal to start-ups and small businesses.

"It suggests something powerful, sparking growth, innovation and momentum. It conveys energy, aligning well with entrepreneurial values."

BDC spokesperson Kris Smith explained the deal could provide a huge boost to the local economy, and he hopes the money will satisfy a need in Oxford.

"Entrepreneurship in rural areas is 17 per cent while it is just 12 per cent in urban centres and there are more entrepreneurs in rural areas who need help. The problem is there isn't a lot of help out there, especially as you get



(LEE GRIFFI PHOTO)

Chris Smith (left) from the Business Development Bank of Canada and Allan Simm announce a new \$100 million funding stream to help rural entrepreneurs and small businesses in Oxford County grow and succeed.

more remote."

Smith added BDC doesn't have the capacity to reach rural areas which is why the partnership is so crucial to the success of small businesses looking for funding to start or expand a business.

"This is the start of something new at BDC called community banking. We are using the partners in our ecosystem, in this case, Community Futures. We are leveraging their roots but more importantly, their knowledge and how they do business in helping entrepreneurs."

If the entire allocated dollar figure is utilized, the ripple effect is expected to put \$250 million into the Oxford County economy.

"Frankly, we are hoping it is the first \$100 million. I can't wait for the day we use it all up and I have to back to our board and ask for another. We are very prepared to do so," added Smith.

BDC has made the ambitious goal of helping 100,000 rural entrepreneurs over the next 10 years through its community banking priorities.



(LEE GRIFFI PHOTO)

Jodi Pendry, owner of the Terra Nova Nordic Spa near Hickson, was on hand for the funding announcement and lauded as a success story after receiving funding from Oxford Community Futures to start her business nearly three years ago.

The announcement was made at the Community Futures office in Ingersoll last week where an Oxford County business was highlighted as a success story after receiving funding through to organization to help launch her business. Jodi Pendry owns Terra Nova Nordic Spa just south of Hickson. She explained financing a commercial business was more difficult than she thought it would be so she turned to Community Futures.

"They were a big stepping stone for us to get started on the spa. We had to start out small, which in hindsight is the best way we could have done it, and grow as we learned. The money we received from Community Futures allowed me to do a few extra things I may not have been able to do otherwise and our business is all about providing an experience."

Pendry added sales doubled in her second year and will likely double again in year three.

"I don't want to say too much because I don't want to jinx myself because things have been going so well. It's taken a lot of work and we did take on a lot of risk."

When she was launching her business, she attended as many networking opportunities as she could across Oxford and there was always one consistency – the presence of Community Futures.

"It was such an easy interaction when I had the opportunity to speak to any of their staff. When I first came to them I had the big picture and I think I said I wanted \$3 million," laughed Pendry. "They said no, we don't do that."

Pendry said she went to a well-known local investor before securing financing with Community Futures and pitched the idea on the spa property on a blustery winter day.

"He said to me, sorry, people aren't going to come here when the weather is like this. He said he couldn't see this being a successful business so off he went. He came in about two years ago, shook my hand and congratulated me."

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Weekend Quiz

by Jake Grant

- | | |
|--|--|
| 1. What is a group of bears called? | singer of the Tragically Hip? |
| 2. What silent film star was "The Tramp"? | 7. What Toronto Blue Jay hit a 3-run, walk-off home run to win the world series in 1993? |
| 3. What is the name given to people who make arrows? | 8. What Star Wars show follows rebel Cassian from Rogue One? |
| 4. What is Canada's National bird? | 9. Who is the president of China? |
| 5. What are the birthstones for November? | 10. What is the tallest mountain in Canada? |
| 6. Who was the lead | |

This week's answers are found on pg. 31

TOWNSHIP OF NORWICH NEWS



Norwich Twp. expected to grow by 6,600 over next 30 years

LUKE EDWARDS

Post Contributor

While the towns and cities will lead the way for Oxford County's population growth in the next 30 years, among the county's townships Norwich is expected to welcome in the most new residents.

Township councillors learned about the projections at the Oct. 14 Norwich council meeting, where Jamie Cook, a consultant for Watson and Associates Economists, presented the early findings of a growth analysis and land needs assessment being conducted by the county.

The projections have Norwich growing by 6,600 people over the next three decades, just outpacing Zorra township, which is expected to grow by 6,500 people. However, Woodstock and Tillsonburg, and to a lesser extent Ingersoll, will be taking on the bulk of new people moving to

the area.

"We're really focusing on looking at long term need for urban land across the county over a 20-30 year time horizon," said Cook.

If the projections are right, Norwich's population will hit 18,500 by 2061. All told, the county will be home to just under 224,000 people, with Woodstock having a population of just over 90,000.

Outward growth pressure from nearby areas like the Golden Horseshoe and the Waterloo region are driving expected population growth in Oxford, Cook said.

"It's nice to see we are going to grow, but that creates some issues too," said Coun. Lynne DePlancke, pointing to the expectations that Norwich's growth will lead the way among Oxford's smaller municipalities.

Those challenges include finding land and improving infrastructure.

"There are some infrastructure needs that are required from Oxford County to accommodate this growth," said Coun. Adrian Couwenberg.

The forecast projects most of Norwich's growth, 87 per cent or 56 units per year, occurring within the settlement area. Within that, most will take place in greenfield areas, while about 10 units per year will be required under what is described as intensification. Those could be infill developments and higher density builds, but they could also be things like accessory residential units.

"We are supportive of a broad range of housing options," said Cook.

"You're still going to be looking at low density options as the primary form of housing within Norwich over the long term."

The plan still needs to be approved by county council. Cook said that's expected to happen later this year.

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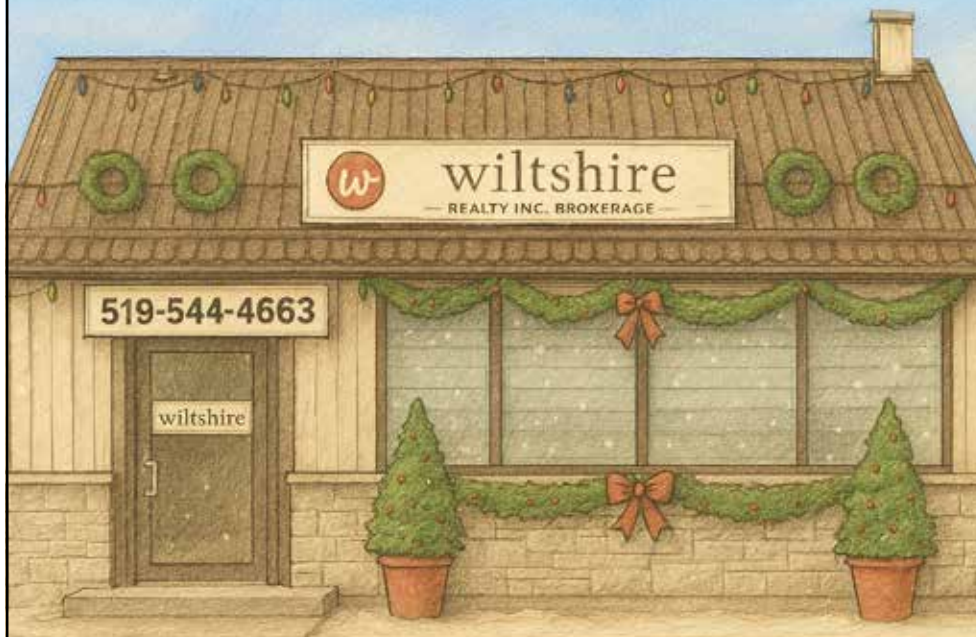
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Hurricane Melissa-related mental health support available for Jamaican foreign workers

JEFF TRIBE

Echo Correspondent

Three Canadian organizations are coordinating efforts to offer mental health support for Jamaican foreign migrant workers struggling to deal with Hurricane Melissa's devastation.

Canadians and workers' host communities quite literally benefit from the fruits and vegetables of their labour says Leanne Arnal, Manager of Community Development, Catholic Community Services York Region (CCSYR), Simcoe Satellite Office. And now, in those workers' time of need, she feels responsibility to reciprocate.

"We are their extended family, we need to be there in support. We absolutely have to offer whatever support we can."

A foreign migrant worker's mental challenge from leaving home and family for months is immense under the best of circumstances. But painful and effectively powerless separation during Melissa's deadly path of destruction and related loss of communication is other level.

"Terrible when I cannot hear," said Wes Clarke Wednesday, Oct. 29. He last spoke with family in his home parish of St. Elizabeth - hardest hit by Melissa - the

previous Friday. Communication with wife Colleen and their daughters Osheena, a teacher, and Judianne, who manages two hotels in Montego Bay, was cut off with the loss of infrastructure. "It's not easy, not easy at all because you don't know what's going on."

"It's terrible."

Clarke has worked with two generations of the Koteles family, near Tillsonburg, for 25 years, advancing to a supervisory role. It has been tough leaving his own Jamaican family each and every one of those years, requiring what compatriot Donald Sangster refers to as the proper 'mind-set.' A painter by trade, Clarke's steadier income earned in Canada has built his house, provided university education for his children and allowed the purchase of a piece of property on which he grows bananas, mangos and coconuts.

"Twenty-five years... it isn't easy. (But) it's a sacrifice you have to make."

Watching Melissa develop and strike Jamaica was incredibly stressful, tougher still from a distance.

"Devastating, but I don't hear what else. Nobody can communicate with anybody."

"There is no internet down there," said Sangster.

CONTINUED TO PAGE 26



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Fire

What has one eye but cannot see?

Needle

What gets wetter the more it dries?

Towel

I have keys but no locks; I have space but no room. What am I?

Keyboard

I'm taken before you see me, and kept to remember. What am I?

Photograph

I go all around a house but never move. What am I?

Fence

I'm light as a feather, yet the strongest person can't hold me for long. What am I?

Breath

I'm full of holes but still hold water. What am I?

Sponge

I have branches but no fruit, trunk, or leaves. What am I?

Bank

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8	4		3	1	6			
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		2				8		

Level: Beginner

Solutions on Page 31

PET OF THE WEEK



COOPER
Cooper is a three year old springer spaniel, who loves to chase squirrels as much as he loves cheese!

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

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- POPPY
- VETERAN
- CENOTAPH
- SACRIFICE
- ARMISTICE
- SOLDIER
- MEMORIAL
- TRENCH
- CANADA
- LEGION
- REMEMBER
- FREEDOM
- CEREMONY
- BUGLE
- NOVEMBER

Program launched to offer mental health support to Jamaican foreign workers in wake of Hurricane Melissa

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 24

He was able to 'send phone credit' south and hear in person girlfriend Chantal and son Donald Junior in St. Thomas parish were okay. Sangster's house, located on a hill, survived, but his own banana, mango and coconut trees did not.

"Everything flattened out, terrible. We've got to replant."

Replanting is the baseline expectation for Clarke.

"I don't know, I don't hear anything concrete, I just have to guess."

Another Jamaican staying on the Koteles property learned his house sustained serious damage.

"When your roof is gone, it's not an easy thing," said Clarke.

"He's got no home to go to," Arnal added.

In addition, flights home at the end of a long season were cancelled for some workers, a backlog complicated by damage to airports.

"We don't know when it's going to open," said Clarke.

He wants to believe family members in Jamaica are okay (a third daughter, Okeema, is working toward Canadian permanent residency through an agricultural program



(JEFF TRIBE PHOTO)

A partnership between CCSYR, Grand Erie Community Health Centre (GECHC) and the Canadian Mental Health Association (CMHA) is responding to Melissa-associated mental health challenges faced by Jamaican foreign workers in Southwestern Ontario and beyond. Services can be accessed by calling Leanne Arnal at 519-277-1102 for referral, pictured here flanked by Wes Clarke (left) and Donald Sangster (right).

here), but being unable to hear from them directly has created a 'pain in his heart', loss of appetite and difficulty sleeping. Clarke tries to cope by staying busy, finding work-

ing is better than thinking too much.

"If I stay in place, it hurts more. I like to move."

Some are turning to self-medication, 'li-

quor' providing one avenue.

"It's not good," Clarke understated.

A partnership between CCSYR, Grand Erie Community Health Centre (GECHC) and the Canadian Mental Health Association (CMHA) is responding to Melissa-associated mental health challenges faced by Jamaican foreign workers based not only in Southwestern Ontario, but across Canada. The response includes community and faith-based mental health supports, workshops, prayer support, on-farm visits and confidential virtual and telephone support.

"The outreach is local in-person, but accessible right across Canada," said Arnal. Her immediate goal is informing both workers and farmers this potentially vital service is available.

Access is provided via calling Arnal at 519-277-1102, she acting as referral hub.

"We're just going old-school right to the telephone. It's immediate."

Arnal looks forward to being part of the broader disaster relief effort, Jamaica's need undeniably great and ongoing.

"But right now, we just need to get people to sleep. Provide them with the mental health support they need," she concluded.

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MUSIC CORNER

Fast Eddie keeps his chin up for a triumphant return to The Copper Mug



BEN ADDRESS

Tillsonburg Post Columnist

Toronto-based Fast Eddie, the stage name of singer-songwriter Eddie Knowlton, returns to Tillsonburg this Saturday making this his fifth performance at The Copper Mug. At this rate Fast Eddie is going to be considered an honorary local when bringing his signature blend of pop punk energy and folk punk storytelling to Oxford County crowds.

Known for high energy acoustic sets that balance heart-

felt emotion with undeniable fun, Fast Eddie has been carving out his own lane in Ontario's thriving independent music scene. His sound is rooted in the pop-punk anthems that first made him fall in love with music but delivered with the intimacy and heart of a folk show.

"Ever since I began to shape my own love of music, bands like Blink 182, Green Day and Sum 41 have always been at the forefront of that. So fun, catchy lighthearted music has always heavily influenced my song writing," Knowlton describes. "Once I decided to try my hand at writing more acoustic-based music, I found myself drifting towards more traditional chords and patterns that closely imitated my pop punk stylings but sounded more like classic folk and rock music."

The stripped-down approach allows Eddie to connect more deeply with listeners.

"It's given me a real chance to write songs that reflect on my own life experiences," Knowlton says. "While being able to

create a closer connection with the audience through a more intimate performance setting that full scale bands are not always able to have. Any time anyone comes up to me and says that my lyrics really resonated with them is truly the highest compliment I can receive."

This year Fast Eddie released two standout singles, 'Chin Up, Kid' and 'Take Me Back', — both of which pull from personal moments of reflection and renewal.

"Both of these songs were actually inspired by the same incident but are taken from two different perspectives," Knowlton explains. "'Chin Up, Kid' came from some self-reflection after a bit of a difficult time musically and mentally. I wanted to continue playing and writing music but was feeling very burnt out from a lot of the behind-the-scenes work. I legitimately heard a little voice in my head every time I thought about stopping, telling me to just 'keep my chin up' and continue moving forward."

'Chin Up, Kid' is available on the Go Kick-Ass Compilation Vol. 2 compact disc released by the record label Cartridge Heart. It is also available on all digital music streaming services.

"'Take Me Back' revolves around an argument that led me to step away from another project for a period of time and being upset about that, but also the feelings of guilt and sadness once the initial dust settles," Knowlton adds. "It is definitely the more upbeat single released between the two and is much more in the direction of my new EP coming out next year."

'Take Me Back' is available on the Acoustic Brunch vinyl released by Ingersoll-based record label Faster and Louder Records.

That forward momentum also carried into the release of 'Live at Silence', a new live album recorded earlier this year in Guelph.

"Guelph has always held a special place in my heart, and is actually the first city outside

of my hometown of Kitchener-Waterloo that I played a solo acoustic set," Knowlton reflects. "The show that this live album was recorded at featured a number of my friends from the Ontario Folk Punk Collective including Kate Ruckus, Cody James McDusa and Derek Krist at a wonderful little venue that had the capabilities of recording our sets. The night was a ton of fun with a decent crowd but I was not too sure about my set after the show. Once I heard the recordings from that night, I knew we had captured something special that needed to be shared."

Saturday's performance marks Knowlton's fifth appearance at The Copper Mug which is a testament to the connection he has built with Tillsonburg's growing live music community.

"This will be my fifth time overall playing The Copper Mug," he says. "I've been lucky enough to find myself with a number of friends and fans in the area and am so very grateful for all the hard work Kim

and the staff at The Mug do to keep live music alive and well in what is becoming a fast-growing scene inside a smaller Ontario town."

When it comes to pre-show rituals Fast Eddie keeps it local.

"Most times you can find me hanging out with either The McBains or Jordy from Faster and Louder Records before the show starts, if I'm not stuffing my face with one of the many amazing meals at The Mug before my set," Knowlton laughs. "I'm always excited to come to Tillsonburg and give it my all with some heartfelt originals and some sing-along covers for audiences of all ages and lifestyles to listen to and enjoy."

Fast Eddie performs live at The Copper Mug in Tillsonburg on Saturday, Nov. 8 with openers Kevin Murphy, Old Mountain Low and Trevor Kostyria. Doors open at 8 PM with a \$5 cover charge. You can follow Fast Eddie at www.linktr.ee/fasteddieacoustic for upcoming tour dates, merch and music.

UPCOMING SHOWS

NOV. 7 - JUDE COYLE
The Copper Mug - No Cover
- 9 p.m.

NOV. 8 - 50+ KARAOKE
Tillsonburg Senior Centre -
No Cover - 1:30 p.m.

**NOV. 8 - FAST EDDIE,
KEVIN MURPHY, OLD
MOUNTAIN LOW &
TREVOR KOSTYRIA**

**The Copper Mug - \$5 - 8
p.m.**

**NOV. 9 - MICHAEL
WARREN**
The Copper Mug - No Cover
- 5 p.m.

**NOV. 12 - EUCHRE
NIGHT**
The Copper Mug - 6:30 p.m.
NOV. 12 - THE MACC

**LADS W/ ISOLATED
EARTHLINGS**
Paddy's Underground - \$20
- 8 p.m. - All Ages/Licensed

**NOV. 13 - MO DNGER
LIVE W/ DAVID MILTON**
The Copper Mug - No Cover
- 8pm

**NOV. 14 - BOB EGAN
(OF BLUE RODEO) W/**

ETHAN WALL
Paddy's Underground - \$15
- 8 p.m. - All Ages/Licensed

**NOV. 15 - GUILHEM
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EXPERIENCE**
Paddy's Underground - \$15
- 8 p.m. - All Ages/Licensed

NOV. 15 - BLIND DOG

JOE
The Copper Mug - No Cover
- 9 p.m.

DEC. 6 - CRYSTAL GAGE
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Fall still brings multiple colours to gardens



**IT'S
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SUE HEALEY

Tillsonburg Post Columnist

As we enter the tail end of the year, saying goodbye to the gold and blue days of October, November can seem bare and bleak, drained of colour and life.

But November has its own austere beauty and can be refreshingly sparse. Stripped of the froth of the growing season, the landscape is pared down to its essence, simple but powerful. What remains becomes more important. And what remain are trees. Even as we move into winter here in the northern hemisphere, trees continue to add their beauty to our sur-



Thread-leaf Cedar. (SUE HEALEY PHOTO)

roundings. They provide highlights and backdrops, texture, and colour. All while providing refuge and food to native wildlife. While deciduous trees may lose their leaves and the evergreens clasp theirs ever closer, trees play a vital role in the winter landscape.

My own small, suburban garden is home to a variety of trees, some inherited and others introduced. A mix of evergreens and deciduous varieties including yews, boxwood and spruce, dogwood and maple provide year-round colour and interest to the garden while also creating a habitat for local birdlife.

Each year, a 20-year-old Witch Hazel (*Hamamelis virginiana*) heralds the arrival of November. This small, multi stemmed tree is native to North America and one of the few to bloom in autumn. From Halloween to the first snow, bright yellow blossoms, petals like crimped party streamers, perfume the air with their slightly astringent scent. Beaked seed capsules persist for a year or more and provide an important food source for smaller birds such as chickadees and sparrows.

In the quiet garden, our dogwood (*Cornus florida*) has already left behind flower, fruit and flaming leaf. That would be enough for one small tree, but she has a final gift to see us through the winter. Silver haired, tightly wrapped buds – next year's blooms, adorn branch tips all winter until they swell and finally break in the spring to begin the cycle again. The grey-checked bark makes a striking contrast against smooth white snowbanks.

The redbud (*Cercis canadensis*) too, her dark arching branches held up to the sky, her leaves strewn at her feet like age-old Valentines paints a dramatic portrait. While over the fence, staghorn sumac (*Rhus typhina*) stands proudly bare since early October. Its multi-branched limbs, covered in brown velvet and red cone-shaped fruit clusters are the highlight of the winter garden. Colony forming to many metres wide, sumac can be grown in smaller gardens if suckers are removed consistently. Beautiful structure, striking fall foliage and winter interest make the effort well worthwhile.

Another fine example of good tree struc-

ture anchors our front shrub bed. Here the Pagoda dogwood (*Cornus alternifolia*) spreads its considerable girth to stunning effect. With branches layered in flat, distinct levels, this small, multi stemmed tree makes a striking addition to the winter landscape. Spring flowers, blue-black summer fruit, and vivid red fall colour, along with great winter form makes this a four-season tree.

Of course, the deciduous trees wouldn't pop without the supporting role of the evergreens. Yews, clothed in ancient green, are peppered with juicy red berries from early autumn to spring. The fruit feeds the local wildlife throughout the winter, and the densely packed branches provide ideal shelter for birds of all sizes. Spruce, in ghostly blue or prickly green, are a backdrop all year, but become even more important in winter once leaves have fallen. Golden thread-leaf cedar (*Thuja*), defying the cold November rain and the snow beyond, makes the yellow garden glow. Regardless of type, cedar, juniper, and pine all add colour, texture, and form in the bare months of the year. Smaller sizes or slower growing varieties make them easy additions to our small spaces.

And when I want more variety than what's to be found in my yard, I don't have to search far. My local trail, park, or conservation area teams with life and beauty. There I find elephant-skinned beeches and oaks with limbs that stretch to meters. Kinked Kentucky coffee trees line our rural roads, sweeping pines and ancient, twisted cedars fill our local forests. There is bark and branch to discover in these lean days of November – a closer look is all that is needed.

Trees provide homes for more than wildlife; they can host other plants as well. Orchids, being epiphytes, make their homes in trees in their native habitat. Learn more orchid facts at the Tillsonburg Horticulture Society's November meeting. Join us for featured speaker Catherine McInerney of the London Orchid Society, "What's so special about Orchids?"

The meeting is Tuesday, Dec. 2, at 7:30 p.m. in the Tillsonburg Senior's Centre. Membership is \$25/year, \$5/meeting

Come as a guest, stay as a member.



Cedar. (SUE HEALEY PHOTO)



(SUE HEALEY PHOTO)



Witch Hazel. (SUE HEALEY PHOTO)

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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. November 14 & 28, and December 5.
 Join us. Walk ins welcome. Qualifications, love 50-70's country music, perform, listen, dance, and enjoy.

16TH ANNUAL TREATS & TREASURES EVENT
November 8, 9am-3pm
Maranatha Christian Reformed Church
735 Frontenac Cres., Woodstock (Just off Juliana near the new hospital!)
 Lots of variety! Returning vendors and "newbies"! You don't want to miss this event!! Free admission!! Free coffee! Vendors in front foyer, the east and west hallways, the youth room and the gym!! ?'s: contact church at 519-539-5301 or organizer 519-536-0493

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.

DELHI & DISTRICT HORTICULTURAL SOCIETY
Monday November 10: 7:30 p.m.
Delhi Friendship Centre,
418 Queen St., Delhi, Ont.
 GUEST SPEAKER - Jason Paulratz with a presentation on WW1 & WW2. All welcome to join us. Enter at the parking lot off William Street.

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'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 wreathes, 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.

ST. JOHN'S CHRISTMAS MARKET
Saturday, November 22: 9:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m.
St. John's Anglican Church
46 Ridout Street West. Tillsonburg
 Vendors Market with a variety of Christmas Creations, Greenery, Woodworking, Clothing, Skincare and more! Bake table, Famous Mincemeat, Nativity scene displays, "Candy Guess" and lunch is available. Admission \$2.00.

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!

COMMUNITY PRAYER SERVICE
 St. Andrew's prayer group invites you to join us on **Saturday, November 29 from 10-11 am** for this special service at **Tillsonburg St. Andrew's, 46 Brock St. W.** All welcome.

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.

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

REMEMBRANCE SERVICE & PARADE
Sunday, November 9
The Wagner Memorial, Teeterville Legion Branch 526
 PARADE FALL-IN - Women's Institute Hall at 1:30 pm.
 MARCH OFF TO LEGION - APPROXIMATELY 1:45 pm.
 SERVICE AT LEGION CENOTAPH upon arrival
 All are welcome.

DARTS
Friday, November 7 & 21
Registration at 6:45 p.m., Starting at 7:00 p.m.
 Everyone is Welcome. Draw for partners.

PROGRESSIVE EUCHRE
Friday, November 14 & December 12
Registration at 6:30 p.m., Starting at 7:00 pm
 Everyone is Welcome.

THE BIG GAME (GREY CUP)
Sunday, November 16, Starting at 4:30 p.m.
 Come and join us to watch the Big Game. Snacks and Light Meal.

LEGION CHRISTMAS CRAFT & VENDOR SHOW
Sunday, November 23, 11:00 a.m.- 3:00 p.m.
 Free Admission. Space still available! Want to book a space?
 To book contact the legion and leave your name and phone number, or pop in during business hours. Cash only, we do not have debit, or ATM. Wed.-Fri. 3 pm-10 pm, Sat.1 pm-10 pm, Sun.1 pm-6 pm.

WINGS & THINGS PUB NIGHT
Friday, November 28, Starting at 5:00 p.m. (Until Sold Out)
 Cash only, we do not have debit, or ATM.

EXPERIENCE FANSHAWE AT OPEN HOUSE
All locations are open from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. on Saturday, November 29
 Meet faculty and current students from all areas of Fanshawe. Drop-in and ask about your program interests, career options and becoming a Fanshawe student. Hear from college experts on student life, admissions, financial aid, and more! Explore our campuses at London, Woodstock, Simcoe, St. Thomas, Clinton and Tiverton

COMING EVENTS

INGERSOLL DOWNTOWN BIA EVENTS:

LIGHTING OF THE LIGHTS "A CANADIANA CHRISTMAS"

Thursday, November 20,
Ingersoll Pipe Band 6:45 pm,
Tree Lighting at 7 pm

Heritage Park, Gazebo – Thames St., Ingersoll

Stores Open Late – offering special sales/promotions, Santa and Mrs. Claus photo ops, Poutine Mobile Truck, the Lion's Club is offering free hot chocolate, apple cider, and s'mores. Donations Welcome. Join our local businesses as we kick off the holiday season in true Canadian style. Wear your Canadian colours, whether red and white or buffalo plaid, perhaps moose or beaver print is your style, toques, snowshoes, the choice is yours. Let's show our Canadian pride! Stroll downtown and visit the local

businesses that have their windows dressed in true Canadian splendor and vote on the best display on our new website <https://www.downtowningersoll.ca/>. Shop Canada, Shop Local, Shop Ingersoll!

CHRISTMAS MADNESS IN DOWNTOWN INGERSOLL

Thursday November 20 - November 22

Visit our amazing downtown businesses during these crazy days of Christmas promotions and deals. For individual business promotions and deals check our new website for the Downtown business directory. Enjoy a stroll downtown and view the local businesses with windows dressed in true Canadian splendour, then vote for your favourites on our new website <https://www.downtowningersoll.ca/>. Shop Canada, Shop Local, Shop Ingersoll!

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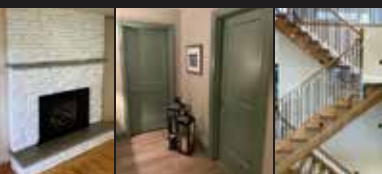
1. A sleuth/sloth
2. Charlie Chaplin
3. Fletcher
4. Gray jay/whisky jack
5. Topaz & Citrine
6. Gord Downie
7. Joe Carter
8. Andor
9. Xi Jinping
10. Mount Logan

SUDOKU

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

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CLASSIFIEDS

OBITUARY

JANET LEE TILLOTSON



TILLOTSON, Janet Lee
- of London, Ontario
passed away on Tuesday
October 28, 2025.

Beloved sister of Donna
Jean Copping. Dear
Aunt of Kevin (Bernice)
Copping, Kim (Gord)
Moreau, Karen Schott,
Tim (Elaine) Beaman,
and Michael (Antje)
Beaman, several great
nieces and nephews, and
great great nieces and
nephews. Predeceased

by her parents J. B. King Tillotson and Mabel
Tillotson, her sister Carol Ann Beaman, and brothers
- in - law Ronald Copping and Gerald Beaman.

Janet was a long-time R.N.A. at LHSC – University
Hospital. She always enjoyed bowling, and in her
retirement, she became licensed in reflexology. A
Celebration of Life will be planned for a future
date. Memorial donations to the Heart and Stroke
or to Diabetes Canada are appreciated. Wareing
Cremation Services, 161 Broadway St., Tillsonburg
was entrusted with Final Arrangements. Your
messages of remembrance and condolence may be
shared at www.wareingcremation.ca

TREES

Hundreds of shade trees, fruit trees, apples, pears, peaches,
plums, sweet and sour cherries, apricots, nectarines, blue-
berries, 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 Nurs-
ery, 42661 Orangehill Rd Wroxeter, ON N0G 2X0 (1 Conc.
North of Wroxeter on Belmore Line)

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Heather Dunbar at:
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Aaron's Deal of the Week



LOCAL TRADE-IN

2019 CHEVROLET EQUINOX LT AWD

F24-011B, 126,554 kms

\$19,999 +HST
& LIC.

\$81

WEEKLY + HST
72 MO.

Bob's Deal of the Week



LOCAL TRADE-IN

2023 CHRYSLER PACIFICA TOURING FWD

F25-013A, 115,350 kms

\$32,500 +HST
& LIC.

\$104

WEEKLY + HST
96 MO.

Andrew's Deal of the Week



2022 JEEP WAGONEER SERIES III

F25-066, 92,774 kms

\$57,999 +HST
& LIC.

\$204

WEEKLY + HST
84 MO.

Regan's Deal of the Week



LOCAL TRADE-IN

2019 JEEP WRANGLER RUBICON

25-085A, 161,740 kms

\$37,500 +HST
& LIC.

\$149

WEEKLY + HST
72 MO.

Ann's Deal of the Week



2022 DODGE DURANGO GT

F25-064, 114,799 kms

\$37,500 +HST
& LIC.

\$132

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.