

Woodstock Ingersoll Echo

VOLUME 4 • ISSUE 11

OCTOBER 23, 2026

FREE

Hear Better This Fall

Stay connected with friends and family



..... Independently owned and operated

226-232-8122

79 Montclair Dr, Woodstock



Clinic Services

- Hearing Assessments
- Hearing Aid Options/Advice
- Hearing Aid Repair/Cleaning
- Wax Removal

Book your free hearing test today!



Stacked

\$5 OFF YOUR MEAL

Drinks/side dishes not included. No cash value. Cannot be combined with any other offers. Not valid on statutory holidays. Dine-in only.

MON - FRI LUNCH MENU ONLY. ENDS DEC. 31, 2026

383 Norwich Avenue., Woodstock, ON • stackedpancakehouse.ca

Planned power outage affects thousands in and around Woodstock

LEE GRIFFI

Editor

A planned power outage in Woodstock to upgrade a transformation station at Southside Park didn't go quite as planned on Sunday morning.

Many residents were glued to their cellphones as the anticipated 7 a.m. repair deadline came and went several times. Most customers reported a full power restoration at 9:32 a.m. as the Hydro One outage map changed the restoration time on a few occasions.

"On Oct. 18, a planned outage affecting more than 14,000 customers in Woodstock and northern Oxford County from 1 a.m. to 7 a.m. took place so crews could safely replace aging switches and associated equipment at the Woodstock Transformer Station at Southside Park," said a Hydro One statement.

"During the restoration process, a line switch failed and the outage was extended. Crews repaired the failed switch while our control room used alternate power routes to restore customers. All customers had power restored by approximately 9:30 a.m. This switch will be replaced at a later date."

The statement added Hydro One knows being without power is challenging, so it schedules planned outages during periods of lower electricity demand to minimize the impact on customers.

"We make every effort to notify affected customers in advance through automated phone calls or text messages. Customers who are not registered for outage alerts can sign up at <https://www.hydroone.com/request-a-service/outage-alerts>."

CONTINUED TO PAGE 2



(LEE GRIFFI PHOTO)

COLOURS OF FALL

The incredible fall colours in beautiful Oxford County were on full display this past weekend at Innerkip Highlands Golf Club. Pictured is the foliage and waterfall beside the 13th green.

Community group looking for safety and security as Woodstock homelessness centre planning proceeds

LEE GRIFFI

Editor

A recently formed group has given Oxford County Council a list of requests to implement before the Woodstock Homelessness Support Centre opens its doors sometime in 2028.

LeeAnn Van-Wees from the Y Neighbourhood Committee delivered a presentation at a recent council meeting outlining the group's six asks (see graphic on page 2/3) to ensure, among other things, the safety of residents in the

surrounding area. She explained that while a staff report outlines several safety measures, they do not go far enough.

"Verbal intentions do not protect a neighbourhood. Institutional mechanisms do. If this \$5.5 million project moves from the design phase into reality without consideration of the entire neighbourhood, there is less likelihood of its success, as has been proven in other communities."

Van-Wees added the long-term survival of local businesses and the daily safety of our families can't rely on a reactive wait-and-see approach.

CONTINUED TO PAGE 4



CHECK OUT OUR NEW KITCHEN & BATH DESIGN CENTRE
OFFERING ESTIMATES, INSTALLATION, DESIGN, AND DELIVERY FOR YOUR RENOVATION
CONTACT WALTER WEBB AT 519-532-2939 FOR DETAILS

ADAMS
BUILDING SUPPLY

VISIT US AT:
**1000 PARKINSON ROAD,
WOODSTOCK, ON**

(519) 539-1211 • ADAMSBUILDINGSUPPLY.COM • MON – FRI: 7 AM TO 6 PM, SAT: 8 AM TO 5 PM



Woodstock DENTURE CLINIC



Accepting CDCP Patients

We are accepting patients with the Canadian Dental Care Program.

Keeping your smile looking great and feeling happy is the number one priority of the team at the Woodstock Denture Clinic.

We specialize in complete, partial, metal-free dentures and implant retained dentures.

Complete Denture Services

- Digital Impressions
- Exams and Free Consultations
- Implant-Supported Dentures
- Standard and Immediate Dentures
- Partial Dentures
- Relines, Rebases and Repairs
- Referrals to Other Specialists

Ben Beattie, DD & Sara Lauzon, DD
Denturists

**79 Montclair Drive,
Woodstock**

Plenty of parking available!

woodstockdentureclinic.ca

519-320-7080

Hours-long disruption leads to reports of electronic damage

CONTINUED FROM FRONT

Some city residents took to social media to let their displeasure be known, likely ones who are not signed up for the alerts.

“Want to give us a better heads up as to when you’re going to shut off our power! Especially when you go over the set hours! There are children and babies we gotta plan for! Thanks.”

The Echo has also received reports of electronic devices being damaged or “fried” when the power came on. For example, one reader said their internet router no longer worked when hydro was reconnected.

Hydro One customers with questions about our Conditions of Service or damage claim process can contact our customer care team at 1-888-664-9376 or visit <https://www.hydroone.com/power-outages-and-safety/damage-claims>.

“Hydro One believes in standing up for our customers and doing the right thing,” said the utility’s website. “At times, doing the right thing means acknowledging something has gone wrong and making it right — that’s our approach to damage claims.”

Based on the Ontario Energy Board’s Distribution System Code, Hydro One’s damage claim team investigates claims submitted by customers who have incurred costs due to something within its control. The utility also has details about losses during planned outages.

“Loss of income, revenue, food or otherwise as a result of planned outages for maintenance or repairs, including emergency outages, are not eligible for compensation. Hydro One makes every effort to provide notification in advance of these events, including cancellations. Due to weather, urgent issues or change of work methods, it may not be possible to provide notification. We will not be responsible for losses resulting from such outages.”

Some residents also reported interruptions in cellular service, and restaurants and bars closed a little early to perform closing duties before the power went out. The Echo also received reports of some retailers not being able to utilize point-of-sale systems, even into Monday afternoon.

Perhaps the most frequently asked question on social media Sunday morning was if any Tim Hortons were open in the city.



(LEE GRIFFI PHOTO)

Approximately 14,000 Hydro One customers were without power for over eight hours Sunday morning as crews upgraded equipment in the Southside Park area. The outage ran a few hours longer than expected after a switch failed

“Escaped to Norwich Timmie’s for breakfast. Avoided all traffic-signalled corners, utter chaos,” said a social media post.

The City of Woodstock also announced service disruptions at municipal facilities. The Southside Aquatics Centre delayed opening until 7 a.m., and its Sunday lane swim was rescheduled to 7:30 a.m. Public skating at the Reeves Complex was cancelled in the early afternoon of Oct. 18 due to dropping ice temperatures.

The Woodstock Police Service had extra officers on duty just in case, but calls for service were nothing out of the ordinary, even though traffic lights were turned into four-way stops.

Editor’s Note: *If any of our readers attempt to make a claim, let us know how it goes. You can email us at info@theecho.ca.*

Woodstock Ingersoll Echo

Woodstock Ingersoll Municipal Election Coverage

We are fully committed to bringing you election coverage from every city, town and township across Oxford County once all the votes are tallied on Monday, Oct. 26. The only problem is our next edition doesn’t go to press until Nov. 6.

I would like to invite our readers to utilize our website at granthaven.com/woodstock-ingersoll-echo. Beginning just after 12 noon, we will start posting election results and reactions from the winners and the losers.

Oh, and there are still a few days left, so get out and exercise your democratic right!

Lee Griffi, Editor

Project Safe Haul focuses on unsafe commercial motor vehicles

LEE GRIFFI

Editor

Officers from the Ontario Provincial Police West Region have launched Project Safe Haul.

The coordinated commercial motor vehicle (CMV) enforcement initiative runs from Oct. 13 to Nov. 1, with the goal of enhancing road safety and reducing risks associated with unsafe commercial vehicles.

Throughout the three-week campaign, OPP detachments across West Region will conduct coordinated CMV inspections at various locations. Officers and CMV inspectors will focus on identifying vehicles that do not meet provincial and federal safety standards, ensuring compliance with legislation, and removing unsafe commercial motor vehicles from service.

"Drivers can't cut corners. They have to do everything possible to ensure the vehicle is safe before it's taken onto a roadway," said OPP media relations Cst. Randi Crawford.

On Sept. 17, Oxford OPP, Brantford Police and Ministry of Transportation inspectors conducted a commercial vehicle enforcement blitz in Norwich Township. 18 commercial vehicles were inspected, and nine were taken out of service. 50 per cent had major defects, and six charges were laid. Reported defects included brake problems, driveshaft issues and overweight vehicles.

Crawford said officers who take part in the inspections spend hours in a classroom to become highly trained in the trade.

"They see things a regular officer wouldn't necessarily be able to detect. We really rely on them, and they aren't just there to help us on these blitzes; they are there every day to help us ensure we keep commercial vehicles as safe as possible."

Project Safe Haul will include a highly visible enforcement presence, with officers conducting inspections, educating drivers and carriers, and addressing violations that may compromise public safety. The initiative reinforces the OPP's commitment to preventing collisions before they occur and promoting a culture of safety within the commercial transportation industry.

"We will often use an abandoned property off the 401 and other highways, such as the truck stop in Woodstock before it reopened. We use what's called chase cars

to pull over vehicles and redirect them to the inspection area," Crawford explained. "We do have the means to inspect vehicles on the side of the road, but we try to avoid that as much as possible."

Commercial motor vehicles play a vital role in moving goods throughout Ontario. Properly maintaining and operating these vehicles is essential to keeping roads safe for all users. Defects involving brakes, tires, steering components, cargo securement, and driver compliance can contribute to serious collisions and place motorists at risk.

"Commercial vehicle safety is a shared responsibility," said Staff Sergeant Lynn McNichol, a member of the West Region Traffic and Marine team. "Through Project Safe Haul, OPP officers will be working proactively with industry partners to identify safety concerns, ensure compliance and remove unsafe vehicles from Ontario roads. Our goal is simple: safer highways for everyone."

Police encourage all commercial vehicle operators and carriers to ensure vehicles are properly maintained, required inspections are completed, and drivers are adhering to all applicable safety regulations before travelling on Ontario highways.

Project Safe Haul will share updates and enforcement results throughout the campaign. Crawford said it is an opportunity for public education.

"They could call us and say they are following behind this commercial motor vehicle and something just doesn't look right, and they remembered seeing an OPP picture. If you can safely get a license plate, call it in. We all know how dangerous it is to have a wheel fall off. It can be catastrophic."

The OPP's West Region has also released results from the "Operation Impact" Thanksgiving long weekend traffic campaign.

The campaign, which ran between Oct. 9 and 12, focused on the leading negative driving behaviours that contribute to death, injury and property damage on Ontario roads and highways: speeding, failure to wear a seatbelt, distracted driving, impaired driving and fatigue.

Officers from 13 detachments laid a total of 2152 charges for a variety of infractions after making 2251 traffic stops over the course of the campaign. There were 1030 speeding charges, 83 counts of failing to wear a seatbelt, 15 distracted driving violations and 41 impaired driving charges.



GET IT DONE

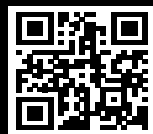
PRICE DROP!

3 DAY SALE!

FRIDAY - SATURDAY - SUNDAY
OCTOBER 23 - OCTOBER 24 - OCTOBER 25



WATERPROOF 5.5MM - PAD ATTACHED VINYL PLANKS PRICE DROP! REGULAR \$3.99 99¢ FROM /SQFT	WATERPROOF 6.5MM - PAD ATTACHED LUXURY VINYL PRICE DROP! REGULAR \$3.99 \$1.99 FROM /SQFT	WATERPROOF 4.5MM - LOOSE LAY LUXURY VINYL PRICE DROP! REGULAR \$4.99 \$2.99 FROM /SQFT
8MM THICK CLICK LAMINATE PRICE DROP! REGULAR \$1.99 99¢ FROM /SQFT	WATERPROOF + PAD 14MM LAMINATE PRICE DROP! REGULAR \$2.99 \$1.99 FROM /SQFT	LAMINATE STAIR TREADS PRICE DROP! REGULAR \$9.99 \$5.99 FROM /EA
12"X 12" PURE WHITE PORCELAIN TILE PRICE DROP! REGULAR \$1.99 99¢ FROM /SQFT	12"X 24" CALACATTA PORCELAIN TILE PRICE DROP! REGULAR \$2.99 \$1.79 FROM /SQFT	24"X 24" LUXURY PORCELAIN TILE PRICE DROP! REGULAR \$3.99 \$1.99 FROM /SQFT
3"X 6" SUBWAY TILE PRICE DROP! REGULAR \$2.99 \$1.89 FROM /SQFT	2" HEXAGON MARBLE TILE PRICE DROP! REGULAR \$2.99 \$5.99 FROM /SQFT	5' X 8' AREA RUGS PRICE DROP! REGULAR \$1.99 \$99 FROM /EA
3/4" WHITE OAK HARDWOOD PRICE DROP! REGULAR \$5.99 \$3.99 FROM /SQFT	3/4" WHITE OAK 6" WIDE HARDWOOD PRICE DROP! REGULAR \$6.99 \$4.99 FROM /SQFT	HARDWOOD OAK/MAPLE STAIR TREADS PRICE DROP! REGULAR \$7.99 \$5.99 FROM /EA



SHOP ONLINE 24/7


SOURCE FLOORING

SOURCEFLOORING.COM

1362 VICTORIA STREET NORTH KITCHENER
MONDAY-FRIDAY 8AM-9PM SATURDAY 9-6 SUNDAY 10-5

Visit us online at
theecho.ca

Spokesperson skeptical of what county response to six asks will be

CONTINUED FROM FRONT

"If we wait until a safety crisis impacts nearby homes and storefronts before we react, reactive measures will destroy public trust. The time to protect this neighbourhood is now while the facility blueprints, operating budgets and service provider contracts are being drawn up."

She explained public trust is fragile, and once a neighbourhood fractures, it takes decades to rebuild.

"We urge council to pass a formal directive ensuring these neighbourhood protection metrics are legally integrated into any forthcoming operational agreements for the proposed Homelessness Support Centre."

Woodstock Mayor Jerry Acchione was the first councillor to respond and said he agreed with all six points, adding he is starting a neighbourhood watch committee through the city's Mayor's Task Force.

"Staff from the county, from the city, Woodstock police, as well as bylaw and a few other members that I think are important. We would welcome any resident who lives in the neighbourhood or any resident, for that matter."

The Echo spoke with Van-Wees following the presentation, and she said overall she was pleased council recognized the importance of safety for the neighbourhood beyond the perimeter of the former YMCA. She added businesses are worried their customers are not going to feel safe on that part of the street.

"They are concerned it is not going to be as easy to be a welcoming business. They are also concerned about how they are going to protect their staff and ensure the properties are kept clean and safe. And of course, the visual reality is there are going to be more homeless people congregating in the area."

She said one of the first doors she knocked on was a young mother who barely opened her door but listened to what Van-Wees had to say.

"She listened to me and very carefully said she understood there is a need to help the homeless. She was just so afraid of what her kids are going to see when they open the door in the morning. I thought for the least empowered individual I would come across, she wrapped up the core of the concern better than anyone."

Van-Wees said area residents are worried about safety but also about the unknown in terms of the eventual physical design of the building and everything else that will come with it once the centre opens. On the positive side, she is hopeful the HART Hub and Homelessness Centre will lead to improvements when it comes to the city's socio-economic woes.

"I have no doubt whatsoever it will make a difference for some people. I have no doubt the planners are working hard to make it possible for success for anyone wanting to go through their program, and I have no doubt they are trying to make it safe within their perimeter. My concern is beyond the perimeter of 808 Dundas St."

She expects many of the unhoused population will gravitate to the neighbourhood but choose to not participate in the programs available inside.

"That's where my optimism starts to get less exuberant. Unfortunately, that's the reality of urban living."

Van-Wees added some current members of Oxford County Council expressed interest in making sure the surrounding community will have a sense of safety, but there is nothing that suggested to her the appropriate measures would be incorporated into the actual plan.

"There's nothing to suggest council is going to make a well-defined commitment to the neighbourhood outside of the property. There

THE SIX ASKS FROM THE Y NEIGHBOURHOOD COMMITTEE

1. A 300-METRE PERIMETER BUFFER ZONE.

Establish a formal perimeter radius around 808 Dundas St. The selected operator must be contractually and financially mandated to deploy staff or security to actively discourage loitering, trespassing, theft, and open illicit activity within this zone.

2. A MANDATED 24/7 NEIGHBOURHOOD RAPID RESPONSE HOTLINE.

The operator must maintain a dedicated direct phone line for surrounding neighbours and businesses. Issues reported to this line must require immediate intervention from facility management, bypassing standard municipal backlogs.

3. SECURE DROP BOXES FOR ILLEGAL SUBSTANCES.

To prevent dangerous contraband from spilling onto community pathways, alleys and private properties, the facility must incorporate highly secure specialized drop boxes specifically designated for the safe disposal of illegal substances and related hazardous paraphernalia.

4. LOWER POLICE AND EMERGENCY MEDICAL SERVICES DISPATCH VOLUME (SIRENS).

Recognizing there will be increased police and EMS vehicles called to the surrounding neighbourhood, it is reasonable for the community to expect a degree of peacefulness.

5. DEDICATED SECURITY CAPITAL WRITTEN INTO THE ANNUAL OPERATING BUDGET.

The projected \$2.4 million annual operating budget must lock in continuous funding for:

- A) Ongoing recommendations by the city police CPTED (Crime Prevention Through Environmental Design) to meet the needs of the security infrastructure related to the adjacent residential properties.
- B) A minimum of two daily property sweeps within the defined perimeter buffer zone.
- C) A well-defined system to ensure the chosen operator is accountable.

6. A LEGALLY CONSTITUTED NEIGHBOURHOOD LIAISON COMMITTEE.

Establish a formal oversight framework consisting of the facility operators, county staff, local police and neighbourhood delegates. This committee must be authorized and hold its first official session prior to the facility opening.

is recognition programs will be necessary for the area, but there is nothing definite in terms of a promise of a portion of the budget going to safety. To be honest, it's like a hot potato."

She added the questions around safety brought up at July's public meeting resulted in answers that they don't know because, until a plan is in place, no one knows how police are going to handle what may occur.

"There's nothing definite in terms of a firm commit-

ment to ensure the safety of the neighbourhood. The scariest part is the unknown and not getting answers. My sense is there has been a bit of evasiveness to those hard questions."

Van-Wees said she specifically brought up the six asks to get council to commit to them, but that decision will likely fall to the next council following municipal elections across Oxford County. She added there isn't anyone who doesn't want to help the homeless; she just wants to

ensure safety is top of mind.

"Who doesn't want to make sure as few people as possible are having to sleep out in the cold? How can you be against that? But I feel quite strongly such a visible location like the former Y property there could potentially be a lot of damage to the overall image of Woodstock. I want it to work, and I want to see success, but then the realities of what might happen, and at what cost."

The centre is expected to open in the spring of 2028.



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

Woodstock Ingersoll Echo

Publisher
Stewart Grant • stew@granthaven.com

Editor
Lee Griffi • leegriffi@rogers.com

Graphic Design / Sales Inquiries
Stacie Eden • info@theecho.ca

Business Development
Heather Dunbar • heather@granthaven.com

Billing Administrator
Cindy Boakes • boakescindy1576@gmail.com

Administrative Assistant
Wendy Lamond • wendylamond74@gmail.com

Photojournalist
Ron Yuzark • ryuzark@rogers.com

Contributors
Emily Stewart, Paul Knowles, Nancy Abra, Gary West, Doris Weir

143 Queen Street E., St. Marys, ON, PO Box 2310 N4X 1A2
info@theecho.ca | 519.655.2341 | granthaven.com



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



Woodstock Ingersoll Echo

Guiding Principles

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

Local News Lives Here

There was a time when small-town newspapers told the stories that mattered most: the people, the milestones, the challenges, and the triumphs of the community.

At Grant Haven Media, we're proud to carry on that tradition. Our newspapers are built around truly local content. Written for the community, about the community, by the community.

From council decisions to community events, local businesses to local achievements, we believe every town deserves a strong, independent voice.

Restoring Small-Town Journalism, One Community at a Time.



— See You @ the —
WOODSTOCK ART GALLERY MOVIES tiff FILM CIRCUIT



BOOK YOUR TICKETS NOW
WOODSTOCKARTGALLERY.CA



Market Centre Theatre | 4:00 & 7:00 p.m. | \$12

October 26

Meadowlarks

November 9

The Choral

December 7

Once Upon a Time in a Cinema

SERIOUSLY COMFORTABLE.

SURPRISINGLY AFFORDABLE.

Discover **Stressless** Comfort
at Austin & Taylor

Exceptional support. Exceptional prices.

FREE
Delivery to
Woodstock
Weekly

Sunrise Chair \$2399

100% Genuine Leather
Chair & Ottoman
Available in four colour options
In-stock & available for
immediate delivery



Consul Chair \$1999

100% Genuine Leather
Chair & Ottoman
Shadow Blue or Bordeaux
In-stock & available for
immediate delivery



SPECIAL PURCHASE

**AUSTIN
& TAYLOR**
HOME FURNISHINGS INC.

1350 Fanshawe Park Rd W
London, Ontario

(519) 473-5400
www.austinandtaylor.com

Monday-Friday: 10:00am-6:00pm
Saturday: 9:30am-5:30pm
Sunday: Closed

BUILDING A **STRONG** **ECONOMY** FOR ALL **CANADIANS**

The Government of Canada is taking action to build a stronger economy:

Driving major nation-building initiatives expected to create 337,000 jobs

Securing more than 20 economic and security partnerships across four continents

Reducing trade barriers across provinces to create one strong Canadian economy

Creating Build Canada Homes to build affordable homes faster than ever

**LEARN MORE
ABOUT OUR PLAN.**

canada.ca/BUILDSTRONG



Government
of Canada

Gouvernement
du Canada

Canada

GRIFFI'S GRIPES

EDITORIAL

CIBC provides poor excuse for lack of safety at south end bank



LEE GRIFFI

Editor

Picture this. It's 7 a.m. on a Wednesday. You want to go to your bank to take out your money because you need some cash for something.

So, you head on over to the CIBC branch in the Walmart Plaza. You get out of your vehicle, walk towards the door and see one, maybe two homeless men in the vestibule. Would you feel safe going in there, particularly if you are a woman by yourself? I am not in any way demeaning women, believe me,

because I wouldn't feel comfortable going in there either as a 57-year-old man who can still handle myself.

I am also not stigmatizing the homeless because I have talked to many since moving to Woodstock, and a lot of them are good people struggling to get their lives back. But, in my mind, it is unacceptable for a major Canadian bank to allow this to happen. Completely unacceptable.

I sent an email to CIBC with the following questions:

- Are you aware of this issue at the bank in Woodstock?
- If yes, why are you allowing it to happen, knowing full well most customers would not feel safe taking money out? Your customers are then forced to withdraw money from another ATM, which costs them several dollars. Should these service charges be refunded by CIBC?
- If you are not aware of this, what are you planning to do so your clients feel safe using their own bank?
- The former downtown branch attracted many homeless people into the ATM area

when it was open, prompting CIBC to lock the doors at night, meaning anyone wanting to access their money at their bank after regular hours could not do so. Were you aware this was happening?

- Lastly, did CIBC close the downtown branch because of the homelessness problem in downtown Woodstock?

Here is the statement provided by CIBC to the Echo:

"The safety and well-being of our clients and team members is a top priority for our bank. We have active monitoring and security measures in place, including at this location, to support that priority, and we review and adjust them regularly as appropriate. We also offer clients access to nearby CIBC ATMs, including one conveniently located inside the Walmart at 499 Norwich Avenue, next door."

It is a heck of a lot more convenient for people to go to the actual branch where they can park right in front, zip in, get their money, and zip out.

CIBC also provided a statement regarding the closure of its Dundas St. branch in the city.

"Our former banking centre located at Dundas and Graham experienced lower business volumes for some time, with the majority of our client transactions taking place outside of a banking centre, through mobile, online and telephone banking. As a result of this shift, we made an adjustment to our network."

I asked a follow-up question: You have clients going into their bank to take out their money, and there are homeless people there. Do you have a plan to make it safe? I have not received a response.

What I find interesting is CIBC locked the ATM area at the former downtown branch for quite some time before it closed. Was it because of homeless folks crashing in there? I don't know for sure, but I would be willing to wager a few dollars on that.

The City of Woodstock's Downtown Streetscape Master Plan survey responses specifically mention the ATM vestibule being closed until 8 a.m. because people were sleeping there. A respondent also alleged drug use and discarded needles in the area. That does not estab-

lish this was CIBC's reason for restricting access or closing the branch, but I think we can draw our own conclusion. The downtown branch at 656 Dundas St. was closed in March 2024.

I am not trying to stigmatize the homeless. They just don't belong in a bank vestibule. We have got to come up with better resources for them so they don't need to find somewhere on private property to sleep.

For the record, CIBC made a profit of \$8.454 billion in 2025, and through the first three quarters of this year, that number sits at \$7.974 billion.

For those of you who don't know, the BMO downtown branch is also closed now that its new location in the Walmart parking lot is open. That's two big banks leaving downtown in a few years. The number of empty storefronts may be down in the core, but losing two financial institutions is a serious blow to businesses that relied on bank employees to come through their doors and spend money. The banks also brought people downtown who would often visit other stores.

SWPH asking residents to roll up their sleeves this fall

LEE GRIFFI

Editor

Southwestern Public Health (SWPH) is encouraging residents to get vaccinated against influenza, COVID-19 and, if eligible, RSV to help protect themselves, their families and the community this respiratory season.

The health unit said each year influenza alone results in approximately 12,000 hospitalizations across Canada.

"Respiratory viruses such as influenza, COVID-19, and RSV can cause serious illness, particularly for older adults, young children, pregnant individuals, and people with underlying health conditions," said a press release.

"Getting vaccinated is one of the simplest and most effective ways to protect yourself and those around you," says Dr. Ninh Tran, Medical Officer of Health, SWPH. "As we enter an early respiratory virus season, we encourage residents to make a plan to get vaccinated and take advantage of the protection these vaccines offer."

SWPH will offer influenza and COVID-19 vaccination clinics at its offices in St. Thomas and Woodstock, as well as select community locations through-

out the region. Adults 65 years and older, pregnant individuals, residents and staff of congregate living settings, health-care workers, and other high-risk and priority populations can begin booking appointments at SWPH clinics starting October 19. Appointments are required, and booking will be open to the general public on October 26.

Residents can book an appointment online at [swpublichealth.ca/booking](https://www.swpublichealth.ca/booking) or by calling 1-800-922-0096. Flu vaccines are also available through participating pharmacies and health-care providers. COVID-19 vaccines are available through pharmacies.

SWPH has also relaunched its seasonal Respiratory Virus Dashboard, providing up-to-date local information on respiratory virus activity, including influenza, COVID-19, and RSV trends in the region. The dashboard helps residents stay informed and make decisions to protect themselves and their families throughout the respiratory season and supports surveillance for respiratory activity in the region.

The dashboard can be found at <https://www.swpublichealth.ca/reports-statistics/surveillance-and-dashboards/>.

In addition to vaccination, residents

can help reduce the spread of respiratory illness by:

- Getting vaccinated against influenza, COVID-19 and RSV
- Staying home when sick
- Washing hands regularly
- Covering coughs and sneezes
- Considering wearing a mask in

healthcare settings or if at higher risk of severe illness

"By getting vaccinated and taking a few precautions, we can help protect those most vulnerable to serious respiratory illness and reduce the spread of infections in our community this fall and winter," Tran added.

Helping Seniors downsize and find the next perfect step with care and expertise

Let us make your transition smooth and stress-free!



Call us today for a free consultation!

Jennifer Webb, Realtor®, SRES®, 519-709-6635
Marianne Butler, Realtor®, 519-983-5173
SRES - Senior Real Estate Specialist®

Who’s voting for the future of our communities?



AMANDA NELSON
Grant Haven Media Director of Community Engagement

Here’s a hot take: I think municipal elections are among our most important elections. And when you look at how few people vote in them, I think we need to ask why.

I recently came across statistics on voter turnout in Southwestern Ontario’s 2022 municipal elections, and some of the numbers surprised me.

In Waterloo Region, overall turnout was just

25.34 per cent. In Guelph, it was 27.96 per cent. Stratford did considerably better, with 43.9 per cent of eligible voters casting a ballot, while Wilmot Township recorded 40.35 per cent turnout.

That means roughly one in four eligible voters participated in Waterloo Region. Even in Stratford, which had the highest turnout of the communities mentioned here, more than half of eligible voters stayed home.

In Tillsonburg, voter turnout was about 37.6 per cent in 2022 — higher than Guelph’s 27.96 per cent, but still meaning that most eligible voters did not cast a ballot.

It makes you wonder why some communities see more people showing up than others. Personally, I’d like to think it’s because we have such amazing local news sources keeping people informed, but I might be a little partial. Wink, wink.

The numbers also raise questions about who is participating. A City of Guelph survey of 500 residents about the 2022 municipal election found that 29 per cent of respondents said they had voted. Among respondents aged 18 to 24, that figure was just 12 per cent, compared with 57 per cent among those aged 75 and older.

These figures reflect what survey respondents

said, rather than a count of every voter in each age group. Still, they suggest that younger residents may be less engaged with municipal elections — and that’s worth thinking about.

I recently spoke with Kiera Upward, a 21-year-old who ran for Ward 1 council in Wilmot Township. One reason she ran was to give people of different ages a voice at the council table. She ultimately stepped down for personal reasons, as I reported in last week’s Wilmot-Tavistock Gazette.

Her story got me thinking about who gets a seat at the table when decisions are made about our communities. Who decides where new housing gets built, how much we pay in property taxes, which roads get repaired and what recreation facilities our towns need? And are younger residents — the people who will live with many of these decisions for decades — being heard?

Representation is another part of the conversation. East Zorra-Tavistock’s current council has seven members, all men. That observation doesn’t tell us everything about how effectively the township is represented, and a council doesn’t have to mirror every aspect of its population to make good decisions. But it does raise a reasonable question: who puts their name for-

ward, who gets elected and who feels welcome in local politics?

Municipal government can sometimes seem less important than what happens at Queen’s Park or in Ottawa. But local decisions affect our daily lives in very direct ways, from property taxes and road repairs to housing, parks, recreation and public services.

We often hear about the importance of voting in provincial and federal elections. Municipal elections deserve that same attention. The people elected locally make decisions that can shape our neighbourhoods and communities for years to come.

So, if turnout is as low as one in four eligible voters in some communities, we should be asking why. Do people know what their municipal government is responsible for? Do they feel their vote won’t make a difference? Or have we simply become accustomed to paying less attention to the politics happening in our own backyards?

I don’t think there’s one simple answer. But if we want our communities to reflect our needs, priorities and hopes for the future, we have to take part in choosing the people who make those decisions.

And that starts with showing up to vote.

Oxford Handcrafted Trail a guide to creative works and experiences

EMILY STEWART
Echo Correspondent

Tourism Oxford’s newest trail, the Oxford Handcrafted Trail, encompasses more than 30 local businesses and creators offering creative works to purchase and immersive learning experiences in creative arts.

The trail, partly funded by the Ontario provincial government’s Rural Ontario Development program, was launched in the fall and connects tourists to Oxford County to local makers and hands-on opportunities part of the handcrafted arts sector. The Ontario Ministry of Rural Affairs provided \$32,000 in funding for the launch of the trail.

"Working in tourism, you get to meet a lot of interesting people across the region and we’ve met a lot of very

creative individuals involved in the handcrafted arts so we saw an opportunity to share the story of what's available in Oxford County for visitors," said Meredith Maywood, tourism manager of Oxford County.

The Oxford Handcrafted Trail highlights makers in Woodstock, Ingersoll, Tillsonburg, and elsewhere using media like woodworking, metalwork, fibre arts, pottery, and other visual arts. Local authors and creators selling their works online are also included on the trail, along with creative events, workshops, and open houses within the region.

"The creative economy is a very valuable part of Oxford County and there's a lot of opportunity for growth potential," Maywood said. "When you talk about from an economic impact, it's going to have a great benefit for the

community, but the real pleasure is people get to have an immersive experience and get to meet the makers here, hear the stories and quite often, they get to try their hand at these activities as well."

Already, Tourism Oxford is looking for more creators to join the Oxford Handcrafted Trail in 2027.

"We want people to reach out to us if they're curious about how they can be involved. We can put them in touch with places that sell local makers' work," said Maywood. "We can explain what is required to be a stop on the trail, and we can just share information and hopefully people make connections and grow the handcrafted industry here."

More information about the Handcrafted Trail can be found online by visiting <https://www.tourismoxford.ca/explore/handcrafted-trail>.

City of Woodstock releases advanced voter turnout

LEE GRIFFI
Editor

If early numbers are an indication, the City of Woodstock could have a high voter turnout for the 2026 Municipal Election.

Step Forward Footcare

519-602-2640

- Footcare Services in Clinic
- Complete Footcare Provided
 - Trimming • Filing
 - Nail Debridement
- Corn and Callus Care

Angela Hunter | Registered Practical Nurse
519-602-2640
514 Princess Street, Unit B103
Woodstock, ON N4S 4G9

Since voting opened, over 5,500 eligible voters have cast their ballots through a combination of online voting and in-person advance polling opportunities. In 2022, a grand total of 9,442 ballots were cast through the advanced voting period and on Election Day.

Turnout for the 2022 election in the Friendly City was only 27.7 per cent, while 2018 saw 31.4 per cent of eligible voters cast a ballot.

"For the first time in Woodstock's history, voters have the option of participating through a hybrid election model, allowing residents to cast their ballot either online or in person. The introduction of online voting in advance polling has provided voters with a secure, convenient, and flexible way to participate in the democratic process from anywhere," explained a city press release.

Residents who have not yet voted still have time to make their voice heard.

"Online voting remains open 24 hours a day until 8 p.m. on October 25, allowing eligible voters to cast their ballot from home or on the go," added the release.

Voting day is Monday, Oct. 26, when polling locations will be open from 10 a.m. to 8 p.m., and eligible voters may vote at any of the following locations:

- Goff Hall (381 Finkle St.)
- Algonquin Public School (59 Algonquin Rd.)
- Cowan Sportsplex (895 Ridgewood Rd.)
- Unifor Hall (126 Beale St.)

Election information, candidate details, voter resources, and online voting access are available at: www.cityofwoodstock.ca/elections.

Dot Foods donates \$25,000 to Oxford County food security

KYRAH SMITH

Echo Correspondent

Thanksgiving arrived early in Ingersoll on October 9, as Dot Foods delivered \$25,000 worth of food and supplies to five local food pantries for the second consecutive year.

Through the company's Neighbour-to-Neighbour program, donations were delivered to Ingersoll's Salvation Army and Stich Supper Club, as well as Woodstock's Salvation Army and Operation Sharing. Cycles of Life in Tillsonburg was also on the list.

The Neighbour-to-Neighbour program allows participating food pantries to choose the products that will be most

useful to their communities.

"Dot Foods' Neighbour-to-Neighbour program is especially meaningful because it gives our employees the opportunity to support the communities where they live and work," said Suzy Parn, director of Dot Foods' Corporate Charitable Committee.

This is not the first time Dot Foods has contributed to local food pantries. In 2025, the company donated \$626,000 worth of products to more than 120 food pantries across the communities it serves.

The first delivery of the day arrived at Ingersoll's Salvation Army at approximately 9:30 a.m.

"We are making five deliveries today,"



(KYRAH SMITH PHOTO)

On October 9th, Dot Foods donated \$25,000 worth of food and supplies to local food pantries. Pictured are volunteers unloading some of the donated items.



(KYRAH SMITH PHOTO)

(From left to right) Punita Aggarwal (Dot Foods), Harrold, Jeannie Lee, Jessie, Lovish Sharma, Kelly Bula (Salvation Army), Marcus Maxwell (Dot), Kelly, Clint, Tim Lobzun, Sahil Sharma (Dot), Akhil Nair (Dot), Elizalde Pacana (Dot).

said Punita Aggarwal of Dot Foods. "We have these volunteers from all over the country that came here just to help."

Aggarwal explained that preparations for the donation began two months before the deliveries.

"It's a lot of work," she said.

The truck arriving at the Salvation Army contained approximately \$5,000 worth of food, including Frosted Flakes, Rice Krispies, and a variety of other dried goods.

For Kelly Bula of Ingersoll's Salvation Army, donations such as these can make a significant difference.

"I tell people, when you go to the gro-

cery store, there's nothing that you can't use," Bula said. "It's one of those things that gets very much overlooked. Cereal seems like such a simple thing to some people."

Bula also expressed her gratitude toward Dot Foods and its continued support of the community.

"It's amazing to see some companies that still have family values," she said, adding that despite being a larger company, Dot Foods has never stopped showing up for the community.

"These guys are really showing that they're still part of the community, showing how much they care."

A Night in the Spotlight celebrates eight decades of Theatre Woodstock

EMILY STEWART

Echo Correspondent

Theatre Woodstock's 80th anniversary celebration, A Night in the Spotlight, was an evening reflecting legacy.

The gala was recently held at the South Gate Centre and provided an outline of Theatre Woodstock's history spanning

over eight decades, starting from its beginnings as Woodstock Little Theatre. There were posters listing significant milestones for the community theatre company including its productions from decade to decade and costumes from previous productions on display.

Woodstock Mayor Jerry Acchione opened the celebration with congratula-

tions to Theatre Woodstock on its monumental anniversary.

"Local theatre brings people together in a way few other things can," he said.

Speeches from Theatre Woodstock President Emil Wijnker, newly appointed general manager Patti Baker, and granddaughter of founding member Edie Smith, Jennea Smith, reflected on its multi-generational impact on their own lives and the community.

"Throughout my involvement in Theatre Woodstock, what has constantly been obvious to me is the Theatre is a place to belong. Whether it be on stage, backstage, front of house, in the control booth, the green room, behind the sewing machine, or wielding a hammer, paintbrush, baton, musical instrument or glue gun, there is a place for everyone who would like to be involved," said Wijnker. "I discovered this as a teenager and saw it shine through within my own children."

Guests enjoyed performances from recent Theatre Woodstock productions The Music Man JR., The Addams Family Musical, and Roger and Hammerstein's Cinderella. Before dancing the



(RON YUZARK PHOTO)

The Woodstock Collegiate Institute string ensemble entertained the guests during cocktail hour.



(RON YUZARK PHOTO)

(Left to right) Zoe and Isabella performed "Secrets" from The Addams Family Musical at the Theatre Woodstock Gala.

rest of the night away, attendees got a sneak peak performance from the upcoming Dracula: A Chamber Musical.

More information about Theatre Woodstock, including upcoming productions, can be found online at www.theatrewoodstock.com.

POLICE BRIEFS

Woodstock City Police briefs

LEE GRIFFI

Editor

Police lay charges following collision

Two city people have been charged after a crash at the intersection of Norwich Avenue and Montclair Drive.

Police responded to the intersection after receiving a report of a vehicle collision with a roadside utility box on the morning of Oct. 1.

During the initial investigation, an occupant told officers that he had been driving the vehicle. Further investigation revealed the pair had switched seats and that the actual driver held a G1 licence and was not accompanied by a qualified driver, something required under Ontario's graduated licensing conditions.

A 20-year-old male was charged with obstructing a peace officer and permitting a novice driver to drive in contravention of a condition or restriction. A 24-year-old female was charged with obstructing a peace officer and being a G1 licence holder unaccompanied by a qualified driver.

Both accused were arrested and later released on undertakings with conditions.

Police remind motorists that graduated licensing restrictions are in place to help ensure novice drivers gain experience safely. Providing false or misleading

information to police during an investigation may also result in criminal charges.

Driver flees attempted traffic stop

Police have charged a 31-year-old man following an investigation into a vehicle that fled from police during an attempted traffic stop.

An officer attempted to conduct a traffic stop on a vehicle, which fled from the officer on Oct. 2. For public safety reasons, the officer halted the pursuit.

The involved vehicle was located in a residential area. Officers also identified a suspect and determined he had left the vehicle and continued on foot. The suspect was located at a business on Dundas Street and placed under arrest.

Police said the accused was also prohibited from operating a motor vehicle and was allegedly in breach of conditions of an existing release order.

A 31-year-old Etobicoke male has been charged with dangerous operation, flight from a peace officer, operation while prohibited, and two counts of failing to comply with a release order.

The investigation remains ongoing, and the accused was held for a bail hearing.

Multiple charges laid after motorcycle collision

Police laid multiple charges following a collision involving a motorcycle on Oct. 2.

Police responded to the crash at the intersection of Fairway Road and Three Wood Drive.

The investigation determined that a vehicle and a motorcycle had collided and the bike driver left the scene on foot.

An investigation determined the licence plate attached to the motorcycle was not authorized for the vehicle. Officers attended a nearby residence, where they located the driver.

A 26-year-old Woodstock male has been charged with failing to remain, using an unauthorized plate, driving a motor vehicle without a licence, and operating a vehicle without insurance.

Impaired charge laid during traffic stop

A 20-year-old Tillsonburg man has been charged with impaired driving offences.

An officer observed a vehicle being driven inconsistently in the area of Dundas Street and Wilson Street on Oct. 3. Police conducted a traffic stop, and a roadside breath test was administered, which registered a fail.

The driver was arrested, and further breath testing resulted in readings nearly three times the legal limit. He was charged with operating a vehicle while impaired by alcohol and drugs and operating while impaired with a blood alcohol concentration of 80-plus.

Local women raise thousands for DASO at golf fundraiser

PATRICIA WETTLAUER

Woodstock Ingersoll Echo

What started as a casual, fun day of golf with friends has become so much more - a day filled with laughter, friendship, questionable golf and a whole lot of purpose.

The third annual Rip It and Sip It golf tournament took place recently at Sally Creek Golf Club in Woodstock. 24 women raised \$4,110 and donated the funds to Domestic Abuse Service Oxford (DASO) and Ingamo Homes to help with the important work they do in the community.

The donation was very timely this year as the week before the facility had a huge leak in the ceiling and they were in desperate need of supplies and donations.

In the three years since the tournament started, the monetary and product donations to DASO have totalled over \$11,000. Golf may be the excuse to get together, but making a difference is what keeps us coming back.

A huge thank you to everyone who came out, sponsored, donated, laughed, swung and otherwise supported this amazing

day. Here's to women lifting women up, great friendships, questionable golf shots and making a difference along the way.



(CONTRIBUTED PHOTO)

Some of the golfers posed for a photo with the donation at DASO in Woodstock.



(CONTRIBUTED PHOTO)

Front Row (left to right): Tracy Ditchfield, Angie Desmond, Lynda Wells, Kerry Desmond, Patricia Wettlaufer, Deb McGuire, Brenda Brown, Cheryl Moore, Lori Husk. Middle Row (left to right): Kim Kimberley, Deb Roloson, Karen Cruz, Sue Eastman, Terri Fletcher. Back Row (left to right): Norma Weil, Janice Carter, Michelle Roth, Sue Watt, Wendy Kokoszka, Leanne Paton, Dianne Fleming, Eustacia Young, Pat Logan, Jennifer Bardoel. Absent from photo: Janice Koekebakker.

*Missed an issue? View all past issues online
anytime: **theecho.ca***

POLICE BRIEFS

Oxford OPP briefs



(OXFORD OPP PHOTO)

LEE GRIFFI

Editor

Pair of impaired drivers found in Norwich Township hour apart

Two drivers are facing impaired driving charges after police came across their vehicles in ditches

Police came across the first vehicle in the ditch on Otterville Road at about 10:30 p.m. on Oct. 9. A 22-year-old Langton resident was charged with operation while impaired and dangerous driving.

He was released from custody and is scheduled to appear before the Ontario Court of Justice in Woodstock on Nov. 24.

A few hours later, on the morning of Oct. 10, at 1:15 a.m., police came across a second vehicle in the ditch on Oxford Road 13. A 23-year-old Delhi man was charged with operation while impaired, operation while impaired with a blood alcohol concentration 80 plus and dangerous operation of a motor vehicle.

He was also released and is scheduled to appear before a judge in Woodstock on Nov. 24.

JOE BROWN

for Woodstock City Councillor

- Responsible Budgeting
- Growth & Infrastructure
- Community Safety
- Housing • Youth & Recreation

VOTEJOE2026.CA

ONLINE VOTING: OCT. 10–25

VOTING DAY: OCT. 26 • 10 A.M.–8 P.M.

VOTE
JOE
— 2026 —

Authorized by Candidate Joe Brown.



Sip. Savour. Support.

FRIDAY, NOVEMBER 6 at 6 pm

Delicious cheesy tapas, beverage pairings,
guided tasting and a spirited live auction.

A unique fundraising
experience hosted byTEMPO
RESTAURANT &
CHEESY COW

at South Gate Centre
in support of the
Rotary Kitchen at
South Gate Centre



ONLY 100 GUESTS

RESERVE A TABLE OF 6 ~ \$660
OR PURCHASE A PAIR OF SEATS ~ \$220

Pairs are General Admission

Tickets available now • Online at www.southgatectr.com • By phone at 519-539-9817 • In person at South Gate Centre, 191 Old Wellington St. S., Woodstock

Ghosts, Tarot and Magic: Ingersoll's 3rd annual Mystic Market

KYRAH SMITH

Echo Correspondent

Ingersoll went full spooky on Oct. 9 as the third annual Mystic Market returned to the Ingersoll Cheese and Agricultural Museum.

The award-winning occasion, named Tourism Oxford's Special Event of the Year, lived up to its title, welcoming more than a thousand guests to the museum grounds from 6 p.m. to 10 p.m. Admission was free, allowing visitors

to explore the grounds while discovering a variety of mysterious and magical offerings.

The market featured several familiar vendors and entertainers, along with some new additions. For refreshments, P.B.'s Fries, Poppin' Kettle Corn and Camp Coffee returned, with Fo' Cheezy joining the lineup for the first time.

Guests could browse a variety of local artisan goods from vendors including Old Soul Col-

lective, The Klin Room Ceramics, Baubles & Broomsticks, Mystic Mind's Eye and Aftermath Tattoo Studio, among others.

Francisco Perez also returned with his paranormal magic show, while Jim Munch Zombie continued his reign of stalking and startling unsuspecting guests.

As in previous years, attendees could experience a variety of psychics, mediums, tarot readers and energy healers. The Angelic Alchemist returned, joined by new additions Ten of Swords, Somatic Tones, Your Soul's Haven and Moonlake Ritual Co.

Paranormal investigators Walking Among Us brought a collection of haunted objects, described as having "mainly positive spirits" attached to them. Woodstock's own Wade Manor Haunted Museum also returned to the market this year.



(KYRAH SMITH PHOTO)

Over a thousand guests attend The Ingersoll Cheese and Agricultural Museum's third annual Mystic Market.

Visitors could explore the museum's new frightening exhibit, The Art of Death and Mourning, as well as tour the Cheese Museum, which had been transformed with Halloween decorations throughout.

New to Mystic Market this year was a carved pumpkin walkthrough

featuring Kennedy's Kin. The attraction showcased 96 carved pumpkins depicting beloved horror and Halloween icons, which guests also had the opportunity to purchase.

Olivia Sidwell, Museum Collections Coordinator, told the Echo that the event had a strong turnout.

"We had roughly 1,100 guests attend Mystic Market," she said. "Hopefully next year is even bigger."

With its mix of local vendors, entertainment, Halloween attractions and community spirit, Mystic Market once again provided a festive kickoff to the Halloween season in Ingersoll.

Christmas Bazaar

Holy Trinity Church, 1420 Devonshire Ave.

Saturday, November 14th

Doors Open 10:00 am • Draws at 2:00 pm

Penny Sale, Raffle, Baking, Crafts,
Silent Auction, Yesterday's Treasures,
Religious Goods and Christmas Cafe.

WAG Creates

Upcoming Programs at WAG

YOUTH & ADULTS

Mug Dot Mandala Workshop

Wednesday, November 4
6–8 p.m. • Ages 13+ • NM \$55 / M \$40

Peyote Stitch Keychains

Saturday, November 7
11 a.m.–1 p.m. • Ages 13+ • NM \$75 / M \$60

"Cut That Out!" Linocut Printmaking

Wednesdays, November 18–December 9
6–8 p.m. • Ages 13+
NM \$220 / M \$180



Scan QR Code to
Register Online



KIDS & FAMILIES

After School Program

Wednesdays, Oct. 28–Dec. 9
(No class November 11)
4–5:30 p.m. • Ages 6–12 • \$10

Start with Art

Wednesdays, November 4 & December 2
11–11:45 a.m. • Ages 5 & under + caregiver • \$10

Making Together

Saturdays, November 7 & December 5
10:30 a.m.–12 p.m. • Ages 6–10 + caregiver • \$35

Open Studio & Film Screening:

Snoopy Presents: Welcome Home, Franklin

Saturday, November 14
10 a.m.–12 p.m. • All Ages (children 13 and under must be accompanied by an adult) • Free

WOODSTOCKARTGALLERY.CA

WOODSTOCK
ART GALLERY

The WINE CELLAR
A CHEESE SHOP

**STOCK YOUR CELLAR
& Wine All
You Want**

Quality Craft-Winemaking
by the Batch

Monthly Specials
Available! Check
Out our Socials!

**The Wine Cellar
& Cheese Shop**
188 Thames Street S, Ingersoll
519.425.4999



All Celebrations

Event Planning

Party Rentals

www.allcelebrations.ca
contact@allcelebrations.ca

heavenly
sweets
ice cream parlour



**The Best
Custom
Ice
Cream
Cakes
in Oxford
County!**

AND...

- 50 Flavours of Ice Cream
- Delicious Desserts • Great Selection of Nostalgic Candy!

127 Thames Street South,
Ingersoll, ON
519-303-0230
icecreamingersoll.ca

COMMONPLACE BOOKS

**Ingersoll's Local
Independent Bookstore**

105 Thames Street South
Ingersoll, ON N5C 2T3
(519) 777-5779
commonplaceingersoll.ca
[@commonplacebooks.ingersoll](https://www.instagram.com/commonplacebooks.ingersoll)



LIGHTING OF THE LIGHTS

**THURSDAY, NOVEMBER 19
7 PM**

**HERITAGE PARK GAZEBO
DOWNTOWN INGERSOLL**

*Save
the Date*



downtowningersoll.ca  **Ingersoll BIA**

**Buying or Selling?
Let's Make It Happen!**



**Alister
Maclean**
Realtor®,
CCIM
519-860-4113
amaclean@execulink.com



**Tracey
Flynn**
Realtor®
519-532-0164
reachtracey@gmail.com
traceyflynnrealtor.ca



**SUTTON
GROUP
SELECT
REALTY INC.**
Brokerage


brooks & co.

DECORATING CENTRE INGERSOLL

**OXFORD COUNTY'S
ONE STOP RENO SHOP**

- PREMIUM PAINTS & STAINS
- CUSTOM PAINT AND STAIN MATCHES
- CUSTOM WINDOW COVERINGS
- STONE COUNTERTOPS
- PREMIUM WALLPAPER
- DECORATIVE LIGHTING

**LOCALLY OWNED AND OPERATED
PROUDLY CANADIAN**



Benjamin Moore®



HunterDouglas

VISIT OUR SHOWROOM
25D KING ST. W. 519-485-1633

**Specializing in
Senior's Men Cuts**

**INGERSOLL
BARBER
SHOP**

**SINCE
1909**

**WALK IN ONLY
(519) 520-5995**

Tuesday - Thursday 8:30 - 5:00 p.m.
Friday 8:30 - 5:30 p.m.
Saturday 7:30 - 1:00 p.m.

10 KING STREET WEST

 **Desjardins**
Insurance

**Auto • Home
Life • Business**



Ann Lofthouse, Agent
519-485-0750
annlofthouse.ca

Alberta musician pens song about driving woes in Ontario

LEE GRIFFI

Editor

A country singer from Lethbridge, Alberta, has found a unique way to promote a song about Ontario's busiest highway.

Country indie artist Ryan Lindsay wrote the song 401 while being stuck in traffic on the highway on his way to visit his fiancé, who used to live in London, Ontario, before moving to Alberta. He has also booked an ad on the electronic billboard at the eastbound Ingersoll OnRoute to promote it and his new album titled *Sailboat in the Prairies*.

"That's how I got the inspiration for it. I was thinking about how I could write a song for Ontarians. I feel Canadian stories and Canadian music are so important, more important now than ever," said Lindsay.

He added it can be difficult to be proud singing about where an artist is from.

"That's why I wanted to have this collection of Canadian stories on this record. There I was, stuck on the 401 thinking how can I connect with Ontarians and I felt it's right here; this is it."

Lindsay said it's a highway that may not always feel important to people, but people's reasons for being on it are.

"They're making a livelihood. It's tied to the trucking industry, and people are commuting to the GTA, so in many ways it is important, and it deserves a song."

His fiancé and publicist, Megan Clarke, said any time the couple has shared it with family and friends in London, Lindsay will get them all to sing along.

"Everybody hates the 401," she laughed. "Everyone gets it right away. I think for me, it's wonderful for Ryan to be building a connection with this part of Canada and it gives us a reason to get out here more. It's also very relatable."

The chorus for the song is something we can all identify



(CONTRIBUTED PHOTO)

Lethbridge, Alberta indie country singer Ryan Lindsay has written and recorded a song about the gridlock on the 401. He and his finance/publicist Megan Clarke have taken out a billboard ad on the 401 near Ingersoll to promote it.

with.

"I don't want to take the 401. Another day, back to London. Everybody hates this race we run, I gotta find another way."

Lindsay said the album is a collection of songs with themes people across the country can relate to.

"I can bring that work across Canada and share it culturally with people. I'll do a show in Alberta and get people singing along to 401 because it's pretty common for people out there to have driven the highway at some point, so it's something we can all connect with."

Sailboat in the Prairies is Lindsay's fourth album and features songs he wrote while on the road, infused with influences from folk and Canadiana music.

"The album was recorded live-off-the-floor in a



(LEE GRIFFI PHOTO)

barn-converted studio in rural Texas. If you pay close attention, you might notice a subtle east coast rhythm or an oddly specific line that offers a lens into a stranger's life," he explained.

The indie music scene has exploded as streaming services have continued to grow, making it easier for artists not signed to a record label to get exposure. Lindsay said the industry has cut out the middleman.

"The result is, as an artist, I have to wear a lot of hats, as does the band. In a lot of ways I am on a label and it's my own. I've put together my own little team, and it's been fun."

You can listen to 401 and the rest of the album on Lindsay's website at <https://www.ryanlindsaymusic.com/401> or on your favourite music streaming service.

execulink

TELECOM

**COOLER DAYS.
COZIER NIGHTS.
MORE TIME AT HOME.**

**Get 1.5 Gbps Fibre Internet with
a 2 Year Price Lock \$65/mo***

Stream your favourite shows, catch up
with friends, game late into the night and
keep everyone cozy and connected.

OFFER ENDS OCT 29! SIGN UP TODAY: [execulink.ca](https://www.execulink.ca) | 1.866.782.0868

*Offer available until October 29, 2026. 24-month term required. 1.5 Gbps speed available in select areas.

**THIS
OCTOBER**

#vote

#re-elect

Jerry Acchione

for Mayor

**Better Roads
Better Spaces
Better Woodstock**



jerryacchione.ca



Woodstock Ingersoll Echo

SPORTS

Free throw line proves foul for junior Huskies victory bid

JEFF TRIBE

Echo Correspondent

All's fair in love, war and basketball. But the Woodstock Huron Park junior Huskies could be forgiven for crying foul after a strong performance from the free throw line denied them their first Thames Valley Regional Athletics (TVRA) victory of the season.

"It was unfortunate, but you win some, you lose some, I guess," said Huron Park's Jasreet Sohi following a tough 37-31 loss to the visiting Tillsonburg Glendale Gemini on Oct. 8 at Huron Park.

The game was a high-tempo exhibition of junior girls basketball, highly entertaining if unpredictable at times, with multiple momentum swings. The visitors looked to be in control following a 10-3 advantage through the opening eight minutes; however, the Huskies dug in during the second quarter and paced by three-point field goals from Sohi and Claire Dow, rebounded with a 14-7 run that squared accounts at 17 heading into halftime.

Fuelled by an offence running largely on two more three-point field goals in the third quarter from Dow and Kat

Scheuermann, Huron Park took a narrow 25-23 lead into the final frame, an advantage extended to 31-24 with a six-point run beginning with 5:27 remaining in regulation time.

Huskie Zoey Moser kicked it off by knocking down a ten-foot baseline shot from the left side. A turnover against full court pressure on the ensuing in-bounds play was converted by Dow on a 12-foot shot, halfway up the right side of the key, extended. Huron Park's Brianna Lapointe capped the run following a Tillsonburg missed shot on the next Gemini possession. Lapointe essentially went coast-to-coast, contested down the centre of the court, before finishing with a short bank shot on a strong drive down the heart of the key.

The seven-point lead would prove the Huskies' high-water mark; however, the Gemini answered on a strong Ashlynne Ivanyshyn baseline drive and lay-in with 3:20 remaining, on which she was fouled, finishing an old-school three-point play from the free throw line. Ivanyshyn, who had opened the game with a 1-10 performance from the line, would add four more foul shots down the stretch



Huron Park's Claire Dow (left) cuts around Gemini Nathalie Phongsavath. (JEFF TRIBE PHOTO)

TVRA SOUTHEAST SENIOR GIRLS BASKETBALL	
OCT. 15	
COLLEGE AVENUE	47
AYLMER EAST ELGIN	33
ST. THOMAS PARKSIDE	39
INGERSOLL DCI	19
WOODSTOCK HURON PARK	44
WOODSTOCK ST. MARY'S	41
OCT. 13	
WOODSTOCK CI	43
COLLEGE AVENUE	23
OCT. 8	
LORD DORCHESTER	20
INGERSOLL DCI	19
HURON PARK	47
TILLSONBURG GLENDALE	27
OCT. 6	
EAST ELGIN	48
INGERSOLL DCI	28
ST. THOMAS ST. JOE'S	41
ST. MARY'S	21
WOODSTOCK CI	35
LORD DORCHESTER	15
PARKSIDE	37
HURON PARK	30

around a Kate Bruder lay-in that gave Tillsonburg a 33-31 lead with 2:02 remaining, extending that advantage with 12.6 seconds left on the clock on Ivanyshyn free throws.

"It gets really close, and then you have to stay focused and in the game," said Dow. "It can be hard, but we're coming together as a team. We just have to stick with it and keep our heads up."

"We've come such a long way from our first game," added Moser, a statement reflecting progress both on and off the court. "We're going to continue, just get stronger."

"All heart," said Dow, pointing to core team chemistry, which is improving as players get to know each other better.

"It's coming," agreed Sohi. "We're working up to it," Dow concluded.

She finished with 14 points to pace the Huskies offensively while Moser added six, Lapointe two field goals, Caidance Kotiuk three points, and Kat Scheuermann and Sohi each a three-point field goal. Ivanyshyn had 20 to lead the Gemini.

GLENDALE	
OCT. 15	
ST. MARY'S	51
HURON PARK	31
EAST ELGIN	35
COLLEGE AVENUE	29
PARKSIDE	35
INGERSOLL DCI	15
OCT. 13	
WOODSTOCK CI	37
COLLEGE AVENUE	19
OCT. 8	
WOODSTOCK CI	46
ST. MARY'S	26
GLENDALE	37
HURON PARK	31
INGERSOLL DCI	50
LORD DORCHESTER	33
OCT. 6	
WOODSTOCK CI	38
LORD DORCHESTER	18
PARKSIDE	38
HURON PARK	18
ST. JOE'S	32
ST. MARY'S	12
EAST ELGIN	44
INGERSOLL DCI	22



(JEFF TRIBE PHOTO)
Huron Park's Brianna Lapointe (left) puts up determined defence against Tillsonburg Gemini Kate Bruder (right).

Blue Bombers host dual gridiron Battle of 19

JEFF TRIBE

Echo Correspondent

The Ingersoll DCI (IDCI) senior football Blue Bombers are getting a little greedy. But in the best possible way.

Coming off a Thames Valley Regional Athletics (TVRA) Tier II championship, the team was expected to face a rebuilding year in 2026 after graduating its veteran core and turning to a younger lineup. But after opening their TVRA regular season with a tough 26-25 loss to London Clarke Road Trojans, the Bombers have reeled off consecutive victories over London St. Thomas Aquinas, Woodstock College Avenue (CASS) Knights and London Westminster.

Instead of just fitting into the Walzak Division mix, IDCI is tied with Tillsonburg Glendale with a 3-1 record, each with a game in hand on second-place Aquinas (3-1-1).

“Like any team, we’re setting our goals as high as possible,” said Blue Bombers player Gavin Laidman, a standout on both sides of the ball at the wide receiver and safety positions.

A pretty young team’s expectations have been elevated from pre-season, said Laidman, meshing and creating chemistry with success.

“These wins are really good to build positivity for the guys.”

Although IDCI and CASS play against an ever-changing cast of TVRA characters from London and beyond, the games against traditional Oxford opponents carry special weight. Regardless of which team is considered stronger on paper, Laidman said those games tend to be competitive.

“Everyone always looks forward to that.”

This year, the Bombers got off to a quick start, and aided by second-quarter turnovers, took an early halftime lead



IDCI receiver Gavin Laidman (left) goes up for a high pass against the defensive attention of CASS Knight Isaac Gyimesi (right).

during a 41-6 victory over the Knights on Oct. 6 in Woodstock. The back end of IDCI’s Oxford rivalry is on Oct. 22 as the Glendale Gemini visit IDCI for a 2:15 kickoff for The Battle of Highway 19.

“It’ll be a big one,” said Laidman. “I’m excited for it.”

The Bombers have diversified their offensive approach, said first-year head coach Markus Lakatos, in part as a product of opponents double or triple-teaming Laidman. He remains an offensive threat, but Connor Thompson, who moved into the starting quarterback role, has been able to exploit opposing defences with a variety of skill position options. Diversity in IDCI’s attack was evidenced by the fact six different Bombers scored touchdowns in a seven-major outburst against Westminster on Oct. 9 at IDCI.

“Everyone was ready and showed their skill,” Lakatos credited, who is also looking

forward to the remainder of the regular season and beyond.

“Guys are coming in every day, they’re paying attention, they’re listening. It’s what’s making everything click right now.”

The junior Blue Bombers have followed a similar trajectory to their senior counterparts, a tight 20-14 loss to St. Thomas Aquinas offset by lopsided wins over Clarke Road, Woodstock St. Mary’s and Regina Mundi. They open their battle Oct. 22 with an 11 a.m. kickoff against the Gemini.

The senior Knights opened with two tight losses to London Montcalm (20-17) and Regina Mundi (27-20) before suffering setbacks to IDCI, Clarke Road and Glendale on Oct. 16 in Tillsonburg. Although technically a senior team, many on the roster are in Grade 10 or 11, said the Knights’ Matthew Paulsen.

“We’re more of a building

team,” he said, enjoying both this season, a shot at a playoff game, and the process of growth toward the future. “Definitely looking forward to next year.”

Glendale Gemini Juniors 16 Woodstock St. Mary’s 0

A star was almost born during a competitive Warriors’ loss to the Gemini. With starting quarterback Callum Lawton injured, fullback Michael Anastasiadis made a guest appearance at the pivot.

“Interesting to say the least,” laughed Anastasiadis.

As expected, he proved a force on a keeper run, but to everyone’s surprise, including his own, he displayed a huge arm, into the wind, as receiver Noah Simas broke five yards into the clear down the right side.

“It was there, it was there,” said Anastasiadis, whose throw landed five yards ahead of his target. “No clue,” shrugged the guest

TVRA SENIOR FOOTBALL	
OCT. 9	
INGERSOLL DCI	35
WESTMINSTER	0
CLARKE ROAD	44
COLLEGE AVENUE	9
OCT. 6	
INGERSOLL DCI	41
COLLEGE AVENUE	6
GLENDALE	35
COLLEGE AVENUE	15
JUNIOR	
OCT. 16	
GLENDALE	16
ST. MARY’S	0
OCT. 14	
INGERSOLL DCI	35
REGINA MUNDI	0
OCT. 9	
INGERSOLL DCI	35
ST. MARY’S	0

quarterback. “I just know I threw it and it was close.”

The close portion of his statement could have been applied to the game, its final score extended by a late Gemini touchdown. The Warriors surrendered a first-half safety and rouge, along with a fumble recovery in

the endzone following a punt deflecting off the goalpost. Apart from those majors, St. Mary’s essentially battled even for the duration.

“From who knows four weeks ago to this team,” declared Warriors coach Jeff Almeida proudly. “The progression is incredible.”

VOTE
YOUR VOICE | YOUR CITY | OUR FUTURE

SANDEEP SIDHU

FOR CITY COUNCILLOR
WOODSTOCK

Let's build a better Woodstock, together.

519-710-6555

info@iamsandeepsidhu.com

Authorized by Sandeep Sidhu.



DUAL TEMP ALUMINUM LTD.

SINCE 1950 • Free Estimates

- Vinyl & Aluminum Siding
- Windows & Doors
- Soffit and Fascia
- Glass & Screen Repairs
- Patio Doors
- Seamless Eavestrough

243 Mill St., Woodstock, ON N4S 2X3

519-539-2084 • dualtempaluminum.ca

admin@dualtempaluminum.ca



OLD ST PAUL'S ANGLICAN CHURCH
723 DUNDAS ST, WOODSTOCK

Treats'n' Treasures

CHRISTMAS BAZAAR

SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 7TH, 2026
FROM 11:00 AM TO 2:00 PM

WDSK'S BEST BAKING TABLE
BOOKS & PUZZLES
CAFÉ
"THIS AND THAT" TABLE
FROZEN MEAT PIES & SOUPS

ALL ARE WELCOME | ENTRY IS FREE



Eric Jacobson wins Pan-Am Championship gold

SPENCER SEYMOUR

Echo Contributor

Eric Jacobson, a Thamesford, Ont., native and teacher at A.J. Baker Public School in Kintore, captured a gold medal at the International Brazilian Jiu-Jitsu Federation (IBJJF) Pan-Am Championships in Secaucus, N.J., Oct. 2-4.

Jacobson earned the top prize competing in the Male Master Two Purple 202-pound division, and described the moment he realized he won the gold medal.

"It was an amazing feeling," Jacobson told the Echo. "When I wrestled, I was often the guy finishing with a bronze medal, so finally winning gold at a major international competition felt especially rewarding. It was one of those moments where you could really appreciate all the years of work that went into getting there."

According to Jacobson, his first order of business was to share the victory with his family.

"The first thing I did was FaceTime my wife and tell my kids," noted Jacobson. "They had actually been watching the competition as it was streamed on TV, so they got to experience it as it happened. I'm married with three kids, and having their support means a lot to me. Knowing they were watching and cheering me on made the moment even more special. Winning was incredible, but being able to share

it with my family was probably the best part."

With submissions hard to come by at such a high level of competition, all six of Jacobson's matches were decided on points, which Jacobson said made for an intense competition.

"Competing at the international level is a surreal experience. The tournament was very professionally organized, and the level of competition was incredible. Every athlete there had earned their place, and there really weren't any easy matches. You're competing against people who have put in the same kind of work and dedication to get there, which makes the experience that much more rewarding."

"It was a great opportunity to test myself against some of the best athletes in the region," Jacobson continued. "It made coming away with a gold medal that much more meaningful."

The journey in combat sports when Jacobson was just in grade three, when the gold medalist first discovered the sport of judo.

"I started judo in elementary school around grade three with my dad, and I fell in love with the sport and the challenge of learning a contact sport. I was never particularly good at soccer or baseball, but I found my passion in combat sports. From there, I continued wrestling through high school and university, and later in life, I got into Brazilian

Jiu-Jitsu," Jacobson began.

"Looking back, all of those experiences have connected and built on one another. Judo, wrestling, and Jiu-Jitsu each bring something different to the table, but they complement each other really well. All the years of training and competing across those sports have helped me get to where I am today, and competing at the Pan-Am Championships was a great opportunity."

Jacobson further explained how the experience in multiple different grappling sports helped him have success at the Pan-Am Championships.

"I think my background in judo and wrestling played a big role in my success. Those sports gave me a strong grappling foundation, and I was able to draw on that experience throughout the competition to control positions, stay competitive in the scrambles, and score points against my opponents. In my first match, I got some nice foot sweeps, which is a nice tribute to my judo experience."

The win means Jacobson will once again compete on a global stage later this year, when he will travel to Sin City to face the best in the world.

"Winning gold means a lot, both personally and because of what it makes possible next," explained Jacobson. "It qualifies me to compete at the World Championships in Las Vegas in December, where I'll have



(CONTRIBUTED PHOTO)

Eric Jacobson, pictured on the number one podium, won a gold medal at the International Brazilian Jiu-Jitsu Federation (IBJJF) Pan-Am Championships in Secaucus, N.J., Oct. 2-4.

the opportunity to compete against some of the best athletes in the world.

"I'm really excited for that challenge. Winning at the Pan-Am Championships has given me a lot of confidence and motivation to keep

pushing myself. It's a great feeling to see the work pay off, but I'm also looking at this as another step in the journey. I'm proud of what I've accomplished, and I'm looking forward to seeing what I can do at the world level."

Woodstock Minor Hockey ready to celebrate the sport on Saturday

Helping People Move Through Life Changes With Care

Thinking about a move in Woodstock, Ingersoll, or Oxford County?

BUYING OR SELLING A HOME is rarely just about real estate.

Timing | Family | Change | Finances | Memories
And making the right decision for your next chapter.

I HELP CLIENTS THROUGH EVERY STAGE OF LIFE, INCLUDING:

- downsizing
- estate sales
- seniors and families
- divorce and life transitions
- first-time buying
- upsizing into a home that fits better

You will get clear guidance, honest advice, and steady support from start to finish.

No pressure. No rush.
Just thoughtful planning from a local REALTOR® who cares.

COMPLIMENTARY HOME VALUE REVIEW
Available Upon Request

Serving WOODSTOCK, INGERSOLL, AND OXFORD COUNTY

Mellissa King
REALTOR®

519-320-0203
m.kingsold@gmail.com

21 CENTURY 21
Heritage House Ltd.

CONTRIBUTED ARTICLE

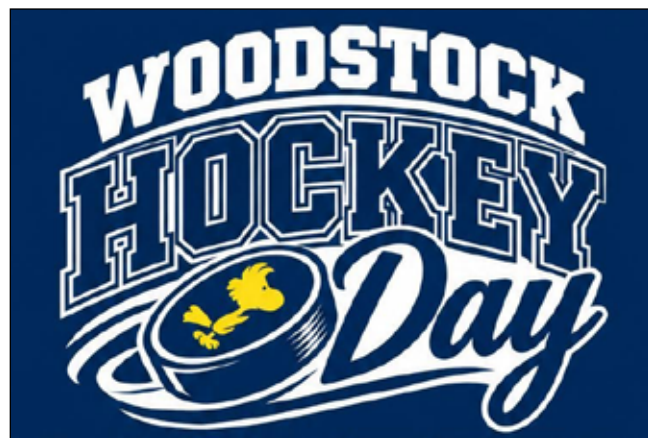
Woodstock Ingersoll Echo

The community is invited to celebrate everything there is to love about hockey at all levels during Woodstock Hockey Day on Saturday, Oct. 24, from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. This family-friendly community event will feature hockey, games, entertainment, fundraising activities and plenty of fun for all ages.

There will be a wide variety of free activities for families to enjoy, including a scavenger hunt, trick-or-treating (costumes are encouraged!), a meet-and-greet with the Woodstock Navy Vets, who will be available for autographs, a penalty box photo booth, henna tattoos, a balloon artist, giant yard games and a colouring contest. Guests can also explore the Cro's Sports Zone, take part in activities with Mallozi Hockey Academy and Prospects Paradise, and meet Sparky from the Woodstock Fire Department. Children will have the opportunity to check out the fire truck while learning more about the important work of local firefighters.

For those looking for even more excitement, several activities and shopping opportunities will be available for a fee. Visitors can test their gaming skills in the video game trailer, take part in the dunk tank fundraiser and help dunk some local team coaches, and browse the Oxford Source for Sports merchandise pop-up. Fans will also have the opportunity to purchase used Junior Navy Vets jerseys and Navy Vets apparel. Door prizes will add to the excitement throughout the event.

Woodstock Hockey Day is also an opportunity to give back



(CONTRIBUTED IMAGE)

to the community. Organizers will be hosting a **Fill the Net Food Drive** and encourage attendees to bring non-perishable food donations to help support those in need.

Along with the festivities, families are encouraged to stick around, enjoy the atmosphere and take in a couple of hockey games. Whether you're a lifelong hockey fan, a young player just discovering the sport or simply looking for a fun family outing, there will be something for everyone to enjoy.

Organizers would like to extend a sincere thank-you to this year's Event Day Sponsors: Woodstock Minor Ball Hockey, Angelic Treasures Christian Daycare and Gord Anderson Automotive. Their support helps make this community celebration possible.

Woodstock Hockey Day promises to be a fun-filled day celebrating hockey, community spirit and the people who make the sport so special. Everyone is welcome to come out, join the festivities and celebrate the game we all love!

Admission is free, but some activities and merchandise require a fee.

Beloved Norwich curling 'barn' hosts 70th anniversary, makeover

JEFF TRIBE

Echo Correspondent

Norwich's beloved curling rink has received a functional makeover without interfering with its classic, historical beauty.

The Norwich District Curling Club was formed in 1956, beginning a 70-year run at the hockey and figure skating arena. In 1968, the current dedicated curling facility opened at 17 Phoebe Street, a classic wooden design constructed of Douglas Fir sourced from British Columbia.

This year's annual open house, held on Oct. 17, was jointly special, celebrating both seven decades as an institution of friendly competition within the community and, secondly, a brand-new cement sub-surface enhancing operational flexibility, ease and cost of maintenance, and ice quality.

The latter comes as the product of a \$198,000 Ontario Trillium Foundation grant combined with a significant commitment from the club. Its contribution is based, said president Kate Hamilton, on fundraising activities including auctions and "a whole lot of pot pies." There were also over 900 volunteer hours contributed to the project, Hamilton continued, testament to a dynamic board and membership.

"It's an example of community and volunteerism and the family of Norwich District Curling Club."

Hamilton has been a member since moving to Norwich 20 years ago. An avid athlete and sports fan, she was

attracted by curling's inclusive nature. The club continues to welcome curlers from 90-plus down to a vibrant "little rocks" youth program offering both an entry point and competitive avenue for young curlers.

"Whatever your gender, skill level or age, we have a spot for you," said Hamilton.

The Carroll, Learn and Topham families are among those who have found a generationally connected spot at the club, and were recognized at the celebration.

The late Doug and Isabell Topham bowled in a Burgessville league in Norwich, said their son Dave, pivoting to curling with its cessation around 1968. He began in Grade 9, sliding into his own 40-year tradition which has extended to wife Lois and their daughters Ellen and Gayle.

"It just kind of came second nature," said Ellen. "Walking and then curling right after that."

The attraction is a combination of community, curling and the people they agreed. There is definitely a competitive element to the sport, balanced though it is by its culture and the tradition of shared post-game beverages.

"And you're all friends again," Ellen smiled. "That's the best part of this sport."

"We don't play to lose," Dave added. "But don't care if I win."

The rules may be slightly different should Ellen and her husband Zack Burke, a curling convert - or perhaps more accurately, willing conscript -



(JEFF TRIBE PHOTO)

The Norwich District Curling Club (NDCC) celebrated both 70 years of operation and significant upgrades to its ice-making process Saturday, October 17 in Norwich. The Carroll, Learn and Topham families were among those recognized for multi-generational participation and contribution. In the photo are (back row, left to right) Dick, Marlene and Graham Learn; NDCC President Kate Hamilton; and Ellen Burke, Gayle Topham and Dave Topham. In the front row are little rockers Alex and Trevor Learn, and Charlie and Eli Burke.

end up playing head-to-head. The ride home is accompanied by either her victory song, Burn It To The Ground by Nickelback, or Van Halen's Panama celebrating his win.

"It's better for everyone if I win," Ellen laughed.

But even with elevated bragging rights, and risks, on the line, it's still better the couple plays separately, she added.

"We don't exactly see eye-to-eye on strategy."

What the family does see eye-to-

eye on is the value of a sport extending into a fourth generation, Ellen's children Charlie and Eli enjoying the little rocks program, Gayle's two-and-a-half-month-old son, expected to follow.

"I just wish mom and dad could see this," said Dave, celebrating a unique barn-style structure housing a fourth generation of fun, friendly competition and, with the upgrades, a promising future.

"Not just Norwich," he concluded. "It draws in the whole area."

SURROGATES NEEDED!

Receive Expense Coverage of up to **\$45,000**

Help make a family's dream come true.

Your generous gift can help intended parents welcome the baby they've been dreaming of.

Contact us Today!

SURROGACY IN CANADA ONLINE

(519) 527-2404

www.surrogacy.ca

sally@surrogacy.ca

Canadian Law Compliant Experienced Trusted



TAVISTOCK MEN'S CLUB SAUERKRAUT & BBQ PORK CHOP SUPPER

Wednesday, November 11, 2026

4:00 p.m. - 7:00 p.m.

TAVISTOCK MEMORIAL HALL

3 Adam St., Tavistock

Pick-Up Only \$30



Tickets available at Men's Club Hall - 78 Woodstock St. N.
Every Wednesday 4-6 pm and Saturdays 11am-2pm
Starting October 10th to November 10th
or from Club members
or call 519-655-3573
or at Tavistock arena booth
or email: info@tavistockmensclub.ca
or online: tavistockmensclub.ca

THEATRE Woodstock PRESENTS:



THE ONTARIO PARANORMAL SOCIETY

FRIDAY OCT. 30TH, 2026

Seminar and Q&A **\$40**

\$70 **Seminar, Q&A, and One Theatre Investigation
*Limited tickets available

Seminar with Q & A, 7:30pm

**1st Investigation, 9:30pm

**2nd Investigation, 10:30pm

Box Office: 22 Reeve Street, Woodstock
519-537-2582 | theatrewoodstock.com

Six individuals, U13 Ironbirds team added to Ingersoll Sports Hall of Fame

JEFF TRIBE
Echo Correspondent

Mike Bartram and Wayne Chalkley are becoming permanent fixtures in an arena that has been a second home.

The first two players to skate on the Ingersoll District Memorial Arena ice surface are among the 2026 Ingersoll Sports Hall of Fame inductees, a class also featuring women’s soccer coach David DiIanni, long-time Ingersoll Minor Soccer Association volunteer Rhonda Henhawke, dragon boat racer Landon Pare, baseball, fastball and hockey multi-sport athlete Bob Summers in the individual category,

and Southern Counties Baseball Association and Ontario Baseball Association champion Ingersoll U13 Ironbirds in the team division.

They collectively joined previous inductees through a ceremony inside the arena Sunday, September 27th. The ensemble is a diverse group featuring Canadian Baseball Hall of Fame pitcher Lefty Judd, Hockey Hall of Fame linesman George Hayes, Vanier Cup winner Al Lockhart, international synchronized skater Liz Beemer-McKinnon and professional wrestler Clarence Henhawke among its ranks, along with two harness horses, including world champion pacer



(JEFF TRIBE PHOTO)

The Ingersoll Sports Hall of Fame welcomed six new individuals and one team at this year’s biennial induction ceremony on Sept. 27 inside the Ingersoll District Memorial Arena. The hall of fame committee is comprised of community volunteers and town staff, including (pictured here, left to right): Liz Beemer-McKinnon, chair Dick Huntley, Wayne Chalkley and Councillor Kristy VanKooten Bossence.

and stallion Run The Table. Some have international scope, others very much a community focus. Photos and descriptions of each, along with Ingersoll sports memorabilia, are on display upstairs at the arena.

“It recognizes the athletes, teams and builders in the community,” said Dick Huntley. “It’s local people being recognized by local people.”

Huntley chairs a committee including community volunteers Jay Vyse, Bill Jellous, Chalkley, Beemer-McKinnon, Stephanie Conron of the Ingersoll Cheese & Agricultural Museum, Joe Sym, Manager of Parks and Facilities with the Town of Ingersoll and Councillor Kristy VanKooten Bossence.

“There’s more laughing around this table,” the latter smiled.

The committee’s composition is reflective of the hall’s history, officially opened June 21, 1986, at the cheese museum. Technically, descriptive plaques and memorabilia are the property of the museum, with a portion of the latter on public display.

An effort toward renewal of the hall of fame’s mandate occurred in 2019 supported by a budget and representation from the town. That development brought appreciated presence and support at meetings, aiding the finalization of a plaque for each member, a process complicated by the occasional lack of individual photos, Dick Parker, for example, from earlier years.

“Today, everyone has hockey cards,” said Huntley. “Back then they didn’t have

all that stuff.”

Ultimately, the hall of fame’s permanent display will be housed inside Ingersoll’s new Multi-Use Recreation Centre (MURC), scheduled for completion in 2028.

“All in one place, a final home for it,” said Conron.

Bartram and Chalkley will be accorded a special honour, as well as their hall of fame plaques being moved to the MURC.

“We’re going to make sure they’re the first two to skate when the new arena opens,” smiled Sym.

In the interim, this year’s ceremony has fired up interest, instigating conversation around the process. To be considered, individuals or teams must be nominated through forms available on the www.ingersoll.ca website, sequentially under the ‘Town Hall’ and ‘Boards and Committees’ and then Town of Ingersoll tabs. There is a nomination period and criteria; for example, athletes must have finished their career, answering the frequently posed question: ‘Why Ella Shelton is not a member?’

When the nomination period closes, nominees are discussed, a process including considerably less laughter and more measured debate.

“That meeting’s much more serious,” confirmed VanKooten Bossence.

Those selected are honoured at biennial ceremonies, once every two years.

“It means something to us. It’s a passion,” Huntley concluded. “It’s our own little treasure in my opinion.”

THE CLASS OF 2026
MIKE BARTRAM
He won four ORSA championships with Foldens between 1966 and 70. 1983 Woodstock Fastball Championship, Goderich Baseball Tournament championships in 1982, 92 and 94, ICFL title in 1975. Minor hockey in Ingersoll, Junior C with Marlands and Junior A with St. Thomas Elgins. 1977 OHA Intermediate A championship with the Dorchester Dolphins.
WAYNE CHALKLEY
He played minor hockey in Ingersoll, Norwich Merchants at 16, and captained an OHA Junior D title-winning team in 1969-70. Brantford Majors, Woodstock Navy Vets, Ingersoll Marlands. Coached 22 minor hockey teams at the intermediate, junior and women’s levels. Won four ORSA championships with Foldens.
DAVID DIANNI
Eleven seasons as Grand Valley State University soccer coach, a 221-18-18 record, three NCAA Division II championships, seven final four appearances, national coach of the year three times. University of Iowa Buckeyes all-time winningest soccer coach across 11 seasons, then to the University of Michigan for the 2026 season with 346 wins and a .749 winning percentage overall. Five NCAA tournament appearances, two Big Ten Tournament championships.
RHONDA HENHAWKE
Dedicated 22 years of service to Ingersoll youth soccer as president, vice-president, treasurer, public relations, registrar and fundraising. Helped guide rapid growth of program from 350 to 700 players; her leadership, organization and unwavering commitment were key to the program’s growth in Ingersoll.
LANDON PARE
His hockey career ended as a result of multiple concussions, but Landon picked up a dragon boat paddle. He competed at the 2019 Junior World Dragon Boat Championships in Thailand, bringing home one gold, three silver and four bronze medals.
BOB SUMMERS
Junior Inter-County Baseball with the London Athletics and Woodstock, Canadian Senior Men’s Fastball Championship appearance with Dorchester Pests in 1985, invitation to Montreal Expos All-Canadian tryout camp. OHA Junior D Championship and Sutherland Cup with St. Marys Lincolns; captained Dorchester Dolphins to two Ontario Intermediate B titles. Active as a coach, convenor and official.
2025 U13 INGERSOLL IRONBIRDS
The Ironbirds’ only loss was in the Dorchester Summer Slam. Overall, they compiled a 40-0-1 won-tied-lost record, including Caledonia and Thorold tournament championships and Southern Counties Baseball Association and Ontario Baseball Association provincial titles.

Warriors hold position atop crowded ranks of undefeated TVRA boys volleyball teams

JEFF TRIBE

Echo Correspondent

It is, in fact, not lonely at the top.

But the Woodstock St. Mary’s Warriors junior and senior boys volleyball teams maintained their share of rarefied 4-0 air atop the Thames Valley Regional Athletics Southeast standings with 3-0 match victories on Oct. 15 over the host Woodstock Huron Park Huskies.

“There’s a lot of good teams,” said Warriors setter Matthew Polidori. “But if we play our game, we can beat anyone in this league.”

The statement is backed up by the Warriors’ record so far, including a solid 25-11, 25-21, 25-16 set wins over a Huskies squad rebuilding after a 2025 Western Ontario Secondary Schools Athletic Association AA championship. Two graduating dominant middle hitters from that team have advanced to post-secondary play at Nipissing University (Parker McLeod, reportedly starting) and Fanshawe College (Jaxson Finnie), respectively.

“Teams are good,” said Huron Park’s Connor Harper, a returnee from last year’s squad, noting this year’s middle last played volleyball in Grade 8.

Huskie Rohn Cowan is looking to at least break even in terms of wins and losses this year, setter Cale Pigeau, alluding to preparation as a team focus.

“We’re a bit rough,” he admitted. “But by the end of the year, we’ll make something happen. We always do.”

The Warriors have set their collective sights higher, opening their regular season with four consecutive victories, including a 3-1 win (25-23, 25-20, 23-25, 25-19) over the St. Thomas St. Joe’s Rams.

“We can get a point when we want to,” said Polidori, noting some work needs to be done on the other side of the game.

“Our defence needs to get a little better,” agreed hitter Kiefer Hager.

St. Mary’s will have the opportunity to work on both through its final four games of the regular season, a slate including a much-improved Woodstock College Avenue Knights squad, the 3-1 Woodstock CI



(JEFF TRIBE PHOTO)

St. Mary’s junior Warrior Elijah Allard (left) and Huron Park Huskie Declan Johnson (right) battle at the net.

TVRA SOUTHEAST SENIOR BOYS VOLLEYBALL	
OCT. 15	
INGERSOLL DCI	25, 23, 25, 25
PARKSIDE	23, 25, 21, 21
ST. MARY’S	25, 25, 25
HURON PARK	11, 21, 16
OCT. 15	
AYLMER EAST ELGIN	25, 25, 25
COLLEGE AVENUE	18, 23, 17
OCT. 13	
WOODSTOCK CI	25, 21, 25, 13, 15
COLLEGE AVENUE	13, 25, 22, 25, 13
OCT. 8	
INGERSOLL DCI	25, 25, 25
LORD DORCHESTER	18, 16, 23
HURON PARK	19, 20, 25, 25, 15
TILLSONBURG	25, 25, 12, 23, 13
ST. MARY’S	25, 25, 25
WOODSTOCK ECOLE SECONDAIRE NOTRE DAME	8, 17, 7
OCT. 7	
CENTRAL ELGIN	25, 25, 25
COLLEGE AVENUE	17, 19, 19
EAST ELGIN	3
NOTRE DAME	0
OCT. 6	
INGERSOLL DCI	26, 25, 23, 23, 15
EAST ELGIN	24, 16, 25, 25, 12

Red Devils, whose only loss came in five sets to the 4-0 Ingersoll DCI Blue Bombers (25-21, 25-22, 24-26, 25-23, 15-12) and the 4-0 St. Thomas Central Elgin Titans. The Blue Bombers and Warriors will not meet during the regular season, disappointing in the sense there is a risk, losing, in Polidori’s words, but also a potential reward.

“No risk, no reward,” added Hager. “They’d help us improve. Playing good teams helps you play better.”

The junior Warriors kept pace with their senior counterparts with a similar three-game sweep, capped by a gritty comeback in the third set. Trailing 18-16, St. Mary’s reeled off six consecutive points to take a 22-19 lead. After trading points, the Warriors put the game away on a Jakub Mazurkiewicz offensive set from the middle (23-20), Cristian Da Costa service winner (24-20) and Arjun Belonio left side kill.

“When the game gets tough, it makes it more fun and competitive for us,” said Belonio, admitting a consistent approach throughout a match is an ongoing team priority. When the team gets up, it can lose focus.

“When we get down, that’s when we lock in.”

‘Consistency’ is a goal originating with Warriors coach Denys Reid.

“A good start, obviously,” he said of the team’s 4-0 regular season record. However, compared to some

JUNIOR BOYS	
OCT. 15	
ST. MARY’S	25, 25, 25
HURON PARK	13, 20, 21
INGERSOLL DCI	25, 22, 25, 25, 16
ST. THOMAS PARKSIDE	23, 25, 17, 21, 14
OCT. 13	
WOODSTOCK CI	25, 25, 25
CASS	18, 23, 17
OCT. 8	
GLENDALE	15, 25, 27, 25
HURON PARK	25, 13, 25, 21
INGERSOLL DCI	25, 25, 22, 25
LORD DORCHESTER	21, 16, 25, 15
EAST ELGIN	14, 25, 25, 27
CASS	25, 19, 22, 25
OCT. 7	
CENTRAL ELGIN	25, 16, 25, 25
CASS	11, 25, 13, 17
OCT. 6	
INGERSOLL	25, 25, 25
EAST ELGIN	15, 21, 23
ST. MARY’S	25, 21, 21, 25, 15
ST. JOE’S	11, 25, 25, 22, 5
HURON PARK	25, 31, 25, 17, 15
PARKSIDE	21, 29, 21, 15, 10

years past when there were differing tiers within the TVRA Southeast, he believes there is a higher competitive balance this season.

“We have to bring our best game every night,” Reid said. “It’s whoever wants it more and brings their game.”

The loss dropped the Huskies to 1-3, however, a team with a lot of new players, according to assistant coach Shannon Wakeling, has lots of height, potential and is progressing within collective goals.

“Improve our skills,” said Huron Park’s Sehaj Mann.

“Stay motivated,” added Larson Hauck.

And importantly, interjected Will Jansen, continue to have fun.

“The more fun we have, the better we do.”

Make your vote count - Vote Connie Lauder

ELECT

CONNIE LAUDER

FOR WOODSTOCK CITY COUNCIL

Authorized by Connie Lauder.

John and Thora Harvey Bench Dedication

SHARRON SKEVINGTON

Woodstock Ingersoll Echo

The Woodstock Field Naturalists' Club recently hosted a bench dedication at Herb Milnes' Park in memory of two people who loved life, loved community, loved nature and loved each other very much. After moving to Woodstock in 1953, John and Thora Harvey touched the lives of many people and had a huge impact on them and their community.

Remembered by his students for teaching them to think and ask "why", John taught Science at Woodstock Collegiate Institute, continuing as head of the Science Department until his retirement in 1985. All who knew John recall his wry sense of humour. No matter how serious the topic, John always managed to bring levity into his talks to keep his audience engaged.

Thora established two daycare facilities, one at the YWCA and the other the

Municipal Day Nursery where she taught until her retirement in 1985. In the 1980s, she received the province's highest volunteer recognition award for her efforts to "Save the Jail".

While they excelled at their professional careers, they shone brilliantly as members of their community, involving themselves in numerous organizations such as the Woodstock Field Naturalists' Club, Oxford Art Association, local Architectural Conservation Advisory Committee, Vansittart Area Association, Woodstock Public Library Board, Woodstock Art Gallery, Canadian Club, Oxford Men of the Trees, University Women's Club and Victoria Club. They were active activists often ahead of their time, doing their best to celebrate goodness and realize improvement. They spearheaded efforts to create the Trillium Woods Nature Reserve and the Chesney Conservation Area as well as helping to build sections of the Bruce Trail in the 1960s.



(BERNICE MARSLAND PHOTOS)

A bench in memory of John and Thora Harvey has been installed at Herb Milnes' Park.

Show Your Community Spirit.
Support Local News!

Make this the year you say
yes to joyful living

Experience vibrant independent living with personalized care services at **Chartwell Oxford Gardens**. Enjoy bright suites, chef-prepared meals, on-site medical support, and engaging social and leisure experiences—all in a warm, welcoming small-town community you'll love.

One tour could make all the difference.

Book yours today: chartwell.com/oxfordgardens



CHARTWELL

OXFORD GARDENS
retirement residence

423 Devonshire Avenue, Woodstock | **226-242-0899**

* Offer for new residents who take possession by Dec 31, 2026. Secures 2026 base rent for first 12 months only. Excludes care, service, and other fees. Applies to select suites, subject to availability and not combinable with other offers. Contact Chartwell Sales for details.



**Move in by
December 31st
to secure your
2026 rates!***

SPOTLIGHT ON

WOODSTOCK NAVY VETS



Navy Vets back in the win column with a victory over Nationals: 60th anniversary celebration set for Friday

LEE GRIFFI
Editor

Woodstock broke a three-game losing skid with a 3-1 victory over London in Greater Ontario Hockey League action last Friday at the Reeves Community Centre.

Hudsyn Chaput scored the game-winning goal, his first of the season, at the 11:26 mark of the first period. The Stratford native also picked up an assist on Sebastian Fortin's fifth goal four minutes earlier. Jaxson Bagshaw added his seventh goal of the season, an unassisted marker, early in the third period.

Landyn Quirk stopped 25 of 26 shots for the Navy Vets to lower his goals-against average to a solid 3.19 in six appearances while sporting an .896 save percentage. Quirk was picked seventh overall in the 2026 Ontario Hockey League draft by Guelph.

"I think things are going as we expected," said Woodstock head coach Andy Bathgate. "We knew we were going to have a young team and there would be some trials, but we brought in a bunch of guys we were confident in, and the leadership group has been fantastic in the room policing the younger guys."

He added the team likely deserved better in a few close games against older opponents.

"Maybe some of the experience these other teams have bit us in the butt late in third periods."

Bathgate said it is a big leap to make the jump from U18 or U16 to junior, and it might have been tougher than some of the players initially thought.

"It's more of a job now and when they show up at the rink they have to go to work. We're finding if we don't play 60 minutes, if they take five or

six minutes off, they get bit for it. We've learned some lessons and hopefully we can implement them going forward."

One pleasant surprise in the team's young GOHL season has been forward Evan Giannone, who played AAA in Ajax last season. The undrafted 17-year-old is tied for second in team scoring with 10 points.

"He plays a 200-foot game, engaged all the time and watching video, doing all the things he needs to do to get better," Bathgate explained. "It's showing not only on the ice but in his ice time as well. It's hard for me to keep him off the ice."

He added Woodstock's own Sebastian Fortin, a 16-year-old fifth-round draft pick by North Bay, has been a pleasant surprise on the blueline.

"He's got five goals, but it's not just that, I can rely on him defensively as well. That was the big thing with him. Convincing him that if he wants to get to the next level as a defenceman, points are great, but we also need to trust you in the last two minutes of a close game. If he's worried about offence all the time, he can get into trouble. But he's dialed that back, playing a 200-foot game and has been playing fantastic for us."

The Navy Vets will be kicking off what promises to be an entertaining hockey weekend for the City of Woodstock as it celebrates its 60th anniversary on Friday, Oct. 23

The Woodstock Museum has set up an exhibit of Navy Vets memorabilia celebrating 60 years of the franchise.

The Vets are holding an Open House at the Woodstock Museum on Friday from 2:30 p.m. to 4:30 p.m., where alumni, current players and fans can all view the exhibit and enjoy a meet-and-greet.

Friday night, there will be a special ceremony prior to a game with the Komoka Kings, featuring seven alumni members who played in the first-ever game six decades ago on Oct. 23.

STANDINGS								
20 SEASONS								
WESTERN CONFERENCE	GP	W	L	OTL	SOL	PTS	GF	GA
1 - ST. MARYS LINCOLNS	12	11	1	0	0	22	79	28
2 - CHATHAM MAROONS	12	10	2	0	0	20	58	31
3 - ST. THOMAS STARS	11	9	2	0	0	18	45	23
4 - LISTOWEL CYCLONES	12	6	3	3	0	15	51	40
5 - STRATFORD WARRIORS	10	7	3	0	0	14	40	32
6 - ELMIRA SUGAR KINGS	13	5	7	1	0	11	43	54
7 - LONDON NATIONALS	13	5	7	1	0	11	45	55
8 - WOODSTOCK NAVY VETS	12	5	7	0	0	10	39	50
9 - STRATHROY ROCKETS	13	4	7	1	1	10	56	56
10 - LASALLE VIPERS	11	4	7	0	0	8	29	50
11 - KOMOKA KINGS	13	4	9	0	0	8	39	58
12 - SARNIA LEGIONNAIRES	9	0	9	0	0	0	19	60

GRANT HAVEN MEDIA

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

heather@granthaven.com

St. Marys Independent

The Wilmet-Tavistock Gazette

STRATFORD GUARDIAN

Woodstock Ingersoll Echo

Exeter Examiner

Goderich Sun

Tillsonburg POST

SIMCOE/ADVOCATE

The Paris Independent

NORFOLK FARMS

BRAND FARM

NIAGARA FARMS

226.261.1837

Worship With Us

Old St. Paul's

Anglican Church

723 Dundas St., Woodstock

Sung Holy Eucharist

Sundays at 11:00 am

Rector: The Rev'd Patrick Martin

Historic Old St. Paul's: Celebrating 192 years

CHURCH OF THE EPIPHANY

Anglican Church

560 Dundas St. Woodstock

Worship Services

followed by Coffee Hour

Sunday 8:00 a.m.

Sunday 10:30 a.m.

Wednesday 10:30 a.m.

Saturday 6:00 p.m.

Rev. Richard Hetke

will be offering Communion.

Night market held in Oxford County

Freedom Acres Farm turned into a glowing autumn gathering place as the Annual Fall Night Market in the Forest returned to Ingersoll, drawing families, friends, and visitors for a night of food, creativity, and community connection. Held on Oct. 16 at 194817 19th Line, the event

welcomed guests into a forest setting lit by strings of warm lights suspended between the trees. As dusk settled over the farm, the pathways filled with people exploring vendor booths, enjoying local cuisine, and taking in the crisp fall air. Attendees wandered through rows of lo-

cal artisans, makers, and small businesses, each offering handcrafted goods, seasonal treats, and unique finds. The scent of fresh food drifted through the forest as visitors lined up for warm drinks, comfort dishes, and sweet desserts prepared by local culinary vendors. One of the night's most

popular features was the Comedic Drama Tent, where performers delivered a blend of humour and storytelling that kept audiences laughing throughout the evening. The event remained free and open to the public, encouraging families and individuals of all ages to attend.

(RON YUZARK PHOTOS)



Browsing Tanaka and Taru's table were Eva and Lianna with Ottilic.



Lisa and Paul showcased their items from Unit 1 Home Decore/Bags.

Festival of One Act Plays 6 marks return of Bruce Kane's plays to the stage

EMILY STEWART

Echo Correspondent

Following the fourth Festival of One Act Plays' success, One Act Players (OAP) Community Theatre's next one-act play once again showcases the works of a beloved playwright.

OAP Community Theatre will present Festival of One Act Plays 6 (FOAP 6), featuring Once Upon A Relationship on Nov. 6 and 7 at St. David's United Church. This year's festival will feature seven new short comedies by Bruce Kane.

"It's a great opportunity to come out and support our theatre and be entertained and get a real big slice of theatre from a lot of different advantages," said director Ted McLaughlin. "If you didn't like one play, you're going to love the next one."

Kane's work is always popular with audiences and OAP Community Theatre alike because of the relatability and humour in the plays' subject matter, whether the comedy is meant to teach a lesson or just make people laugh.

"It's any type of situation you can

imagine, and they all sit around relationships, relationships that have gone wrong, relationships that are outside of the norm. It's a really great mix of theatre," said McLaughlin.

The first play on the dock will be Ring Tone, directed by McLaughlin, which will showcase an interaction between actress Karen and Len, a person in a park who just wants a peaceful and quiet moment. Ring Tone was presented at the 10-Minute Play Competition part of the annual Grand River Arts Festival in Glenhurst, Brantford, Ont.

"We didn't win any awards, but it was a great experience for the actors and for me to be involved in that," McLaughlin said.

Kane's Mirror Mirror (dir. Joanna Sweete), Not Who...What (dir. Virginia Moffat), 5 Tables (dir. Aaron Gorlick), Cindy and Julie (dir. Heather Farlow), The Understudy (dir. Karen Trick), and The Wrap Party (dir. Jeff Sweete) will also be part of the sixth edition of the Festival of One Act Plays.

OAP Community Theatre also presented Kane's work at FOAP 4 in 2024, where eight of his plays were featured.

"This is a sequel to that. We had a



(TED MCLAUGHLIN PHOTO)

The Festival of One Act Plays 6 will feature seven Bruce Kane comedies and a total of 22 actors. The festival, titled Once Upon A Relationship, will run on Nov. 6 and 7.

lot of fun doing him then, and they're a lot of fun for the audience," said McLaughlin.

There are 22 actors performing, with about half of them newcomers.

"Even if they're not brand new to the stage, a lot of them are brand new to our group. They may have done something somewhere else, so it's a lot of

new faces, and it's a lot of familiar faces too," McLaughlin said.

The festival will run on Nov. 6 at 7:30 p.m. and Nov. 7 at 2 p.m. and 7:30 p.m.

Tickets are \$20 each and can either be purchased at Carman's Foto Source at the Springbank Plaza in Woodstock or online via www.oapcommunitytheatre.com.

*Missed an issue? View all past issues online
anytime: theecho.ca*

ROUTE TO THE PAST

HISTORY

Which Witch, Doctor?

SCOTT GILLIES

Echo Contributor

Last month I was honoured to be the first presenter at the Beachville Historical Society Fall Series of guest speakers. This month's presentation by Oxford County Archivist Liz Dommasch on the subject of haunts, hangings and Hallowe'en has sparked some thoughts for this week's column.

One of the first permanent white settlers in this part of the province was John Troyer who established a home, grist mill and blacksmith shop along the shores of Lake Erie, just outside of present-day Port Rowan.

According to the Dictionary of Canadian Biography, Troyer was born in Somerset County, Pennsylvania in 1753. Of German Swiss ancestry he was a 'Tunker', a member of the Brethren in Christ pacifist sect that had been forced to leave the United States following the American Revolution. A similar group was known as 'Dunkards'. Their journey to Upper Canada is depicted by the exquisitely carved work of art by the late Wilson Johnston, "Pathway of the Giants", on display at the Ingersoll Museum.

In spite of his being a conscientious objector to military service, John Troyer was recognized as a crack shot, who owned several muskets and rifles which he used for hunting and protection from wild animals.

Troyer settled on a small parcel of land overlooking Long Point Bay around 1790 and here he raised his family and welcomed other settlers to the area including Captain Samuel Ryerse and Fred Mabee. He is credited with planting the first orchard of fruit trees in the district.

Considered one of the most colourful characters who ever lived, John was also known as Dr. Troyer, the so-called 'witch doctor of Long Point'.

In reading this, you might be tempted to think that Troyer was not just a

crack shot, but a crack pot!

The origin of his sobriquet was his belief in witchcraft; not that he practiced it, but that he had been subjected to several different encounters with purveyors and practitioners of "black magic"!

One of the other later settlers to the area was the McMichael family and apparently the Mrs. would take great delight in teasing the poor doctor. She would suddenly confront him from behind bushes and take great delight in his stammering and stuttering.

Another time, Troyer related a story of woe when he was awakened from his slumbers by some witches who then transfigured him into a horse and flew him across the lake to attend a riotous coven dance. They tied him to a post, fed him rye straw, and forced him to watch their writhing and cavorting before returning him to his humble cabin. It apparently took several days to recover from the high fibre diet he had been force-fed!

To ward himself from future molestation, he chained a large witch trap to the floor next to his bed. For years, this same trap could be seen on display at the Eva Brook Donly Museum in Simcoe.

While his hunting and shooting skills brought him some local notoriety, it was his skill as a doctor which meant more to his neighbours.

By 1817 it has been documented that there were only six licensed doctors in the entire district. For the most part, people tended to their own injuries, but when their ills were beyond their skills, they would often visit John Troyer and find relief from one of his many herbal remedies. He was also familiar with the then popular fashion of bloodletting.

Amelia Ryerse, daughter of Sam and future bride of John Harris of London's Eldon House fame, wrote in her diary that Troyer was "a fine looking old man with a long flowing beard"

who could find water or precious metals underground by the use of the divining rod.

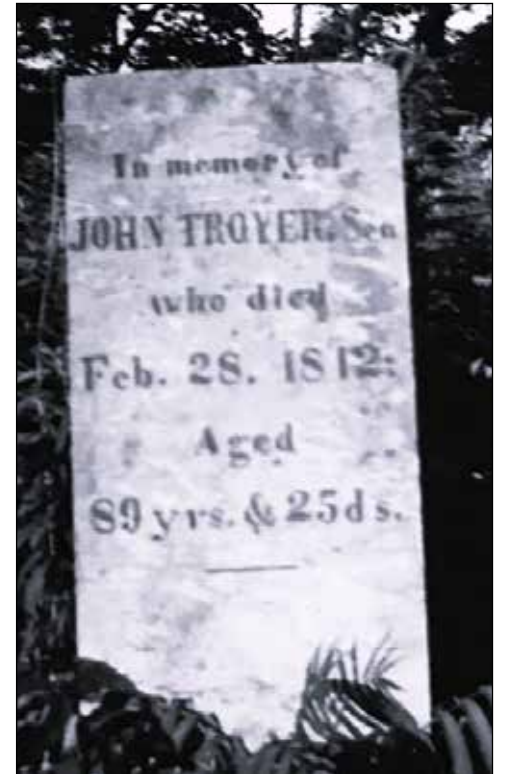
Dowsing for water is an old art which is still practiced by some people. Dowsing for treasure is another matter. One story is told about Dr. Troyer and his son Michael who were out on Long Point looking for buried treasure, supposedly left there years before by a fur trader.

The trader was said to have buried a chest of gold and other trinkets, along with a dead dog to protect it. Michael was digging while his father held a Bible and a candle to provide light. (Of course they were digging at midnight!) Just as Michael hit something solid, like a treasure chest, out popped a huge black dog which chased them back to their boat and safety on the water! They never returned.

But the most famous of all stories about our witch doctor is connected to the hauntings at Baldoon, a small settlement in western Ontario.

Established in 1804, this community of Scots had no end of difficulties and dangers, turmoil and bad luck. The area was quite marshy, and several died from malaria. During the War of 1812, their homes were looted and ransacked by invading American armies and militia men, but these all pale in comparison to the otherworldly events effecting the home of John McDonald between 1829 and 1831.

In "Mysterious Canada", John Robert Colombo describes the Baldoon mystery as the "most celebrated of Upper Canada's hauntings". There are various versions of what took place at the farmhouse of John McDonald, but all agree that something very strange was happening. Stones would rain down on the house; sometimes musket balls were shot at the walls. Water dripped from the ceiling on dry days. Fires erupted suddenly. Barns would burn. A cast iron kettle flew off the fireplace crane and danced around



(CONTRIBUTED IMAGE)

Gravestone of John Troyer.

the room. The sound of marching feet could be heard indoors in the middle of the night.

The situation became so unbearable that local clergymen of all denominations were brought in to try to exorcise the demon. When all attempts failed, they turned in desperation to Dr. John Troyer.

Troyer, and/or his granddaughter (both appear in different versions of the story) were consulted. Through the use of a moonstone, they determined that the cause of the problems was a witch who had turned herself into a goose. The Scotsman was advised to return home and fashion a silver bullet out of one of his prized spoons, and with it to shoot the fearsome fowl. Upon doing so, the wounded goose fled, but when upon further investigation they found one of the neighbourhood women nursing a broken arm! The weird antics at old McDonalds farm came to an end.

route2thepast@gmail.com

theecho.ca

Weekend Quiz

By Jake Grant

1. Leonardo da Vinci's "Mona Lisa" hangs in what museum?
2. What is the only food that can never go bad?
3. Nearly all fossils are preserved in what type of rock?
4. What is the fifth sign of the Zodiac?
5. Who is Barbie's little sister?
6. Which month of the year is National Ice Cream Month?
7. The first iPhone was released in what year?
8. Whitney Houston went to the top of the music charts in 1992 with which Dolly Parton song?
9. What is the name of Elvis Presley's Memphis home?
10. Who wrote "To Kill a Mockingbird"?

This week's answers are found on pg. 31

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

Contact Lisa Roberts

Marketing Media Specialist

lisa@granthaven.com | 416.455.4687

GRANT
HAVEN
MEDIA

.....



Riddles

I welcome the day with a show of light, I stealthily came here in the night. I bathe the earthy stuff at dawn, but by noon, alas! I'm gone.

The morning dew.

What goes through cities and fields, but never moves?

A road.

When it is alive we sing, when it is dead we clap our hands. What is it?

A birthday candle.

What can go through glass without breaking it?

Light.

I have no life, but I can die. What am I?

A battery.

What kind of room has no walls, door or windows?

A mushroom.

It belongs to you, but your friends use it more. What is it?

Your name.

Sudoku

by PeterS 2026

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

Solution found on page 31

Featured Pet



HAPPY BIRTHDAY
ROLO

Nominate your pet to be a Featured Pet by emailing info@theecho.ca

Word Search

FALL EVENINGS

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

ACORN

AMBER

AUTUMN

BONFIRE

BREEZE

CHILLY

CIDER

CINNAMON

COZY

CRISP

EQUINOX

FLANNEL

FOLIAGE

FROSTY

GOLDEN

HARVEST

HAYRIDE

LEAVES

NUTMEG

PUMPKIN

SCARLET

SWEATER

TWILIGHT

VIBRANT

MP Khanna teams up with Batman, Police and Firefighters to promote good citizenship and school safety

Conservative MP Arpan Khanna teamed up with Batman, Woodstock Police Service, the Ontario Provincial Police and Woodstock Fire Department to visit three elementary schools across Oxford County recently, encouraging students to be good citizens, stand up against bullying and make safe choices.

Through discussions with students, the group highlighted the importance of respect, kindness and the role individuals play in creating safer, stronger communities.

“Being a good citizen starts at a young age. It means treating others with kindness, standing up against bullying, and looking out for the people around us,” said Khanna.

“It was great to see the students engaged and excited to learn, especially with Batman joining us! I’m grateful to our local police, OPP members, and firefighters for the work they do every day to keep our communities safe.”

The visits also allowed students to connect with the first responders who serve their communities and learn more about their roles in protecting the public.



(CONTRIBUTED PHOTOS)

Conservative MP Arpan Khanna teamed up with Batman, the Woodstock Police Service, the Ontario Provincial Police and the Woodstock Fire Department. They visited Turtle Island, Harrisfield and St. Michael’s Public Schools.

Khanna thanked the participating schools, educators, police officers, OPP members and firefighters for helping make the visits a success.

“Strong communities start with engaged, respectful, and responsible young people. By teaching our children about kindness, respect, and safety, we are helping build a better future for Oxford County.”

MOVING INGERSOLL FORWARD, TOGETHER



RE-ELECT
BRIAN PETRIE
MAYOR OF
INGERSOLL

“BY HAVING A PLAN AND WORKING TOGETHER, WE CREATE THE INGERSOLL WE ALL WANT TO CALL HOME. RESULTS ARE WHAT I AM OFFERING AS YOUR MAYOR”

- DELIVERED ECONOMIC GROWTH AND HISTORIC INDUSTRIAL INVESTMENT BY COLLABORATING WITH OUR BUSINESS COMMUNITY, LARGE AND SMALL!
- DELIVERED REAL MEASURABLE RESULTS ON EVERY COMMUNITY PRIORITY IDENTIFIED IN THE TOWN’S STRATEGIC PLAN!
- DELIVERED ON THE PRIORITY TO GET THE MULTI-USE RECREATION COMPLEX UNDER CONSTRUCTION!
- DELIVERED THE LOWEST AVERAGE TAX RATE INCREASE IN ALL OF OXFORD COUNTY DURING THIS TERM!

TO LEARN MORE ABOUT MY CAMPAIGN AND HOW YOU CAN SHOW SUPPORT, USE THE QR CODE OR GO TO

Brianpetrieformayor.com

AND FOLLOW ALONG ON  FACEBOOK AND  INSTAGRAM

 TikTok: @brianpetrieformayor

Authorized by the Brian Petrie for Ingersoll Mayor campaign.

TheHeartofOxford.ca

SHOP, EAT AND EXPERIENCE OXFORD COUNTY BUSINESSES!

@TheHeartOfOxford



Scan to purchase your ticket

SATURDAY NOVEMBER 7th
10.00am-7.00pm | Oxford Auditorium

Enjoy live music, delicious food, and shop a wide selection of local brands all under one roof. It’s the perfect place to start your holiday shopping. Let’s support our local businesses this season!

The Heart of Oxford Experience is sponsored by Community Futures Oxford



COMING EVENTS

OCTOBER

OCTOBER 24 | 10 AM - 3 PM

OXFORD PHILATELIC SOCIETY CIRCUIT BOOK (STAMP) FAIR

Church of the Epiphany, 560 Dundas Street, Woodstock Ontario N4S 1C7

Free Admission & Parking. Stop in and buy some stamps and meet fellow stamp collectors. About 8 participating stamp clubs. Contact: dheaton3e3@gmail.com. Website: <http://www.rpsc.org/chapters/oxford>

OCTOBER 27 | 1 PM

SACRED HEART PARISH EUCHRE

Henderson Hall, 133 John Street Ingersoll

We invite everyone to join us for a Euchre afternoon. Refreshments provided.

OCTOBER 27 | 2 - 4 PM

190TH ANNIVERSARY CELEBRATIONS ST. JOHN'S ANGLICAN CHURCH EASTWOOD FALL TEA

685860 Oxford Rd2(Hwy2), Eastwood, On N4S 7V9

Tea and confections, baked goods, books and community. Featuring music by Denise.

OCTOBER 27 | 7:30 PM

INGERSOLL AND DISTRICT HORTICULTURAL SOCIETY

SPEAKER: RICHARD POORTINGA "BEAUTY, THE LANGUAGE OF PLANTS & FLOWERS"

Ingersoll Seniors Centre, 25 Ingersoll St. S.

Everyone is welcome -- No charge.

OCTOBER 28 | 7 PM

OXFORD HISTORICAL SOCIETY

MAJOR JOHN NORTON, TEYONINHOKARAWEN

Chartwell Oxford Gardens 433 Devonshire Ave. (Main Entrance)

Born in Scotland 1770 to a Cherokee father and Scottish mother, military leader, politician, linguist, First Nations advocate and literary historian. He was given the title Captain of the Confederate Indians after aiding in the recapturing of Queenston Heights in 1812. Come join Angus Sutherland as he recounts the remarkable life and times of John Norton. Free Event, No Registration, Parking, Donations Welcome! www.oxfordhistoricalsociety.ca or email us at info@oxhs.ca

NOVEMBER

NOVEMBER 7 | 11 AM - 2 PM

TREATS AND TREASURES BAZAAR

Old St Paul's Church, 723 Dundas St, Woodstock

Don't miss our famous bake table and the book and puzzle sale. Then drop by the frozen food table (featuring homemade soups and meat pies) and the "This and That" table (file it under Treasures). Rest your weary feet at our Cafe and enjoy a beverage and a sweet treat. See you there!

NOVEMBER 7 | 10 AM - 2 PM

FRIENDS OF THE WOODSTOCK PUBLIC LIBRARY BOOK SALE

Woodstock Public Library

Email: fotwpl@gmail.com, Website: <https://www.facebook.com/share/19atYxUuvB/>

NOVEMBER 10 | 7 PM

MAJOR GENERAL BROCK AND CHIEF TECUMSEH ON FRIENDSHIP IN THE WAR OF 1812

Beachville District Museum

The Beachville District Historical Society welcomes Bob Rennie as Major General Brock. Join us at the Beachville District Museum for an evening of history with lunch to follow. All are welcome.

NOVEMBER 10 & 24 | 1 PM

SACRED HEART PARISH EUCHRE

Henderson Hall, 133 John Street Ingersoll

We invite everyone to join us for a Euchre afternoon. Refreshments provided.

NOVEMBER 14 | DOORS OPEN 10 AM, DRAWS AT 2 PM CHRISTMAS BAZAAR

Holy Trinity Church, 1420 Devonshire Ave, Woodstock

Penny Sale, Raffle, Baking, Crafts, Silent Auction, Yesterday's Treasures, Religious Goods and our Christmas Cafe.

NOVEMBER 15 | 2 - 4 PM

DAN DOUCETTE, NIAGARA FALLS, ON;

HIDDEN GEMS OF WEST AFRICA

Richards Memorial Church, 360 Edgeworth Avenue, London, ON

The London Orchid Society meets the third Sunday of each month. Join us for Dan Doucette from Niagara, ON. His presentation is on the Hidden Gems of West Africa, Wildlife, History and Landscapes of Sierra Leone and Mauritania. Everyone is welcome to attend the meeting for more information at www.londonorchidsociety.com; contact Daryl at 519-666-2927.

NOVEMBER 21 | 11 AM - 2:30 PM

FAMILY FUN DAY

Emmanuel Reformed Church, 170 Clarke St.

Woodstock, ON

Penny Sale - Silent Auction - Bake Sale - Games for all Ages - Delicious Soup - Chili - Hot Dogs - Buns - Yummy Desserts - Drinks. FREE ADMISSION - EVERYONE WELCOME.

NOVEMBER 25 | 7 PM

OXFORD HISTORICAL SOCIETY

FLIGHT LIEUTENANT OLIVER BROCK

ROBERTSON, DFC

Chartwell Oxford Gardens 433 Devonshire Ave. (Main Entrance)

Born in Innerkip and raised in Norwich, Flt. Lt. Robertson and his crew flew 28 missions as part of the 97th Squadron ("The Pathfinders") of RAF Bomber Command in WW2. Come join Bob Van Wyk as he recounts the history of O.B. Robertson, his brave crew and their heroic missions in honour of their memories and service on Remembrance Day and everyday. Free Event, No Registration, Parking, Donations Welcome! www.oxfordhistoricalsociety.ca or email us at info@oxhs.ca

DECEMBER

DECEMBER 5 | 1 - 4 PM

CEDARVIEW RETIREMENT HOME ANNUAL CHRISTMAS BAZAAR

511 Finkle Street, Woodstock

Free Event.

INNERKIP QUILTERS' ANNUAL SALE

FREE ADMISSION

Innerkip Masonic Centre - 70 Blandford St., Innerkip

Friday Nov. 6th, 2026 5 pm – 8 pm

Saturday Nov. 9th, 2026 9 am – 2 pm

White Elephant Table, Bake Sale & Christmas Cake
Local Vendors with Unique Items



CHRISTMAS QUILT DRAW

December 10, 2026

Proceeds Support Innerkip
Masonic Programs & other
needs in Our Local Community

ONGOING CLASSES, CLUBS & ORGANIZATIONS

SECOND THURSDAY OF EVERY MONTH (SEPTEMBER THROUGH JUNE) | 7 PM

JOIN THE WOODSTOCK COIN CLUB!

Friendship Room at St. David's United Church

190 Springbank Ave, Woodstock, ON

Are you looking to make sense of your collection? Want to meet local folks who truly know your worth? Whether you are a seasoned numismatist or just found an old jar of coins, we want to meet you. Come trade stories, share your treasures, and talk shop with fellow collectors. WEBSITE: woodstockcoinclub.ca, EMAIL: woodstockcoinclub1957@gmail.com, FACEBOOK: Search "Woodstock Coin Club"

WOODSTOCK SEA CADETS AND NAVY LEAGUE CADETS ARE FREE PROGRAMS

New Address: The Oxford School, 595459 Hwy. 59, Woodstock, ON N4S 7W1. 519-539-2111

SEA CADETS:

12 – 18 years Tuesdays 6:30 – 9:00 pm

Contact: 153sea@cadets.gc.ca

NAVY LEAGUE CADETS:

9 – 12 years Wednesdays 6:30 – 9:00 pm

Contact: nlccunicorn@navyleagueon.ca

EVERY 3RD THURSDAY | 5 - 7 PM

ARTISTS OPEN MIC | POETRY, PROSE, MUSIC & MORE

Blueink Bookstore & Cafe, 491 Dundas Street, Woodstock, ON

www.blueinkbookstore.com. Go to "Events" Tab for information and to register

EVERY OTHER FRIDAY | 1 - 4 PM

BE FALL-ISH AND COME TO THE INGERSOLL COUNTRY MUSIC JAMBOREE

Masonic Hall, 190 Thames St. S. Ingersoll

Join us, walk ins welcome. Qualifications - love 50-70's country music. Perform, listen, dance & enjoy! September 4 & 18, October 2, 16 & 30, November 6 & 20, and December 4.

3RD TUE. OF MONTH | 6:30 - 8:30 PM

CAREGIVER CONNECTION

Revel Realty Woodstock, 111 Huron Street (Virtual/hybrid options available)

Are you worried about your child or youth? Parents and Caregivers for Mental Health (PCMH) is here to listen, support, and walk alongside you on this journey. Our free Caregiver Connection peer support groups offer parents and caregivers a community of support. Can't make it in person? Join one of our virtual or hybrid groups! Visit family.cmho.org or email oxfordcounty@pcmh.ca for more information.

EVERY FRIDAY | 1 PM

TILLSONBURG DUPLICATE BRIDGE CLUB

Tillsonbur Senior Centre, 45 Hardy Ave, Tillsonburg

Don't have a partner? Come anyway and we will match you up with someone. For more information, visit their Facebook page: TburgBridge.

2ND TUES. OF MONTH (SEPT. TO MAY) | 2 - 4 PM

4TH TUES. OF MONTH (SEPT. TO MAY) | 7 - 9 PM

OXFORD PHILATELIC SOCIETY

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>

LAST TUESDAY OF EVERY MONTH | 10 AM - 12 PM

MONTHLY VON BLOOD PRESSURE CLINIC

Ingersoll Pharmasave, 19 King St. E., Ingersoll

Last Tuesday of every Month.

COMING EVENTS

3RD WED. OF MONTH | 6:30 - 8:30 PM PEER SUPPORT GROUP FOR PARENTS & CAREGIVERS

21 Wellington St., Woodstock
(Virtual options available)

PCMH is a peer support program providing support to parents and caregivers across Ontario with lived experience raising children and youth with mental health challenges. For more information, please visit family.cmh.o.org or oxfordcounty@pcmh.ca. We are also on Facebook: Parents for Children's Mental Health ~ Oxford County

VON OXFORD SUPPORTIVE CARE PROGRAMS

Navigating any form of grief can feel overwhelming; however, with the right support, guidance, and education, individuals can discover a pathway to healing.

VON Oxford Supportive Care Programs offer assistance for grief stemming from various circumstances, such as the death of someone, caregiving, serious illness diagnoses, and life transitions. Through education, connection, and compassion, our programs create a safe space for individuals to explore their emotions and learn effective coping mechanisms during the grieving process.

Contact us today to learn more about VON Oxford Supportive Care Programs. Email: oxford.griefsupport@von.ca, Phone: 1-888-866-7518. All Programs are Free-of-charge.

OXFORD COUNTY DIABETES EDUCATION PROGRAM

Are you looking for support with your Diabetes? Our Team of Registered Nurses, Registered Dietitians and a Social Worker is here to support YOUR goals. We can help with medication adjustments, lifestyle and diet changes, stress management,

weight reduction strategies and more. Appointments are available at Alexandra Hospital Ingersoll and Tillsonburg District Memorial Hospital and by phone. **SELF REFERRALS ARE WELCOME.** Please call 519-485-9611 to book an appointment. Let's work together!

THE OPTIMIST CLUB OF OXFORD COUNTY

The Optimists bring out the best in Youth, Community, and Themselves. If anyone is interested in coming out to meet us and learn more about us please email brenda7621@outlook.com

THE LIONS CLUB OF WOODSTOCK

The Lions Club of Woodstock has been serving the community and Oxford County with kindness and generosity since 1931. The Lions always place the needs of neighbours and communities first. Through the dedication and hard work of our volunteer members, we are serving those in need together. If you are interested in becoming a member or simply wish to learn more by attending one of our monthly meetings, please email Steve Iorio at steveiorio4@gmail.com for more information.

OXFORD COUNTY BRANCH OF ONTARIO ANCESTORS

Are you interested in your family history? Oxford Branch has an extensive collection of family history and genealogical resources that can help you. Come visit our Resource Centre at 82 Light Street, Courthouse Square, Woodstock. We are open Tuesdays to Thursdays 10:00 am to 4:00 pm

Volunteers are ready to help you get started or help you research for missing information. You can also connect with us on the web at <https://oxford.ogs.on.ca>. We are dedicated to supporting and promoting genealogical research in Oxford County. Hope to see you!

BEACHVILLE LEGION EVENTS: 434852 ZorraLine, Beachville

WEDNESDAYS | 7-8 PM
GENTLE CHAIR YOGA

WEDNESDAYS | 7:30 PM
HUMP DAY DARTS, FREE POOL

THURSDAYS | 7 PM
EUCHRE

FRIDAYS | 8 PM
DARTS (REGISTRATION AT 7. PLAY AT 7:30), FREE POOL

THURSDAYS | 7 PM
LINE DANCING

Salsa and West Coast Swing 8:15. No partner required.

SATURDAYS | 1 - 4 PM
THAMES VALLEY BLUEGRASS AND OLD TIME COUNTRY PICKERS
Open Mic (acoustic only). Come enjoy the music!

OCTOBER 28 | 4:30 - 6 PM
OX ON THE RUN MOBILE LIBRARY

OCTOBER 24 | 8 PM - MIDNIGHT
HALLOWE'EN PUB DANCE WITH 50/60S BROTHERS
\$5 Wear your costume

OCTOBER 31 | 8 PM - MIDNIGHT
HALLOWE'EN KARAOKE
Wear your costume

NOVEMBER 14 | DOORS OPEN 7 PM SHOW STARTS 8 PM
MUDMEN
\$30 tickets 519-423-6363. www.ticketscene.ca and at door.

ROYAL CANADIAN LEGION BRANCH 55 EVENTS: 642 Dundas St, Woodstock, ON

MONDAYS
CADETS

TUES, WED, THU & FRI
DART LEAGUE

THURSDAYS | 1:30 PM
SHUFFLEBOARD

SATURDAYS | 7 - 11 PM
EVENING ENTERTAINMENT:
OCTOBER 24 - JEFF DAWDY
OCTOBER 31 - DJ KELLY

ENDS OCTOBER 25
RUMMAGE SALE

OCTOBER 24 - NOVEMBER 10
ANNUAL POPPY CAMPAIGN
We are in need of volunteers.

OCTOBER 31
HALLOWEEN THEMED DANCE
We are having a Halloween Themed Dance best dressed, October 31st come on down and get your tickets before their all gone tickets with pizza that night. For more info email at rlbranch55@rogers.com.

DECEMBER 6 | 9 - 11:30 AM
ANNUAL SANTA BREAKFAST



like
& follow

ALISON
WILLSEY

Real Estate Broker

REALTOR® since 2005



Direct : 519-275-4900
Office : 519-747-0231

WELCOME HOME



Sweaburg-South-West Oxford OPEN HOUSE SAT. OCT. 24TH 1-3 PM 0.37-acre lot MLS#40866959 & X13855018 \$917,900.00 11 Millard St.	Blandford-Blenheim-Washington 0.60-acre lot MLS#40841794 & X13883796 \$700,000.00 47 Washington St. E.
East-Zorra Tavistock-I-2 Zoning MLS#440848351 & X13683054 \$575,000 676241 16TH Line	Tavistock, Oxford County OPEN HOUSE SAT. OCT. 24TH 1-3 PM MLS#40868401 & X14004082 \$714,900.00 23 Jacob St. W.

willseyalison@gmail.com

www.willseyrealestate.com

www.peakrealtyltd.com

WORKING TO SERVE YOU IN WATERLOO REGION, PERTH AND OXFORD COUNTIES!

ITOPA's 'Barefoot in the Park' kicks off 50th season with tribute to first-ever production

EMILY STEWART

Echo Correspondent

The Ingersoll Theatre of Performing Arts (ITOPA) will begin its 50th season in November with Neil Simon's *Barefoot in the Park*, the very first ITOPA production half a century ago.

Running from Nov. 6 to 15, the play centers on two newlyweds, Corie and Paul, whose relationship is tested in the honeymoon stage with plenty of friction amid Corie's

free spirit and Paul's practical attitude. The couple will experience lots of antics as they try to settle into married life in their cramped apartment suite.

"It's our 50th anniversary, and this was the first show that they did 50 years ago, so we're paying homage to those that back in the day started ITOPA," said director Rebecca McNall. We have some new actors on the stage, some nice fresh young actors who have never been in a show before, so that's

fun."

She also called it "surreal" when asked how it felt to revive the first ITOPA production to kick off the 50th season.

"You think of all the people that came before us at ITOPA and all the things they did back then and how the technology has changed and how the theatre itself has changed over the 50 years; It's a pretty amazing feeling," she said.

McNall is also proud that ITOPA has run for



(Left to right) Harmony Jekinsjan as Corie and Marius Klein as Paul. (EMILY STEWART PHOTO)



UNIFOR LOCAL 636

RETIREE'S CHRISTMAS DINNER NOVEMBER 27, 2026 **\$20**/person

SOCIAL: 4:00 pm DINNER: 5:00 pm

CATERED BY LOCAL 636 EXECUTIVE BOARD

Limited Tickets available at

Unifor Local 636 Office

Mon-Thurs 9am-4pm Fri 9am-3pm

tables of TEN (10) CASHBAR

(purchase before Nov 20th at noon)

half a century.

"It's a pretty remarkable feat for a non-profit theatre from a small town, so we're really, really proud of what we've done and all those that came before us that put in the work," McNall said.

The 2026 production of *Barefoot in the Park* takes place in 1976 and will feature items, fashion, and mannerisms of the time period throughout the show.

"It's been a learning experience because the two leads of the show are very young and they have no idea how to use a rotary

phone and there's so many other things that they have never had experience with their hands and all of a sudden, we're throwing all of this stuff at them, and we actually have to teach them how to use a rotary phone and all this stuff," McNall said. "It's been so amazing and cool."

Matinees on Nov. 8, 14, and 15 start at 2 p.m. and evening shows start at 7:30 with doors opening an hour prior. Tickets are \$20 each, \$10 for Thursdays and can be purchased online via www.itopa.ca or by calling 519-485-3070.

Echo



COUNTRY MILLS
FEED & FARM STORE

EVERYTHING RURAL

— in one convenient stop! —

PRODUCTS YOU NEED. SERVICE YOU TRUST.





ANIMAL CARE



PET SUPPLIES



LAWN & GARDEN



FARM ESSENTIALS



ANIMAL FEED



FOOD & MORE

QUALITY PRODUCTS FOR FARM, HOME & FAMILY

VISIT US TODAY! AYLMEER • BURFORD • INGERSOLL • NORWICH • THORNDALE

BUSINESS DIRECTORY

PLUMBING



Plumbing, Heating & Excavating Inc.
Princeton, ON
Water Treatment | Wells & Pumps | Septic Services | Bin Rentals | Directional Drilling
Now Offering Full Electrical Services
519-458-4488 | info@hunterplumbing.ca | www.hunterplumbing.ca



Visit us online at
theecho.ca

CLASSIFIEDS

TREES

For Sale: Shade Trees; Maples, Oaks, Birch, Beech, Honey Locusts, Elms, Magnolia, Hydrangea Tree, Tulip Tree, Crab apples, Ivory Silk Lilac, Chanticleer Pear, Golden Weeping Willows and more. Apples, Pears, Peaches, Plums, Apricots, Nectarine, Blueberry, Haskap etc. Lots of healthy strong Spruce, Cedars and White Pine for your privacy hedges and windbreaks. Hundred of flowering shrubs.

Reg Hours 7am- 6pm Mon-Sat at Martins Nursery c/o Emanuel Martin. 42661 Orangehill Rd., Wroxeter, ON

COW AUCTION



Herd Dispersal Live Auction Sale of 135 Bred Cows/Heifers Saturday November 21, 11:00am

to be held at 554447 Mono-Amaranth TLine, Mono, ON
Preview on day of sale, or by appointment

Directions: Go west through Orangeville on Hwy 9 to County Rd 16 (Veterans Way at Greenwood Cemetery), turn north 5 miles to farm on East side. OR From Shelburne go east on Hwy 89 for 2 miles to Mono-Amaranth Townline, turn south & go 5 miles to farm on East side. Townline, turn south & go 5 miles to farm on East side.

Cattle: (79) Heifers: (18) Char, (17) Blk Simm, (33) Angus, (11) Red -1st time calvers, bred Angus & Limo, vacc. (18) X-bred Heifers - bred Black Angus, vacc. (17) Angus Heifers - bred Black Angus. (10) Blk Angus cows - all bred Black Angus, vacc. (8) Charolais Cows - bred Charolais, vacc. (3) Mixed Cows - with calf at side, vacc.
All Cows will be preg checked prior to sale.

Lunch Booth

Washroom Available

Terms & Conditions: Cash or cheque with proper I.D. on day of sale. Owner & Auctioneer will not be responsible for any accidents or loss on day of sale. All announcements on day of sale will take precedence over printed ads.

Auctioneers: Kevin McArthur (519) 942-0264

Scott Bessey (519) 843-5083

Email: mcarthurbessey@gmail.com

www.theauctionadvertiser.com/KMcArthur

- full listing & photos

OBITUARY

DONNA FERREIRA



Donna J. Ferreira (nee Patchell), 76, of Embro, Ontario, died peacefully at Woodstock Hospital on October 10th, 2026. She was born on September 28th, 1950 in Toronto to Enid May (d. 1994) and Harold Patchell (d. 1963), and 2nd dad Hugh Donnelly (d. 2002). She is survived by her husband Eliseu Ferreira; siblings Gail (John) Ozols; Vanetta Donnelly, and preceded

in death by siblings Sandra Wallace (Ray), Danny Donnelly, and Bob Donnelly. Nieces, nephews, cousins and countless friends will miss her. Donna has requested that there is no service, and that no flowers and no donations should be made. Wareing Cremation Services, Woodstock entrusted with Final Arrangements.

info@theecho.ca

Woodstock Ingersoll Echo

Follow Us Online:

 **@WI_Echo**
 **Grant Haven Media**
 **theecho.ca**



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

LOCAL MATTERS.



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



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



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

Neither do we!

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

News Media Canada
Médias d'Info Canada

CANADA'S NEWS MEDIA
CHAMPION
THE TRUTH.

QUIZ ANSWERS

1. The Louvre Museum in Paris.
2. Honey.
3. Sedimentary.
4. Leo.
5. Skipper.
6. July.
7. 2007.
8. "I will always love you"
9. Graceland.
10. Harper Lee.

SUDOKU SOLUTION

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

SHOP LOCAL. SAVE LOCAL

Support the local businesses that keep your community and its newspapers thriving.

ADVERTISE
LOCAL

News Media Canada
Médias d'Info Canada

The Royal[®]

AGRICULTURAL WINTER FAIR

THE COUNTRY COMES TO THE CITY

WHERE LITTLE HANDS MEET NEW FARM FRIENDS



SCAN THE QR CODE
TO BUY TICKETS NOW

NOVEMBER 6-15, 2026
EXHIBITION PLACE, TORONTO

