

Tillsonburg POST

JULY 30, 2026

VOLUME 2 • ISSUE 43

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Annandale-area residents frown on development idea

JEFF HELSDON

Editor

Area residents were against a proposal to move the Concession Street East baseball diamonds to a new town property on Mall Road, and build a residential development where the diamonds were to fund the new sports fields.

A public information session was held on July 23 to share plans for the area, commonly referred to as the Annandale diamonds, and explain the concept for the new sports facility on Mall Road. This was the first of three meetings, with others planned for Aug. 13 and Sept. 8. During an emotion-charged meeting, opposition was centered on the new development proposal, not the new diamonds being built.

About 30 people crowded into the room to hear Tillsonburg Development Director Cephas Panschow explain the proposal. Called Project Big Swing, it will involve building four new baseball diamonds on a town-owned piece of property in Norfolk County behind the cemetery. While the current proposal is building the four lit diamonds, there is future potential to create more soccer or baseball fields and expand the cemetery.

With the baseball diamonds moved, the plan is to build a residential development in the space that includes walking trails and a high percentage of green space. The development would be a mix of apartment and townhouse-type units.

The first question from the audience was about the timing of the development, which Panschow said would be a few years down the road.

Mike Bossy questioned the original donation of the land for the baseball diamonds from the original subdivision developers.

Panschow said the parkland dedication was part of the development requirement.

CONTINUED TO PAGE 2



T-RIFIC SHOWING OF ANTIQUE CARS

(JEFF HELSDON PHOTO)

The driver of this Model T Roadster stops to ask where to park at the Tillsonburg Airport as members of the Model T Ford Club International visited Tillsonburg as part of their annual tour, which took place in London this year. The group visited Tillsonburg last Wednesday. See more photos on Page 10.

Study to look at Livingston Centre expansion feasibility

JEFF HELSDON

Editor

A study is examining the possibility of expanding Tillsonburg's Livingston Centre.

Located at 96 Tillson Ave, the facility is home to the Tillsonburg Multi-Service Centre and Community Living Tillsonburg, which co-own and manage the facility. It is also home to Service Canada, Big Brothers Big Sisters of Oxford,

Canadian Mental Health Association, Stonebridge Community Services, the Tillsonburg Children Centre daycare, and other services.

When the Livingston Centre opened in 1998, it was attached to former Tillson Ave Public School. It was a hub for the people of Tillsonburg, Oxford, Norfolk and Elgin for a wide variety of services. Structural issues in the former school building forced a renovation, and this portion of the centre was removed in 2015.

CONTINUED TO PAGE 2

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Livingston Centre expansion could nearly double the size

CONTINUED FROM FRONT

"The last five to six years, the Livingston Centre is bursting at the seams," said Cheryl Conick, co-executive director of Livingston Centre.

The board of directors of the Tillsonburg Community Services Initiative (TCSI), the non-profit that owns the building and is owned by Community Living Tillsonburg and the Tillsonburg Multi-Service Centre, saw the way forward was a feasibility study to look at the possibility of expansion.

The \$43,000 study is paid 50/50 by the province, through a Rural Ontario Development grant, and TCSI.

"Is that need out there within the community? Is it financially sustainable?" Conick said of the study's purpose.

The study started in April, and will have a recommendation by October. Conick said the first step of the study is to assess business capacity, and then a search will begin to see if funding is available.

Consultant David Howse from Alberta was chosen to lead the study from a field of three choices. Conick said he was chosen due to a tremendous amount of experience in the non-profit sector.

"After meeting with all three, he was the one most experienced," said Jen Olcsvary, fundraising and community engagement coordinator for the Multi-Service Centre.

Howse is looking at what the community needs are through stakeholder meetings, asking if possible tenants are willing to pay rent, and also talking to construction companies to get an idea of cost.

As part of the process, Howse is asking tenants about their needs today, and in five years.

The municipal government and local businesses were surveyed for the need for training spaces. Local colleges, Oxford County human and paramedic services, VON, the Oxford Health Team, Salvation Army, youth probation, Thames Valley Addiction and Mental Health Services, and ODSP were also contacted.

"The people we reached out to are people who will be a good fit and a need for our local community," Conick said, adding the concept is to add to the one-stop access point concept.

The broad concept being looked at is adding 17,000 square feet. The centre is now 22,000 square feet. Additional office spaces, meeting

rooms, classrooms and training laboratories would be potential uses.

"This is an important step to bring the Livingston Centre back to what it once was," Olcsvary said.

Asked about the feedback to date, Conick answered, "We aren't sure an expansion is feasible. Will it provide the revenue we need to maintain it, will it be occupied, and is there enough desire in the community from stakeholders? As a non-profit, we need to ensure its feasibility."

Community members or groups who wish to provide input can contact Conick at ceo@communitylivingtillsonburg.ca, or Multi-Service Centre CEO Kathryn Leatherland at kleatherland@multiservicecentre.com.

Opposition raised to development on ball diamonds

CONTINUED FROM FRONT

"In this case, we would be looking to change it from passive park use to active development," he said.

Bossy said the founders would be upset with this as they donated more parkland than was required. He suggested the developers should be repaid for the 12 acres, which was met with audience applause.

Bossy pushed the point of how this could be done when the Thomas and Demeyere families donated the land.

"There's what the legislation says, and what good will's intent says," he added. "You broke the good will intent."

Panschow answered that this conversation should be taking place with the families.

Another resident questioned why area residents weren't informed of the development.

Panschow explained once the planning process is complete, letters will go out. The input sessions are being done before the planning process to gain public input. He said council can decide to separate the sports field development from the residential development, based on input.

"Most of the time you hear about a project, it's after applications have been made – this is before," Panschow added.

Asked to clarify further, he said there have been no talks with potential developers, nor any offers. Panschow said some developers contacted his office after the plan became public, and they

were told it "may be available in the future".

One mother spoke for the sports complex, saying the town should be enhancing recreation facilities as it grows. Her concern was the new diamonds would have adequate parking.

Another resident questioned the concept of replacing the diamonds and, after hearing that using lighting would extend playing time, asked why not just light the current diamonds.

Panschow said with the current diamond design, it's not as efficient to light the diamonds as it would be with the new design. He also explained that having the new diamonds closer to the cemetery would spread staff out less.

A couple of residents raised concerns about spending \$4 million without consulting the taxpayers first. Although a detailed answer wasn't provided, municipalities often complete large land purchases without making it public to allow negotiating the lowest price.

Interviewed later, Panschow noted all the representation was from residents, and no one was present from the sports user groups.

"That's why we're doing three," he said. "We recognize it's tough to do consultations through the summer. If we need to do another one, we'll do another."

Interviewed after the meeting, councillors in attendance said it's important to listen to residents.

"As an elected official, my responsibility is not

only to listen to residents, but to represent them," said Mayor Deb Gilvesy. "That is why we have a public consultation process. It gives people the opportunity to share their views before decisions are made. My job is to bring those concerns to the council table and respect what our taxpayers are telling us.

"I also believe we must protect our parkland. Once green space is lost, it cannot be replaced. Parks are essential community assets that serve families, children, and residents of all ages while promoting active living."

Deputy Mayor Dave Beres suggested revisiting the entire project.

"After the presentation, there didn't appear to be any objections to the new sports field development; however, the neighbours for the Concession Street piece brought forward some major concerns," he said.

"I think transparency and engagement are crucial when we are looking at bigger projects," said Coun. Kelly Spencer. "It's important to hear from neighbouring residents, as well as affected user groups like women's slo-pitch, men's slo-pitch, soccer groups and the community as a whole. Hearing from the citizens is an imperative piece to engagement and wholesome decision-making."

Coun. Chris Rosehart noted citizens were asking good questions.

"The people are happy with what they have there now, and they like the green space," she

said. "We need to preserve as much green space as possible as we are growing, and show people we care, and we're not just put up buildings and covering everything with asphalt."

Coun. Chris Parker, who couldn't make the meeting due to prior commitments, is also the president of the Tillsonburg Men's Slo-Pitch League. He suggested separating consultation on the residential development from the sports complex.

"These are two distinct matters with different implications for the community, and combining them has made it difficult for residents to provide clear, focused feedback," he said.

As president of the slo-pitch league, Parker noted the league had to reduce its schedule as it is now operating at, or above, capacity, and its diamond times have been reduced.

"A new four plex of lit diamonds would immediately transform local baseball capacity," he said. "For the men's league alone, it could create 12 time slots in one centralized location, making scheduling, umpire coordination, and league management significantly more efficient."

He also saw potential for the town to host higher-profile tournaments, which would bring people to town.

Both the mayor and deputy mayor noted council may need to look at other funding mechanisms for the sports complex outside of residential development on the Annandale diamonds land.



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EDITORIAL

This one's for the average person

Last week's gathering of the Model T Ford Club International in Tillsonburg was a reminder about how well Canadians and Americans can get along.

The organization saw the owners of 150 Model Ts travel to the Tillsonburg Airport, Annandale House and Coyle's. Many of them were from the United States, some from as far away as Texas.

In the days when our daily news is bombarded with talk of trade wars and strained relations, the Model T gathering reinforces that ordinary Canadians and Americans can get along just fine. Many of us have Americans as friends, relatives, and spouses.

Canadians and Americans have fought side by side in two world wars, Korea, Afghanistan and other smaller conflicts. In fact, members of the Canadian and Amer-

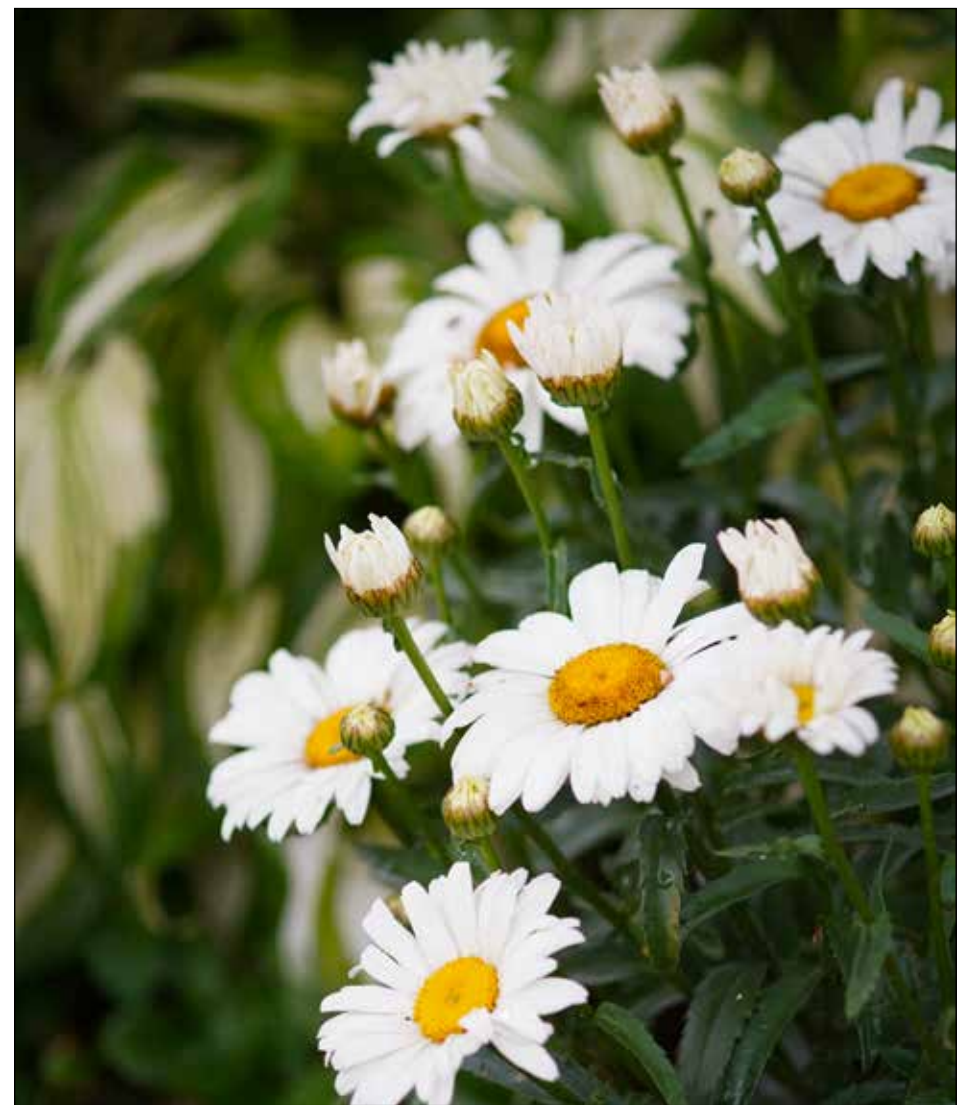
ican military work side by side to this day in exchange programs. So too do employees of companies with cross-border ties.

Although diversification of trading partners is great, the underlying fact is that the United States is our closest and largest trading partner. Changing that is a decades-long process, one much longer than the term of any current leaders. Locally, auto parts, produce and a variety of manufactured goods head to the U.S. daily – to the tune of millions of dollars worth.

There is no doubt Canada-U.S. relations are presently strained by our leaders, with one instigator being the cause of almost all of the strife. We, the ordinary citizens, need to remember that leaders change and to keep the bond between our people strong.

*Have something to say?
Submit your Letter to the
Editor here:*

info@tillsonburgpost.com



Daisies.

(STACIE EDEN PHOTO)

It's never too late to embrace your heritage and embark on a journey of self-discovery



ROBIN KRAFFT

Tillsonburg Post Columnist

**EVERYONE
HAS A
STORY
TO TELL**

Denise Altenberg moved from Ajax to Tillsonburg eight years ago, to be closer to her two adult children and five grandchildren, but she was born in Manitoba, growing up on a farm in Ste. Rose du-Lac. With the exception of her grandfather, who came from Germany, her family is entirely Canadian Metis, descended from Metis leader Louis Riel.

Despite this prominent connection, Denise didn't grow up with Metis culture; her family lived as Canadian Manitoba French. At the time, there was significant prejudice, discrimination, avoidance and cruelty openly exhibited toward anyone with Indigenous background.

She didn't have an easy start in life, sent to live with cousins when her mother went to the sanatorium for TB treatment, knowing that she might not survive. When her mother was well enough to return home, nine months later, Denise had no memory of her.

"I remember dad drove this old car and came to get me from my foster family," Altenburg said. "We went over the tracks and parked under this big tree. I remember someone in a window high above waving, but I didn't know who she was. When she came home, my foster family kept bringing me to visit but I didn't want to stay. It was my brother Danny that finally convinced me."

Denise didn't speak any English when she went to school, but her sister watched over her.

"We went to school in a tiny schoolhouse with all grades in one room," Altenburg said. "That was 70 years ago. In the winter, dad would bring us in a sleigh that was like a caboose, it had a stove in it, pulled by a team of horses. Dad would have the fire on, so we didn't freeze. The rest of the year, we walked."

Denise was also ill throughout her childhood. She was in and out of the hospital, but this complicating factor didn't deter her from learning, and she has never stopped. In adulthood, there were years of moving and resettling, with her husband's job as an industrial engineer in mining. She's lived in Indonesia, and throughout Canada - from BC and Manitoba to remote towns in Ontario and in New Brunswick.

"Everywhere I lived, I had a library," Altenburg said. "My mom was illiterate, she couldn't read, so that made me determined. She had asthma and the only way they could get to school was to walk, and she couldn't walk that far. She stayed home to help with the kids. There were 12 children in the family."

Denise enjoys the sense of community she feels at the Tillsonburg Public Library programs, and she was a lit-

eracy volunteer before the pandemic.

"I've done all kinds of jobs, but I've always been creative too," Altenburg said. "I've always had a creative spirit. Everybody in my family plays an instrument or sings. I remember my aunts and uncles coming over: the singing, dancing, always the jig, the two-step. They play guitar, fiddle, banjo, and accordion; my cousins all played too."

Denise sometimes felt left out, not having any musical inclinations, but she has discovered that she has a different artistic ability. It all started with a pour painting class at the Tillsonburg Senior Center a few years ago.

"I didn't think I could do more than that, but I wanted to," Altenburg said. "At first, I did mostly landscapes. I didn't think I could do details like people. Now I've gotten into Metis painting. I'm painting ladies in red dresses with red hats."

It's a progression that took several years, and a series of serendipitous circumstances. Denise just got her Metis status card last year, and that prompted interest and curiosity about her culture. Then she found a book on Metis art on the discard/sale cart at the library, and she saw a colourful Metis-style print of a bear at Sobeys.

"I thought I could never do that," Altenburg said. "But then I started drawing with chalk and I discovered that I could draw. I remember thinking: I wish I could do that. Well, I can!"

Surrounded by her canvases on the walls, Denise continues to paint, empowering herself to push the boundaries she once thought were there, and embracing the heritage that she once had to deny.

Backus to home: A piece of Tillsonburg's original town hall

MUSEUM MUSINGS

KATE BAKOS

Cultural Heritage Manager/Curator, Annandale NHS

This past spring, I received a note from the curator at the Backus Heritage Conservation Area. It was short and to the point: we have your town hall door handles in our collection. I did not need to think twice. I asked whether they could be deaccessioned (the formal removal of an artifact from a collection) so they could come home to Tillsonburg and join our collection here at Annandale National Historic Site. Backus said yes right away.

The moment I said "Yes", the questions began. How did a set of Tillsonburg's town hall handles end up at a conservation area down in Norfolk County in the first place? Were these from the front doors? When did they come off the building? And, as I would soon find out, one question I never expected to ask myself: what exactly is a door handle? What began as a simple artifact transfer quickly became an investigation into the history hidden within everyday objects.

Before tracing the journey of the handles themselves, it is worth taking a closer look at the building they once served. The old town hall stood on Broadway at Market Square, where the cenotaph still stands today. It was built in 1898, a three-storey red brick building that housed the municipal office, the police station and its cells, and the fire hall, with the council chambers upstairs in what had once been the opera hall. In 1967, as a Centennial project, the town gave the front entrance a modern facelift, significantly changing the building's appearance, with a rounded roof, wide new steps, and glass doors replacing the original solid wood ones. The building was demolished in 1979.

Now, back to the handles. The package that came home held a door pull, the back plate it would have screwed into, and two hinges. The hinges provided the first clues.

Stamped into the metal were the words Bommer Spring Hinge, along with a row of patent dates running from 1892 to 1905. The Bommer name is well known in the history of architectural hardware. The company was founded in Brooklyn, New



Town Hall 1970 with the glass doors.

(ANHS PHOTO)

York, in 1876 by Lorenz Bommer, a hardware man who, by most accounts, would rather have spent his days on music and the arts than on business. His wife had other ideas, and a good thing too. Bommer went on to reinvent the spring hinge by stamping it out of sheet steel, and the family name became known the world over. One of those early patents, dated November 1, 1892, is stamped right there on our hinge.

These were not ordinary hinges, either. They were double-acting spring hinges, the kind that let a door swing both ways and then pull itself shut, the same idea as the swinging doors of an old saloon. That detail matters because it tells us something about the door these handles came from.

The door pull carried a different mark: Peterboro. That points to the Peterborough Lock Manufacturing Company, a Canadian firm established in Peterborough, Ontario, in 1885, whose locks and door sets were sold by hardware merchants across the country. So, here we have an American hinge and a Canadian pull, working together on one small-town Ontario door.

Which brings me back to the question I never thought I would have to ask. What exactly is a door handle? It turns out there is a difference between a handle and a pull. A handle, or lever, has a moving part. You press it or turn it to release a latch and open the door. A pull is just a stationary grip with no moving parts, there only to give your hand something to hold. What came home to

us is a pull, not a handle. We have the pull and the back plate, but no lock or latch mechanism, and that absence is itself a clue.

Put the pieces together, and a picture begins to form. The original front doors were the solid wood ones, and they were swapped for glass in 1967, so if these had come off the front, that is likely when it would have happened. But a pull with no latch, hung on hinges built to swing both ways and close on their own, does not fit a grand front entrance. It fits an interior door, the kind that swung quietly between rooms while the town's business carried on around it. I cannot say so for certain, but that is where the evidence leads.

What I still cannot tell you is exactly when these came off the building, or how they travelled from the town hall to a donor in the Courtland area, and from there to Backus, before finally finding their way home. The historical record remains incomplete. And that, to me, is the best part of this work. There is always more history waiting to be found, often in someone's garage, a family album, or a story passed down at the kitchen table.

So, I will end with a request. If you have family stories, photographs, or memories of the old Tillsonburg Town Hall, I would love to hear them. Reach out to us at Annandale National Historic Site by phone or email museuminfo@tillsonburg.ca. You never know which small object, or which small story, will turn out to be the one that fills in the blank.

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Two-vehicle collision results in multiple charges

A driver is facing seven charges after being involved in a two-vehicle collision in Norwich Township.

On July 18, at approximately 4:50 p.m., members of the Oxford detachment of the Ontario Provincial Police (OPP) were notified of two passenger vehicles that collided at the intersection of Airport Road and Pick Line.

One of the vehicle drivers fled on foot and was later apprehended by members of Oxford OPP and West Region Canine. The other driver remained at the scene.

The driver who fled on foot reported minor injuries, and was taken to the hospital. The other driver did not report any injuries.

As a result of the investigation, Owen Briggs, a 21-year-old resident of Harley, was charged with:

- Operation While Impaired
- Operation While Impaired - Blood Alcohol Concentration (BAC) 80 plus
- Dangerous Operation of a Motor Vehicle
- Failure to Stop After Accident
- Flight From Peace Officer
- Mischief Under \$5,000
- Resist Peace Officer

The accused has been released from custody and is scheduled to appear before the Ontario Court of Justice, in Woodstock, on September 15.

Scammer redirects over \$100 000 from local business

A business in the Town of Tillsonburg has contacted police after a large payment was redirected by a scammer.

At approximately 7 p.m., on July 20, the Oxford detachment of the Ontario Provincial Police (OPP) was notified of a potential fraud.

The business thought they were sending payment to the same account they previously had but somehow the account name had slightly changed. The investigation is in the early stages, and updates will be provided as they become available.

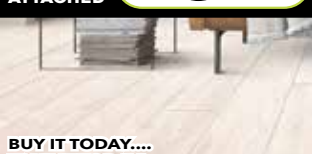
Members of the Oxford detachment of the Ontario Provincial Police (OPP) want to encourage business operators to educate themselves about current business scams and learn ways to safeguard against them.

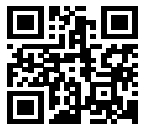
To learn more about scams and how to reduce your risk of becoming a victim, visit the Canadian Anti-Fraud Centre at <https://antifraudcentre.ca>

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CAR FIRE

(DAN HERBERT PHOTO)

Tillsonburg firefighters responded to a call for a car fire on July 24 at 6:15 p.m. on Bidwell Street. When firefighters arrived, the car was fully involved in fire. Crews quickly knocked down the fire, and placed control measures around the catch basins to limit run-off into the storm sewer system. The vehicle was determined to be a total loss.

Burger lovers, mark your calendar!

ROBIN KRAFFT

Post Correspondent

The search is on for the ultimate Tillsonburger - not an outstanding town citizen, although we have plenty of those - but the TillsonBURGer, a signature version of the hamburger.

Half a dozen local restaurants and licenced food vendors are primed and busily engaged in creating a new, innovative version of the iconic culinary staple. Registration has been extended

to end of day Aug. 5 and the list of competitors is growing.

Judging will take place at 11 a.m. on the lawn at Annandale NHS on August 8, as part of the Party Till the Cows Come Home festival. Celebrating our local agricultural heritage, the family-friendly event marks the 145th anniversary of Annandale Farm this year, but it's the first time the burger competition has been held.

"The idea was born out of conversations within the Recreation, Culture

and Parks team," said Kate Bakos, Cultural Heritage Manager/Curator at Annandale NHS. "Together, we recognized that while people who hail from Tillsonburg are proudly known as Tillsonburgers, we did not have a 'Tillsonburger' that we get to enjoy for a nice meal."

The panel of judges will be scoring participants on taste, creativity, presentation, local ingredients, texture, quality, and overall wow factor, in that order. The winner will receive the Golden

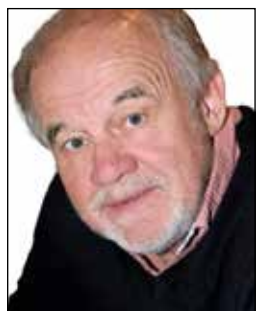
Cowbell Trophy and bragging rights as the creator of Tillsonburg's best burger.

"The goal, at the end of the day, is to bring the community together to celebrate something that is utterly and totally unique to Tillsonburg, and to celebrate the incredible restaurants and food vendors that make our community so special; all while sneaking a little Tillsonburg history lesson in while we do it," Bakos said.

Come out and support your favorite competitor.

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

'Overheard Overhead' at the airport



**LIVING
RETIRED**

GARY CHALK

Non-Pulitzer Prize Winning Columnist

You know what is wrong going to an airport? Going to an airport! This is what I mean...

In the past year Jan and I have flown through airports in Toronto, New York City, Phoenix, Madrid, Lisbon, Vancouver, Boston, and Calgary. (I hear you, "Gary, are you nuts?" Guilty as charged.) This is what I have come to know about air travel...

The reason passengers are instructed to arrive at the airport as many hours as possible before their flight is so the airlines have as many hours as possible to make arrangements to delay or cancel your flight!

At the airport, passengers drag all their

luggage to a computer kiosk to print their boarding pass which leads to a meltdown trying to manipulate the luggage stickers — that resemble hanging fly strips at the cottage — so they adhere to the luggage handles. Living Retired wives do this because Living Retired husbands always get the sticky side stuck to their pants. Just saying...

Next, husbands hoist hernia-inducing suitcases onto the scale. Whew!

Now it is time, you cannot avoid it, to begin 'The Airport Hike' — hauling your carryon luggage with wheels that do not roll to the 'Hurry Up & Wait Gate' conveniently located close to where you're flying to.

Call me stupid but to save steps I can't resist taking the moving sidewalk. This is when I can count on Jan saying, "Gary! Watch when you step off the moving sidewalk. Last time you propelled yourself toward the Duty Free Shop!"

Eventually, your Living Retired compression socks send a signal to your brain that causes you to blurt out, "I cannot possibly take another step!" Exhausted, you arrive at the 'Hurry Up & Wait Gate' — and reach for your nitroglycerin spray!

The 'Hurry Up & Wait Gate' has ev-

erything passengers need to kill time in the airport: plastic chairs, spotty Wi-Fi, and mandatory very important passenger announcements made using obsolete war surplus microphones that do not work.

"Attention. Would the following passenger please report to the gate immediately: Passenger — [aggravating ear-piercing microphone static]. Thank you."

"Jan, did that sound like they called Chalk?"

"Maybe Gary, but it also sounded like wonderpus photogenicus."

Also, near the 'Hurry Up & Wait Gate' are a variety of food options similar to what you find in a mall food court, but at many times the price! Last fall in Vancouver I 'Dole'd' out \$5 for one friggin' banana! Jan asked, "Did you buy the entire plantation?"

Just then...

"Attention. Would the following passenger please report to the gate immediately: Passenger — [aggravating ear-piercing microphone static]. Thank you."

"I swear it sounded like Chalk, Jan. I wonder if there's a problem?"

"Gary, you know you cannot trust your hearing. If I had to guess it sounded like they are paging passenger Aardvarkinheat

to come to the gate."

At the Vancouver airport I grabbed a coffee before we boarded. The clerk slid an empty paper cup toward me to pour my own coffee and told me to tap the machine: \$6.85 — including a 20 per cent tip! I gave myself the 20 per cent tip for serving myself. I checked out a pre-made sandwich: \$19.95. Food prices like that are, well, hard to swallow.

Back at 'The Hurry Up & Wait Gate' it happened again. "Attention. This is a very important announcement for all passengers on flight — [prolonged aggravating ear-piercing microphone static]. We sincerely apologize. Thank you for understanding."

"Jan, I couldn't understand what they said."

"Sorry Gary, I couldn't understand either. It was something about thanking us for understanding."

That is it for this week's Living Retired. Thank you for understanding.

Living Retired by humour columnist Gary Chalk is published weekly throughout Canada and USA. Living Retired On The Radio is heard Thursday mornings. To inquire about keynote presentations, contact Gchalk@me.com

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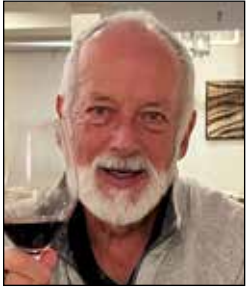
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“Foodie” quality at sensible prices – amazing dining at Punch Ltd.



**OH,
THE
PLACES
WE’LL
GO!**

PAUL KNOWLES

Tillsonburg Post Columnist

If you have eaten in hotel dining rooms, you will probably agree that some can be really good; many can be ridiculously pricey; some are just run-of-the-mill or worse... although still often overly expensive.

So when Germain Hotels’ France Savard invited us to dine at Punch Ltd., the new restaurant in Le Germain Hotel Toronto, on Mercer Street, I did not know what to expect.

I know, though, what I did not expect: one of the finest meals I have ever enjoyed. But that is exactly what we got. Amazing, unique food, in a very elegant setting, with superb service. A perfect experience.

Am I exaggerating? Well, at one point during the meal, my partner simply said, “This food is absolutely full of flavour!”

That’s the work of executive chef Mandar Kulkarni and his eight-person kitchen crew. Mandar, who is from Mumbai, India, chatted with us and explained that the culinary model at Punch Ltd. is “Modern London... British food with softer Indian touches.” This is not, in any way, stereotypical Indian cuisine; it’s in a category all its own.

Punch Ltd. opened its doors last October, in the hotel that opened in 2003. Le Ger-

main Hotel Toronto was the first Germain establishment outside the province of Québec... although most certainly not the last. Germain hotels now exist all across Canada, still independently owned and operated by the Germain family, who are based in Montréal.

Back to the dining table: while you can certainly order individual meals off the menu at Punch Ltd., there are a couple of more interesting ways to dine here. The dinner menu lists the options as “Small Shares,” “Large Shares,” and “Sides”. So sharing is a great way to go.

But the advice at the top of the menu is, “Let our chefs take the lead... enjoy a personally curated tasting journey.”

Now, I have been in restaurants where a “personally curated tasting journey” costs hundreds of dollars. Not here – that option comes with a very reasonable price tag of \$95. In fact, in the holiday months, there is also a “Summerlicious” option – your choice of small share, main dish, dies, and dessert, for \$65. That is definitely not a “foodie restaurant” price – but the food will delight the most demanding foodie.

One other difference – some tasting menus involve minute portions of a variety of food. The portions at Punch Ltd. are very satisfactory.

Our meal? We wisely decided to trust the chef. As well as trusting Lauren Hall, the warm and welcoming Director of Food and Beverage, as well as Punch Ltd.’s sommelier. She matched our courses with truly excellent wines.

Mandar started us with a unique amuse bouche – a vegetarian version of steak tartare, with beetroot substituting for the steak. Delicious.

We were then served Mumbai Chat-Slaw, mixed at the table, an amazing melange of radishes, beets, green apple, pomegranate, boondi (deep-fried chickpea flour), potato straw, crispy leeks and tamarind yogurt.

Next came duck sausage, with raisins, in puff pastry, topped with a unique, dark, spicy house brown sauce.

Then came what may have been our favourite taste of the meal (except, perhaps, the desserts): Agnolotti (a stuffed pasta) with morels, English peas, snap peas, porcini mushroom broth and maggie butter.

This was followed by exceptional Beef Wellington, one of the many house specialties. The menu lists “tenderloin, prosciutto, wild mushroom duxelles, Swiss chard, sunchoke purée and rogan josh jus”. The jus brings that soft, Indian spin to the very British Beef Wellington – again, a perfect culinary marriage.

And then came desserts – yes, plural because there were, after all, two of us. One was a Punch Ltd. standard – absolutely luscious sticky toffee pudding. The other involved a surprise. Our server brought a white chocolate mousse with a red fruit sauce, and at the table, poured extra virgin olive oil on the mousse, and added cracked black pepper. I was dubious... until my first taste.

That dessert included both saffron – the most expensive spice in the world – and cardamom, third most pricey. Mandar explained that both are essential to his recipes, so he insists on them, regardless of cost.

Lauren matched our courses with terrific wines from around the world: a Gruner Veltliner from Austria, Cerisier en Fleur from Alsace, a terrific Bordeaux, and a



(PAUL KNOWLES PHOTO)

The bar at Punch Ltd., with a very enthusiastic bartender.

couple more. The wine list at Punch Ltd. covers 10 pages; there are three more for spirits, and that doesn’t include their wide selection of unique cocktails, and beer.

The restaurant features low light, pleasant background music, and wait staff in black suits and white shirts – it all speaks of elegance. But the diners’ clothing tended toward smart casual – no formality, here.

I don’t write a lot of articles about any specific restaurant, but Punch Ltd. clearly earned the attention it’s getting, this week.

You don’t have to be a foodie to love Punch Ltd. Sure, foodies will love it, but Punch Ltd. is perfect for anyone who enjoys a dining adventure. You will not be disappointed!

Paul Knowles is an author and travel writer, and Past-President of the Travel Media Association of Canada. To contact Paul about travel, his books, or speaking engagements, email pknowles@golden.net.



CANADA DAY FUNDRAISER

(CONTRIBUTED PHOTO)

On July 1, Baldwin Place residents held their annual fundraiser for charity. A total of \$230 was raised, which was presented to the Tillsonburg Helping Hand Food Bank. Left to right are: Sheryl Chevette of Baldwin Place, food bank coordinator Samantha Hamilton, and Baldwin Place resident Skip Chevette.

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Rip Current Information Project strives for consistent and standardized communication across the province

ROBIN KRAFFT

Post Correspondent

Understanding the body of water that you're swimming in and educating yourself about the dangers of rip currents is the urgent message that Nathan MacIntyre has been striving to convey for many years.

In 1998, on the last day of high school, MacIntyre lost his best friend Jeff Brasser in a tragic fatal drowning. He understands only too well the traumatic and devastating effect this kind of loss has on family and friends. He has over 20 years of lifeguarding experience on Lake Erie, and he has become a water safety expert.

He is the founder and CEO of the Rip Current Information Project, raising awareness for the general public, and at the municipal level to prevent rip current related fatalities in Canada.

"The Rip Current Information Project continues to offer support for community water safety events, public presentations, professional development, and educational sessions for municipalities, emergency services, organizations, and community groups," MacIntyre said. "Our goal remains the same: to make Great Lakes beaches safer through practical, evidence-based education."

National Drowning Prevention Week wrapped up on July 25, which the World Health Organization recognizes as World Drowning Prevention Day, a glob-

al advocacy event. One of the recommendations from the Lifesaving Society is to learn how to swim, but it's a dangerous assumption to think that you can swim your way out of a rip current, or to believe that you can easily recognize hazardous conditions.

"Unfortunately, neither of those assumptions provides much protection on the Great Lakes," MacIntyre said. "Many people are confident in their swimming ability because they can swim recreationally in a pool. However, most adults have never actually trained to swim in open water. In fact, many people would struggle to swim more than 25 metres continuously in a pool without stopping. Open water is an entirely different environment. Swimmers must contend with waves, cold water, changing depths, wind, and powerful currents that don't exist in a swimming pool."

Growing up on the Great Lakes, many people have heard about the danger of an undertow, but that isn't the common denominator in many drownings, and it isn't the same as a rip current.

"Rip currents on the Great Lakes can move water offshore at speeds of three feet (about one metre) per second," MacIntyre said. "These are concentrated, fast-moving flows of water that can be as difficult to swim against as a swiftly-flowing river. Even strong swimmers quickly discover that

trying to swim directly against a rip current is exhausting."

A rip current doesn't pull swimmers under water; it pulls them out and away from shore rapidly, and into deep water.

"As swimmers are carried beyond the sandbar, they lose the ability to stand," MacIntyre explained. "Panic sets in, and as they fight unsuccessfully against the current, they rapidly become exhausted. Once their energy is depleted, they can no longer keep their airway above the surface, and that's when a rescue becomes critical."

If you're pulled away from shore by a rip current, start floating and stop fighting; keeping your airway above water and conserving your energy is the objective. Understanding the weather and water conditions before going into the water, however, may mean that you never need to put it into practice.

"Knowing how waves, wind, sandbars, and currents interact allows beachgoers to recognize hazards and make informed decisions before they become emergencies," MacIntyre said. "Some Lake Erie beaches are significantly more prone to rip currents than others, and some beaches experience them more frequently or with greater intensity."

There are specific conditions that lead to the development of rip currents, and there can be significant variation from beach to beach,



(JEFF HELSDON PHOTO)

Buddy the Lifeguard Dog, the mascot of the Life Saving Society, made a stop at the Lake Lisgar Water Park for National Drowning Prevention Week last Thursday. Lifeguard Abigail Sarafinchin introduced Buddy to some of the park patrons.

even when they are in close proximity to one another. Checking the specific beach, water, and weather conditions before you visit is essential.

"Rip currents don't occur randomly," MacIntyre said. "They develop when specific conditions cause the build-up of water on the shoreline to flow back offshore in concentrated flows - like a river. Beaches that regularly develop sandbars (and channels/troughs) are often more susceptible because these underwater features create natural barriers for water returning offshore. As waves continuously push water toward the beach, that water must eventually find a way back to

the lake. Weak areas in sandbars become the pathway for water to return to the lake in a narrow, concentrated channel, a 'channelized' rip current."

MacIntyre's tireless efforts have resulted in grassroots effects that are gaining traction and getting much deserved attention.

"What began as a local initiative following several tragic drownings has evolved into a collaborative effort involving the County of Elgin and each of its shoreline municipalities," MacIntyre said. "Together, we are working toward developing a more standardized approach to communicating Great Lakes water hazards so

that residents and visitors receive clearer, more consistent safety information regardless of which beach they visit. In 2026, we've also expanded our outreach beyond Elgin County, working with communities along the Lake Huron shoreline while continuing to build partnerships with researchers, emergency services, and municipal leaders across Ontario."

The significant growth of the Rip Current Information Project this past year is the result of his 28 years of diligence, and MacIntyre is one step closer to establishing a standardized form of hazard communication across all of Ontario.

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SWOX council approves pay raise for mayor and councillors

DEBBIE KASMAN

Post Correspondent

South West Oxford (SWOX) council has approved a pay raise for themselves, establishing the annual remuneration for the 2026-2030 term of council at its July 14 meeting.

Effective January 1, 2027, the mayor will receive \$27,200 annually, while the councillors will receive \$18,135 annually. For comparison, the current 2026 remuneration rates are \$25,702 annually for the mayor and \$17,135 annually for councillors.

The proposed remuneration represents an increase of approximately \$1,500 annually for the mayor and \$1,000 annually for each councillor compared to the

current remuneration levels. Annual cost of living adjustments will continue to be applied throughout the term of council in accordance with the township's established practice and remuneration by-law.

Ward & Uptigrove Human Resources Solutions completed a report comparing SWOX council's current remuneration to a group of comparable municipalities and concluded the township's current honorariums are below the market median.

The report recommended that remuneration be aligned with the 50th percentile of comparator municipalities and that any changes be implemented with the commencement of the next term of council in November 2026.

The consultant's review identified a market median (50th percentile) annual

honorarium of \$30,264.82 for the mayor and \$18,759.18 for councillors based on the comparator municipalities reviewed. This would have represented increases of approximately \$4,562 annually for the mayor and \$1,624 annually for each councillor with an estimated total annual financial impact of approximately \$14,306.

During council's discussion on June 2, 2026, they considered potential adjustments to remuneration for the 2026 - 2030 term of office, and discussion generally reflected support for an increase of approximately \$1,500 for the mayor and approximately \$800 for each councillor.

At their July meeting, Councillors Craig Gillis and George Way supported the increase. Councillor Jim Pickard supported the increase as well, but pointed

out people don't usually run for the money, that councillors are there to serve the people.

Councillor Paul Buchner said that it's always a hard decision to support a raise for yourself, but there is a lot of time and mileage involved and time away from your job.

Mayor David Mayberry agreed with Councillor Pickard's comments saying, "If people are here for the money, they're here for the wrong reason...I can support the resolution as presented."

Neither Mayberry nor Pickard will benefit from the increase as they are not running in the upcoming election. Mayberry did vote for an increase as a County of Oxford councillor when the issue was raised on a recent agenda.

New deputy fire chief in Tillsonburg

JEFF HELSDON

Editor

Tillsonburg has a new deputy fire chief. Fred Ten Eyck started as the deputy fire chief on May 28.

This is a traditional role in Tillsonburg Fire Department, but past Chief Shane Caskenette chose not to fill it.

"There always has been a deputy chief position, but the chief before this didn't have a deputy," Ten Eyck said.

Chief Scott Tegler, who started in May 2025, chose to fill the position.

Ten Eyck will work to ensure all Tillsonburg firefighters have the mandatory certification required by the province. He will also ensure the department meets other guidelines, develop an annual training curriculum with the firefighters, and take on other duties as assigned.

The deputy responds to some fires, depending on what is going on at the time and the severity of the incident. Although he presently has to stay back from the fire because his custom-fitted bunker gear hasn't arrived yet, he has attended fires to learn how the Tillsonburg firefighters work. Platoon chiefs take command at the scene, but Ten Eyck provides support when he attends.

He has seen that the safety culture amongst Tillsonburg firefighters is great.

The deputy chief came to the position from the Waterloo department. He grew

up next door in Kitchener, and knew he wanted to work in public service, but initially thought law enforcement was his career path. He then switched to fire-fighting, attended Lambton College for fire sciences, and started in Waterloo as a full-time firefighter in 1999, and was the captain training officer when he left.

"I came down here for an ice training course 10 years ago," he recounted. "I was impressed with Tillsonburg Fire at the time, seeing the equipment, the passion of the members and the level they were working to."

Ten Eyck is from Kitchener, but moved to this area recently. He then started looking for opportunities closer to his new home.

"This was a great opportunity to put applications out and see what came of it," he said.

When Ten Eyck was hired, Tegler was off on leave. Vanessa Devoloine, assistant chief of administration and fire communication, was the acting chief. Ten Eyck didn't think it proper for him to step in immediately as acting chief, wanting to learn more about the department and its 34 firefighters.

"They live in the town," he said of the firefighters. "They're here for the right reasons, which is to support each other and the town."

After spending time on the job, Ten Eyck took over as acting chief on June 21.



(JEFF HELSDON PHOTO)

Fred Ten Eyck is Tillsonburg's new deputy fire chief, and the acting fire chief.

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MODEL T TOUR VISITS TOWN

(JEFF HELSDON PHOTOS)



Those taking part in the Model T Ford Club's tour that visited Tillsonburg had an opportunity to have a photo of their car in front of a Harvard. Daniel Bracher of San Antonio, Texas, was one who took advantage of this.



About 150 Model T Fords converged on the lawn of the Tillsonburg Airport last Wednesday afternoon as part of the Model T Ford Club International annual tour. The group visited the airport, Annandale National Historic Site, and Coyle's.



It's not every day you see a Model T Ford driving down the road, but locals had this opportunity many times over recently as 150 of the cars visited town as part of a tour of the Model T Ford Club International.



Michael Mackechney of San Antonio, Texas, drives his 1924 Touring edition Model T across the Annandale House lawn as part of a stop at the local historic site.

Volunteers assist with Legion poppy drape

JEFF HELSDON

Editor

How many crocheted poppies will it take to fill a 20-by-30-foot drape?

A quick estimate is 5,000 or 6,000. Undertaking such a monumental task requires a team of dedicated volunteers helping with this initiative for the local Legion branch. The intent is to put the completed drape over the anti-aircraft gun in front of the Legion for Remembrance Day.

Suzanne Murphy, a 25-year Legion member, said other Legions have completed similar initiatives. Still, neither she nor Branch 153 President Tom Brown knows of any effort that is as large and intends to cover the entire drape. Others have had the poppies spaced out on the drape.

"We want to fill the whole thing," Brown said.

Murphy has been organizing volunteers to complete the poppies and supplying them with wool. The team of about 25

volunteers started crocheting, or knitting, in March, and began sewing the completed poppies on the drape in May. An area about five by seven feet is covered.

"They're doing an amazing job of it," Brown said.

Murphy has a pattern, but not all participants are using it. Although the wool has to be red and black, the red tones vary in the poppies already sewn on.

"I want a variety like in Flanders Fields," she said. "They don't all have to be the same."

Brown, who created one of the poppies himself, addressed the volunteers recently.

"The product you are putting out is beautiful; it's amazing," he said, adding it's different from what other Legions are doing. "It's nothing like any of the others."

The Legion is also seeking donations of #4 red or black wool. Anyone who wants to assist with donations, or making poppies, can contact the branch at 519-842-5281.



(JEFF HELSDON PHOTO)

Volunteers creating crocheted and knit poppies for a drape to be displayed on the anti-aircraft gun in front of the Legion, pose with their work so far with Branch 153 President Tom Brown.

TILLSONBURG COUNCIL BRIEFS

Procedural bylaw update

Tillsonburg's procedural bylaw is one step closer to its first update since 2018.

The procedural bylaw outlines how town council operates, and covers items such as the agenda structure, public presentations to council, and other matters.

Manager of Legislative Affairs/Clerk Trish McKibbin presented council with proposed updates at the July 13 meeting, noting this should be done annually. Her suggestions included re-ordering the agenda structure, clearer language on rescheduling meetings, and procedures on the circulation of the agenda, closed meetings, and declaring a pecuniary interest.

Coun. Pete Luciani noted the time for public presentation was being cut to 10 minutes, from 15, with the changes.

McKibbin said this was being done to allow time for council questions to the presenters.

On the same theme, Coun. Chris Rosehart questioned why more notice was being required for people wanting to present to council. McKibbin explained this was being done to allow staff to work with the presenters.

Rosehart also questioned if there was any language regarding how many times a councillor has to be present at a meeting physically.

"It is possible someone could get elected and spend 365 days away from this chamber," Luciani agreed, suggesting amendments.

McKibbin said she would look into this.

Mayor Deb Gilvesy also had several points, mentioning several technical items, including the procedure to withdraw a motion and reconsideration of a vote.

Changes will be made to the procedural

bylaw, and it will be brought back to a future council meeting.

Zoning change approved for liquidation centre

Town council approved a zoning change to allow TK Liquidation to locate in the former PeaveyMart property on Concession Street East.

The change was from Existing Service Commercial Zoning to Special Service Commercial Zone to allow a liquidation outlet.

TK Liquidation will be the largest of the tenants in the building, being located at the rear, with five smaller units at the front.

New events centre planned

Tillsonburg council approved an application to its Community Improvement Plan for an events center at the Bridges of Tillsonburg.

The 4,700-square-foot building will replace the clubhouse that was torn down on the site. The new facility will be capable of hosting both small and large events, with a projected capacity of 275 people inside and another 100 outside.

The approved application will grant relief from a percentage of the tax increase that comes with the new facility, as this was identified as a "key need" of the community.

Town sells rail corridor land

An agreement was reached between the town and Conax Properties Ltd. for town-owned property at 166 Vienna Rd.

Known to many residents as the former transfer depot, the property is adjacent to the rail line. It will supply access to the manufacturing facility being developed on adjacent Conax land. The agreement was to sell 0.8 acres for \$72,000/

Asset management plan update

An update on the town's asset management plan shows an increase in the value of the town's assets, but a continued shortfall in projected facilities costs.

The report showed \$10.3 million was invested in new assets in 2025, with a further \$1.3 million in "asset betterments". The town's total assets have a replacement value in excess of \$450 million. Roads, bridges, stormwater and the fleet are stable. Parks and recreation assets have improved through targeted investments, but there is a long-term shortfall of \$4.2 million annually.

The report suggests a one per cent annual dedicated levy increase to address the shortfall, the use of debt financing and other measures where needed.

Mayor Deb Gilvesy questioned if there had been a decrease in the funding gap, and was told the finance department is still working on that data.

Deputy Mayor Dave Beres asked if there would be opportunities for provincial funding, which he was told there would be.

Council accepted the report for information.

Town closer to events fee policy

Tillsonburg is getting closer to a policy to

exempt events from municipal fees.

The issue came to light when some events this spring were charged municipal set-up fees, which hadn't been charged previously. Investigation found an inconsistency in how the fees were charged, and staff were directed to complete a report.

The report presented at the July 13 meeting listed 18 different events, ranging from the Santa Claus parade and Easter Egg Hunt to Canada Day and Wings and Wheels, which should be exempt. The report recommended that staff develop policies and bylaws to ensure the exemptions are applied.

Deputy Mayor Dave Beres noticed the volunteer firefighters' 9/11 barbecue was not included, and suggested it be added to the list, which it was.

"This is a huge community project for the betterment of the community," he said.

Bridge report

A Structure Condition Assessment Report found 60 per cent of the town's structures were in good condition, 32 per cent were in fair condition and 6.5 per cent were rated as fair.

The report covers the town's bridges, culverts, roadside guiderails and other structures.

Interim Manager of Engineering Logan Vandevyvere told council this was how the defects in the Kinsmen Bridge were found in the past. These reports must be completed every two years.

The report identifies repair, rehabilitation and replacement needs for the infrastructure. Total cost over the next five years is forecast to be more than \$6 million.



TOWNSHIP OF NORWICH NEWS

New traffic calming measures coming to Norwich

LUKE EDWARDS

Post Contributor

Township of Norwich councillors have approved the purchase of a suite of devices aimed at making Norwich streets safer.

A staff report presented at the July 14 meeting offered recommendations on how to spend the \$50,000 councillors previously approved for traffic calming efforts in 2026. The purchases include items that will provide staff with data,

offer feedback to motorists and encourage more cautious speeds.

"I very much appreciate all of staff's effort that went into this," said Coun. Shawn Gear, who encouraged Norwich to be a leader in traffic safety, and said he believes residents are supportive of using taxpayer dollars "when those dollars are being spent to create safety in the community."

Staff recommended the purchase of three additional traffic monitors, also known as armadillos, that count the

number of cars that use a street or road. It'll allow staff to monitor more areas, especially in Norwich's built-up sections. Armadillos will be placed in Springford, on Son's Street, Water Street and Wood Street East. Staff said it will allow them to collect data on the use of those streets as bypass routes.

The Township will also buy two speed feedback signs. They'll be placed in the Hawtrey neighbourhood, with the existing signs getting moved to Pitcher Street and Carmen Street while Stover

Street South construction takes place.

"(Hawtrey is) experiencing some of the worst speeding in the township," said Director of Operations Ken Farkas.

Norwich will also buy two or three sets of delineators to be used on Midletown Line and in Burgessville.

Should there be money left over, the report directs staff to buy a set of temporary speed humps and install them where the in-town data they collect suggests.

Proposed Burgessville subdivision gets extension

LUKE EDWARDS

Post Contributor

A planned five-unit project by the Trustees of the First Netherlands Reformed Congregation in Burgessville has received a one-year extension.

The extension comes on the heels of a one-year extension the development received last year. A Township of Norwich staff report said the developers have said they need the extra time to im-

plement changes in the plan requested by Norwich Township staff. It's led to some modifications of the plan, though the report said the modifications don't result in any zoning deficiencies.

The changes requested by the township include "an increased radius of the turning circle at the end of Burgess Street and the installation of curb and gutter infrastructure rather than open ditches for the conveyance of stormwater."

There were 23 conditions placed on the development when it was originally approved. To date, only one has been cleared.

Coun. Shawn Gear questioned the extension request, pointing out they'd already received one.

"How many times can you extend this, where does this go?" he asked.

Planner Amy Hartley said the applicant can continue to ask for extensions, and council can approve extensions of

up to three years. There were some extenuating circumstances in this case, she said.

"The previous extension was only a year because they thought they would be done at this point. Things have changed, they've had to hire a new engineer, so they kind of had to restart their process," she said.

The project would see five single-detached lots built and Burgess Street extended.



COMMUNITY UPDATE

Notices

Take the 2027 Budget Survey!

No matter where you live in Oxford County, the 2027 Budget survey is your chance to have a say on which services should be a priority next year.

Answers and comments from the survey let us know how well municipal services are understood, how they are valued, and which ones are a priority for residents. The survey takes approximately 10 minutes to complete. It closes on August 31, 2026.

Visit www.tillsonburg.ca/budgetsurvey for more information



Lot Maintenance Matters

All property owners are required to keep their land cleared and well maintained. This includes:

- Keeping grass and weeds below 20 cm (8 inches) in height.
- Removing excess stockpiles of soil, gravel, or other materials not needed for lot grading.
- Draining, treating, or disposing of standing water that may create a health or safety hazard, produce odours, or attract mosquitoes.

Thank you for helping keep our community safe, clean, and attractive for everyone.



Party 'Til the Cows Come Home!

Celebrate Oxford County's agricultural heritage and the 145th anniversary of Annandale Farm at this fun-filled family festival, Saturday, August 8!

Event Highlights

10:00 a.m. – Festival opens with museum tours, family activities, and food trucks.

11:00 a.m. – Best TillsonBURger Contest
Watch local businesses compete for the coveted Golden Cowbell Trophy and the title of Tillsonburg's Official TillsonBURger.

12:00–2:00 p.m. – Live Music Enjoy a performance by Vance Czerwinski on the front lawn.

2:00 p.m. – Festival closes.

Support the Food Bank

Bring a non-perishable food item to support the Tillsonburg Food Bank and help local families in need.

Join us for a day of history, food, music, and community fun!

More Time to Enjoy Downtown

Starting July 13, 2026, the Saturday on-street parking limit has increased from 2 hours to 3 hours, giving visitors more time to shop, dine, and explore downtown.

Please note: The 2-hour parking limit in the mall's underground parking garage remains unchanged.



Culture Corner

Help Make the Moo-gic Happen!

Help bring this fun-filled celebration of Oxford County's agricultural heritage to life on Saturday, August 8. We're looking for enthusiastic volunteers to assist with family activities, games, crafts, and food service throughout the day.

Flexible volunteer shifts:

- 9:30 AM – 12:00 PM
- 12:00 PM – 2:30 PM
- Or sign up for both!

High school students are welcome and can earn community service hours.

519-842-2294 | museuminfo@tillsonburg.ca

Ready to join the fun? We'd love to have you on the team!



Stay Connected

Want to be the first to hear about upcoming events, new exhibitions, and special programs? Be sure to follow the museum on Facebook, www.facebook.com/AnnandaleNHS.



Active Living & Learning Opportunities

Make a Splash This Summer

The countdown is on! The Tillsonburg Community Centre indoor pool is scheduled to reopen on August 1, bringing swimming lessons, aquatic fitness classes back indoors.

Whether you're looking to improve your swimming skills, stay active in the water, or enjoy a recreational swim with family and friends, the indoor pool offers programs and activities for all ages and abilities. Swimming lessons continue to be a great way to build confidence, develop water safety skills, and stay active throughout the year.

Residents are encouraged to explore the full lineup of aquatic programs and register online at www.tillsonburg.ca/guide.

In the meantime, Lake Lisgar Water Park remains open daily from 11:00 a.m. to 6:00 p.m., providing a great way to cool off and enjoy the summer.





Community Calendar

AUGUST

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
						1
				Lake Lisgar Water Park Open Daily 11:00 am - 6:00 pm		
2	Town Facilities CLOSED Lake Lisgar Water Park Remains Open	3 FREE Roller Skating 6:30 - 8:00 pm Ball Hockey 8:00 - 9:00 pm	4	5	6 Culture After Hours 4:00 - 7:00 pm	7
						8 Party 'til The Cows Come Home 10:00 am - 2:00 pm Best TillsonBERGer 11:00 am
Lake Lisgar Water Park Open Daily 11:00 am - 6:00 pm						
9	Council Meeting 5:00 pm	10 Roller Skating 6:30 - 8:00 pm Ball Hockey 8:00 - 9:00 pm	11	12	13	14
						15 Tillsonburg Fair
Lake Lisgar Water Park Open Daily 11:00 am - 6:00 pm						
16	17	18 Roller Skating 6:30 - 8:00 pm Ball Hockey 8:00 - 9:00 pm	19	20	21	22
Tillsonburg Fair						
Lake Lisgar Water Park Open Daily 11:00 am - 6:00 pm						
23	24	25 Roller Skating 6:30 - 8:00 pm Ball Hockey 8:00 - 9:00 pm	26	27 Culture After Hours 4:00 - 7:00 pm	28	29
Lake Lisgar Water Park Open Daily 11:00 am - 6:00 pm						
30	Last day to complete Oxford County's 2027 Budget Survey	31				
Lake Lisgar Water Park Open Daily 11:00 am - 6:00 pm						

Didn't find what you were looking for?



Check out all our other programs!

FREE Community Event Highlight



Legend

- All Ages
- Town Hall
- Adult Program
- Museum
- Youth Program

2026

SPORTS

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Lisanne and Andre Vanderkooi celebrate Friesian heritage through Ringsteken competition

JEFF TRIBE

Post Correspondent

Ringsteken enthusiasts' ability to make the right swipe pays tribute to a centuries-old Friesian version of swiping right.

And it may be the one time when men are fully directing traffic in terms of picking out a ring.

"You've got that right," laughed Springfield-area Ringsteken competitor Lisanne Vanderkooi.

Participants and spectators alike stepped back into 1800-era Friesland at the July 18 Friesian Horse Show (FHS) hosted at Jisk and Klaske Schuurmans' dairy farm, north-east of Norwich. The biennial event celebrates a breed originating in the northern Netherlands province, celebrated both for qualities as an agricultural workhorse and its genial temperament. In danger of disappearing with the advent of modern machinery, Friesian horses have enjoyed a revival through those jointly celebrating heritage of the animal and area they sprang from.

That passion emigrated across the Atlantic to this area, largely with those of Friesian origin, including Lisanne's husband Andre Vanderkooi. Together, they operate a farm north of Springfield.

"Dairy and equine," he explained, adding with a laugh, "and it seems like equine is taking over slowly but surely."

Andre emigrated in 1999, meeting Lisanne here, both having grown up on Dutch dairy



(JEFF TRIBE PHOTO)

A 4 in-hand performance was a highlight at the Friesian Horse Show near Norwich.

farms. He was from Friesland, Lisanne the middle of the country.

"But it rubbed off on her, put it that way."

They have 'around 18' Friesian horses and are part of a four-couple organizing committee for the FHS. It featured a variety of exhibitions highlighting the breed including racing around cones, a Sjezen (traditional two-wheeled carriage) presentation, 4 in-hand performance, guest appearance from a six-member female Friesian heritage drill team based in Ohio, and a Ringsteken challenge.

In very basic terms, two-member teams, a male horse and carriage driver and female armed with a small wooden 'pistol' (resembling a corn cob pipe with an extended bowl in shape) pass down a course with four rings mounted on the hands of large wooden figures. Points are awarded for each ring the woman spears cleanly with her 'pistol', one point per ring in the first round, two per in the second, three in the third and four in the fourth, with a potential perfect score of 40.

The sport grew from an 18th-century tradition based around males and females looking

to connect in unique ways, an early incarnation of swiping left or right.

"And they would do games like this," said Andre.

Many competitors dress in era-appropriate garb, Lisanne in a long dress offset by lace apron and vest, and multi-layered headgear featuring a hair net, black cap, white cap and ornamental metallic headgear which translates from Dutch as 'head iron.'

"The original was gold," said Andre. "Now it's just gold plate or copper."

Men dress equally formally, Andre resplendent in dark breeches, white shirt, vest and top hat. Despite the fact a Sjezen's suspension system is essentially two leather straps, leading to a ride akin to riding waves on an undulating sea, it's their carriage of competitive choice. They own three Sjezens, one restored original and two replicas.

"It gives me goose bumps driving one of those," says Andre.

Horses must proceed at a trot, not walk or canter, with drivers striving to judge the optimal distance for their partners to be able to spear the rings most easily.

"Lisanne usually says, 'A little bit closer, a little further away,'" says Andre.

In Holland, with Andre growing up in the late 1980s and 90s, Ringsteken was a staple event, held on communities' main streets.

"They put up four hands and blocked it off for two hours."

Five teams of competitors ran a three-round version at the FHS. The Vanderkoois finished a solid third, if deferring to share their precise point value.

"Not enough," Andre laughed. "Don't mention it."

The original FHS drew around 400 spectators says Andre, growing to 500 two years ago and an estimated 800 in 2026.

"We wish we could do it every year. But it's just a pile of work so we run it every other."

And in the end, even the Ringsteken competition is not about who wins or loses.

"It's always just for fun," said Lisanne, along with celebrating all things Friesian. "We love to show people what that heritage is."

Friesian Horse Show 2026 Ringsteken Results

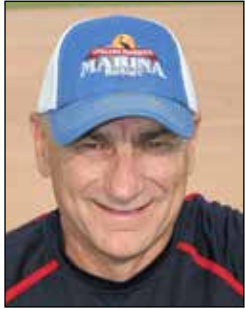
Jisk Schuurmans and Karin van Wely, 1st; Bouke Feenstra and ladyfriend/Klaas Steenbeek and Douwina Reitsma, tied for 2nd; Andre and Lisanne Vanderkooi, 4th; Nico Vanden Akker and his granddaughter Anna, 5th.



(JEFF TRIBE PHOTO)

Springford-area dairy - and equine - farmer Andre Vanderkooi participates in the Sjezen presentation at the Friesian Horse Show.

Long weekend will be busy for slo-pitch



**EYE
ON
SLO-
PITCH**

DAVE WEAVER

Post Columnist

There are lots of big events coming up on the long weekend. The Masters Nationals will be taking place in Dorchester at Slo-pitch City, and teams will also be traveling to Hamilton to compete in the NSA World Series.

Good luck to all of those participating!

Men's Division 1

Hit N Run ended 1,2 Seal Insulation Hawks 12-game winning streak, handing them their first loss of the season. They also scored a plethora of runs the previous night, mercying Leeswood Construction Dirty Mitts. Cobra Chickens edged out The Mill, and the Cubs won by one over SunSpace/Bill Klyn Carpentry to round out the week's action.

Cobra Chickens-22, The Mill-21

Cobra-Nathan Froese 5-5, HR; Wyatt Blatz 3-3, 2 HR; Matthew Reimer HR; Jared Froese HR; Marcus Peters HR.

The Mill-Greg Roth 5-5, HR; Bryan Deblaire 4-5, HR; Tim Morgan 2 HR; Bob Evans HR; Josh Stubbs HR; Darren Pace HR.

Game Synopsis-Cobra were led by Wyatt Blatz, who homered twice and scored four runs.

Cubs-22, Sunspace/Bill Klyn Carpentry-21

Cubs-Chris Dyck 4-4; Willy Klassen 3-4; Joel Dyck 4 HR; Johnathan Dyck HR; John Dyck HR.

Sunspace-Nick Joosse 4-5; Rob Stortz 4-4; Kyle McDougall HR; Davin Ramer 2 HR; Andy Lockstein 2 HR; Alex Dalby HR.

Game Synopsis-Joel Dyck homered in all four plate appearances for the winners.

Hit N Run-35, Leeswood Construction Dirty Mitts-11

Hit N Run-John Wiebe 6-6; Martin Klassen 6-7, 2 HR; Jacob Klassen 2 HR; Peter Klassen GrSlam; Daniel Unger HR.

Leeswood-Travis Nikin 3-3; Tim Townsend 3-4.

Game Synopsis-This one was no contest as Hit N Run went through their order six times, Jacob Klassen drove in six for the winners.

Hit N Run-17, 1,2 Seal Insulation Hawks-13

Hit N Run-John Wiebe 4-4, HR; Jacob Klassen 4-4, 2 HR; Johnny Unger HR.

Hawks-Ben Bueckert 3-4; Johnny Klassen 3-4; Evan Bueckert 2 HR; Peter Epp HR; Martin Klassen HR.

Game Synopsis-Hit N Run won it with a five-run sixth, Johnny Unger and Jacob Klassen hit homers in the rally.

Men's Division 2

The top two teams were upended this week - Quackheads and All Seasons Estate Care Bandits both defeated first-place Pelicans. Quackheads had a perfect week, beating second place Strike Force on the Friday night after winning by forfeit over Sticky Bandits on the Sunday. Strike Force had picked up a big win over Mavericks earlier in the week but dropped one to All Seasons. Mavericks were able to stall At My Playground/IQT Logistics' long winning streak, beating them by four. At My Playground won over Underhill Farm Supply. Designated Drinkers upset All Seasons and Papa's Auto Spa had a good week, registering victories over Underhill and Sticky Bandits.

All Seasons Estate Care Bandits-16, Strike Force-11

All Seasons-Caleb Dyck 4-4; Corney Sawatsky 3-4; Jake Sawatsky HR; William Loewen HR.

Strike-Henry Teichroeb 4-4, HR; Herman Enns 3-4.

Game Synopsis-Bandits plated eight over their final two at-bats to take the win. William Loewen's three-run homer in the sixth gave them the cushion they needed.

Quackheads-11, Pelicans-10

Quackheads-Cody Long 3-3; Scott Mudford 4-4.

Pelicans-Jeff Cadotte 3-4, HR; Chris Parker 4-4.

Game Synopsis-Quackheads walked this one off with a base hit from Rob Wong.

Designated Drinkers-17, All Seasons Estate Care Bandits-16

Drinkers-Matt Barker 5-5, 2 HR; Johnny Abele 4-5; Kyle Postma HR.

Bandits-Benny Neufeld 5-5; Jake Sawatsky 4-5; William Loewen HR.

Game Synopsis-Matt Barker helped his own cause homering twice while scoring three runs.

Strike Force-19, Mavericks-16

Strike-Jacob Enns 5-6; Johnny Klassen 5-5.

Mavericks-Nick Dovsek 5-5; Ryan Sinden 4-4; Jason Landry HR.

Game Synopsis-Strike Force plated three runs in their last at bat and held on for the win. Abe Klassen hit a pair of doubles and drove in four in the game.

Papa's Auto Spa-23, Sticky Bandits-17

Papa's-Zack Vanderhaeghe 6-6, HR; Mike Hopper 4-4.

Bandits-Morgan Siemens 4-4; Tyson Krahn 4-4.

Game Synopsis-An eight-run seventh won it for Papa's, Zack Vanderhaeghe hit a three-run homer in the rally.

All Seasons Estate Care Bandits-16 Pelicans-10

All Seasons-Aaron Hildebrandt 2-2 Ben Neufeld 2-2 Corney Sawatsky HR

Pelicans-Ryan Marques 3-4 Andrew Dawson 2-2

Game Synopsis-Bandits broke open the game with a seven run sixth, and Adam Klassen drove in two with a single in the rally.

At My Playground/IQT Logistics-22, Underhill Farm Supply-13

AMP-Duncan McLean 4-5; Brandon Bala-

zs 5-5; Trent Lamb HR.

Underhill-Stephen Schafer 4-5 HR Chase Corbeil 3-4 Craig Robb 2HR

Game Synopsis-AMP scored runs in every inning against the shorthanded Underhill squad, Trent Lamb was a double shy of hitting for the cycle.

Quackheads-18, Strike Force-13

Quackheads-Bob Long 5-5; Scott Mudford 4-5.

Strike-Abe Klassen 4-4; Silas Bueckert 4-4, HR.

Game Synopsis-Leadoff batter Scott Mudford scored four runs for the winners, pitcher Bob Long helped his own cause, belting out five base hits.

Papa's Auto Spa-12, Underhill Farm Supply-6

Papa's-Peyton Harris 3-3; Jesse Legg 3-3.

Underhill-Stephen Schafer 3-4; Troy Sebok 2-3.

Game Synopsis-Papa's doubled up the shorthanded Underhill squad.

Mavericks-19, At My Playground/IQT Logistics-15

Mavericks-Doug Falkins 5-5; Dom Cunningham 4-5.

AMP-Landon Partlo 3-4; Duncan McLean 4-4; Logan Partlo HR.

Game Synopsis-A bat-around six-run seventh gave the Mavericks the win, Doug Falkins reached in all five plate appearances.

Men's Division 3

John Beere upset Sandy Shore Brew and defeated Wolfpack moving them into second place in the division, and Bird's Golf edged them out in their other game. The first-place Sluggers swept Bird's in a doubleheader and beat NAPA/Coward's Pharmacy Maulers and Wolfpack, but were upset by Beer Bombers. Maulers won by forfeit over Beer Bombers rounding out

Bird's Golf-10, John Beere-9

Bird's -Josh Townsend 3-3; Isaac Froese 3-3.

John Beere-Jesse Anderson 3-3; Jack Finnigan 3-3.

Game Synopsis-Josh Townsend and Charles Zarb each hit doubles in the winner's three-run fourth.

Sluggers-19, Bird's Golf-15

Sluggers-Nick Wells 4-5; Cassius Bailey 4-5; Cole Seaton HR.

Bird's-Isaac Froese 4-5; Charles Zarb 4-5; Jake Froese HR.

Game Synopsis-Lead-off batter Alex Barnes reached and scored four runs for the Sluggers.

Sluggers-26, Bird's Golf-10

Sluggers-Layn Wells 5-5; Tyler Rowe 5-5; Isaak Harder HR.

Bird's-Matt Townsend 3-4; Isaac Froese 2-3; Jake Froese HR.

Game Synopsis-Cole Heaton reached and scored five times, Alex Barnes and Tyler Rowe each crossed four times.

Sluggers-16, Wolfpack-11

Sluggers-Tyler Rowe 4-5; Layn Wells 4-4.

Wolfpack-Ryan Berger 5-5; Terry Jones 4-5; Ryan Copping HR.

Game Synopsis-Sluggers plated 10 runs

over their final two at-bats to take the win.

Sluggers-8, NAPA/Coward's Pharmacy Maulers-7

Sluggers-Alex Barnes 4-4; George Goertzen 2-3.

NAPA-Devon Outerbridge 3-3; Craig Boucher 3-3.

Game Synopsis-A seven-run first moved Sluggers into a big early lead, NAPA fought back and Sluggers scored one in their last at-bat to register the win.

Beer Bombers-22, Sluggers-11

Bombers-Brendon Vink 5-5; Nick Vessayan 4-5; Nate Murphy HR; Kaleb Kloefer HR.

Sluggers-Layn Wells 3-4; Jake Superales 3-4.

Game Synopsis-Bombers put seven across in each of the first and fourth innings, Nate Murphy, Nick Vessayan and Brendon Vink each scored four runs.

John Beere-14, Wolfpack-13

John Beere-Kenith McMerty 4-4; Ezra Giesbrecht 4-4; Tristan Healy HR.

Wolfpack-Ryan Copping 3-4, HR; Terry Jones 4-4.

Game Synopsis-John Beere won it with a three-run sixth-inning rally. Tristan Healy accounted for the runs, hitting a three-run homer.

John Beere-21, Sandy Shore Brew Jays-5

John Beere-Kristian Carrel 4-4; Rick Pihokker 2-2.

Brew Jays-Josh Mabey 2-2; Mike Schmeltz 2-2.

Game Synopsis-John Beere produced runs early, plating seven in their first two at-bats, Brandon Reaney led with a pair of doubles and two runs scored.

Men's Division 4

The last-place Tornadoes collected a big win over second-place Brickhouse Boys. The Boys got revenge on the Friday, easily beating them after winning over Diamond Kings the night before.

Brickhouse Boys-21, Diamond Kings-13

Brickhouse-Ryan Davison 3-3; Clayton Cassar 3-4; Luke Thomas HR; Parker Morris 2 HR; Shawn Knelsen HR.

Diamond-George Klassen 4-4; Frank Redecop 3-4.

Game Synopsis-Luke Thomas was a triple shy of hitting for the cycle for the winners, and Shawn Knelsen was a single shy of doing the same.

Brickhouse Boys-22, Tornadoes-8

Brickhouse-Dylan Smith 4-4; Jason Cronheimer 5-5.

Tornadoes-Jaxon Toth 4-4; Tom Soares 3-3.

Game Synopsis-Jason Cronheimer scored four runs for the winners.

Tornadoes-10, Brickhouse Boys-8

Tornadoes-Ben Serrador 3-3, HR; Tyler Bouck 3-4.

Brickhouse-Parker Morris 3-3; Nathan Bridges 3-3; Luke Thomas HR; Shawn Knelsen HR.

Game Synopsis-Tyler Bouck's fourth-inning bases-clearing triple decided this one in the Tornadoes favor.

CONTINUED TO PAGE 16

Long weekend will be busy for slo-pitch

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 15

Ladies' Division

Cooks Concrete Jays continue to dominate after lopsided victories over Foldens Machine Works and Queen Bees keeping their unbeaten season alive. Simmonds Mortgages strengthened their hold on second place after shutting out Wildcats and winning by nine over Foldens. Sunspace/Bill Klyn Carpentry collected a pair of mercy wins over Queen Bees and Resting Pitch Face. Resting had a big win over Wildcats.

Sunspace/Bill Klyn Carpentry-20, Queen Bees-6

Sunspace-Amanda Stubbs 5-5, HR; Claire Barker 4-4.

Queen-Emma Ferris 3-4; Diana Byers 3-4.

Game Synopsis-Amanda Stubbs was a triple shy of hitting for the cycle and scored three runs for the winners.

Cooks Concrete Jays-17, Foldens Machine Works-5

Cooks-Brandi Cook 4-4; Kayden Thornton 4-4.

Foldens-Monica Barnes 2-2; Ashley Aker 2-2.

Game Synopsis-Maddi Obar and Kayden Thornton each scored four runs for the winners.

Cooks Concrete Jays-17, Queen Bees-5

Cooks-Hilary Stoop 3-3; Melissa Hughes 3-3.

Queen-Emma Ferris 3-3; Tristyn Dahl

3-3.

Game Synopsis-Everyone in the winner's order scored at least one run.

Resting Pitch Face-17, Wildcats-5

Resting-Amber Smith 3-3; Martina McCallum 3-3.

Wildcats-Ashley Anderson 3-4; Tracey Coderre 2-2.

Game Synopsis-Lead-off batter Brittany Wolf scored three runs for the winners.

Sunspace/Bill Klyn Carpentry-14, Resting Pitch Face-2

Sunspace-Nicole Morgan 4-4; Missy Falkins 4-4.

Resting-Sara Sohm 1-2; Hailee Beckett 2-2; Martina McCallum HR.

Game Synopsis-Nicole Morgan had a big night at the plate, tripling, singling three times and scoring four runs for the winners.

Simmonds Mortgages-14, Foldens Machine Works-5

Simmonds-Forrestt Ashley 4-4; Tena Bueckert 3-4.

Foldens-Mackenzie Brackenbury 4-4; Sandy Dekeyser 3-4.

Game Synopsis-Simmonds had two six run innings, Tena Bueckert and Anita Dahl each scored three runs in the game.

Simmonds Mortgages-19, Wildcats-0

Tena Bueckert 4-4; Connie White 3-3.

Wildcats-Steph Miller 2-2; Tracey Coderre 1-1.

Game Synopsis-The top two in the win-

ner's order, Corrie Tveit and Tena Bueckert, each scored four runs, Jen Mowat pitched the shutout, aided by some strong defence behind her.

LADIES	W	L	T	PTS
COOKS CONCRETE JAYS	19	0	0	38
SIMMONDS MORTGAGES	14	4	0	28
FOLDENS MACHINE WORKS	12	6	1	25
SUNSPACE/BILL KLYN CARPENTRY	11	6	1	23
RESTING PITCH FACE	6	14	0	12
WILDCATS	3	16	0	6
QUEEN BEES	0	19	0	0

MEN'S DIVISION 1	W	L	T	PTS
1,2 SEAL INSULATION HAWKS	12	1	0	25
HIT N RUN	8	7	0	16
COBRA CHICKENS	7	8	0	14
THE MILL	6	6	0	12
CUBS	5	7	1	11
LEESWOOD CONSTRUCTION DIRTY MITTS	5	7	1	11
SUNSPACE/BILL KLYN CARPENTRY	3	10	0	6

MEN'S DIVISION 2	W	L	T	PTS
PELICANS	12	3	0	24
STRIKE FORCE	10	6	0	20
ALL SEASONS ESTATE CARE BANDITS	9	5	1	19
MAVERICKS	9	6	0	18
AT MY PLAYGROUND/IQT LOGISTICS	8	5	1	17
STICKY BANDITS	6	8	0	12
QUACKHEADS	6	10	0	12
PAPA'S AUTO SPA	5	9	1	11
UNDERHILL FARM SUPPLY	4	11	1	9
DESIGNATED DRINKERS	4	10	0	8

MEN'S DIVISION 3	W	L	T	PTS
SLUGGERS	13	3	1	27
JOHN BEERE	9	7	1	19
SANDY SHORE BREW JAYS	8	6	0	16
BEER BOMBERS	7	7	1	15
NAPA/COWARD'S PHARMACY MAULERS	6	8	0	12
BIRD'S GOLF	5	8	0	10
WOLFPACK	3	12	1	7

MEN'S DIVISION 4	W	L	T	PTS
N.I.M.	17	1	0	34
BRICKHOUSE BOYS	11	5	1	23
R.L.P. MELANIE LUKSYS	7	10	2	16
DIAMOND KINGS	7	12	0	14
SMOKIN BASES	6	13	0	12
TORNADOES	5	12	1	11

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MINOR SPORTS

SCRAPBOOK

(STUART BLOWER PHOTOS)



It was a scramble for control of the ball in U-8 girls' action last week with Coyle's vying against Bossy Nagy Group.



Dominos' Avah Jones leads with the ball in a U-8 game against Avondale United Church.



Livy Thorburn, left, of the ReMax U-8 girls' team moves the ball up the field in a game against Flooring Canada.



It was a close encounter of the goal-scoring kind as Thompson Goossens Accountants goaltender and a Canadian Tire forward meet at the goal line.



Danbrook Automotive and East Elgin Concrete Forming players converge to get control of a loose ball in last week's U-10 girls' action.



Chloe Blackman, left, of Dr. Jonathan Arnell Optometry, challenge as Servicemaster players left to right, Clara Cooper, Andjela Carevic (goalie), Olivia Stenhouse, Hannah Cooper, and Leona Bajada, wait for the ball to settle in a U-12 game.



FORM 6
SALE OF LAND BY PUBLIC TENDER
Municipal Act, 2001

Ontario Regulation 181/03, Municipal Tax Sale Rules

SALE OF LAND BY PUBLIC TENDER

THE CORPORATION OF THE TOWN OF TILLSONBURG

Take Notice that tenders are invited for the purchase of the land described below and will be received until 3:00 p.m. local time on August 19, 2026, at the Tillsonburg Municipal Office, 10 Lisgar Ave, Tillsonburg, Ontario

The tenders will then be opened in public on the same day as soon as possible after 3:00 p.m. at the Tillsonburg Municipal Office, 10 Lisgar Ave, Tillsonburg.

Description of Land:

1. Roll No. 32 04 050 055 29000 0000; 44 JACKSON CRT., TILLSONBURG; PIN 00033-0201 (LT); PART OF LOT 48, PLAN 41M86; DESIGNATED AS PARTS 23 & 24, 41R5384 SUBJECT TO EASEMENT IN FAVOUR OF THE CORPORATION OF THE TOWN OF TILLSONBURG OVER PART 24, 41R5384 AS IN LT44360 SUBJECT TO EASEMENT INFAVOUR OF UNION GAS LIMITED AS IN LT62003 TILLSONBURG; File No. 25-07 According to the last returned assessment roll, the assessed value of the land is \$197,000

Minimum tender amount: \$34,567.94

Tenders must be submitted in the prescribed form and must be accompanied by a deposit of at least 20 per cent of the tender amount, which deposit shall be made by way of a certified cheque/bank draft/ money order payable to the municipality.

Except as follows, the municipality makes no representation regarding the title to or any other matters relating to the land to be sold. Responsibility for ascertaining these matters rests with the potential purchasers. The assessed value, according to the last returned assessment roll, may or may not be representative of the current market value of the property.

Pursuant to the Prohibition on the Purchase of Residential Property by Non-Canadians Act, S.C. 2022, c. 10, s. 235 (the "Act"), effective January 1, 2023, it is prohibited for a non-Canadian to purchase, directly or indirectly, any residential property, as those terms are defined in the legislation. Contraventions of the Act are punishable by a fine, and offending purchasers may be ordered to sell the residential property.

The municipality assumes no responsibility whatsoever for ensuring bidders/tenderers comply with the Act, and makes no representations regarding same. Prospective bidders/tenderers are solely responsible for ensuring compliance with the Act and are advised to seek legal advice before participating in this sale.

Transfers of properties that contain at least one and not more than six single family residences and are transferred to non-residents of Canada or foreign entities, are subject to the Province's Non-Resident Speculation Tax (NRST).

This sale is governed by the Municipal Act, 2001 and the Municipal Tax Sales Rules made under that Act. The successful purchaser will be required to pay the amount tendered plus accumulated taxes and any taxes that may be applicable, such as a land transfer tax and HST.

TAKE NOTICE: Where a refund is claimed by a qualifying first-time Homebuyer under the Land Transfer Tax Act, the Municipality requires the purchaser to retain legal counsel to complete the transfer.

The municipality has no obligation to provide vacant possession to the successful purchaser.

A copy of the prescribed form of tender is available on the website of the Government of Ontario Central Forms Repository under the listing for the Ministry of Municipal Affairs.

For further information regarding this sale and a copy of the prescribed form of tender, visit:

www.OntarioTaxSales.ca

or if no internet access available, contact:

Ted Lyons
 Revenue Manager
 The Corporation of the Town of Tillsonburg
 10 Lisgar Ave
 Tillsonburg ON N4G 5A5
 1-519-688-3009 Ext. 4020
tlyons@tillsonburg.ca
www.tillsonburg.ca

Punk rock veteran Mikey Erg ready to pull double duty at Buddies Fest



BEN ANDRESS

Tillsonburg Post Columnist

MUSIC CORNER

When Buddies Fest returns to Tillsonburg punk rock fans will have two chances to catch one of the genre's most respected and hard-working musicians. New Jersey's Mike Yannich, better known around the world as Mikey Erg, will perform twice during the Tillsonburg festival next weekend. First with the reunited Doc Hopper on Friday, Aug. 7 before stepping into the spotlight for a solo set on Saturday.

Over the past three decades Yannich has built an impressive reputation as a drummer, guitarist, vocalist and songwriter, playing in an incredible list of bands including The Ergs!, The Dopamines, The

Unlovables, Dirtbike Annie, Parasites, and The LLC, the house band for The Chris Gethard Show.

His reputation became so widespread that in 2013 fans even launched a Change.org petition hoping he would become the new drummer for Against Me!. Although the position ultimately went to Atom Willard, the campaign caught the attention of frontwoman Laura Jane Grace, leading the pair to record together for an unrelated project.

In 2016, Mikey Erg entered a new chapter with the release of his acclaimed solo debut titled Tentative Decisions. It is an album that continues to resonate with fans 10 years later.

Reflecting on the record's legacy, Yannich says it marked an important turning point in his musical journey.

"That record basically kick started the second phase of my career," Yannich reflects. "I still love it today and think it is pretty much exactly the record I wanted to make post-Ergs."

Buddies Fest will showcase a couple of Mikey's musical projects. Attendees will see him performing with Doc Hopper one night before performing solo the next day,

which is a transition that seems second nature.

"It is funny cause at this point, both bands are the exact same line up, but Chris Pierce and I switch lead singer and guitar roles," Yannich explains. "We have done tours together a few times at this point so it comes pretty naturally now."

"It can definitely burn you out, but I love to play, and one of the reasons playing in so many different projects is great is that it never gets boring," says Yannich about juggling countless projects throughout his career.

Fans attending Buddies Fest can expect to hear songs spanning Mikey Erg's extensive catalogue.

"I'm psyched people like any of them," Yannich laughs. "Pray for Rain is one that seemed to resonate with most people and that was awesome to see."

Having spent decades performing everywhere from intimate DIY basement shows to major festivals Yannich believes punk's greatest strength has always been its sense of belonging.

"The thing I always loved about punk rock is it provides a place to fit in for people who don't feel like they do," Yannich

says with a smile. "I think it is almost more welcoming nowadays and that is so great."

That philosophy makes Buddies Fest feel like a natural fit. While this will be his first visit to the Tillsonburg festival, he is already looking forward to the atmosphere.

"This is my first year at Buddies Fest but I'm expecting it to be a pretty chill vibe with a bunch of rad friends around," Yannich says. "I cannot wait."

For Tillsonburg's growing punk community, Buddies Fest offers a rare opportunity to experience some of the scene's most enduring and beloved musicians in intimate settings between Friday, Aug. 7 and Sunday, Aug. 9, including a couple sets with Mikey Erg. The gates for all three days open at 3 p.m. with The Mill hosting the main stage and side stage at 20 John Pound Road in Tillsonburg with after-party shows hosted just up the road by The Copper Mug at 79 Broadway Street. Discounted day tickets and weekend passes are available at The Mill and online at <https://buddiesfest2.eventbrite.ca>

The full line up of artists and set times can be found at www.buddiesfest.com

UPCOMING SHOWS

JULY 30 - THE SADIES
Paddy's Underground
\$40 - 8 p.m. - all ages/licensed

AUGUST 1 - TRI-COUNTY'S GOT TALENT TRYOUT NIGHT #2
The Copper Mug
7 p.m.

AUGUST 5 - TRI-COUNTY'S GOT TALENT TRYOUT NIGHT #3
The Copper Mug
6 p.m.

AUGUST 6 - COUNT ESTEBAN
The Copper Mug
Free Entry - 7 p.m.

AUGUST 7 - BUDDIES FEST (DAY 1) W/ CHIXDIGGIT!, TOMMY STINSON & MORE
The Mill, Paddy's Underground & The Copper Mug
3 p.m. - All Ages/Licensed - www.buddiesfest.com

AUGUST 8 - BUDDIES FEST (DAY 2) W/ ALL, BEN NICHOLS, WHERE'S SHANE & MORE
The Mill, Paddy's Underground &

The Copper Mug
3 p.m. - All Ages/Licensed - www.buddiesfest.com

AUGUST 9 - BUDDIES FEST (DAY 3) W/ WHEATUS, RUSTY, THE MCBAINS & MORE
The Mill, Paddy's Underground & The Copper Mug
3 p.m. - All Ages/Licensed - www.buddiesfest.com

AUGUST 12 - EUCHRE NIGHT
The Copper Mug
6:30 p.m.



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• Meetings • & More

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ON THE WATER

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IF THEY DON'T FINISH
THEIR TERM

Have you heard something humorous around town that you think might be of interest to others? Either email them to us at info@tillsonburgpost.com with the title "Overheard at the Coffee Shop" or call 519.655.2341.



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519.983.0967



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519.673.7110



LANCE MACKENZIE*
226.378.0345



NICHOLAS PAUL*
519.872.0184



CHERYL RAPAI*
226.970.2490

24 HARVEY STREET, TILLSONBURG, ON N4G 3J8 | 519.688.0021 | HERITAGEHOUSE.C21.CA

EXPECT MORE.

AUGUST

AUGUST 1 | 9 AM - 12 PM
HEAVENLY CLOSET CLOTHING SALE
Springford Baptist Church, 422 Main St W in Springford (In the basement of the church)

Clothes, shoes, boots, handbags, backpacks will be available by purchasing a bag for \$5 and stuffing it with as many items as you can in the bag. Bags will be supplied by the church. Enter side door near parking lot. Proceeds will be donated to the Tillsonburg Foodbank.

AUGUST 2 | MEMORIAL SERVICE AT 1 PM

DECORATION DAY
Langton Baptist Cemetery

If you wish to make a donation towards the upkeep of the cemetery, it would be greatly appreciated. Income tax receipts will be issued for all donations.

Cheques made payable to:
Langton Baptist Cemetery
c/o Barbra Sinnesael
1550 West Quarterline Road
Langton, Ontario N0E 1G0
Attendant will also be at Cemetery from 9:30 am to 2:30 pm

AUGUST 8 | 1 - 4:30 PM
KICKN KOUNTRY BAND
Tillsonburg Legion, 16 Durham St, Tillsonburg, ON

Get your dancing shoes on for only \$8 cash at the door. Food available noon to 2pm. 19+ event. For more information call 59-842-5281.

AUGUST 14 & 28 | 1 - 4 PM
KEN LIGHTHEART AND THE NORTSHORE RAMBLERS DANCE

Tillsonburg Legion, 16 Durham St, Tillsonburg, ON

All Welcome! Only \$7 at the door. Cash bar open!

ONGOING CLASSES, CLUBS & ORGANIZATIONS

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.

STARTS 7 PM
THE TILLSONBURG & DISTRICT HISTORICAL SOCIETY PRESENTS MUSIC ON THE LAWN

Annandale N.H.S. , 30 Tillson Avenue
AUGUST 2 – “Blue Sky” – Archie Wright
AUGUST 9 – “Kickin Kountry”
AUGUST 16 – “North Shore Ramblers”

BEGINNING AT 6:30 PM
AUGUST 23 – “George Fulop”
AUGUST 30 – “Blue Sky” – Archie Wright
Bring your own lawn chairs. (Music may be cancelled at short notice due to weather. Call 226-970-1432 for cancellations.) Goodwill offering will be taken.

OXFORD COUNTY DIABETES EDUCATION PROGRAM
Appointments are available at Alexandra Hospital Ingersoll and Tillsonburg District Memorial Hospital and by phone

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. **SELF REFERRALS ARE WELCOME.** Please call 519-485-9611 to book an appointment. Let's work together!

MONDAYS | 7 - 9 PM
MODERN SQUARE DANCING IS FOR YOU!

Thames Valley Dance Club
Looking for something to do in the evening or something new to try? Modern square dancing is a great way to learn something new, have fun, meet new friends, relieve stress, and get some exercise! All you need is comfortable shoes and casual clothing. No experience or partner is required and anyone over the age of 12 is welcome (children from 12-15 with an adult, please). **The 2025-2026 season has started at the Ingersoll Pipe Band Hall, 108 Wonham St. S. Ingersoll.** The first night is free, and after that the cost is \$7.50 per person each Monday, paid monthly at the start of the month. For more information, contact Julie at 519-535-3314.

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 dheaton3e3@gmail.com. Website: <http://www.rpsc.org/chapters/oxford>

3RD WED. OF MONTH | 10 AM - NOON
LYNN RIVER PROBUS CLUB

Army, Navy & Air Force Club, Simcoe, ON. Corner of Water St. and Culver St. Simcoe. Enter via Culver St.

Our retired and semi-retired members enjoy diverse interest groups, friendship and fellowship. We have interesting speakers at our monthly meetings as well as time to socialise. Current and prospective members are welcome to join us at the Army, Navy & Air Force Club, Simcoe, which is on the corner of Water St. and Culver St. Simcoe. Enter via Culver St. For more information, please visit our website at: lynnriverprobus239.com or email lynnriverprobus239@gmail.com

TUESDAYS & THURSDAYS | 7 - 9 PM
SATURDAYS | 10 AM - 12 PM
LEARN BRAZILIAN JIU-JITSU (BJJ)

North Broadway Baptist Church
Thanks to donor support, we've been able to purchase mats and uniforms, and our instructors generously volunteer their time. This isn't a business—any donations go straight back into the program to help buy more uniforms, mats, and equipment. If it's within your means, a \$20 monthly donation helps support the program, but if not, classes are completely free. **Classes are open to anyone 14 and older.** If you'd like to try a class, please arrive about 15 minutes early to sign waivers and get fitted for a uniform. Information can be found at: <https://www.northbroadwaychurch.ca/nbmfa>, <https://www.facebook.com/northbroadwaymf>, <https://www.instagram.com/northbroadwaymf>/ Inquires can be made at: nbmfa@northbroadwaychurch.ca

EVERY OTHER FRIDAY | 1 - 4 PM
SPRING INTO 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! May 1, 15 & 29, June 5 & 19.

WEDNESDAYS & FRIDAYS
TILLSONBURG BRIDGE CLUB
Two games weekly at the Tillsonburg Senior Centre - 45 Hardy Ave.
SOCIAL BRIDGE - Wednesdays, 7:00 p.m. A relaxed, friendly game for learners, returners and everyone else.
DUPLICATE BRIDGE - Fridays, 1:00 p.m. Still friendly, but a bit more structured and competitive.
Please arrive 10 minutes early.
Questions? tburgbridge@gmail.com or FB: TburgBridge

SATURDAYS, JUNE 6 - SEPT. 19 | 10 AM - 4 PM
PLATTSVILLE & DISTRICT HERITAGE SOCIETY
2026 EXHIBIT - HOLIDAYS & CELEBRATIONS THAT BRING US

TOGETHER
Archive & Museum at Chesterfield, 816661 Oxford Rd 22, Bright (June 20 - visit us at Plattsville 175)
Donations accepted. Refreshments. For private viewing email plattsvilledistrictheritage@gmail.com or call 519.535.1417.

1ST AND 3RD TUES. OF MONTH
TILLSONBURG LIONS

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

1ST WED. OF MONTH | 7 PM
WAGNER MEMORIAL TEETERVILLE LEGION BRANCH 526 - MEMBERS GENERAL MEETING
The Wagner Memorial Teeterville Legion Branch 526 - 3890 Teeterville Road, Teeterville, ON
Not a member? Contact us to join. For More Information Call, the Legion 519-443-5588. www.teetervillelegionbranch526.ca

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

The Wagner Memorial, Teeterville Legion Branch 526 - 3890 Teeterville Road, Teeterville, ON
You do not need to be a member to Volunteer, Just contact the legion and leave your name and number and purpose of your call. Someone will get back to you as to where you might be needed. Students and Adults welcome. **Open hours. Wed.-Fri. 3 pm-10 pm, Sat.1 pm-10 pm, Sun.1 pm-6 pm.** For More Information call, the Legion at 519-443-5588 or teetervillelegionbranch526.ca

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 help in the healing of grief. 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
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Because she's playing Monopoly.

How can a man who shaves many times a day still have a long beard?
He's a barber.

Which tire doesn't move when your car turns left?
The spare tire.

How far can a bear run into the woods?
Halfway. After that, he's running out of the woods.

When two snakes get married, what do their towels say?
Hiss and hers.

Which side of a chicken has more feathers?
The outside.

SUDOKU

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7				6	4	1	5	
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	4		9					3

Solutions on Page 23 Level: Intermediate

PET OF THE WEEK



RANGER

Ranger is one of many pets who are in need of a loving home. He is available for adoption from Oxford County Animal Rescue: oxfordcountyanimalrescue.com

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HOURS:

Sun: 11 a.m. - 5 p.m.
Mon - Fri: 9 a.m. - 8 p.m.
Sat: 9 a.m. - 6 p.m.

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

WORD SEARCH

ON THE FARM

S	E	V	L	A	V	M	F	P	P	K	R	O	I	N	M	H	N	U	L
H	A	A	N	F	O	W	N	A	K	N	O	I	T	A	R	U	T	A	S
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V	W	E	C	F	I	R	I	I	S	G	I	L	R	O	P	F	N	O	A
G	E	G	A	C	C	P	K	F	W	N	M	D	S	V	N	I	F	C	C
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- SPRINKLER
SYSTEM
VALVES
WATER

CLASSIFIEDS

OBITUARY

MARY ELIZABETH (ROTHENBERG) LOCKSTEIN

(AUGUST 30, 1959 – JULY 21, 2026)



It is with great sadness that we the family of Mary Elizabeth (nee Rothenberg) Lockstein wish to announce her peaceful passing at St. Thomas Elgin General Hospital, on Tuesday, July 21st, 2026, at the age of 66. Mary was born in Tillsonburg, daughter of the late Karl Rothenberg and survived by her loving mother Mary (nee McLean) Squires, of Tillsonburg. Also survived

by her stepmother Joan Rothenberg, of Tillsonburg. Mary will be remembered as kind and thoughtful by her friends, co-workers and relatives. She was strong willed and possessed a witty sense of humour Above all else, Mary will be remembered as a devoted wife, daughter, mother, grandmother, great-grandmother, sister, aunt and friend. Mary is dearly missed by her husband of 50 years, Terry A. Lockstein, of Tillsonburg. Loving mother to David Lockstein, of Tillsonburg and predeceased by her son Daniel (June 19, 2010). Always a caring grandmother to Anthony (his son Daniel), Alex, Ryan, Asa, and Nathan. Much-loved sister to Melodye (Greg), Bradley, Heather (Marvin), Mark (Carol), late Darwyn (2022) (surviving wife Irene); and stepsiblings Darren Bearss and Dana (Mark Schneider). Also survived by nieces, nephews, aunts, uncles and cousins. Predeceased by her stepfather Bill Squires and by her in-laws Ralph (2002) and Averil Lockstein (2024).

Friends, neighbours and relatives were invited by the Lockstein family to public visitation on Saturday, July 25th, 2026, between 11:00 a.m. and 12:45 p.m. in the Maurice J. Verhoeve Funeral Homes Chapel, 262 Broadway, Tillsonburg. A Funeral Service to honour her life followed on Saturday at 1:00 p.m., by Rev. Ross Hibberd (retired). Interment followed in Delmer Cemetery, beside Daniel. All are invited to share favourite memories and photos, express personal condolences or contribute memorial donations to the "Helping Hand Food Bank" via Mary's online tribute page at www.verhoevefuneralhomes.com or by contacting the Maurice J. Verhoeve Funeral Homes - Burial and Cremation Services Inc., (519) 842-4238.

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

Prefer to read online?
tillsonburgpost.com

OBITUARY

JOHN MAURICE LONCKE

(JULY 22, 1968 – JULY 23, 2026)



Passed away suddenly and unexpectedly, our much loved son, brother, uncle and friend, John Maurice Loncke, a resident of York, Pennsylvania, USA and formerly of Langton, at the age of 58. John was born in Tillsonburg, son of the late Donald Alfons Loncke (Feb. 27, 2005) and survived by his caring mother Freda (nee Demaiter) Loncke, of Langton. John was employed for many years

working throughout the USA as a Quality Engineer, most recently in Pennsylvania. John's family was important to him; he visited regularly and passed away during his most recent visit. John will be dearly missed by his mother Freda and by his siblings Mary Ann Mooney, Ken Loncke (Pat), Cathy McMahon (Pat), Gary Loncke and by several nieces and nephews. John is predeceased by his nephew Matthew McMahon (July 27, 2021).

Friends, neighbours and relatives were invited to attend a Funeral Mass of Christian Burial on Tuesday, July 28th, 2026, at 11:00 a.m. in Sacred Heart R.C. Church, 24 Albert Street, Langton, by Rev. Fr. Seejo John. Burial followed in Sacred Heart Cemetery, Langton. Everyone who knew John is invited to share favourite memories and photos, express personal condolences or contribute memorial donations to the "Tillsonburg District Memorial Hospital" or to "Sacred Heart Parish" via John's online tribute page at www.verhoevefuneralhomes.com or by contacting the Maurice J. Verhoeve Funeral Homes - Burial and Cremation Services Inc., (519) 842-4238.

WEEKEND QUIZ

by Jake Grant

1. What is extracted from the ore cassiterite?
2. How many weeks are there in a fortnight?
3. Who tight roped across the twin towers?
4. What animal is known as the king of the jungle?
5. What company was initially known as "Blue Ribbon Sports"?
6. What is the hottest planet in our solar system?
7. What was the original name of the Boston Red Sox?
8. What is the main ingredient in hummus?
9. Ash Wednesday marks the first day of what?
10. What is the name for the process of electing a Pope?

This week's answers are found on pg. 23

OBITUARY

(ARCHIE) ACHIEL FRANCIS MATTAN

(NOV. 30, 1935 – JULY 22, 2026)



It is with sadness that we the family of Achiel (Archie) Francis Mattan announce his peaceful passing after a brief struggle with illness, at Tillsonburg District Memorial Hospital, on July 22nd, 2026, at the age of 90. Archie was born in Windsor, son of the late Cyriel Gerard Mattan and late former Maria Christine Rosseel. Archie is survived by the love of his life, Denise (Plancke) Mattan; together they

shared 69 wonderful years together. Together they grew tobacco in Walsingham between 1959-1980, then they ran a chemical business, grew cash crops and did custom spraying. In 2001, they retired and moved to Tillsonburg. Archie was a member of St. Mary's R.C. Church. In his spare time, Archie enjoyed volunteering his time. He was the past President of the Belgian Fair Board, past President of the Langton Lions Club (1974-75), past President of the Langton Thunderbirds Jr. Hockey Club, past Director of the Delhi Belgian Hall, and a past Director of the Norfolk Farmers Co-op.

Archie will be remembered by those who knew him for his larger-than-life personality, his strong wit and as a great storyteller. He was a man always put together and dressed to the 9's. He was strong in body, in spirit and in commitment to his family and friends. Archie will be dearly missed by his children and their families: Terry Mattan, of Tillsonburg and his son Tyler Mattan and late daughter Melissa (Oct. 13, 2024) (survived by her husband Taylor Tregoning and their son Callum); Darrell (Sandra) Mattan, of Tillsonburg and their children Victoria (Kyle) VanHeugten (their children Alyvia & Auston), Andrew (Taylor) Mattan (their children Archie and Lennyn). Also survived by his brother Dr. Frank Mattan (Judy), of Tillsonburg, as well as by several nieces, nephews and cousins. Predeceased by his sister Marguerite DeBeer (late husband Valere).

In keeping with Archie's expressed wishes, cremation has taken place. Private family inurnment will take place at a later date. Everyone who knew Archie is invited to share favourite memories and photos, express personal condolences, or contribute memorial donations to the "Tillsonburg District Memorial Hospital Foundation" or to "St. Mary's Church" via Archie's online tribute page at www.verhoevefuneralhomes.com, or by contacting Maurice J. Verhoeve Funeral Homes- Burial and Cremation Services Inc., 262 Broadway, Tillsonburg (519) 842-4238, entrusted with final arrangements, with confidence.



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CLASSIFIEDS

OBITUARY

ANN KAMENAR (NEE HELSDON)

(DECEMBER 6, 1955 – JULY 24, 2026)



It is with heavy hearts that we, the family of Ann Kamenar, announce her peaceful passing on Friday, July 24th, 2026, at VON Sakura House Hospice, Woodstock, at the age of 70. Ann was born in Tillsonburg, daughter of the late Arthur Helsdon and late Adrienne Warren. Ann will be remembered by her family and friends for her dedication- to her family, her friends and her career. She loved to connect

with people and always kept busy. Her nearly 30-year career as a sales associate with Eichenberg Chrysler, Tillsonburg allowed her to maintain and gain social connections. Above all else, her family was at the center of her world. She has a big place in her heart for her beloved Buffalo Bills. Over the years, she was also a supporter of the Rotary Student Exchange, and she housed many students over those years.

Ann is dearly missed by her children and their families: Scott Kamenar (Amanda), of Tillsonburg and their son Brock; Mike Kamenar Jr. (Ashley), of Tillsonburg and their children Michael, Cole and Ella; Elise Kamenar-Johnson (Adrian), of Simcoe and their son Ian. Also survived by her brother Guy Helsdon (Allister Moores), of Tiny, ON and by her brother Paul Helsdon, of Brownsville and their families. Predeceased by her stepfather Bill Warren and by her husband Michael Kamenar Sr. (2009).

Friends, neighbours and relatives are invited to attend public visitation on Tuesday, July 28th, 2026, between 2:00 and 4:00 p.m. and 6:00 and 8:00 p.m. in the Maurice J. Verhoeve Funeral Homes Chapel, 262 Broadway, Tillsonburg. A Complete Funeral Mass of Christian Burial will be held on Thursday, July 30th, 2026, at 11:00 a.m. in St. Mary's R.C. Church, 51 Venison Street West, Tillsonburg, by Rev. Fr. Seejo John. Cremation follows with later inurnment in Tillsonburg Cemetery. All funeral attendees are invited to join the family for a reception held immediately following the Mass at the Carriage Hall (25 Brock St. W., Tillsonburg).

Everyone who knew Ann is invited to share favourite memories and photos, express personal condolences or contribute memorial donations to the "Rotary Club of Tillsonburg" or to the "Helping Hand Food Bank" or to the "Tillsonburg and District Multi Service Center" via Ann's online tribute page at www.verhoevefuneralhomes.com or by contacting the Maurice J. Verhoeve Funeral Homes, Tillsonburg (519) 842-4238, which has been entrusted with all arrangements, with confidence.

"Thank you to the dedicated Doctors Nurses PSWs and Staff at VON Sakura House for the wonderful care provided to our mother and family during this difficult time. Special thanks to Donna for your attentive care and compassion."

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