

Tillsonburg POST

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Council makes accommodations for closed walkway

JEFF HELSDON

Local Journalism Initiative Reporter

Tillsonburg council passed two separate initiatives at its Aug. 11 meeting to assist Hickory Hills residents with the inconvenience of the closing of the Kinsmen Bridge during construction.

The bridge is closed until December for replacement. It sees between 250 and 500 people per day cross it, and connects Hickory Hills and other subdivisions on the west side of town to the downtown at Rolph Street.

The bridge was built in 1888, and was part of the Great Western Railway connecting Tillsonburg Junction to Brantford, until it was converted to pedestrian use after the removal of the rails.

The first suggestion, outlined in a report from Carlos Reyes, Director of Operations and Development, was to offer free TGo bus service from two stops (Wilson and Hickory) during the construction period. The detour walking to Bidwell because of the bridge closure was estimated at 1.5 kilometers in length, instead of the 350-meter length between Wilson and Bridge Streets via the bridge.

"This significant increase in travel distance may pose challenges for pedestrians, particularly seniors, youth, and individuals with mobility limitations," he wrote.

The only question from council was from Mayor Deb Gilvesy, who asked what residents should do if they are struggling with understanding the bus schedule. She was told anyone needing assistance should contact the customer service centre.

CONTINUED TO PAGE 2



(STUART BLOWER PHOTO)

The Tillsonburg Fair was called a success by organizers after the three-day event over the weekend. The 13-ride midway helped to draw people, and there was an increase in sales of midway ride bracelets. See more fair coverage inside today's paper.

Fair organizers deem the event a success

JEFF HELSDON

Editor

The 171st edition of the Tillsonburg Fair is in the books, and organizers are deeming it a success.

Joan Weston, a member of the Tillsonburg Tri-County Agricultural Society that presents the fair, explained the final numbers aren't calculated yet. Still, she estimated at least 6,000 people paid to come through the gates, and possibly as many as 7,000. Add in those under five years of age, who are no charge, and that number could stretch to 8,000.

"This year we thanked Mother Nature," said fair board vice-president Rosemary Dean. "We had three great

days. Pretty hot, but it still brought people out."

She said the demolition derby track got "a little sloppy" after rain overnight Saturday, but that didn't keep cars or people away. Between Saturday and Sunday, there were 83 derby cars in the events.

There was a lot on the line for the Tillsonburg fair this year after a tornado warning and heavy rain throughout the weekend negatively impacted attendance. Gate receipts were down \$14,000 from the previous year, but were back on track this year.

"If this was another bad year, we don't know what next year would look like," Dean said, joking that perhaps paying tribute to Mother Nature in the fair's theme this year may have helped the cause.

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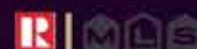


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Council makes accommodations to residents for closed walkway

CONTINUED FROM FRONT



(JEFF HELSDON PHOTO)

Kinsmen Bridge is now closed and fenced off to allow removal of the existing structure and to make way for a new bridge to be put in place.

Any costs associated with covering the bus fares will be funded through the Kinsmen Bridge contingency fund.

The second accommodation for the construction came through a notice of motion presented by Coun. Kelly Spencer, at the

encouragement of Coun. Bob Parsons — who couldn't attend the latter part of the meeting — to temporarily install a bench on Baldwin Street, adjacent to Edgewood Drive. The bench is to provide a rest stop for those walking the longer route.

Fair attendance could have hit 8,000 people

CONTINUED FROM FRONT

The fair was officially opened Friday night, followed by the crowning of the senior ambassador, ambassador, junior ambassador, and mini king and queens. All were acclaimed except the latter two positions.

This is despite the fact that the ambassador, which is open to those between the ages of 16 and 24, provides a variety of opportunities, including representing the fair at various events, competing for the Canadian National Exhibition ambassador, and attending the Ontario Agriculture Society meeting.

"We have a problem getting them, or once they are crowned, we never hear from them again," Dean said.

The board is considering changing the program next year to have a junior prince and princess for youth ages 10 to 15.

"Getting those kids prepared, and maybe those kids will be involved in the next one," Dean said of the concept.

New this year was live entertainment and a beer tent organized by The Copper Mug. Dean said this went well, and there is a consideration of bringing back a talent contest like the one Rick Esseltine organized years ago.

The petting zoo was a big hit, the tyke zone was "packed all weekend" and the Special Olympics versus first responders basketball game was a hit.

"The smiles, the excitement and the fun

you see in their faces, there's no words to describe it," Dean said.

Appearances from Batman and Lightning McQueen were called big hits, and the always-popular baby and pet contests went well.

The homecraft displays, a long-standing part of the fair, may become history as the organizers retire. The board is considering what to do on this front.

With the fair over, board members will start planning for the next one. Dean said they have already packed Magical Midways for next year. Some smaller fairs have struggled to book a midway, challenging their viability.

"They've been very good to us," Dean said. "Without them, we wouldn't be where we were. After we lost Campbell's 10 years ago, we tried different groups and nothing fit before Magical Midways."

Dean was encouraged that four new people expressed interest in joining the fair board.

"It's great to get fresh ideas," she said. "Especially the younger ones because they're the ones who have children who will play the games, go on the rides, and can provide input on what will bring those people out."

She closed by thanking the sponsors, volunteers and all who came to the fair.

"Without them, we couldn't be planning for next year's fair," she said.

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Tillsonburg council gives thumbs up to two hires

JEFF HELSDON

Local Journalism Initiative Reporter

Tillsonburg council approved the hiring of two employees, although one of the positions is on a temporary contract basis to fill a leave of absence.

The addition of a deputy fire chief is a new position that was not part of the 2025 budget, but is a role that existed in the past. The last time Tillsonburg had a deputy fire chief was in 2022.

Discussion of the personnel matters took place in closed session, as is the practice according to the Municipal Act.

Asked the reason for filling the deputy chief position at present, Tillsonburg CAO Kyle Pratt provided the following rationale via e-mail:

- 1) Operational Resilience and Leadership Continuity
 - Ensure command coverage during major incidents or when the fire chief is unavailable.

- Support incident command structure for complex emergencies, especially with Tillsonburg’s growing dispatch responsibilities across 61 external fire stations.
- Enhance response coordination for high-risk calls, including motor vehicle rescues and structure fires.
- 2) Oversee firefighter development, operational readiness and firefighter health and safety
- 3) Administrative efficiency
 - Assist with compliance oversight under the Fire Protection and Prevention Act and Ontario Fire Code.
 - Manage training programs and inter-agency collaboration.
- Support the fire chief in budget planning, policy development, and strategic initiatives.
- 4) Succession planning and staff development
 - Build a leadership pipeline to ensure continuity and

- preserve institutional knowledge.
 - Mentor officers and support career progression for Tillsonburg’s paid-on-call firefighters.
 - 5) Enhanced fire prevention and public education
 - Strengthen public engagement, including social media outreach and education events.
 - Support compliance with emerging legislation and NFPA standards for fire prevention and safety.
- The cost of the deputy fire chief position for the remainder of 2025 will be funded through the fire labour surplus. If there is no surplus available in 2026, the position would result in a 0.74 per cent levy increase.
- An ad for this position will be going out shortly.
- The deputy clerk position is temporarily vacant due to deputy clerk Amelia Jaggard taking the position of acting clerk due to the clerk’s leave of absence. There is no budget increase associated with this position.

Council approves expropriation for industrial land access

JEFF HELSDON

Local Journalism Initiative Reporter

Tillsonburg council approved the expropriation of land at 170 Vienna Road to provide access to town-owned industrial property behind it.

The only access to the town property at 166 Vienna Road, which was used as a yard waste transfer depot for a time, is through a laneway owned by CN. In his report to council at the Aug. 11 meeting, Development Commissioner Cephas Panschow said it’s unknown why there is no road access or frontage to the property, and said expropriation of the property in front of it at 170 Vienna Road is the only alternative. Road access is necessary for the town to sell the approximately 40 acres of property it owns.

“The Town of Tillsonburg has made a number of attempts over the past year to acquire the 170 Vienna Road property, but with no success and limited response to date,” he wrote in his report. “A number of options were also proposed, including acquiring a strip of land to add

to the six metres/20-foot-wide laneway owned by CN Rail. Unfortunately, there seems to be no chance of securing the property, which leaves the town with the only option of expropriating it.

“We need this property for the purposes of a municipal road and municipal servicing,” he said during the meeting.

The expropriation process is one where a government body can take possession of a piece of land, even if the property owner is unwilling to sell it, for purposes outlined in the Expropriations Act. The property owner must be provided fair compensation as part of the process.

The new access would also benefit two adjacent property owners without road access, potentially offering opportunities for cost-sharing on the expenses associated with purchasing the property at 170 Vienna Road.

Panschow said the first step is for council to pass a bylaw. He said the process could be a lengthy one.

Deputy Mayor Dave Beres asked for more details on the timeline, to which Panschow answered that it is up to council decisions as the process progresses, and is also dependent on how the negotiations go and if there is an appeal to the Ontario Land Tribunal on the price.

“It could be anywhere from three months, to nine months, in that range,” he said.

Mayor Deb Gilvesy questioned the cost and whether there was a commitment to cost share from the other landowners.

Panschow emphasized that passing the bylaw is the first step, but he has talked to the other landowners, and there is some commitment.

Gilvesy also wanted to ascertain there was no other way to access the property, which Panschow confirmed.

Passing the bylaw started the authorization to expropriate 170 Vienna Road for access to the industrial land owned by the town and others. The bylaw also had provisions the process would stop if a transaction is registered to transfer title of the land to the town.

Contacted later, the property owner at 170 Vienna Road, who wished to remain anonymous, said this process has been going on over two years. It’s his or her belief that the industry behind the property is behind the expropriation, not the town, and there are other alternative accesses to the property.

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Tillsonburg council briefs

Concession Street East repaving approved

The section of Concession Street East adjacent to Lake Lisgar was one of three paving projects approved by town council at the Aug. 11 meeting.

A tender of \$257,017, which was the lowest bid, from Dufferin Construction was approved for the work. Also included was Clarke Street West and Eleanor Court.

Mayor Deb Gilvesy, who was previously critical of the section of Concession Street, asked for reassurance that this was repaving, not just patching. She was told it would be repaved.

The entire project is expected to take eight weeks.

Cranberry Road reconstruction comes in under budget

Town council approved a tender for the reconstruction of Cranberry Road from North Street East to the town limit.

The successful bidder was Sierra Infrastructure Inc. of Woodstock at a price of \$4.6 million. Since the project also includes installation of sanitary sewers and storm sewers, it will be cost shared between the town and county. The town portion for roads, sidewalks, curbs and gutters was budgeted at \$3.28 million, but came in at \$2.73 million, or \$550,000 under budget.

The project is expected to take 18 weeks.

RZone policy amended after increased incidents

Council amended its RZone policy after an escalation in the number of incidents in the first six months of the year.

The policy, which was implemented in 2019, is intended to ensure a safe environment for staff, patrons, and volunteers. In 2024, there were 28 violations and there have already been 33 in the first six months of 2025. Incidents included vandalism, theft, hate speech, bringing weapons into a facility, harassment of staff and patrons, illegal drug use/overdose and physical violence.

Violations have resulted in measures ranging from warnings to the OPP being called and trespass notices issued.

Most of the changes approved were to deal with the appeals process, but also included that anyone registering for programs will be educated on the policy.

"The amendments are good," said Coun. Chris Parker. "It's extremely unfortunate this policy has had to be used as much as it has been. It wasn't meant to have to be used that much when it was first brought forward. I hope people can look at the policy and what is acceptable."

Deputy Mayor Dave Beres said similar policies are in place in other centres.

"It's just showing people that they have to behave," he said.

Lease extended on former school

A five-year lease extension with Infrastructure Ontario for the former Elliot Fairbairn Public School was approved by council.

Revenue from the lease for the property at 31 Earle Street starts at \$118,722 in 2024 and increases to \$129,749 in 2028. The building is used by the OPP.

Vending machines to be added to community centre

Council approved a report that will result in two vending machines being located in the Tillsonburg Community Centre.

In her report, Recreation Programs and Services Manager Julie Dawley explained the food concession is serving patrons well, but there is programming in the building at times when the concession is opened. She suggested sole-sourcing a contract with Five Star Vending because the company shares 10 per cent of the revenue and is owned by a Tillsonburg resident.

Strategic plan on target

Tillsonburg's strategic plan is meeting, or exceeding, the targets laid out in it.

Some of the highlights are:

- An increase in the amount of paved trails from 2.52 km in 2020 to 4.5 km in 2025
- The percentage of facilities meeting provincial accessibility standards grew from 85 per cent in 2020 to 93 per cent in 2025.
- Customer satisfaction ratings hit 91.8 per cent in 2024.
- Municipal website traffic grew significantly in 2023 with 40,520 monthly visits, nearly double the baseline.
- Business starts peaked at 45 in 2024, almost double the baseline of 20.

- Industrial assessment grew from \$3.85M in 2020 to \$10.57M in 2024
- Affordable housing units increased from 56 to 74 by 2023, addressing community needs.
- Fire response times dropped from 17 minutes in 2024 to nine minutes in 2025 to assemble four firefighters.
- In-town T:GO transit ridership nearly doubled from 2020 (6,900) to 12,425 in 2024.
- Universal high-speed internet access grew from 88 per cent in 2020 to 100 per cent by 2025

Pool roof replacement under budget

The replacement of the roof on the indoor pool not only came in under budget, but up to half is being paid by a provincial grant.

The lowest tender bid of \$332,006 was less than the amount allotted in the capital budget of \$477,000. In addition, the town was successful in a grant application to the Ontario Community Sport and Recreation Infrastructure Fund, which will pay up to 50 per cent of the costs.

Accounts receivables decreasing

New procedures are resulting in a decrease in accounts receivable for the town.

A report to council from Revenue Manager Ted Lyons showed the amount of outstanding receivables was at \$139,783, a decrease from the \$354,139 in April 2024.

The majority of the receivables relate to fire services, OPP false alarms, the airport, bylaw enforcement, finance, transit and corporate services. Last year council endorsed a staff suggestion to add the outstanding amounts to the tax rolls of those who have not paid, which helped the situation.

Hospital tax

Tillsonburg council endorsed a staff report suggesting taxes of \$10,650 for the Tillsonburg District Memorial Hospital.

Although hospitals are exempt from property taxes, the Ontario Municipal Act allows levying a tax per hospital bed to pay for the cost of infrastructure. The levy, which has been the same since 1987, is split between the town and the county.

Annandale National Historic Site hours extended

Annandale National Historic Site will be open longer hours next summer between the Victoria Day weekend and the end of August.

The additional hours will see the site be open until 7 p.m. on two Thursdays per month and open on Saturdays from noon to 4 p.m. during the same period. In addition, the site will be closed for a week in January following the mayor's levy.

The changes are being done with staggering staff hours so there will no additional labour costs.

Asked why this is being done in with a staged approach, Manager of Culture and Heritage/Curator Kate Bakos said extended hours were tried in 2023 unsuccessfully so she wanted to see what the community uptake will be.

"I don't want to take away after adding," she said. "I want to see if there is community uptake to the adjustment in hours."

Zone change approved

An application by Mike Perovich to rezone property at 10 Rouse Street from General Industrial to Special General Industrial Zone was approved by council.

The application was to allow a severance of the property. The purpose of the change is to allow the expansion of an existing waste transfer facility.

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Fairs are a connection to our agricultural heritage

The agriculture connection of fairs isn't something that is front and center, slapping you in the face. Instead, it's a more subtle – but important – connection.

Mention a fair, and the first thing coming to most people's minds is the midway with the rides and games. For area residents who went to the fair when they were younger, it's likely those rides that stick in their memory, or winning a big prize at the games.

While past generations had a stronger connection to our agriculture past, that is something that is slipping away as the family farm gives way to larger operations. The days when most people in Tillsonburg had family who lived on the farm are a thing of the past. With the family farm fading, so too is having a few chickens, a single cow or pig to feed the family.

The petting zoo at the fair is one exposure for urban children to common livestock species. The animal competitions though are an important one as it displays,

for instance, chickens that have come from a farm. At the Norfolk County Fair, the livestock displays are something that shouldn't be missed. The Dairy Farmers of Ontario have an excellent display that showcases cows and the milking process.

The displays of vegetables give both urban and country youth the chance to see if they can grow the largest or most unique vegetables in their gardens.

With the midway being the big attraction, it must be remembered the Tillsonburg Fair is presented by the Tillsonburg Tri-County Agricultural Society, and the Norfolk County Fair and Horse Show by the Norfolk County Agricultural Society. This is a connection to our past, and a good lesson on where our food comes from.

And, let's not forget the smaller fairs in our area – Langton and Houghton – and their unique connection to the country schools.

Support our local fairs to ensure they continue into the future.



(JEFF HELSDON PHOTO)

Have something to say?
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From globetrotting adventures to quiet reflection



**EVERYONE
HAS A
STORY
TO TELL**

ROBIN KRAFFT

Tillsonburg Post Columnist

Some people move to Tillsonburg to find a quieter life-style, but that doesn't mean they haven't had their fair share of adventures. Rita Reed grew up in Brights Grove, Sarnia, but she has numerous photo albums that document her extensive travels all over the world.

Her first expedition began when she was only 18. Staying with her brother in Vancouver, she worked, saved, and booked passage on an ocean liner, the P&O Cambera, for a two-week journey by sea, travelling with a friend who was returning home to the UK.

In England, she visited the Canadian embassy, where she saw an ad posted by a group of young women looking for others to join them in a Bedford van to travel throughout Europe. The van kept breaking down, earning the nickname "the pig" and by the time they reached Spain they were happy to sell it and buy backpacks. Three of

them decided to continue on, hitchhiking to Greece and the French Riviera.

It was 1970 and Rita was 18 years-old. Her photos depict a time when numerous young people were backpacking across Europe, staying in tents, vans or hostels along the way, just as she did. After Nice and Monte Carlo, they connected with a tour bus driver who agreed to take them to Switzerland in exchange for cleaning the bus upon arrival. In the Swiss Alps, Rita showed her Australian friends how to build a snowman. They visited castles in Munich, and in Austria they ate lunch in the glass gazebo made famous in The Sound of Music. In Vienna, they borrowed formal gowns from women who were staying in their hostel so that they could attend the opera.

They met many interesting people, from Budapest, Yugoslavia and Athens to Malta and Israel, where they saw the Wailing Wall in Jerusalem and spent Christmas in Bethlehem. A conflict had recently ended and there were soldiers everywhere. A local kibbutz was looking for volunteers and they were provided with huts to sleep in and work to do. Rita's first job was plucking chickens for dinner, but later she washed dishes and picked oranges and grapefruits in the orchard.

Despite the fact that they could hear distant bombs and rifle fire, Rita remembers that time fondly.

"I loved the people," she said, "the food was good, and they were so good to us. Everyone knew that they had work to do, everyone had a role. It was peaceful."

They were taken on a tour of the Golan Heights but while they were exploring an abandoned tank that had

been bombed, Rita lost her camera, so she doesn't have the photo of herself floating on the Dead Sea or riding a camel.

They camped on Mykonos, visiting all of the islands of Greece, before going on to Italy and Pompeii, where they slept in caves. After Rome and Venice, they journeyed back to London. Rita eventually returned to Spain, staying for four years and working at The Flamboyant, a restaurant where she tended bar and kept track of the finances. She described "the lights, the music, the big stone barbecue and the big lemon tree," remembering the beautiful ambiance.

She later went back to school, and spent many years as an RN in Detroit. There were tumultuous years, there was love and marriage, and changes in her life that she hadn't anticipated. Throughout it all, she said her son "Sean was my rock, I don't know what I would have done without him." A captain with Air Canada, Sean visits Tillsonburg frequently to fly the Harvards, and he always flies over her house.

Later in life, Rita took up travelling again with her beloved partner Dan. They took numerous cruises including Alaska and a Trans-Atlantic voyage. They visited friends in Australia and New Zealand. His passing was heartbreaking, but he had a beautiful garden installed in the backyard that she can see from her comfortable chair by the window. She takes walks and plays golf with friends but says "I'm a homebody now," content with the wonderful memories of all of the amazing places she's been and the people she met along the way.

Join St. John's Anglican Church in celebrating 125 years



**THE
STAGE
IS THE
WORLD**

LAUREL A. BEECHEY

Tillsonburg Post Columnist

The Christian settlers to Dereham Forge 200 years ago, were dependant on their bible. It was often the only book a family owned, and it not only fed their faith, but offered practical advice, on living your life and even on where to build your house!

With the good book, neighbours would gather at each other's cabins to read from the bible, pray, perhaps discuss and sing hymns in communion with each other no matter what denomination. However, most missed the traditions of faith they followed back in Europe. So too did the Church of England [Anglican] settlers. The Reverend Thomas Green, an itinerate Anglican preacher, had Tillsonburg on his route 188 years ago. Arriving on horseback, Rev. Thomas would work for room and board with a family for a day, a week or more. Services were attended by people of all

faiths and Rev. Thomas would get caught up with baptisms, marriages, funerals etc.

In 1844, the first Anglican Church, St. Charles, was built east of Ostrander in Dereham Township [today Southwest Oxford]. The Parish of St. Charles was established as a result of Hon. Rt. Rev'd Charles James Stewart's "Travelling Mission" between Simcoe, Norfolk, Oxford and Elgin.

Anglicans could petition to get funds to help build a church from the government's 'Clergy Reserve', compliments of the famous and infamous Anglican Bishop of Toronto, John Strachan. [other denominations were denied]. In 1885, the bishop visited and held the service of consecration and dedicating the building to the memory of the previously-mentioned Charles Stewart, who became the second Bishop of Quebec. But the church was seven miles from Tillsonburg! Today that would take two hours to walk on good roads.

Twenty-four years later, E.D. Tillson donated land to the Anglicans, and the first St. John's was opened, and sanctified June 7, 1868, on the southwest corner of Harvey and Ridout Streets. According to the Tillsonburg Observer, the church was a tasteful erection in the gothic style and had excellent acoustics.

Less than two years later, the Harvey St. church was destroyed by fire and for more than a year the congregation met in the Sons of Temperance Hall at Bidwell

and Baldwin Streets. The Harvey Street site was sold and the money used to buy a new site on Rolph Street, just south of the public school. This was the second consecrated St. John's, and was often called the "Mission Chapel" as it was quite small, only 40 by 30 feet. It was in use by 1872 and served the Anglicans for 27 years.

In 1897, an artist's rendering was done of a church and Bishop M.S. Baldwin suggested that it would be "fitting memorial to our national jubilee" for that year was the 30th of Confederation and the 60th of Queen Victoria's Coronation."

Thus, the third and present St. John came into existence. Over the next 125 years the church and hall were attached; a bell put in the bell tower; the brass eagle lectern donated, and alterations, repairs, new projects and major updates kept the build safe and sound for all.

Over 188 years the Anglican families have celebrated their Christian faith in log cabins and persevered through the good and bad times. We not only celebrate the building, St. John #3, but all the congregations over those years who have supported their church community and each other not just inside the walls but in Tillsonburg. Today's congregation is wonderful...they put up with me!

We're celebrating the past 125 years, present and future with a tribute night to celebrate our 125th anniversary, featuring

"Beatles In Blue". The group, which plays Beatles music with a blues twist, will perform on Sept. 19, from 7 p.m. to 9 p.m. Refreshments will be served at intermission. Tickets are \$25, and are available from the church office, Tuesday -Thursday, 9 a.m.-1 p.m. of by contacting the office at 519-842-5573 or stjohntsbu@execulink.com. Family and friends are welcome.

A celebration of St. John's 125th anniversary will take place on Sunday, Sept. 14. Please join us the congregation for the Sunday morning service at 10:30 a.m., celebrated by The Bishop of Huron, The Right Rev. Todd Townshend. The dedication of the new outdoor sign, will be blessed by the Bishop Todd. An authentic Ukrainian lunch, as a fundraiser for Alongside Hope's project in the Ukraine, will be served. There will be a free-will offering. The chef needs to know how many to cook for, so please contact the church office to RSVP.

It will be taking a step back in time on Oct. 18, from 7 to 9 p.m., with the celebration Come And Party Like It's 1900. If you like dressing up, choose from 125 decades of fashion. There's a sing-along; reading by Stephen Bourne, board games, card tricks, charades, refreshments, cold drinks, desserts and sweetmeats. Tickets are \$10.25/p. children are free. Bring a friend! Again, contact the church office for tickets.

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OPP seeking witnesses to fatal collision in Oxford County

Police are investigating the circumstances surrounding a fatal collision in South-West Oxford.

At approximately 6:52 p.m. on Sunday, Aug. 17, officers from the Oxford County Ontario Provincial Police (OPP), along with Oxford County Paramedic Services and South-West Oxford Fire and Emergency Services, responded to a collision between a sedan and a transport truck at the intersection of Culloden Line and Mount Elgin Road in South-West Oxford.

As a result, the driver of the sedan, a 30-year-old from Strathroy, sustained life-threatening injuries and was transported to hospital, where they were later pronounced deceased. The sole passenger was taken to a trauma centre with injuries that have yet to be determined. The transport truck driver was not injured.

Culloden Line between Ebenezer Road

and Daniel Road, as well as Mount Elgin Road between Pigram Line and Dereham Line, were closed for several hours to allow for the investigation. Both roadways have since reopened.

The West Region OPP Traffic Incident Management Enforcement (TIME) Team is assisting with the investigation and is asking anyone who was in the area of Mount Elgin Road and Culloden Line and witnessed the collision, or has information that may assist, to contact the Oxford County OPP at 1-888-310-1122.

Should you wish to remain anonymous, you may call Crime Stoppers at 1-800-222-TIPS (8477) or leave an anonymous online tip at www.helpsolvecrime.com where you may be eligible to receive a cash reward of up to \$2,000.

Updates will be provided as soon as new information becomes available.

Impaired driver detected on general patrol

Members of the Ontario Provincial Police (OPP), Oxford Detachment detected an impaired driver while out on general patrol.

On Aug. 12, at approximately 1 a.m., members of Oxford OPP initiated a traffic stop while on general patrol on Plank Line..

As a result of the investigation, Dylon Black, an 18-year-old resident of Tillsonburg, has been charged with:

- Operation While Impaired
- Dangerous Operation

The accused has been released from custody and is scheduled to appear before the Ontario Court of Justice in Woodstock on Sept. 23.

No amount of alcohol or drugs is safe to consume prior to operating a vehicle.



CAR SHOW FOR MAPLE MANOR RESIDENTS (DARWIN KENT PHOTO)

Another year and another cruise night for the residents, families and staff of Maple Manor Nursing Home in Tillsonburg. Local resident Darwin Kent organizes the event annually, and says the smiles on the faces of the residents make it all worthwhile. He gives credit to the car owners for assisting with the event.

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Rusnak finishes first runner-up at Miss World Canada

CHRIS ABBOTT

Post Correspondant

Aalanna Rusnak's pageant career soared to a new level last week competing at Miss World Canada, August 12-17, in Oakville and Vaughan.

At Sunday night's finale, Rusnak was named first runner-up in both Miss World Canada and Miss Supranational Canada.

"It's a lot more intense, a lot more goes into it," said Rusnak in the days leading up to the national pageant. "Basically, everything is taken up like 10 notches and it's like a whole different ball game. Girls are more prepared... it's not like Teens, this isn't their first time competing, they know what to expect, they're more seasoned."

Some have won national titles and competed on international stages, said Rusnak, and now they were coming back for more.

Rusnak was right there with them.

There were four Pageant Group Canada titles on the line for Rusnak - Miss World Canada, Miss Supranational Canada, Miss Intercontinental Canada, and Miss Earth Canada.

"It's four separate pageants, but one event. The different titles have different things they are looking for. Miss Canada World is a lot about Beauty with a Purpose. Miss Supranational is more a typical pageant - your runway, your fashion, your glam. I love both of those aspects. I love being involved, community outreach, but I also love the 'glam' and runway side of pageantry."

"All amazing opportunities," said Rusnak.

At the age of 17, Aalanna won Pageant Group Canada's 2022 Miss Teenage Canada title. She went on to compete at the 2023 Miss Teen Mundial international pageant in Curaçao where she finished Top 10.

Now 20, the Glendale High School graduate is a third-year student at the University of Western Ontario, with a national scholarship, working towards a four-year Media and Communications degree.

A competitive figure skater, Rusnak won three gold medals at the Ontario University Athletics Figure Skating Championships in March, including gold in Star 10 freeskate.

She also belongs to a sorority at the university and has a social media and marketing position in the sorority.

Any good thing in life takes work, she always says.

"Keeping super busy at school, super busy. I think I work well under pressure."

The idea of entering Miss World Canada came in January 2025, but Rusnak admitted it really wasn't possible to begin her pageant journey until her school work ended mid-April.

"When I got home from school, it was basically pedal to the metal and we just went full force. It's been an everyday thing since then. It's felt like a full-time job, to be honest, while I still have an actual job (The Links at Dover Coast in



(CHRIS ABBOTT PHOTO)

Courtland's Aalanna Rusnak is promoting her new cause, Find Your Light, mentoring children, and speaking about confidence, authenticity, kindness, anti-bullying and how everyone has a purpose.

Port Dover).

"Ever since I won Miss Teenage Canada, I knew that I wanted to continue with pageantry. I always knew it was just a matter of time... just timing it right with school. I feel like 20 is a good age to compete and now I am more prepared, I know what to expect going in. I just feel more ready."

"Definitely, going to (university) has helped me mature. I feel more settled in, I'm immersed in my education, so I'm ready to take on this next journey."

Her 'next journey' began with months of preparation and training. She travelled to Montreal for runway training - a big part of the competition. She was practicing questions, and she spent a lot of time in the gym, maintaining good health and fitness.

A champion cross-country runner in elementary school, she even got back into distance running.

"I wouldn't say it's back to my cross-country days... I compared my times and I'm like nowhere near my 13-year-old self," she laughed. "But now I can run again."

The Miss World Canada pageant involved closed door interviews, on-stage questions, different walks on stage, and fitness categories.

"Throughout the whole week, they watch everything about you to see the kind of person you are, how you are interacting with everyone... they really want the full package."

The questions they asked required a higher level of thinking, she said, compared to the teen competitions. Some are more controversial, some environmental based, social based, or economic based.

"At Teen, it was more about yourself, your platform. So here, I feel like I need to be much more educated on what's going on in our world. You need to be careful with your answers. And it's a little nerve-wracking when you're up there on stage."

"At the end of the day, you are trying to be a representative of Canada. Sometimes you have to pick a side, sometimes you can't pick a side when you're trying to represent all of our people. It depends on the question. It's just a very tough thing that I've put a lot of work into - it's a lot of quick thinking on your feet."

There was also an optional talent category at the pageant. At past events, she has drawn from her 15 years as a skater.

"Everyone submits a video of their talent, then they pick

people to go up on stage. I do like to try to be involved in every portion of the competition... but I was unable to submit a figure skating video - obviously I can't skate on stage - so I decided I would learn a talent. So I've taken on the Salsa."

In just the last few weeks she has been enthusiastically learning one of the most popular types of Latin American dancing with dance coaches from Latin Passion Dance Academy in London. The results have been impressive.

"I've put in hours and hours and hours of work," she said. "I've done some dance through figure skating, but never a 'dancer.' I'd say learning to Salsa has been like learning to skate again. They have helped me so much, they have been amazing."

Find your light

Pageant Group Canada encourages community service and Beauty with a Purpose platforms.

"I've been trying to get involved with a lot of organizations because my 'Beauty with a Purpose' is youth empowerment," said Rusnak. "I have created 'Find Your Light.'"

As she did in Miss Teenage Canada, Rusnak has visited schools and reached out to thousands of students speaking about confidence, authenticity, kindness, anti-bullying and how everyone has a purpose.

"We all have a light from within and we need to let it shine - that is my message."

Rusnak also partnered with Big Brothers Big Sisters as a mentor, and Planet Youth Oxford as an ambassador - their youngest ambassador.

"I just want to provide support for these children like I had growing up."

She will also be a guest speaker at Tim Hortons youth camps.

"My goal is to create my own workshops - structured workshops - where I can speak to these kids, mentor them and share my platform," she said, and with that goal in mind, she is trying immerse herself in every organization possible.

In the weeks before the pageant, she did a girls empowerment workshop for The Salvation Army.

"I have reached out to... I don't even know... at least 40 different organizations within like a 100-mile radius, trying to get in wherever I can. I am just trying so hard to be involved."

Instead of asking for personal sponsorship on her pageant journey, Rusnak hoped to receive charitable donations toward her Find Your Light cause.

"If you or someone you know, an individual or business, would like to partner, I'd love to connect," Rusnak wrote on Facebook. "In return, I'll proudly offer promotion and visibility as a thank you for supporting this mission. Any amount makes a difference. Let's show the judges, more importantly, the youth, and Canada that this movement has momentum - and it's only just getting started."



(SUBMITTED PHOTO)

Aalanna Rusnak is competing at the Miss World Canada pageant, August 12-17.

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The Oxford County Library at 60: Part of a larger story



OCL BOOK TALK

MATTHEW GRIFFIS

Oxford County Library

As a recent *Post* article explained, the current Oxford County Library was the second county-wide public library established in Ontario.

It wasn't Oxford's first county library service either: two previous organizations existed, one an "association" and the other a "cooperative", and both rotated shared collections among Oxford's independent town libraries. But the story goes even further back: the earliest known proposal for county library service in Ontario dates to 1912; the earliest public library legislation in Ontario passed in 1882; and the first subscription libraries—the public library's earliest forerunners—opened in the United States in the 1700s.

The point: The deeper you dig through the history of public libraries, the more you realize that the story you're excavating is not only larger than you'd supposed, but it's also a lesson about literacy, access to information, and the democratization of the two. In short, the tax-supported public libraries of the 1800s and after were founded on the belief that that free, unfettered access for all to information and learning was essential to any democracy. That was just one of the public library's foundational roles, but it hasn't changed much. In a busy world of distractions and constant

misinformation, that role may be more relevant now than it was centuries ago.

But the story of public libraries is also one of change and adaptation. The public library of the late 19th and early 20th centuries was for serious study, a place where ambitious people self-educated in quiet and children were admitted only under certain conditions. Book collections reflected a predominantly white, Anglo culture, and library programs existed but were few compared to today. Not until the mid-century did libraries begin to expand and even experiment with services and develop collections more reflective of diverse communities. Public libraries realized that their role in the approaching millennium would be not just to store recorded knowledge but also facilitate a variety of learning experiences and help introduce new technologies. They would also serve as a kind of "community living room" in a society where accessible public spaces were increasingly few.

Today, public libraries are even more than what they originally sought to be. And depending on your age, you've likely witnessed some of the more recent stages of this long metamorphosis, even if you haven't always lived in Oxford County. All public libraries are part this story, and the similarities they share attest to why the public library concept endures. Whether they operate at village, city, or county-level, whether they are large or small, today's public libraries welcome you, amuse you, teach you, help you teach yourself, help you meet new people and form connections that can make a difference in your life. That is what Oxford County Library does; it is what all public libraries do.

On Sept. 20th at 11am, the Oxford County Library will celebrate its 60th anniversary with a small reception at the Ingersoll Branch. The event is free and open to all, and we look forward to seeing you there.

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Painters and Potters show launches this weekend

JEFF HELSDON

Editor

Local talent will be front and center with the launch of the Painters and Potters show this weekend at the Station Arts Centre.

The show runs from Aug. 22 to Sept. 19, with the opening on Saturday, Aug. 23 from 2 to 4 p.m. It will feature 24 paintings from 14 artists and eight potters displaying more than 20 pieces.

Station Arts Centre executive director Tabitha Verbuyst said the annual display is popular with local residents coming out to the show.

"It's really exciting for people to see the work we can do here," she said.

The Bridge Street Artists is the group of artists who meet at the station once per week to paint, and who are responsible for the paintings in the show. There are about 30 members in the group.

Artist Cathy Barzo is the president of the Bridge Street Artists this year. She said the pieces in the show range from watercolours and acrylics to mixed media collages, with subjects ranging from landscapes, florals and abstracts.

She sees the show as an opportunity to showcase the local talent in the community. Barzo believes many people don't realize the Station

Arts Centre exists and are unaware of the programs offered. She encouraged people to attend the opening.

"The opening is an opportunity to meet some of the artists," she said. "Coming into this show can open the window about the arts in our community."

Barzo added it may also spark an interest amongst budding artists and potters in the community.

On the potters' side, Station House Potters member Brenda Ross is organizing the show. A few members of the group are chosen to display in the show annually. For some, the show is something to strive for, and to create special pieces, while others showcase their best pieces of the last year.

A variety of vases, bowls, jars and decorative items will be on display. Part of the items will be for sale.

The Station House Potters offer classes for beginning potters, teaching them how to use their equipment.

"If you want to use the wheel, you have to take a wheel class," Ross said. "If you want to hand build, you need to take a hand build class."

The group has two kilns to finish the items created.



(CHRIS ABBOTT PHOTOS)

Ken Lightheart and the North Shore Ramblers were recently the featured entertainment in Annandale National Historic Site's Music on the Lawn. Presented on Sunday nights, a different local entertainer is featured each week. The series wraps up on Aug. 24 with Back to the '50s.

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Ontario Trillium Foundation grant aids accessibility at Livingston Centre

JEFF HELSDON

Local Journalism Initiative Reporter

An Ontario Trillium Foundation (OTF) grant paid the way to improve accessibility of the public washrooms at the Livingston Centre.

In a ceremony on Friday, local MPP Ernie Hardeman, Mayor Deb Gilvesy, OTF officials and Livingston Centre staff gathered to pay homage to the grant and what it is accomplishing. The money was used to install push-button door operators, touchless taps and soap dispensers and to widen the doors to make the washrooms full accessible.

Saying the renovations wouldn't be possible without the Trillium funds, Kathryn Leatherland, co-executive director of the Livingston Centre, said at the time the grant application was filed, there was one accessible washroom in the building, which was "not enough for the 7,200 people who use this facility."

She had two examples where she personally saw the need for the upgrades. At one function with seniors, she saw a long line-up of people with walkers waiting to use the washroom during a break in the programming.

"That's hardly accessible with people waiting that long," she said, adding there was also an instance of someone who was

able to push the door to get in the standard washroom with a walker, but couldn't pull the door open to get out.

The Livingston Centre sees 7,200 clients served annually. The multi-functional community hub is home to Big Brothers Big Sisters, Community Options for Justice, Elgin Oxford Legal Clinic, Ministry of Children and Youth Services, Oxford MP Arpan Khanna's pop-up clinics, Oxford County Community Health Centre, Oxford County Human Services, Stonebridge Community Services, Service Canada, the Tillsonburg Children's Centre, ChildinU Oxford, DASO, Community Living Tillsonburg and the Tillsonburg and District Multi-Service Centre.

"These grant funds will support the Livingston Centre to ensure the inclusion of everyone in our community and enhance our mission to be a vibrant community hub offering a wide range of social and health care services in one central location," Leatherland said.

"I want to extend my heartfelt congratulations to the Tillsonburg Community Services Initiatives on receiving this \$25,500 Trillium grant," Hardeman said. "This investment in upgrading the accessibility at the Livingston Centre is a meaningful step toward ensuring that everyone in our community can access vital services in a safe and dignified way regardless of abil-



(JEFF HELSDON PHOTO)

Livingston Centre staff showed off upgrades to the facility's washrooms made possible through a grant from the Ontario Trillium Foundation. Left to right are: Mayor Deb Gilvesy, Trillium grant review committee member Lori Van Opstal, Oxford MPP Ernie Hardeman, Livingston Centre co-executive director Cheryl Conick, and co-executive director Kathryn Leatherland.

ity."

Gilvesy talked of the importance of the Livingston Centre, how it aligned with the town's vision and that the upgrades will make the facility more accessible.

"The reach and importance of this facility cannot be overstated," she said.

The Ontario Trillium Foundation (OTF) is an agency of the Ontario government with a mission to build healthy and vibrant

communities across the province. Last year, OTF invested nearly \$105M into 732 community projects and multi-sector partnerships. Projects aim to enhance economic well-being, foster more active lifestyles, support child and youth development, provide spaces for people to come together and connect, and create a more sustainable environment. Visit otf.ca to learn more.

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BEN ADDRESS

Tillsonburg Post Columnist

Tillsonburg's own Olivier Bernatchez has unleashed his heaviest and most personal work to date with the release of an album called Eclipse Of Destruction. The debut full-length from his band Cracked Skulls is a family affair with songwriter Olivier taking over guitars, bass and vocal duties in the studio while his brother Ovilla played drums and

his other brother Oneil recording and mastering the songs. The album was just recently released on Aug. 2nd marking a defining moment for the brothers with a deluxe edition already in the works with a tentative release later this month.

For Olivier, Eclipse of Destruction is more than just an album but more so a reflection of his hometown roots and the struggles that shaped him.

"Cracked Skulls is pure Tillsonburg grit. Growing up here you learn to make noise with whatever you have got, whether it is a busted amp in a garage or a half-working laptop in your bedroom," Olivier reminisces with a grin. "Eclipse Of Destruction carries that energy. Raw, unapologetic and a little haunted. There is a kind of quiet intensity in this town and I wanted the album to feel like a storm brewing

under a calm sky. It is not just music. It is survival and fun wrapped in distortion and melody. It is for those who love metal."

The 16 songs featured on the band's first release are steeped in heavy riffs and dark textures, which came from a deeply personal place.

"This record came from a place that was not polished or pretty. It was born out of chaos, reflection and a need to confront some heavy truths," Olivier reflects. "The raw energy you hear is intentional. I did not want to filter the emotion or dilute the darkness. I was going through a period where everything felt unstable, including relationships, identity and even my sense of purpose. So instead of running from that, I leaned into it."

Between shifts working at a family-owned business, Olivier would come up with ideas for songs.

"The writing process was cathartic. I would sit down with just a guitar and let whatever was festering inside spill out. Sometimes it was anger, sometimes grief and sometimes just pure confusion." Bernatchez confesses. "The dark imagery came naturally. It is how I process the world when it feels overwhelming. Recording was intense. We kept the takes that felt imperfect but honest. You will hear cracks in the voice and distortion. Some moments that feel almost too close. That is the point. This album is not about perfection. It is about truth."

The album's title holds a symbolic weight embodying destruction as a pathway to renewal.

"Eclipse of Destruction is about that moment when everything falls apart but something new begins," Bernatchez explains. "The title came to me when I

was thinking about how destruction is not always the end. Sometimes it is the only way to clear space for something real. An eclipse hides the light, but it also marks a shift. That is what this album is. A collapse of old patterns, old versions of myself and the start of something raw and honest. If someone hears this and feels less alone or finds strength in the wreckage then the album did its job."

While the record is already gaining attention locally, the Bernatchez brothers are not rushing into live shows just yet.

"We are still assembling the live lineup. No bass player yet, so we are not rushing into shows. I want the live experience to hit just as hard as the record, and that means finding the right people who get the vision. Whether it is local shows or something bigger, the band Cracked Skulls is about creating a

space where raw emotion and heavy sound collide," Olivier says. "We are not trying to fit into a scene. We are trying to build one. If the album resonates and people want to hear it performed live, we will make it happen. But it has got to feel right. No compromises."

For Tillsonburg, the album Eclipse Of Destruction is not just another record, it is a declaration that heavy music can rise from small-town garages and basements, carrying with it the weight of lived experience and artistic expression.

The album is available now on major streaming platforms including Spotify, Amazon and Apple Music with the deluxe edition set to drop later this month. For anyone wanting to know more about the band, you can follow Cracked Skulls on Facebook.

UPCOMING SHOWS

AUG. 22 - JADEA KELLY AND RYAN O'REILLY
Paddy's Underground
\$25 - 8 p.m. - All Ages/Licensed

AUG. 22 - MUSIC TRIVIA
The Copper Mug
No Cover - 8pm

AUG. 23 - DAVE BELLAIRE
The Mill
No Cover - 5:30 p.m.
All Ages/Licensed

AUG. 23 - KARAOKE PARTY
The Copper Mug
No Cover - 8:30 p.m.

AUG. 24 - BACK TO THE FIFTIES
Annandale NHS (Music On The Lawn Series)
No Cover - 6:30 p.m.

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

SEPT. 6 - FM 96 PRESENTS ALAN CROSS
\$25 - Paddy's Underground
All Ages/Licensed



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A season for everyone: Another great season awaits you at Theatre Tillsonburg

JENNIFER ANGER-JULL

Post Contributor

Theatre Tillsonburg is excited to share a brand-new season, one that's been shaped by the audience's ideas and enthusiasm.

This year, the local theatre is trying something different to bring you more of what you've been asking for: a family-friendly holiday show, extra matinees, and the chance to get your tickets earlier than ever.

Tickets are on sale now

Season subscriptions and single-show tickets are available now both online and at the box office.

A season subscription is \$73 for three shows per person, and individual tickets are \$28 with special youth pricing for the holiday production at just \$18 for ages 17 and under (youth pricing not available in subscriptions). Subscriptions remain on sale until Nov. 30.

Start your holiday season with a magical night at the theatre.

The season is started with something for the whole family, a hilarious and heart-warming holiday adventure about a mouse, an elf, and a determined young girl on a mission to help Santa save Christmas. Packed with comedic chase scenes, lively music, a daring sword fight, and even a

wild airplane adventure, this holiday romp is a laugh-filled journey the whole family will enjoy.

Ken Ludwig's *Twas the Night Before Christmas* will take to the stage Nov. 20–23 and 27–30. It is directed by Jennifer Anger-Jull and Mike Jull, and produced by Jennifer Arthur-Lackenbauer.

To make it easier for all ages to attend, this production features:

- An earlier evening start time of 7 p.m.
- Four matinees at 2 p.m. (Saturday and Sunday each weekend)
- Six evening performances

Tickets: Adults 18+: \$28 | Youth 17 & Under: \$18 (youth pricing not available in subscriptions)

Trade In the cold weather for a heart-warming comedy

Sam and Hilda Fluck are enjoying their quiet, empty nest in 1956... until both grown children return home unexpectedly, bringing along secrets and chaos. Hilda's Yard is classic Norm Foster, overflowing with sharp wit, quick banter, heartfelt moments, and a few unexpected twists to keep us laughing!

Show dates are Feb. 19–22 and 26–March 1, 2026. *Hilda's Yard* is directed by Tabatha Buckle and Pete Matthews, and produced by Joe Sheik and Kelly Verhoeve.

For this production, changes include:

- Regular evening start time: 7:30 p.m.
- Five evening performances
- Three matinees at 2 p.m., including the first Saturday (Feb. 21) replacing the usual Saturday night performance
- Tickets Standard Rate: \$28

Welcome spring with a story full of love, laughter and hope

Having Hope at Home by David S. Craig will be presented May 28–31 and June 4–7, 2026. Mark Smith will be directing, and co-producing with Victoria Coward.

This lively comedy is about a serene family dinner in a farmhouse that takes an unexpected turn when Carolyn unexpectedly goes into labour. With estranged family members under one roof, the night becomes a heartfelt and hilarious exploration of generational tensions, love, and new beginnings.

Continuing our new approach:

- Regular evening start time: 7:30 p.m.
- Five evening performances
- Three matinees at 2:00 p.m., including the first Saturday (May 30) replacing the usual Saturday night performance
- Tickets Standard Rate: \$28

This season was designed for theatre-go-

ers with earlier ticket sales, more matinees, a family-friendly holiday opener, and new start times tailored for different audiences. The 2025/2026 season is all about trying something fresh and fun for our community.

Tickets are on sale now at www.theatretillsonburg.com or through the box office at 519.688.3026

At Theatre Tillsonburg, every show is brought to life by volunteers, people from our community who share a love of live theatre. From the actors on stage to the crews behind the scenes and all the roles in between, each person plays a vital role in keeping theatre alive here at home in Tillsonburg. We are deeply grateful to audiences, supporters, sponsors and volunteers for your continued support and making it possible for us to continue creating memorable performances year after year.

If you've ever wondered what it's like to be a part of a show, Theatre Tillsonburg would love for you to join the Theatre Tillsonburg family. Whether you enjoy working backstage, guiding guests as an usher, sponsoring a production or lending a hand in countless other ways, there is a place for you here.

Weekend Quiz

by Jake Grant

1. The first colour photo in the world was taken in which year?
2. What is Canada's most valuable company based on market capitalization?
3. The car crash that killed Princess Diana occurred in which city?
4. When was the last time the Blue jays won the AL East?
5. Gregor Mendel is considered to be the father of the modern study of what?
6. What is the meaning of the letter "R" on movie rating?
7. What two brothers lead the English Rock Band Oasis?
8. What is the typical pH level of pure water?
9. Is the Equator a line of latitude or of longitude?
10. From the 16th to 18th centuries, India was ruled by which dynasty?

This week's answers are found on Page 31

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

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Local golfers to play at SONA Golf Championship

CHRIS ABBOTT

Post Correspondent

Two local golfers will be competing at the 2025 Special Olympics North America (SONA) Golf Championship, August 25-28 in Fayetteville, Pennsylvania.

Level 5 golfers AnnMarie D'Hondt, from Courtland, and Rick Buck, from Tillsonburg, will experience the Penn National Golf Club in Fayetteville, a four-star, 36-hole course. More than 250 athletes, Unified partners and coaches from the United States and Canada are expected at the four-day event. Level 5 will be divided into multiple divisions.

"I just try to have fun" said Buck, who will be playing at his fifth SONA Golf Championship. His SONA resume includes tournaments in Wichita, Nashville and Seattle.

Second place last year, Buck said he should be a contender and is shooting for first this year.

"I need to get back up there again. Just hit the ball clean, try to stay out of the rough," he nodded. "If you go to Florida and certain areas, the rough is just so different. Some different types of grass like Bermuda grass... Once you get used to it, it's not bad."

"We're veterans... this is my second SONA," said D'Hondt, who competed at the 2024 championship in Wichita, Kansas. "Just want to have fun."

"Having fun is the biggest thing," Buck agreed.

D'Hondt said she has been practicing all summer, and would stick to that plan leading up to Fayetteville.

"Just keep practicing all the clubs - the driver... even the putter," said D'Hondt, who uses Cobras.

"Never played the (Fayetteville) course, so we're just going in blind," she said, enjoying the challenge of new and different courses.

"It is what it is," said Buck, comfortable and confident at SONA courses using his TaylorMade clubs.

"I'm so used to it by now. If we get a practice round, we get a practice round. If we don't, we just work hard.



(CHRIS ABBOTT PHOTO)

AnnMarie D'Hondt, from Courtland, and Tillsonburg's Rick Buck will be competing in the 2025 Special Olympics North America Golf Championship, August 25-28 in Fayetteville, Pennsylvania.

"We're leaving two days early before the event, so we could... We rented a van, so we'll be driving down this time, sharing it. It's only a seven-eight hour drive. I've been through Fayetteville a bunch of times, but never golfed there."

Roughly midway between Pittsburgh and Philadelphia, Fayetteville is a small town less than 3,000, about 29 km west of Gettysburg where the Special Olympics

Ontario - Tillsonburg athletes and families will be staying during their SONA trip.

"It's actually a ghost town," D'Hondt smiled.

"(Gettysburg) is one of the most haunted places in the world," said Buck.

The trip to Pennsylvania was partially made possible through Jerry and Ann D'Hondt organizing a fundraising Battery Blitz, and the contributions of local busi-

nesses and individuals that participated. Participants included: Napa Auto Care - Springford, Herc's Truck Service, Otterville Motors, Jamie Horvath, Horvath Auto Parts, WM Dowds & Sons, Lockhart Odyssey, Stover Street Auto - Norwich, Richard Delaney, Burnett Trucking, DeGroote-Hill, M&J Tirecraft, Tillsonburg Tire, MyMotors Tillsonburg, Singers, Napa Autopro, and APC Auto Parts.

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

TMBI's boys and girls of summer enjoying their season's home stretch

JEFF TRIBE

Post Correspondent

Tillsonburg Minor Baseball's boys and girls of summer are heading into their home stretch.

"Busy time and exciting for sure," said president Josh Walda amidst the confluence of the conclusion of the first season of the Jr. Otters program (Wednesday, August 6th), Local League Closing Day (Saturday, August 9), Southern Counties Baseball Association (SCBA) tournaments for the organization's rep teams (August 15th to 17th) and Ontario Baseball Association (OBA) championship tournaments the Labour Day weekend.

"Very exciting," Walda added in emphasis.

He is pleased to report TMBI had around 400 members this summer, supported by the numerically-largest board in 'a decade or more.'

There is always room for more volunteers said Walda, welcoming interested persons to check out TMBI's website (tillsonburgminorbaseball.ca) or Facebook page for information on the upcoming annual general meeting (AGM) in October.

"It's a great way to connect with the community."

His focus has been on community engagement - 'community, community, community' he emphasized - as well as an approach summed up by 'The 399.' In other words, while there is an understandable tendency for parents and volunteers to focus on their own player, a gentle reminder that the organization serves all its members.

"We try to big picture it so kids have fun in the sun," Walda summed up. "Just getting the families out, enjoying baseball."

Notably this season, T-Ball was replaced by the Jr. Otters program, based says the president, on skills-development and fun. The 10-week program's final weeks culminated with game experience, and on its final evening, pizza, drinks and medal presentations.

"It's nice to see the engagement."

The intent was keeping players more engaged during sessions, providing a solid fundamental base for future growth and development through advancing age groups. Another innovation was removing pitching machines for the U11 Local League program, successfully so believes Walda, after a period of adjustment.

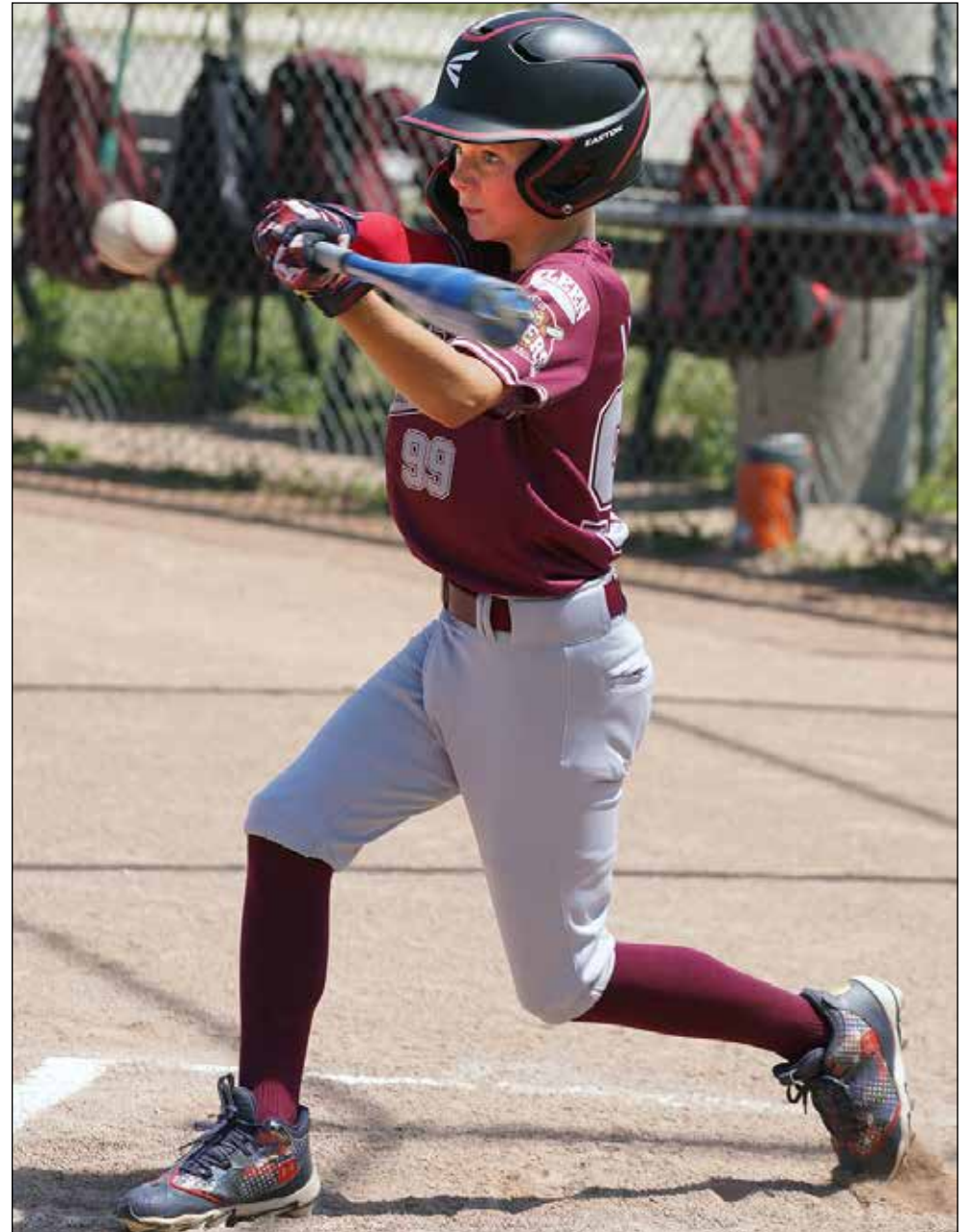
"Knock on wood, it's gone pretty well," said the president.

In general, nothing comes without the occasional trial or tribulation Walda concluded, but overall, he was extremely happy with 'positive growth' throughout the season.

Association with local leagues based in Ingersoll and Simcoe expanded diversity in both opportunity and competition for TMBI teams. Roughly three-quarters of the organization's membership plays at that level, representing an extremely important component overseen by convenor Adam Mulder.

"That's where you build your kids," said Walda.

TMBI also fielded 9U, 10U, 11U, 12U, 14U, 15U and 18U teams in rep baseball. The five youngest age divisions play their



(JEFF TRIBE PHOTO)



(JEFF TRIBE PHOTO)

regular season within the SCBA, 15U in the London District Baseball Association, and the 18U in the Tier I Inter-County Baseball Association. Collectively, the teams were a couple of games over .500 (96-94-5) on the verge of SCBA closing out its regular season.

"I think we're going to finish strong," said Walda, looking forward to OBA BB qualifier events for the 10U, 11U, 14U and 15U squads, which are also new this year. Based on comparative population, Tillsonburg might be considered as playing up.

"But we're not afraid of a challenge."

Historically, OBA tournaments represent a seasonal goal. Playing well during the regular season and seeing both individual and collective development is also very important.

"But the goal is to go to the OBA and win that tournament, or do the best you can," Walda said, noting that time has almost arrived.

"Go Otters, right?" he concluded. "Go Otters."

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Blowout loss spells end of playoffs for Red Sox

GRAHAM NICKERSON
Post Contributor

The playoff tournament that started with a bang went out with a whimper Saturday afternoon when the Tillsonburg Red Sox got walloped by the Simcoe Seniors in Simcoe 10-0. Despite surrendering four hits over five innings, Red Sox pitchers combined for 10 walks and two hit batters before raising the white flag in the mercy defeat.

Tillsonburg was only able to muster two measly hits in the game, both seeing-eye singles by leadoff man Iron Ring Rachar. Rachar was the only Red Sox to reach second base and that was in the first inning when a pickoff throw was wild moving the speedy short stop into scoring position but that is where he'd be stranded.

Rob Verhoeve got the call to start the win-or-go-home game. The starting assignment was Rapid Robert's first of the year, usually seeing action in relief spots in latter innings. A leadoff walk and a questionable balk call seemed to shake up the right hander as he walked two straight hitters with two outs then plunked the following Senior player. A single to left by Shortt drove in two runs to make the score 3-0. Jeff Prouse playing center field did his best Aaron Judge impression by dropping an easy liner that plated another Simcoe run.

Simcoe would heap on four more runs and send 10 batters to the plate in the second frame without recording a hit. An error by Rachar led off the inning then, walk, walk, hit by pitch, (Josh Verschueren now pitching) walk, walk,

walk.

Fish Verschueren took over on the mound in the third and worked two innings striking out three to delay the inevitable defeat.

Simcoe's hurler Knelsen fed the Tillsonburg bats a steady diet of curve balls and sliders over five innings while striking out four and allowing no free passes.

Out of options for arms going into the fifth, The Little General, Alex Fishback, summoned scorekeeper Red Nickerson to toe the rubber. The lanky right hander with his Satchel Paige-like windup faced five batters, giving up two walks and two hits while inducing a swinging bunt groundout in his only outing of the season. Nickerson was just finding his groove when Simcoe walked it off with a bloop hit to right that scored the runner from third.

With the playoffs in the rearview mirror, Tillsonburg sets its sights on Port Hope this weekend where they will compete for the OBA "C" Championship against teams from across Ontario. The Red Sox were the only "C" team in their four team loop this season.

Tillsonburg.....000 00 - 0 2 2
Simcoe.....440 02 - 10 4 2

Red Sox edged by Juniors in thrilling game

The hardest fought and most thrilling game of the Red Sox season was played Friday evening in Simcoe where they went up against the Juniors in a see-saw battle that ended in favour of the Norfolk County seat 4-3.

The first game of the Southern Counties year-end tournament had everything you expect in a playoff ballgame: dominate pitching, aggressive base-running, outstanding defensive plays, small ball and the long ball.

Kid Appleford got the start for Tillsonburg and turned in his greatest performance of the season going five innings of four-hit ball and only allowing one unearned run. The Kid stayed cool under pressure as Simcoe had runners in scoring position in each of the first four innings. Unperturbed, the Kid would reach back for something extra to get out of the jam.

Tillsonburg took an early lead in the second inning when Kevin Listar led off with a single followed by a Josh Verschueren walk. Jeff Prouse then laid down a perfect bunt to advance the runners 90 feet. Jordan Vitias flied out to deep center to bring Listar around for the game's first run, then Alex Fishback blooped in an opposite field single to cash Verschueren.

In the third, Simcoe tallied one after a ground ball snuck under Rob Verhoeve's glove at third with two outs. A walk, single and wild pitch scored the Junior's unearned run.

The leadoff man reached base in three consecutive Tillsonburg innings but that old rally killer, the double play, nipped the Red Sox hopes at adding to their slim advantage.

In the fourth, Listar hit a hot shot at Simcoe's short stop that was gobbled up and turned for a double play. The throw to first was off line, causing first baseman Trevor Nunn to come off the bag and apply a tag to Listar who was running full speed on the play. The designated hitter went down in a heap from the collision and lay on the infield for several minutes before his teammates helped him back to his feet.

Clinging to a 2-1 lead, Lefty Laur relieved Appleford to start the sixth. With two on and two out, pinch hitter Dylan Courier took Lefty's 2-2 offering deep to right for a three- run homer. The round tripper was the first given up by Tillsonburg's pitching staff all season and couldn't have come at a worse time.

Tillsonburg still had some fight left in them when they took up the willow in the seventh. After two quick outs, Prouse kept the game alive with a single to left. Vitias got plunked on the thigh and was lifted for Red Nickerson pinch running. Fishback walked, then Zack Kreller raced out an infield hit that scored Prouse. Simcoe took no chances and replaced Travis Lamb for Jeryn Shortt on the mound. Iron Ring Rachar worked the count full but on the payoff pitch he swung on and missed to end the game.

Tempers flared after the final out as Shortt walked off the mound yelling choice words at Rachar. Taking exception to the taunts, Rachar rushed the Junior pitcher and nearly came to blows before being restrained by teammates as a pushing and shoving match started up. Gums were still flapping as both teams were separated and returned to their dugouts.

Tillsonburg.....020 000 1 - 3 7 1
Simcoe.....001 002 x - 4 5 2

TILLSONBURG	AB	R	H	PO	A	E
RACHAR, SS	2	0	2	1	0	1
KING, 3B, 1B	2	0	0	2	0	0
B. VERSCHUEREN, 1B, P	2	0	0	1	0	0
VERHOEVE, P, 3B	2	0	0	2	0	0
MCPHERSON, C	1	0	0	3	0	0
PROUSE, CF	2	0	0	3	0	1
J. VERSCHUEREN, EH, P	1	0	0	0	0	0
FISHBACK, 2B	1	0	0	0	0	0
APPLEFORD, R	1	0	0	1	0	0
KRELLER, LF	1	0	0	0	0	0
TOTALS	22	3	7	18	7	1

Summary: **ER**, Tillsonburg 0, Simcoe 8; **LOB**, Tillsonburg 3, Simcoe 8; **RBI**, Knelsen, Holmes, Hares, Johnson, Shortt (3), Smith; **W**, Knelsen; **L**, Verhoeve; **BB**, Verhoeve (5), J. Verschueren (3), Nickerson (2); **K**, B. Verschueren (3), Knelsen (4); **Time**, 2:00

TILLSONBURG	AB	R	H	PO	A	E
RACHAR, SS	4	0	2	0	3	0
VERHOEVE, 3B	2	0	0	0	2	1
B. VERSCHUEREN, 1B	1	0	0	7	0	0
MCPHERSON, EH, 1B	3	0	1	1	0	0
LISTAR, DH	3	1	1	0	0	0
J. VERSCHUEREN, L	2	1	0	1	0	0
PROUSE, CF	2	1	1	3	0	0
VITIAS, C	1	0	0	2	0	0
FISHBACK, 2B	1	0	1	1	2	0
KRELLER, RF	3	0	1	3	0	0
TOTALS	22	3	7	18	7	1

Summary: **ER**, Tillsonburg 3, Simcoe 3; **LOB**, Tillsonburg 7, Simcoe 10; **2B**, Shortt; **HR**, Courier **RBI**, Vitias, Fishback, Kreller, Courrieer (3); **W**, Lamb; **L**, Laur; **BB**, Appleford (6), Laur (2), Auld (1), Lamb (2); **K**, Appleford (1), Laur (1), Auld (4), Lamb (4), Shortt (1); **Time**, 1:58

Local slo-pitch player part of national silver medal team



**EYE
ON
SLO-
PITCH**

DAVE WEAVER

Post Columnist

Congrats to The Mill's Bryan Deblaire whose Skaters Edge Titans team captured silver at the Canadian Slo-Pitch Championships in Surrey, British Columbia this past week. Good job!

Ladies A Playoffs

The Jays had clinched first place on the Monday, easily defeating Resting Pitch Face, and then opened the postseason doubling up on Trillium Court. Simmonds Mortgages broke open a tie-game encounter to a mercy over Foldens Machine Works in the lid lifter of their series.

Jays-12, Trillium Court-6

Jays-Sara Dyck 3-3; Tracy Shackleton 2-2.

Trillium-Denise Staley 4-4; Carissa Maguire 4-4.

Game Synopsis-Trillium took a 1-0 lead into the fourth, but the Jays came back scoring six in back-to-back innings. Tracy Shackleton, Mary Froese, Sara and Jessica Dyck each scored runs in consecutive innings.

Simmonds Mortgages-21, Foldens Machine Works-9

Simmonds-Rachel Boyd 4-4; Tracey Caruthers 4-4.

Foldens-Jenn Dahl 3-3; Mackenzie Brackenbury 2-2.

Game Synopsis-Jackie Wood Van-Santen led Simmonds with a bases-clearing triple, a bases-clearing double and a two-run triple.

Ladies' B Division Playoffs

George's Auto upset second-place Wildcats in the first game of their best-of-five series. Kyle Nesbitt Trucking were pushed in their opener with Resting Pitch Face only winning by two.

Kyle Nesbitt Trucking-7, Resting Pitch Face-5

Nesbitt-Nicole Morgan 3-3; Gemma Ladosz 3-3.

Resting-Amber Smith 3-3; Brittany Wolf 2-3; Martina McCallum HR.

Game Synopsis-A three-run fourth won it for Nesbitt. Gemma Ladosz scored two runs in the game for the winners.

George's Auto-15, Wildcats-12

George's-Brittany Sandham 4-5; Reina Dewatcher 4-5.

Wildcats-Tracey Coderre 4-4; Krystal Sivyer 4-4.

Game Synopsis-George's was able to hang on as the Wildcats scored four in the seventh and left the bases loaded. Kristin McDowell scored three of George's runs.

Men's A Division

1,2 Seal Insulation Hawks easily wrapped up their series with O&L Duct Design Ducks

winning by 10, and sweeping them. Leeswood Construction Dirty Mitts earned the sweep over Smitty's Electrical with a nine-run decision in Game Three. Legend Rubber Cobra Chickens was the third A squad to sweep their series, winning by eight against John Klassen Realty Hit N Run. The Mill took the lead in their series with Bill Klyn Carpentry walking it off in Game Three.

Legend Rubber Cobra Chickens-24, John Klassen Realty Hit N Run-14

Legend-Caleb Reimer 5-5; 3 HR; Dawson Dyck 4-5; Wyatt Blatz 3 HR; Fred Froese HR.

Klassen-Johnny Unger 4-4, HR; John Wiebe 3-4; Martin Klassen HR; Jacob Klassen 2 HR.

Game Synopsis-Cobra Chickens hit their seven round-trippers in game two of the series, hitting three in a row in the first inning.

Legend Rubber Cobra Chickens -22, John Klassen Realty Hit N-14

Legend-Johnny Froese 5-5, HR; Wyatt Blatz 4-5, HR.

Klassen-Johnny Unger 4-5; Peter Klassen 5-5; Jacob Klassen 2 HR; Martin Klassen HR; Peter Dyck HR.

Game Synopsis-The winners in game three scored 11 over their final two at-bats. Wyatt Blatz and Johnny Froese were each a triple shy of hitting for the cycle.

Leeswood Construction Dirty Mitts-21, Smitty's Electrical-12

Leeswood-Alex Penders 4-4; Tim Townsend 4-4, HR; Cory Smith HR; Devin Lee HR.

Smitty's-Adam Smith 3-4; Zack Cowenberg 3-3, HR.

Game Synopsis-Trevor Stuyt and Colin McDonald each scored three runs for the winners.

The Mill-13, Bill Klyn Carpentry-12

The Mill-Josh Stubbs 4-5; Ryan Black 3-4, HR; Steve Derks 2 HR; Logan Kloet HR.

Klyn-Nathan Boldt 4-4, HR; Dallas Dalby 3-3, 3 HR; Ryan Miller HR.

Game Synopsis-Josh Stubbs had the walk off hit for The Mill in game three. Steve Derks homered twice and drove in five to aid in pulling the mill in front in the series.

1,2 Seal Insulation Hawks-24, O&L Duct Design Ducks-4

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

O&L-Connor Smith 2-3, HR; Spence Meron HR.

Game Synopsis-Johnny Klassen homered three times and drove in eight for the Hawks.

1,2 Seal Insulation Hawks-23, O&L Duct Design Ducks-13

Hawks-Daniel Enns 5-6, HR; Johnny Klassen 5-6, 3 HR.

O&L-Josh Dewatcher 3-3; Kyle Smith 4-5; Connor Smith HR.

Game Synopsis-Johnny Klassen hit three long home runs while driving in seven for the winners to seal the series.

Men's B Division

Two of the four series ended in sweeps with the top-seed Bayham Construction Lumberjacks

ending John Beere's season. The third-place Underhill Farm Supply finished off their series with Designated Drinkers. Copper Mug-Lubricare Wannabee's were mercied by Pelicans in their opener and bounced back with two straight victories. At My Playground/IQT Logistics took the series lead after edging out Side 2 Side Exteriors Strike Force.

Bayham Construction Lumberjacks-28, John Beere-12

Bayham-Matthew Klassen 5-5; Nathan Peters 5-6.

John Beere-Mark Vanderhaeghe 4-4; Bob Long 3-4.

Game Synopsis-The winners belted out 17 extra base hits. Jake Sawatsky and Nathan Peters each hit a pair of doubles and triples.

Bayham Construction Lumberjacks -16, John Beere-6

Bayham-Nicholas Klassen 4-4; Caleb Dyck 3-4; Jake Sawatsky HR; Nathan Peters HR.

John Beere-Jim Long 3-4; Keith McMerty 2-3.

Game Synopsis-Nathan Peters hit a three-run homer in the winner's seven-run third for the series sweep.

Underhill Farm Supply-12, Designated Drinkers-5

Underhill-Chris Dyck 3-3; Calvin Holmes 3-4.

Drinkers-Will Martin 2-2; Johnny Abel 2-3.

Game Synopsis-Chris Dyck led the winners with three hits and four runs driven in to win the series.

Pelicans-20, Copper Mug-Lubricare Wannabee's-5

Pelicans-Matt Summers 4-4; Adam Jensen 3-4; Rob Down HR.

Copper Mug-Lubricare-Cody Long 2-3; Jeremy Hill 2-3.

Game Synopsis-Ryan Verbuyst led the Pelicans with a double and a pair of triples.

Copper Mug-Lubricare Wannabee's-21, Pelicans-20

Copper Mug-Lubricare-Cody Long 3-4; Owen Oates 4-4; Phil Beauvais HR; Brent Sproule HR.

Pelicans-T.J. Neville 4-4, HR; Steve Leacock 4-5; Andrew Dawson HR.

Game Synopsis-Wannabees scored seven in two of their six at bats. Phil Beauvais, Owen Oates and Cody Long all scored three runs in the game.

Copper Mug-Lubricare Wannabee's-10, Pelicans-6

Copper Mug-Lubricare-Ryan Copping 4-4; Phil Beauvais 3-4; Brent Sproule HR.

Pelicans-Steve Leacock 3-3, HR; Matt Summers 2-3.

Game Synopsis-The winners scored four in the extra inning of game three to take the series lead.

At My Playground/IQT Logistics-12, Side 2 Side Exteriors Strike Force-11

Strike Force-Johnny T. Klassen 3-4 John Klassen 3-4

A.M.P.-Riley Balazs 4-4 Keenan Coderre 3-4

Game Synopsis-Leadoff batter Riley Balazs reached four times and scored three runs to lead A.M.P. in the third game of the playoff series.

Men's C Division

The C Loop didn't feature much action last week with four series just getting in one game each, all the first in the series.

Tailgators-16, Team Swingers-7

Tailgators -Steve Medway 4-4; Paul Blouin 4-4.

Swingers-Rex Martain 3-3; Tony Epp 2-3.

Game Synopsis-Tailgators plated 13 runs over their final two at-bats. Kevin Hmeil, Terry Jones and Steve Medway each scored three runs on the night.

Sticky Bandits-28, Bird's Golf-6

Bandits-Ivan Enns 4-4; Makaio Thiessen 4-4.

Bird's-Charles Zarb 3-4; Damion Bancroft 3-4.

Game Synopsis-The Bandits took advantage of a shorthanded Bird's squad. Logan Froese scored four runs for the winners.

Townline Eqt Inc Smokin Aces-21, N.I.M.-6

Townline-Jakie Froese 4-4, HR; David Klassen 3-3; Peter Klassen 3-3, HR.

N.I.M.-Wes McDougall 3-3.

Game Synopsis-Jakie Froese drove in four for the winners.

J/E Bearing-19, Shaw's Ice Cream Sluggers-6

J/E-Darren Swick 4-5; Paul Swance 4-5.

Shaw's-Gregory Killough 2-3; Layn Wells 2-3.

Game Synopsis-Dillon Outerbridge scored four runs for the winners.

Consolation Series

R.L.P. Melanie Luksys swept their best-of-three series with Cain's Brickhouse Boys. C.R. Custom Engraving Smokin Bases swept Diamond Kings.

R.L.P. Melanie Luksys-13, Cain's Brickhouse Boys-12

R.L.P.-Dalton Cassidy 3-4, HR; Caden Craggs 3-4, HR; Natan Granger HR.

Cain's-Brady Rangel 3-4; Jason Cronheimer 4-4.

Game Synopsis-R.L.P. won it with a four-run seventh. Caden Craggs and Natan Granger each homered in the rally.

C.R. Custom Engraving Smokin Bases-19, Diamond Kings-17

Smokin Bases-John Gignac 4-4; Jake Rempel 4-4.

Diamond-George Hiebert 3-4; Lucas Thiesen 4-4.

Game Synopsis-Smoken Bases scored five runs in their last at-bat to pull out the win. Jake Rempel scored four runs for the winners.

C.R. Custom Engraving Smokin Bases-14, Diamond Kings-12

Smokin Bases-Ryan Scott 4-4; Ben Swartz 3-4.

Diamond-Willy Martens 4-4; Pete Goertzen 4-5.

Game Synopsis-A seven-run sixth won it for Smokin Bases.

Running with the Bulls deemed a success

JEFF HELSDON

Local Journalism Initiative Reporter

The woman behind Running with the Bulls called the second year of the event a success, almost doubling attendance.

In 2024, there were 222 walkers and runners combined. Things were different in 2025, explained Tamara Bull, with 375 runners registered, but no registration required. She estimated there were easily over 1,000 people at the event. Someone remarked to her later, "I feel like all of Tillsonburg was there."

The event featured a 10-kilometre run, five-kilometre event, one-kilometre Kiddie Bull Charge and a two-kilometre memorial family walk.

Bull started the event after her son was diagnosed with a rare form of cancer and the family faced huge treatment costs in the United States. After there was a huge outpouring of financial support from the community, Bull saw this event as a way of giving back, raising money for families who had a young member with cancer and are facing huge costs. This year she associated with the Kindred Foundation, an organization which has the same purpose and promised all money raised locally would stay local.

The amount of money raised to assist families dealing with a young family member with cancer increased from last year's \$22,168 to \$30,740. There is a need for the money with 19 applications for assistance from families of infants/children/ young adults under 30 with expenses related to a cancer diagnosis. In 2025, there were already 37 applications received to date.

While last year saw runners come from across the province, the change to an official registered run saw the appeal spread and runners come from further afield, including Alberta, New Brunswick, The Netherlands, Jacksonville Florida, and across Ontario.

Planning has already started for next year, with the date set for July 18.



(JEFF HELSDON PHOTO)

Running with the Bulls was a huge success this year, with a large increase in the number of runners participating and the amount of money raised. Planning has already started for next year's event.

"My motto in life has always been, 'Go big or go home' and this event is no exception," Bull said. "Next year, my goal is 450 runners and to raise over \$35,000."

She said the event wouldn't have been possible without support of volunteers.

"I am grateful to all my volunteers, participants and sponsors for helping create such a successful event with the biggest thank you to my main event sponsor, Future Transfer Co Inc.," she said. "I very truly could not have done it without them."

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Women's Institute history day was held in Tillsonburg



(CONTRIBUTED PHOTO)

Carolyn Crawford has a passion for cookbooks, and one of her concerns is cookbooks being lost as museums reduce their collections or close.

NANCY WEST

Post Contributor

The annual Southern Area Women's Institute Tweedsmuir History Day was held Aug. 9 in Tillsonburg, at Avondale United Church, Cuthbertson Hall.

About 60 ladies and their guests from Southern Area WI, which includes the counties of Oxford, Elgin, Middlesex,

Chatham-Kent and Lambton, spent the day in Tillsonburg with two great guest speakers.

Nancy John, Oxford District President, presided for the day.

The morning speaker was Dawn McClintock of nearby Springfield. Dawn showed us around her grandmother's wartime kitchen, all the while explaining how rationing worked and how ladies, both

rural and in town, fed their families from 1942-47. People were encouraged to grow 'Victory Gardens' in a patch of their lawn, or former flower bed, to help themselves out in food supply. Meat, sugar, coffee and many other things were either strictly rationed or in short supply for other reasons. She related a story in the Aylmer newspaper where one woman was publicly shamed, after someone told the authorities she had an extra 200 pounds of sugar at her house. Her name was in the newspaper and it also told what day she was in court about it. How embarrassing !!! There was a fair bit of telling tales of hoarding around the community at the time.

Dawn lives in her grandmother's house and has a great display of kitchen items and cookbooks from the 1930s and 1940s. She also treated us to samples of baked goods from the era. Canadian War Cake is delicious, and potato pastry is pretty good too.

After lunch, Carolyn Crawford of Terra Cotta told us about her cookbook passion. She has about 5,000 cookbooks collected so far, and explained more about wartime practices and some that were much earlier. She mentioned dedicated campaigns by women's groups, such as Jam for Britain, that were successful.

Carolyn is a WI member and one of the founders and past-president of the Culinary Historians of Canada Society. This group preserves cooking and baking records from the last 200 years in Canada. The group is based in Toronto, but are reaching out more and more to other areas.

One of Carolyn's great concerns is that many museums are either closing or reducing their holdings to reflect the funding they now receive for their collections and activities. This means many rural women's artifacts and records are being either given to other museums and collections, or being thrown away. One of the items that this applies to in particular

are the old 4H Homemaking Club study books, in addition to regular cookbooks, pamphlets and personal notebooks. She is advocating these be given a second look and hopefully preserved before they are gone permanently.

There were cookie jars of various vintages and themes on the tables as a display for the day. Information about cookie jar history and a few notes about Avondale United Church were also at the tables for people to read.

A guided tour of Annandale House National Historic Site was enjoyed by participants at the end of the day. E.D. Tillson had a large experimental farm on the edge of town in the late 1800s and his home still stands.



(CONTRIBUTED PHOTO)

Dressed in period costume, Dawn McClintock spoke about war-time rationing for families in Ontario during her presentation to the Women's Institute.

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TOWNSHIP OF NORWICH NEWS



Norwich council briefs

LUKE EDWARDS

Post Contributor

Southfield Windows and Doors looking to relocate to Norwich

An Elmira business hopes to be the first occupant of a redeveloped industrial subdivision in Norwich.

VDK Development Inc. pitched the plan to Norwich councillors at the Aug. 12 meeting. Zoning bylaw amendments are required to make it possible.

While it would be a phased development, the first would see Southfield Windows and Doors take up residence on the site. The family-owned company began operation in 2005 and would use the Norwich site to assemble windows and doors from components it has shipped in.

Phase 1 has a footprint of just under four hectares, with nearly 10 hectares left over for future industrial development.

Some concerns were raised by councillors and residents at the meeting, namely around traffic. A traffic impact study was submitted, which didn't note any immedi-

ate concerns, although a left-turn lane on Highway 59 at Quaker Street is already identified as being needed sometime in the next 20 years.

There were also some worries about a nearby drainage system and tiling system, though Nathan Kok, from Everest Estate Homes and representing the owner, said they're working with the township on the drain issue.

"We won't be getting any type of approval unless we can demonstrate clearly that we are not having any negative impact upstream or downstream," he said.

Council approves Oxford Centre Hall well replacement

It turns out that a new well at Oxford Centre Hall will be cheaper up front, and in the long term.

A report to Norwich council on Aug. 12 recommended moving forward with a well replacement project at the property. The estimated cost is \$25,000, which includes about \$7,000 already spent in emergency work when the existing well faltered ear-

lier this year.

The well provides water for the hall as well as a neighbouring residence. A loss of water pressure in June prompted staff to investigate, which led to the discovery of not just a failing pump, but also a well casing in poor condition.

In July, councillors asked staff to consider moving to a cistern water supply for the properties. However, staff estimates suggest it would cost \$25,000 to \$30,000, above the roughly \$15,000 to replace the existing well. Additionally, it would cost an additional \$500 a month for water delivery, and as much as \$900 a year to service the cistern.

The township awarded the contract to replace the well to McLeod Well Drilling, whose estimate came in the lowest of three at \$13,140.

Elgin Street reconstruction timeline moved up

Reconstruction of a portion of Elgin Street will take place earlier than planned in order to allow the township to complete

simultaneous improvements to the Orth drain.

Councillors approved the new timelines at the Aug. 12 meeting, following a report recommending the change. Improvements to the Orth drain are required as a result of upstream commercial development.

Norwich's 10-year capital forecast project includes work for Elgin Street in 2027. To align with the drain improvements, a staff report recommended doing the road work on Elgin Street between Spring and Centre streets this fall.

"(We're) realizing some savings for the township and the developer and minimizing construction impacts on the community," said Director of Public Works Ken Farkas.

To pay for the road work, council approved a recommendation to authorize up to \$150,000 from the road construction reserve.

At the same meeting, councillors also approved a tender of just over \$210,000 to RF Almas Company Ltd. for the drain improvements.

Fire chief pitches purchases to improve firefighter safety

LUKE EDWARDS

Post Contributor

There's always room for improvement when it comes to cancer prevention.

So while a review turned up mostly good results in that department for the Norwich Fire and Protective Services, its director still wants to make some tweaks based on provincial recommendations to be even better.

"I'm happy to report that we are largely compliant," Derek Van Pagee told Norwich councillors at a meeting on Aug. 12.

The department spent months this year reviewing its protocols against the Firefighter's Cancer Prevention Checklist published by the Ministry of Labour, Training and Skills Development. The checklist includes 83 points "aimed at protecting fire personnel from exposure to contaminants that may cause cancer or other occupational illnesses."

Though mostly compliant, the review did identify some areas for improvement, leading Van Pagee to offer four recommendations to council. Even with an issue as important as personal health, Van Pagee said he tried to approach the recommendations with costs in mind.

The first recommendation is to request new hoods for the firefighters, which will allow them to put on a fresh hood when they exchange their air cylinder, as recommended. Van Pagee is proposing purchasing five extra hoods for each station next year, and an additional five the year following. All told, the cost to the township

would be \$7,000.

Van Pagee also recommended staff direct his team to explore ventilation improvements for the fire stations.

"We have CO (carbon monoxide) in our stations and then we have fans that will kick on and ventilate. According to the MOL checklist we are 10 per cent of what we should be ventilating," he said.

The report said "truck bay/apparatus floor ventilation is currently not adequate for storing clean bunker gear on apparatus floor in Station 1, 2, 4."

Van Pagee said there's the potential for stations 1 and 2 to do "minor building renovations" to address the issues, or they could explore ventilation systems that could be installed.

Station 4 might be a little more tricky, he said, given the tight space there.

Other recommendations from Van Pagee included bringing in a third party to do a once-a-year decontamination deep cleaning for the apparatus. While the firefighters are dutiful in washing the trucks regularly, Van Pagee said the deep clean can be a challenge.

"I can ask firefighters to do it, and I'm being honest when I say it, they're volunteer firefighters. They work, they're not going to go and do a detailed clean inside the apparatus," he said.

The cost for the deep clean would be about \$100 per apparatus, Van Pagee said. They would also do one-off deep cleans if a truck responded to a particularly nasty fire where a lot of smoke got into the apparatus.

A final recommendation calls for the purchase of gear drying devices, though Van Pagee said it's low priority and recommended allowing him to apply for grants to cover the cost of that purchase.

Councillors supported Van Pagee's ef-

forts, saying he's always been careful with how the department spends taxpayer money.

"I think this is really important that we do everything we can to protect them," said Coun. Lynne DePlancke.



PULLING TOGETHER

The Norwich T'N'T Tractor Pull's twin tracks delivered constant action Friday, Aug. 15 and Saturday, Aug. 16 through a wide range of tractor and truck pulling classes. The 40-member Optimist Club of Norwich & District uses proceeds from the event to support over 30 community organizations annually.

(JEFF TRIBE PHOTO)

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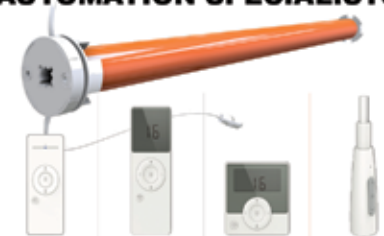
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Discovering the freshwater shipwreck diving capital of the world



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

PAUL KNOWLES

Tillsonburg Post Columnist

Here's your trivia question for the day: "Name the freshwater and shipwreck diving capital of the world."

You don't have to go too far afield, according to Guillaume Courcy. His answer would be "Kingston, Ontario and the Thousand Islands." And his evidence is pretty convincing.

Courcy, a native of Rimouski, Quebec, is a veteran of the Canadian Armed Forces. He served internationally, and learned to scuba dive while stationed on a peacekeeping mission in Israel. His last posting was to Kingston; he came there in 2011, and joined the local military scuba club. And he quickly became aware of the treasure trove of shipwrecks awaiting exploration around the Thousand Islands. He completed his diving instructor qualifications in 2019.

His wife, Martine Roux, a diving instructor from Montreal, met Guillaume because of their shared interest in spending time underwater. They became life partners and in 2020, they became business partners as well. In that infamous Covid year, they acquired their first boat, a tug called the Dorothy J. Guillaume moved straight from his military career into his new life as an underwater entrepreneur. And despite the challenges of the pandemic, "Neptune and Salacia Diving" prospered. (Neptune is the Roman god of freshwater and the sea; Salacia, his consort, is the goddess of the sea.) They

opened a dive shop in 2022, and bought a second boat, a Zodiac, in 2023.

If you spend some time with Guillaume, you will become convinced that the number one reason for their success is the personal enthusiasm of the owners. They live and breathe diving, and even after diving around the Thousand Islands for more than a decade, they continue to be very excited about the experiences that await them on every dive.

Guillaume admits that his claim about the freshwater and shipwreck diving capital of the world would be disputed by fans of the Georgian Bay waters around Tobermory. But his tongue-in-cheek goal is "to steal that title back from Tobermory."

There is no doubt that freshwater divers will find unending opportunities to explore shipwrecks in the waters of the St. Lawrence River, off Kingston. (The St. Lawrence starts here, feeding out of Lake Ontario). The estimate is that there are between 200 and 400 shipwrecks in the area. Many of them are ships that foundered in storms; some, like the HMS Princess Charlotte, saw military action in the War of 1812; many more have been deliberately sunk by their owners, because they were no longer seaworthy.

More recently some, like the Wolfe Island II, have been deliberately sent to the bottom as artificial reefs and dive sites.

If you spend time on the water or in the air over the Thousand Islands, the sheer number of shipwrecks is quickly apparent. I took a helicopter tour that included flying over Garden Island – where in that small area alone, about 20 shipwrecks are easily spotted from the air.

What makes freshwater diving special for shipwreck enthusiasts is that most wrecks are wooden ships. Wooden ships that sink in salt water are quickly eaten away by the salt. Guillaume told me, "Cold water, fresh water, keeps these wrecks alive." The Great Lakes and the St. Lawrence River are home to the largest collection of wooded ship wrecks in



(PHOTO COURTESY NEPTUNE AND SALACIA DIVING)

The Glendora is one of the many shipwrecks near Kingston that can be explored by divers.

the world.

There are a number of ways that visitors to Kingston can get up close and personal with shipwrecks. Neptune and Salacia Diving own the first and only PADI certified dive boat in Canada – PADI is the highly recognized "Professional Association of Diving Instructors."

Guillaume and Martine offered scuba diving charters, scuba courses, and snorkelling tours. This summer, they introduced a War of 1812 snorkelling tour.

So would-be explorers have options ranging from snorkelling above wrecks, to diving to spectacular sites like the Comet, an 1864 paddle-wheeler now resting in 80 feet of water.

This being Canada, it turns out diving in an all-weather sport. Guillaume is a certified "ice diving instructor", so he takes well-insulated clients out and under, all year round.

The quirky, fun side of the business is evident as he talks about their very popular feature, "Zombie Apocalypse Diving", where cosplay meets scuba.

Guillaume and Martine also spear-head

clean-up dives on the Kingston waterfront, run by the local Rotary club. In the first year of the event, divers collected over 800kg of debris around the harbour. The event has grown to include non-divers on the shore, and in kayaks and canoes, all working to keep the harbour in pristine shape.

The business has grown significantly through its five years of operation, but Guillaume and Martine are committed to making it better, continually offering new programs and dive experiences. When I met Guillaume, there were 11 moorings at dive locations – permanent mooring stations where boats can tie up, thus preventing damage to the wrecks from anchors. The goal, he says, is to have to 30 moorings, opening more and more potential for exciting exploration of the shipwrecks in the waters of the Thousand Islands.

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.



(PAUL KNOWLES PHOTO)

Guillaume Courcy wants to claim the title of "Freshwater and shipwreck diving capital of the world" for Kingston.



(PAUL KNOWLES PHOTO)

The elongated shapes in the water of Garden Island are all shipwrecks.

New ownership at CKOT radio

JEFF HELSDON

Editor

Tillsonburg's radio station is back.

Although CKOT and CJDL didn't cease to exist, the community presence of the station disappeared after the sale from the Lamers family to Rogers Sports and Media. MY Broadcasting Corporation (MBC) announced the acquisition on Aug. 1, and the Renfrew, ON-based company plans to build new broadcast facilities in Tillsonburg and feature local news, programming, and community involvement.

With the acquisition, a format change for CKOT was approved that will see a classic rock format operating as GIANT FM. CJDL, which was a country station, is now New Country 107.3.

Rob Mise, vice-president of content and regional manager for MBC, said approval from the CRTC came quicker than expected.

"You just don't know when you'll get the call until you get the call," he said.

The change to classic rock was made after assessing the market.

"We did research. We asked listeners what they wanted to hear the most," Mise said. "The number one thing that stood out there was the regional ownership, get local news, get hockey scores on, that was the biggest thing people missed the most."

He noted a resurgence in classic rock, with not only the "boomers" listening but also among youth who hear it in TikTok and movies.

"There is a certainly familiarity with it because

the music is timeless," he said.

MBC also operates Giant FM in Welland/Niagara, CD 98.9 and Oldies 99.7 in Simcoe, and other stations across the province. While Mise said there will be some music that is the same as Welland's Giant FM, the news and "spoken word content" will be different.

Change will be minimal at CJDL except for the return of Randy Owen, who was popular with his afternoon show on CKOT and was laid off by Rogers.

"It's the same station, it focuses on 2000 country," Mise said. "The average person won't hear a difference on the country station except Randy is back on Sunday mornings starting in September."

"(MY FM Kingston radio host) Big G said we need him, my dad said we need him, Terri Clark said we need him, and many Tillsonburg locals said - you need Randy Owen," said Jon Pole, MBC president. "Randy will be joining us to work on a special Country Gold show. I'm sure we'll talk him into a few other things too. I'm confident he will be a great ambassador for New Country 107.3."

MBC is currently looking for a location to establish a storefront in Tillsonburg, which will be staffed. Although the radio tower on the top of the former CKOT building was a landmark in downtown Tillsonburg, Mise said technology has made the need for the tower a thing of the past.

"The antenna on top of buildings isn't required anymore," he explained. "The internet has taken over and feeds the transmitter."

The tower on Highway 19 north of Salford will continue to be used for transmitting both stations.

2025

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Baby show results for Tillsonburg Tri-County Agricultural Fair

ILENE CHESTERMAN

Baby Show Chairperson

Sixteen babies competed for prizes and ribbons at the 171st Tillsonburg Fair at 10 a.m. on Saturday in the Lions Auditorium at the Community Centre. Judges for the event were Anne Hollis and Fran Brown.

Competing in the infants up to six months were: Asher Cooper, Theodor Epple, Leia Kendrick, Elizabeth Legge, and Avery McDougall.

Competing in the seven to 12-month age group were: Ceclicia Ash, Amelia Dey, Banks Herden, Aria Marshall, Amelia Millard, Seb Nigh, Jethro Roberts and Wallace South.

Competing in the 13 to 18-month classes were: Alexei Kolomaya, Delilah Sinclair and Annalynn Smoke.

Rosette ribbons were won for the Happiest, Youngest, Most Serious, Most Active, Sleepiest, Blondest Hair, Hungriest, Travelled Furthest to get to our Baby Show, Biggest Smile, Wearing the most orange and Reddest Hair.

In the two classes of babies creatively dressed for the fair's "Mother Nature" theme were: Celicia Ash,

Asher Cooper, Theodor Epple, Banks Herden, Leia Kendrick, Alexei Kolomaya, Aria Marshall, Avery McDougall, Amelia Millard, Seb Nigh, Jethro Roberts, Delilah Sinclair,

Annalynn Smoke, and Wallace South. Draws for grocery vouchers were held throughout the event.

Many thanks go to volunteers who decorated, took registrations and made our show possible. They were Nancy and Ilene Chesterman, Laura Hawley, Bonnie Edwards, and Karen Helsdon.



(STUART BLOWER PHOTO)

Just like the olympics, baby Delilah bites down on her First Prize ribbon for 12 to 18 month olds, as as she sits on Cadence's knee during the baby contest.

Grand Opening

indoor play!

field trips!

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summer camp!



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TILLSONBURG FAIR



(STUART BLOWER PHOTO)

Noise, mud and mayhem on the track as riders jockey for the lead in the Saturday afternoon demolition derby.



(STUART BLOWER PHOTO)

Asher Thiessen parades Butter the Llama around the 4H pet judging.



(JEFF HELSDON PHOTO)

Ethan Wall of Straffordville was one of the local performers on the stage and beer tent at the fair organized by The Copper Mug.



(JEFF HELSDON PHOTO)

The Homecraft Building provided an opportunity for youth to learn about agriculture, although the Van De Slyke children - Vera and Kenny - should be experts by the time they grow up, living on a farm. Still, they enjoyed a little play time with the field corn and sandbox toys.



(JEFF HELSDON PHOTO)

Tom Orr of St. Thomas had the cylinders pumping in his four-cylinder Volvo tractor in the mini tractor pulls on Friday night. Presented by the Big Creek Tractor Pullers Association, the event drew competitors from across Southwestern Ontario.



(STUART BLOWER PHOTO)

Cameron and Lewis Coghill give a thumbs up to their hero Batman, who made an appearance at the fair on Saturday.



(STUART BLOWER PHOTO)

Ellie and her cat Missy show off her first prize for Best Cat after the annual pet contest at the fair. There were also classes for dogs, hamsters, gerbils, guinea pigs and most unusual pet.



(STUART BLOWER PHOTO)

Serena Smith found a weekend job operating the pitching concession and she also juggles.



(JEFF HELSDON PHOTO)

While the older divisions of the Tillsonburg Fair ambassador program didn't have any competitions, there were several contestants in the mini division for both boys and girls. Senior Ambassador Mary Jean Kekes, left, MPP Ernie Hardeman and Mayor Deb Gilvesy were judges in the mini division.

TILLSONBURG FAIR



(JEFF HELSDON PHOTO)

Kylie West, centre, is all smiles as she was crowned Ambassador of the Tillsonburg Fair by last year's ambassador Scarlett Lewis. The ambassador had a busy weekend at the fair and will have the opportunity to participate in a contest at the Canadian National Exhibition and attend the provincial fair convention of the Ontario Agricultural Society.



(JEFF HELSDON PHOTO)

The royalty of the Tillsonburg Fair received their crowns on Friday. From left are: Brayden Green, Mini King; Brooklyn Weigel, Junior Ambassador; Mary Jane Kekes, Senior Ambassador; Kylie West, Ambassador; and Lily Webb, Mini Queen.

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The Edison, Vienna, & Area Museum
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August 23: Brownie Cameras

August 30: Back to School

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Sept 13 – Wings & Wheels

9am – 4pm

Tillsonburg Regional Airport

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monthly family-friendly outdoor events are
always FREE and offer the opportunity to see our
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hangars, explore restoration projects, purchase
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NORTHSHORE RAMBLERS JAM**
at the Tillsonburg Legion on Friday August
22nd from 1:00 pm - 4:00 pm.

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at the Courtland United Church Cemetery on
August 23rd & 24th

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Wednesday, August 27th, 6 - 7 pm

at St Paul's United Church

(Fox Alley South Entrance)

Email tillsonburg@canadiantaichiacademy.org
or call 519-688-2877 or 519-983-3381 to learn
more. **Fall session starts Wednesday, Sept.3**
and runs to Dec.17, 6 - 7 pm. Continuing
CTCA classes for experienced participants
occur Wednesdays 7 - 8:30 pm

TILLSONBURG LEGION GOLF TOURNAMENT

on Saturday September 13th
at Tillsonview Golf Course.

Meal and 18 holes of golf for \$70.00 per person.
Tee times available at the Legion. For more info
call 519-842-5281.

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November 14 & 28, and December 5.

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50-70's country music, perform, listen, dance,
and enjoy.

MESSY CHURCH

September 6th, 10 am. to 12 p.m.

St.Pauls United Church

88 Bidwell St.Tillsonburg

We're off to a good start.(help celebrate our 8th
year with a birthday party.) Snacks crafts,games
& music.Lunch to follow.Children accompanied
by an adult please.

NEW DURHAM CEMETARY DECORATION DAY SERVICE

Sunday, September 7th, 2025, 2:00pm

Service of Remembrance by Lola Mather-Dyer.

Music by the Norwich Musical Society Band.

MODERN SQUARE DANCING IS FOR YOU!

Looking for something to do in the evening or
something new to try? Modern square dancing
is a great way to learn something new, have fun,
meet new friends, relieve stress, and get some
exercise! **At Thames Valley Dance Club, we**
dance on Monday nights from 7:00-9:00pm.
All you need is comfortable shoes and casual
clothing. No experience or partner is required
and anyone over the age of 12 is welcome
(children from 12-15 with an adult, please).

We will be starting our 2025-2026 season on
Monday, Sept 8/25 at the Ingersoll Pipe Band
Hall, 108 Wonham St. S. Ingersoll. The first
night is free, and after that the cost is \$7.50 per
person each Monday, paid monthly at the start of
the month. For more information, contact Julie
at 519-535-3314. Hope to see you on Sept 8th at
the Ingersoll Pipe Band Hall!

TILLSONBURG FIREFIGHTERS ASSOCIATION IS HOSTING ANNUAL STEAK BBQ FUNDRAISER

Saturday September 13, 2025

Meal is served from 4:00pm-8:00pm

45 Hardy Ave, Tillsonburg

Lions Auditorium

\$30.00 per person

Children under 12- Free Hotdogs

Tickets Available through one of the local
Firefighters or email dvan.occ@gmail.com

CELEBRATION OF ST. JOHN'S 125TH ANNIVERSARY

Sunday, September 14, 2025.

Please join us for our Sunday Morning

Service at 10:30 a.m.

St. John's Anglican Church,

46 Ridout Street West, Tillsonburg, Ontario

Celebrated by The Bishop of Huron: The Right
Rev'd. Robert Todd Townshend, Th.D. There
will also be soloists and other instrumentalists
during the service. Followed by the dedication

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Ukrainian Lunch, a fundraiser for Alongside
Hope's project in the Ukraine (Free will
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The Ingersoll Rotary Club is proud to host
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TOURNAMENT
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Games begin 7pm Friday. See some of the
best league teams vying for a berth into next
year's World's ISC Championship Tournament
in Kitchener, Ontario in August 2026. At
press time, registered teams are Georgian Bay,
Sebringville, Saugeen, St. Thomas, Puslinch,
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OXFORD PHILATELIC SOCIETY CIRCUIT BOOK FAIR

October 25, 2025

Church of the Epiphany, 560 Dundas Street,

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10:00 am to 4:00 pm. Free Admission &

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

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Friday, December 5, 2025 – Free will

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St. John's Anglican Church,

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WHERE: VON Oxford Office 24 Brock St. W.,
Tillsonburg

TIME: 6:30PM-8:00PM

INGERSOLL

WHEN: 4th Tuesday of every month

WHERE: Ingersoll Public Library 130 Oxford

St., Ingersoll

TIME: 10:30AM –12:00Noon

WOODSTOCK

WHEN: 3rd Saturday of every month

WHERE: Sakura House Hospice 715180

Oxford Rd.4, Woodstock

TIME: 10:30AM-12:00Noon

INTERESTED IN BRIDGE?

Join us every Friday at the Tillsonburg
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TburgBridge.

TILLSONBURG LIONS

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

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Shoe

I have four fingers and a thumb but am not a hand. What am I?
Glove

I begin with E, end with E, and usually contain just one letter. What am I?
Envelope

What building has the most stories?
Library

What kind of coat is best put on wet?
A coat of paint

SUDOKU

						8		
		8		4	1	2		9
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4	5	2					6	
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Solutions on Page 31

Level: Beginner

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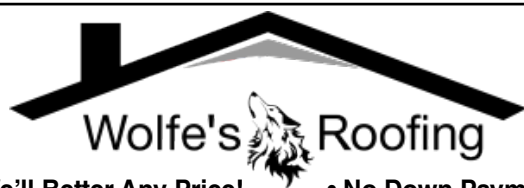


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1	9	7	2	5	3	8	4	6
3	6	8	7	4	1	2	5	9
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6	3	1	9	8	5	4	7	2
5	1	6	4	9	2	7	8	3
8	2	3	5	7	6	1	9	4
9	7	4	1	3	8	6	2	5

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SALE
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