

Tillsonburg POST

FREE

APRIL 30, 2026

VOLUME 2 • ISSUE 30

Your Funeral Care Professionals



MURPHY FUNERAL HOME

159 Talbot Road, Delhi, Ontario
N4B 1Z7 (519) 532-1290
MFH.CARE

Compassionately offering Thoughtful Preplanning services at No Cost. Contact Us Today.



GARDEN CENTRE NOW OPEN!!

FRESH DELIVERIES ARRIVING DAILY

248 BROADWAY, TILLSONBURG • CANADIANTIRE.CA

Nurse practitioner-led clinic to open in Tillsonburg

JEFF HELSDON

Editor

Oxford MPP Ernie Hardeman announced a \$5.2 million investment in health care in Oxford County that will connect 13,020 more people to primary care and see a new Tillsonburg clinic.

Announced Tuesday morning in front of two empty units in Northgate Plaza where a permanent nurse practitioner-led clinic will be established by the Ingersoll Nurse Practitioner-Led Clinic, the announcement was heralded as one of the most significant announcements in health care in Tillsonburg. There are thousands of people in Tillsonburg without a primary health care provider.

“Access to primary care is the foundation of a strong and reliable health care system,” Hardeman said. “This investment will connect more than 13,000 residents to the care they need, when and where they need it. By strengthening primary care, we are not only helping people stay healthier, but also reducing pressure on emergency departments and hospitals. This is an important step toward building a more connected, accessible and patient-focused health care system for families across Oxford County.”

“This investment is a significant step forward for primary care in Oxford County,” said Stephanie Nevins, executive director of the Ingersoll Nurse Practitioner-Led Clinic. “It will allow the NPLC to expand access in Ingersoll and bring a new nurse practitioner-led clinic to Tillsonburg, connecting more people to timely, team-based care close to home. We’re proud to work alongside our community and system partners to support the growing needs of our population, and we’re grateful for the province’s support in making this vision a reality.”

CONTINUED TO PAGE 2



(JEFF HELSDON PHOTO)

NEW KINSMEN BRIDGE INSTALLATION

A crane lifted the second girder span of the new Kinsmen bridge into place onto the piers last week. Three pieces, comprising two sections bolted together, span the gully. The crane has now been removed, and crews are installing the stringers, decking, and railing. See the story and more photos on page 8.

THI and EARTH Power collaboration a go

JEFF HELSDON

Editor

A possible merger between Tillsonburg Hydro Inc. and EARTH Power will move forward, subject to Ontario Energy Board approval.

The possibility of the merger was first raised last fall, with needed upgrades to the Tillsonburg transformer sta-

tion as one of the primary reasons. Preliminary estimates for adding more capacity through that project are \$29 million.

The collaboration will see Tillsonburg acquire shares in EARTH Corporation, a municipal holding company that owns EARTH Power Corp. and other unregulated companies under the corporate umbrella. Tillsonburg will be the second-largest shareholder among the 10, behind Ingersoll.

CONTINUED TO PAGE 2



DOOR WORLD

a division of E&E McLaughlin

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

519-842-4671 info@doorworld.ca doorworld.ca

Merger deal designed to have no impact on response times

CONTINUED FROM FRONT

ERTH Power started with the former Erie Thames Powerlines in 2000, which saw the utilities for Ingersoll, Thamesford, Otterville, Norwich, Tavistock, Aylmer, Belmont, and Embro amalgamate. The name was changed to ERTH Power, and Clinton, Mitchell, Dublin, and Goderich joined in.

The decision to go ahead was made by council in an in-camera session on April 21, and announced the next day. According to the release, the decision was driven by several factors, including:

- **Capacity** - Existing infrastructure is nearing its capacity and must be expanded to support projected industrial growth.
- **Capability** - As the energy sector evolves, demand is increasing for specialized expertise in engineering, regulatory compliance, and senior leadership.
- **Connectivity** - Utilities must modernize systems to enhance reliability, enable automation, and strengthen cybersecurity, requiring ongoing investment and technical expertise.
- **Compliance** - Smaller utilities are held to the same regulatory standards as larger utilities, often with fewer resources to meet these requirements efficiently.
- **Consolidation** - Proactive consolidation among like-minded local utilities can improve service delivery, increase operational efficiency, and deliver long-term benefits for customers, communities, shareholders, and employees.

Tillsonburg Mayor Deb Gilvesy said the number one concern raised at merger open houses held last fall was response times during outages. The town went back to the table with these concerns in hand, pushing for them to be addressed.

Several concessions were made. As THI employees are transferred to ERTH, both former THI employees and current ERTH employees who live in Tillsonburg will take home company vehicles so they can respond from home in the event of an outage, without having to go to ERTH's office in Ingersoll to pick up a company vehicle first. In addition, the THI location on John Pound Road will remain open, and there will be a dedicated customer service person in the Tillsonburg Customer Service Centre for billing inquiries.

"This new operational direction by ERTH solidified that this should not be an issue," Gilvesy said of response times.

"We've negotiated and made sure these measures were in place that will minimize any impact to response times," added THI board of directors chair Dan Rasokas.

The move to ERTH operating Tillsonburg's utility may not be as radical as residents may think. Rasokas pointed out ERTH operated the utility for a spell several years ago and has been serving as management for THI since 2023.

Saying ERTH has the same small-town philosophy, he added, "The job they've done has been phenomenal. The way they do the job, the resources they have behind them will be good for Till-

sonburg."

He addressed what is likely the number one question on THI customers' minds – rate changes – by saying only inflationary changes will take place until the next service application is made to the Ontario Energy Board (OEB) in 2031. At that point, the upgrades to the transformer station will be coming into play. Whereas before rates could have doubled as THI's 8,600 customers absorbed \$29 million in costs, now it will be spread across ERTH's 58,600 customers.

When the next application is made, rates for Tillsonburg will be the same as what's paid in other ERTH towns. Rasokas said this "won't be an impact because the rates are pretty much the same."

There are provisions in the contract in case upgrades to Tillsonburg's transformer station, which has only 10 megawatts of capacity left, are needed before then.

"We have protection against the worst-case scenario without facing any changes in our rates until we have to," he said.

Under terms of the deal, Tillsonburg will have one representative on the ERTH Corporation board of directors, and another to ERTH Power's board. In addition, Tillsonburg will have the right to appoint an additional director to the ERTH Power board for three years as a transition measure.

"We're proud to welcome Tillsonburg as a shareholder and to build on the strong working relationship already in

place," said Chris White, President and Chief Executive Officer of ERTH Corporation. "By bringing our utilities together, we can enhance service, strengthen system reliability, and provide the scale needed to support future investment while maintaining stable rates for our customers."

Currently, the town receives about \$200,000 in dividends annually from THI. Going forward, this will be replaced by ERTH dividends. Rasokas pointed out that ERTH's non-regulated business includes streetlight upgrades, EV charging station installations, billing, and many other facets that will also share profits with the town.

"There's this extra revenue stream they have," he said. "While it won't come through in the rates, any dividends will benefit the Town of Tillsonburg in the future."

A part of those extra services will be providing billing for Tillsonburg's water and sewer customers.

Gilvesy pointed out ensuring the THI employees will be looked after was a top priority. All jobs are guaranteed for three years, and seniority and service credits will be maintained. She believes there will be more opportunities for advancement for employees with the move to ERTH.

The collaboration is subject to approval by the Ontario Energy Board. A part of this process is a no-harm test to ensure customers of a utility are no worse off with a proposed change. This typically takes six months.

13,000 people to be connected to primary health care

CONTINUED FROM FRONT

Funding for the expansion was through the latest call for proposals under the province's Primary Care Action Plan.

For Tillsonburg Mayor Deb Gilvesy, the announcement was the culmination of work she has been doing since being elected in 2017. She gave credit to Hardeman for his support of the new clinic.

"Many may not see the work that happens behind the scenes, but I can say firsthand that Ernie's dedication and advocacy have played a critical role in securing this funding," she said.

Construction will start in the unit in the near future to turn it into patient rooms, waiting rooms, and offices. Nevins said the

goal is to have the clinic open in the fall. The clinic will have four nurse practitioners, RNs, RPNs, possibly a social worker, and administrative staff.

The clinic is aimed at people who do not have a primary health care provider only. Those looking for a primary health care provider are asked not to phone the existing In-

gersoll Nurse Practitioner-Led Clinic sites, but to watch its website for more information on registration and to register through the province's Health Care Connect.

Watch next week's Tillsonburg Post and tillsonburgpost.com for more in-depth information and photos of this late-breaking event.



Rob Koppert
Broker of Record/Owner



Brandon Koppert **



Dane Willson **



Linda Coldham **



Crystal Ketchabaw *



David Bennett **



Bob Arpe *

Realty Team ONE



Samantha Hamilton *



Scott Hamilton *



R.E. Wood Realty
Brokerage

Independently owned and operated

Explore our current listings!



SCAN ME



Derrek de Jonge *



Eva Krahn *



Deepanshu Pal *



Jennifer Dalley *



Samuel Koppert *



Breanna Averink *



Taylor Thoonen *



Grant Sumler *



55 Brock St. E
Tillsonburg ON N4G 4H5



519-842-8418



woodrealty.ca

** Broker * Sales Representative

EDITORIAL

Is merger with EARTH Power the solution?

Last week, a collaboration was announced between Tillsonburg Hydro Inc. (THI) and EARTH Power.

Although collaboration was the term used in the news release, effectively the agreement amounts to a merger between the two entities, albeit one with benefits. Under the terms of the deal, Tillsonburg will acquire shares in EARTH Corporation, plus have a seat on the board of directors of EARTH Corp. and EARTH Power, with a bonus seat on the board of directors of EARTH Power for the next three years.

For the unfamiliar, Tillsonburg Hydro Inc. is the company that owns the town's electrical distribution system. The company was formed in 1998 as a local distribution company from the long-standing municipally owned utility, under direction from provincial legislation.

The big monkey on the back in Tillsonburg's case is that we are running out of electricity. That means an expansion of the town's transformer station is necessary, with an estimated cost of \$29 million. Presently, there is only 10 megawatts of capacity left in the transformer station, and two industries currently under development will take two each, leaving only six megawatts. It's easy to see this could quickly become a limiting factor in industrial expansion if it's not addressed.

But spreading the \$29-million expansion cost across THI's current 8,000 customers would double monthly rates. This is something no one wants to see.

What were the alternatives? Although details of what was looked at weren't made public, Hydro One was surely an option. However, a sale to Hydro One would not have given Tillsonburg a seat on the board of directors and a say in future rate increases.

Besides retaining some control in the process, the deal with EARTH Corp. will also provide the benefit of continued dividends paid back to the town. In the last few years, Tillsonburg's coffers have received \$200,000 annually in dividends from THI. Such dividends will continue under the terms of the recently inked deal.

The largest concerns expressed by Tillsonburg residents at public input sessions – rates and response times – were addressed in the deal. An additional benefit is rates shouldn't increase outside of inflation for five years, and when the cost of the transformer station upgrades needs to be paid, it will be spread across EARTH's nearly 60,000 customers, not just THI's 8,000.

The merger was agreed to against a backdrop of a need for greater expertise in an increasingly complex regulatory environment. EARTH has this expertise and has actually been supplying it to THI through a management agreement over the past three years.

In this case, a line from Star Trek – “resistance is futile” – comes to mind. Did the town and THI board of directors make the right decision? Only time will tell for sure, but it's looking positive so far.



Spring trilliums.

(JEFF TRIBE PHOTO)

PHOTOGRAPHERS WANTED

Do you have a great photo you think would look good on the editorial page?

The Tillsonburg Post is looking for images to display in this space from community members who would like to share their art work. All images must be taken in Tillsonburg, or the immediate area, and should not be of people.

Images should be high resolution jpegs. Please send only one image per e-mail, and send no more than three images. Images should be sent to jeff@granthaven.com

Beware the perils of Zoom meetings and online cameras



**WRITER'S
CORNER**

NORMA COLLIS

Tillsonburg Post Columnist

I recently had a scheduled Zoom meeting with people who I meet online with on a regular basis. The chair of the meeting resides in Calgary, Alberta while other participants join in from Halifax, New Brunswick, Manitoba, Saskatchewan and from various areas in Ontario. For the latest online meeting, I changed where I normally set up my laptop and was now seated in an area with different lighting and a new background. The other participants commented on this and told me that they thought it was a much more acceptable setting for me to use for our Zoom meetings.

This led to the group talking about the need for Zoom meetings, and how these meetings became vital ways to connect

during lockdown. We discussed how this way of communicating is now a very acceptable way to convene committee gatherings and to share ideas from across the country. None of the participants in this group have ever met in person, and yet we are getting to know each other in a very constructive way.

Our group leader is a recently-retired minister. She was still a full-time minister during lockdown, and she talked about the need to dress appropriately depending on the occasion in which you are meeting via Zoom. She gave us several examples. She said it would be completely inappropriate to wear a tee shirt with some sort of political saying splashed across it while meeting with her church board members. On the other hand, one wouldn't necessarily wear black robes if meeting someone through Zoom for a counseling session. Meeting with the youth in one's congregation would require a completely different, and much more relaxed, wardrobe.

Someone then jokingly asked if anyone at this meeting was still wearing their pajama bottoms. Finding a good time to hold a cross-Canada meeting when considering the range of time zones, is a constant challenge for our group leader. One very confused couple trying to tune in from Victoria, BC, never did switch

on their camera. However, we could hear their discussion as their audio was working just fine. From the conversation it was obvious that they did not know that their opinions were being shared across Canada.

Our bemused meeting leader kept trying to tactfully tell them that “We can hear you!” Finally, the confused “almost participant”, exclaimed, “Well, I didn't feel like doing this anyway.”

And they exited the meeting. Well, who hasn't felt that very same thing themselves during some meeting or other.

The group all chuckled in sympathy with the newly departed twosome and then we moved on to talk about the use of AI generated backgrounds. We had all learned early on in our Zoom experiences that there was no need to have feelings of envy if one of the other participants was seated in front of tropical palm trees, or with majestic mountains in the background. Chances are that person was not visiting a fantastic vacation spot while you were stuck in your house, they simply felt that looking at their paper strewn office was not a good look. An exotic background was a better choice for them and probably for the viewers as well.

It was at this point in our conversation that a different committee member told a

story that had us all roaring with laughter.

She was meeting via Zoom with a group of church ladies. The topic they were discussing was quite a serious one.

Suddenly the husband of one of the ladies attending the Zoom meeting, strolled across the room, behind the chair on which his properly attired wife was seated.

She wasn't aware of his presence but everyone else certainly was. Fresh from the shower, the gentleman in question “joined” the meeting.....stark naked. “He wasn't even carrying a towel “chortled our storyteller.

“Well,” I said, “Here was I, worried that our new kitten named Mocha (because he could make coffee nervous) might dance across the keyboard mid-meeting. An energetic kitten would obviously be the least of our worries.

This led to suggestions for ridiculous “ON AIR” signs one might post around the house when involved in a Zoom meeting.

At last, our chairwoman got the meeting back under control and we returned to the somewhat less interesting business of the day.

Norma Collis is a Tillsonburg author of several books, including “Tales from Holly Cottage”.

Grant Haven Media, Post win big at OCNA



(KAREN HELSDON PHOTO)

Grant Haven Media publications were the winners of several awards at the recent Ontario Community Newspaper Association convention. On hand for the awards ceremony were, left to right: Regional Editor Galen Simmons, Publisher Stewart Grant, Director of Business Development Heather Dunbar, Tillsonburg Post Editor Jeff Helsdon, Reporter Amanda Nelson, Reporter Jeff Tribe, and Simcoe Advocate Editor Chris Abbott.

STAFF

Grant Haven Media

Grant Haven Media publications, including the Tillsonburg Post, were big winners in the Ontario Community Newspaper Association ("OCNA") awards.

Held in Collingwood on April 24, the awards are an annual competition that pits community newspapers against each other in a wide variety of categories.

Tillsonburg Post editor Jeff Helsdon was the winner of the prestigious Reporter of the Year Stephen Shaw Award. Entrants to this award submitted three different articles they wrote that show "true reporter initiative". Helsdon entered stories on local Colin Campbell's induction into the Hockey Hall of Fame, a flight in a Harvard with the Canadian Harvard Aircraft Association and a profile of Shaw's Ice Cream.

"I am humbled to win this award," Helsdon said. "I considered it an honour to be chosen for the top three, and never imagined winning it."

Helsdon also placed third for Best Business Feature for the story on Shaw's Ice Cream. Post contributor Jeff Tribe won that category with a story in the Simcoe Advocate profiling Norfolk's wineries and micro-breweries. In addition, Tribe placed second in the Best Guest/Freelance Column category.

Tillsonburg Post designer Stacie Eden received an honourable mention for Best Use of Colour. Long-time Tillsonburg resident, newspaper editor and former OCNA president, the late Bill Pratt was inducted into the OCNA Hall of



(JEFF TRIBE PHOTO)

Tillsonburg resident Bill Pratt was posthumously inducted into the OCNA Hall of Fame. Besides being a long-time editor of the Tillsonburg News, and more recently, a contributor to the Tillsonburg Post, he was well known as a community volunteer and was an OCNA president. His daughter, Lynne Burns, second from left, and son, Murray Pratt, right, accepted the honour from incoming OCNA President and Grant Haven Media publisher Stewart Grant, left, and outgoing President Colleen Green.

Fame during the evening. Simcoe Advocate Editor Chris Abbott captured first in the Best Sports Pages division.

Michelle Malvaso of The Paris Independent took the other big award of the evening, Photographer of the Year. The Independent took a pair of thirds, with Edward Lander in the Arts and Entertainment category and Chris Whelan for Best Editorial Column.

Woodstock Ingersoll Echo's farm edition for 2025 was the second-place winner for Best Special Section.

Connor Luczka, editor of the Stratford Times,

was second for Best Editorial, circulation 8,000 and under. The Times' Amanda Nelson was second in the Most Creative Grip and Grin Photo category and received an honourable mention in Best Guest/Freelance Column category for a piece written by Canadian musician Loreena McKennitt.

Designer Erin Parsons took first in Local Retail Outlet for an ad in the Wilmet-Tavistock Gazette. Gazette Editor Galen Simmons was third in the Health and Wellness story category.

Also on the advertising front, Grant Haven pub-

lications were awarded honourable mentions for Best Creative Ad. Recognized were: Parsons for a St. Marys Independent ad, Michelle Foster for the Simcoe Advocate, and Sarah Cairns for the Stratford Times.

"Given that we were a small one-newspaper operation just a few years ago, it was pretty surreal to attend the gala with so many talented team members, and I was thrilled to see them recognized by their peers," said Grant Haven publisher Stewart Grant, who was installed this weekend as the new President of the OCNA.

**GRANT
HAVEN
MEDIA**

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

Tillsonburg POST

Publisher

Stewart Grant • stew@granthaven.com

Editor

Jeff Helsdon • jeff@granthaven.com

Graphic Design / Sales Inquiries

Stacie Eden • info@tillsonburgpost.com

Business Development

Heather Dunbar • heather@granthaven.com

Administration

Jen Gaetan • jen@granthaven.com

Contributors

Jeff Tribe, Laurel Beechey, Debbie Kasman,
Paul Knowles

36 Water St. St. Marys, ON, PO Box 2310 N4X 1A2
info@tillsonburgpost.com | 519.655.2341 | granthaven.com



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



Tillsonburg POST

Guiding Principles

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

Theatre Tillsonburg nominated for nine awards in drama league



(SUBMITTED PHOTO)

Theatre Tillsonburg's production of Ken Ludwig's 'Twas the Night Before Christmas was nominated for nine awards by the Western Ontario Drama League.

Theatre Tillsonburg has been nominated for an incredible nine awards by the Western Ontario Drama League for its production of Ken Ludwig's 'Twas the Night Before Christmas.

Western Ontario Drama League (WODL) adjudications are a part of community theatre across Ontario. A professional adjudicator attends a live performance, sitting in the audience while evaluating the production. This includes everything from acting and direction to lighting, sound and design.

The nominations were:

- The Theatre Kent Award – Most Promising Newcomer – Tori Bremner as Emily.
- The Place Theatre Award (In Memory of Jocelyn McKie) – Outstanding Lighting Design and Execution – Kelly Verhoeve (lead) and team of Archie Verhoeve, Peter Beechey, Mike Jull, Jennifer Anger-Jull, Joe Sheik and Jeff Tripp.
- The Kincardine Theatre Guild Award – Outstanding Sound Design and Execution – Joe Sheik (lead), Peter Beechey, Mike Jull, Jennifer Anger-Jull
- The Repuski Award (In Memory of Stephen Repuski) – Outstanding Supporting Performance – Angela Carvalho as Calliope and Britannia Sneed.
- The Theatre Sarnia Memorial Award – Outstanding Performance in a Major Role – Braden Fitzpatrick as Amos/Amos of Kansas.
- The Mooney Award – Outstanding Director – Mike Jull and Jennifer Anger-Jull.
- Special Adjudication Awards: Use of Projection – Greg Weiler (design); Preshow and Intermission Musical Selections – Joe Sheik; and Young Backstage Creative – Rendall Lackenbauer (choreography and original music).

"The artistic challenges presented by the script and the creative vision of the directors pushed the boundaries and made this show wonderful to design," Sheik said. "The collaboration amongst the departments made it the success it was. I was thrilled to play a role with my fellow booth elves."

Verhoeve said learning about setting and programming lights was a challenging and rewarding experience especially with such a technical show.

"It's nice to be recognized through the adjudication process," she said. "I'm proud of the quality of the productions we offer our community."

Carvalho was honoured and grateful for this nomination.

"The quality of the show was a team effort and I have to thank our directors, Jen and Mike, for giving me the opportunity to do what I love," she added. "Truthfully, I feel very lucky to have been part of an amazing show with a cast and crew that made it so much fun."

"It was a privilege to work with a great team whose goal was to create the best possible show for the audience, and to have fun doing that," Weiler said.

Fitzpatrick was over the top with his nomination.

"I am beyond excited to be nominated! I can't put it into words," he said.

Bremner was happy for her nomination.

"I thoroughly enjoyed my time spent with everyone on 'Twas the Night Before Christmas by Ken Ludwig', I am so very glad that our show has received the recognition and visibility it deserves," she said. "Thank you to all that helped me shine and to all that worked on the show to bring it to life."

As directors, the Julls were proud of the entire team and all of the nominations.

"From the very first read-through, we knew this show was something special. It was truly a team effort from start to finish," Mike said.

"Working together on a show with our family, for families, was a dream come true, and to be nominated as a directing team is both a wonderful feeling and a meaningful affirmation that we make an extraordinary partnership," Jennifer said. "Receiving these WODL nominations feels like discovering a Christmas present tucked away, and only finding it months later - a wonderful and unexpected gift."

WODL winners will be announced in May.

SOURCE FLOORING
SCRATCH
and
SAVE
STOREWIDE!
3 DAYS
ONLY!!!

FRIDAY MAY 1 • 8-8

SATURDAY MAY 2 • 9-6

SUNDAY MAY 3 • 10-5

SCRATCH
IN STORE & SAVE

UP TO

75%

OFF YOUR ENTIRE PURCHASE!*

Every SCRATCH reveals a DEAL!
1362 VICTORIA ST N. KITCHENER

* Valid May 1-3, 2026 only. One coupon per customer. Max savings of \$2,500. In store only. Discount can only be applied to one transaction. Other conditions may apply.

TOWNSHIP OF NORWICH NEWS



Motion requests review of Norwich development charges

LUKE EDWARDS

Post Contributor

Citing concerns with the existing bylaw and how it was developed, Norwich Coun. Adrian Couwenberg has requested staff review its development charges.

Couwenberg received support for his motion at the April 14 meeting, where councillors agreed to waive the procedural bylaw and have the motion introduced and voted on at the same meeting. Typically, such moves would require a notice of motion given in advance.

"It's nice for us to review our charges and see if they're appropriate and adequate," he said, adding the current political climate with the United States and tariffs means municipalities like Norwich need to find every edge they can to attract and keep businesses here.

Couwenberg said some of the charges in Norwich put it at a disadvantage compared to neighbouring and comparable municipalities. He also said some of the assumptions made in the development charge background study two years ago turned out not to be entirely accurate.

"I'm concerned with how the DC bylaw was presented and how the bylaw was passed," he said.

And with several changes in provincial legislation in recent years, the councillors agreed a review is in order.

Councillors supported his motion, with Coun. Karl Toews saying that Norwich's DC policy may be doing more harm than good.

"It seems to me we are really hampering industrial development here in the Township of Norwich," he said.

Norwich approves new demolition agreement policy

LUKE EDWARDS

Post Contributor

Norwich has updated its demolition policy to make it easier for those building a new home on their existing property.

Existing policy previously stated properties could only have two dwelling units if one is established as a

garden suite or accessory dwelling. A report to councillors at the April 14 meeting said this made things difficult for people who wanted to stay in their existing home or place a trailer on the property while they built a new house. Additionally, in some of these cases township staff can't issue a building permit without a demolition permit for the existing home, putting homeowners in a difficult position.

To alleviate the issue, staff created a policy to allow for demolition agreements in these instances.

The agreements commit the homeowners to demolishing the older house once they occupy the new dwelling.

To get an agreement homeowners must make certain commitments, and put up a security deposit they'll get back once the agreement is completed.

Preparation begins for Norwich secondary plan study

LUKE EDWARDS

Post Contributor

The process to begin the process that will determine how the Village of Norwich grows over the next several decades is poised to start.

Staff have been directed "to complete the next steps necessary to prepare for and issue a request for proposal to initiate a comprehensive secondary planning study for the Village of Norwich, including the development of an appropriate terms of reference and identifying an appropriate budget," a report said. It's based on a recommendation approved by Norwich council at the April 14 meeting.

"This has the potential to be a really exciting project," said CAO Matt Smith.

"It's really important to do and do well...this is our opportunity to talk about what do we want our village to look like."

There are lands southwest of the Highway 59-Quaker Street intersection that have previously been identified as "future urban growth" lands. A secondary planning process is required for the area to provide a more refined

idea for how the township would like to see it developed.

Some of the planning includes a detailed approach to how servicing will be tackled. Doing so alongside the secondary planning could allow for future development to occur more quickly.

A land needs assessment found Norwich will require another 43 hectares of developable residential land and five hectares of developable industrial employment land over the next 30 years.

Part of the review is also expected to determine the direction of future growth and possible settlement area expansion, leading to future secondary planning process for any areas identified.

"This is a fulsome approach so that the town is satisfied, and council is satisfied that what is being done through the study makes sense," said development planner Amy Hartley.

Smith said the costs for the secondary planning study is a bit of a guessing game at this point, but ballparked somewhere in the \$300,000 range. It'll be split between Oxford and Norwich, and can be spread out over a couple years. Staff will look to pay for it through reserves or surplus dollars.

WEEKEND QUIZ

by Jake Grant

1. What is the largest living species of lizard?
2. What fashion brand is known for the double "G" logo?
3. How many championships do the Toronto Raptors have?
4. What baby animal is called a puggle?
5. The gong belongs to which section of the orchestra?
6. Who wrote The Jungle Book?
7. Captain Kirk was the captain of what Star Trek starship?
8. The term Grand Prix was first used in a motor race in which country?
9. Who was the first Marvel villain to appear in Fortnite?
10. What is the name of Bluey's little sister?

This week's answers are found on pg. 23

Contact us: info@tillsonburgpost.com

AAA CANADIAN BEEF

ROAST BEEF

STARTS MAY 4 LIMITED TIME!

ROAST BEEF ON A BUN **18.99***

ROAST BEEF DINNER 6oz **19.99***

ADD ROASTED MUSHROOMS TO ANY ENTREE +1.99

ADD SWISS CHEESE +0.99

ADD ROASTED MUSHROOMS +1.99

SWISS CHALET 400 Simcoe St., Tillsonburg

RT Respiratory Services Inc.

Home Oxygen Sleep Apnea Therapy

Your Hometown Respiratory Specialists
Serving the Community for 30 years and counting...

67 Simcoe Street, Tillsonburg

Home Star Service

Trusted In-Home Care for Seniors

- Compassionate, Local Caregivers
- Flexible Scheduling
- Personalized Care Plans
- Seniors & Aging in Place
- Respite Care
- Personal Support Services (PSW)

Call Today for a Free Consultation!
Ask about our Referral Program!

(519) 777-9636
www.homestarservice.ca

Norwich chamber Citizen of the Year Brodie McCooeye's million-dollar smile reflected back by appreciative community

JEFF TRIBE

Post Correspondent

Brodie McCooeye may not be a millionaire. But he has a million dollar smile.

And was rewarded to see its warmth reflected back by an appreciate community during the Township of Norwich Chamber of Commerce Awards Night Wednesday, April 15.

"I like to help out," explained the recipient of the chamber's 2026 Citizen of the Year Award inside the Norwich Community Centre hall. "I love people."

Moving to Norwich in 2013, the now 20-year-old McCooeye quickly found a home community through a generous, observant nature, love for helping out and the willingness to introduce himself to everyone he meets, intentionally building connection.

Brodie works at the local Tim Horton's, enjoying basketball, bocce ball, corn hole and bowling with Special Olympics Ontario.

He is a member of the Momentum Choir in Hamilton, a professional performance ensemble comprised of over 100 individuals with physical, emotional or intellectual disabilities. McCooeye is a featured soloist, including performing 'If I Had A Million Dollars' onstage with the Barenaked Ladies during a Momentum performance, is working on King of the Road for this year's June 12 concert in St. Catharines, and also embraces the microphone to perform Karaoke whenever possible.

Brodie volunteers with several community organizations including the Optimist Club of Norwich & District, showing up consistently and enthusiastically to help out at Easter egg hunts, the tractor pull, free skates and the fishing derby. He is a proud and active member of Royal Canadian Legion Branch 190, supporting events with trademark energy and smile.

"I like doing all of it," said McCooeye.

He is also a loyal and proud member of the Norwich Merchants organization, helping out at home and riding the team bus to away games, proudly wearing his red-and-white Merchants gear.

"They're very nice and they do a lot of

stuff for me," said Brodie, who enjoys spending time with the team's trainer in particular. "Rick Baxter is a great person to hang around."

The Merchants may hold a special place in McCooeye's heart, his award introduced and presented by Baxter and 'The Voice of the Merchants', Rick Boyd. Two of Brodie's favourite players, Brandon and Gavin Balazs, were part of a strong Merchants contingent on hand to support both McCooeye, and executive member Peter Luciani, who received the Judy Cayley Memorial Award for his contributions within the township.

With Brodie in demand for a series of selfies, his mother Amanda expressed thanks on behalf of her son to Baxter, Boyd and the chamber committee responsible for much-appreciated recognition.

"I think he feels like a millionaire because of all the connections he's made in the community," she said.

Claire McKie was named Junior Citizen of the Year, with Kelsey Van Ymeren receiving a Special Achievement Award. A long-time hockey player and coach, Van Ymeren organized the 'Slash the Stigma' charity hockey tournament in support of mental health, following the tragic passing of one of his players. Across its five-year history, the event has raised \$185,000 for the Canadian Mental Health Association Thames Valley.

Andrew and Deb Malcolm of Malcolm Holdings Inc./Malcolm Excavating received the 2026 Large Business Award, with John Snook of the Norwich Home Hardware Building Centre taking Small Business honours. The Oxford Cattle Company's John and Genevieve Ysselstein and family were recognized as the Farm Family North Township, with Clair and Kathryn Doan's Doan Family Turkey highlighted as the Farm Family South Township.

Chamber president Mardy Fransen enjoys the annual celebration of the diversity and strength within the township's citizens and businesses, pleased also to see this year's awards event run at maximum capacity.

"It was nice to see the community engage in such a wonderful, long-standing tradition."

CONTINUED TO PAGE 9



(JEFF TRIBE PHOTO)

The Township of Norwich Chamber of Commerce Citizen of the Year Brodie McCooeye (centre) is flanked by nominator Rick Baxter (left) and Lindsay Tribe (right), representing award sponsor Shoppers Drug Mart.



(JEFF TRIBE PHOTO)

Claire McKie (left) accepts the Youth Citizen of the Year award from Ian Heikoop, on behalf of Oxford Sand & Gravel Ltd.



(JEFF TRIBE PHOTO)

From left, Kurtis, Alayna, Seth, Genevieve, Wyatt and John Ysselstein accept the Farm Family North award from Dan Kaufman on behalf of Dekalb.



(JEFF TRIBE PHOTO)

From left, Sophia, Kathryn, Adele, Clair, Charlotte and Carmyn Doan celebrate their Farm Family South award, sponsored by FCC.

Kinsmen bridge is moving closer to completion

JEFF HELSDON

Editor

Construction of the Kinsmen Bridge, which spans Participark, took a significant leap forward last week.

A 770-ton crane, which towered above the valley and was visible across the centre and western part of town, was on site most of the week. The crane lifted the steel piers into place atop the original stone bases, which were reused as part of the design. Support girders were then lifted into place, spanning the distance between the two sides of the gully across the piers.

The crane also lifted one of the original steel piers from the valley floor onto Veteran's Memorial Walkway. Council earlier decided the heritage element would be a part of a redesigned walkway, the design of which is still being finalized.

In the next couple of weeks, crews need to install steel stringers, decking, and railings on the bridge, followed by final site restoration.

Carlos Reyes, Director of Operations and Development, said the Veterans' Memorial Walkway is scheduled for completion by the end of June, "with portions of the site reopened as work allows." Reyes did not respond to a request for a more specific estimate of when the bridge would be open to



(JEFF HELSDON PHOTO)

Workers fasten the piers to the new concrete bases that were installed on top of the stone pedestals, which were a part of the original bridge and kept for their heritage value.



(JEFF HELSDON PHOTO)

This view from the east side shows the scale of the pieces being moved as the first pier is put into place.

the public before the press deadline. Participark is expected to reopen in late May.

The original schedule had the project to be completed in January, but an update in December moved the target to mid-March. A press release issued by the town on March 31, said installation was to be completed in the first week of May. The release also said any costs associated with schedule changes



(JEFF HELSDON PHOTO)

Workers moved the stringers that will span the girders and form the deck base. The girders doubled as an elevator to move some of the stringers closer to their final positions.



(JEFF HELSDON PHOTO)

With the first girder in place, it is fastened to the pier in preparation for the second section. Workers used a Genie Boom to access their work area. With wet conditions in the valley, the large crane was used to move the Genie Boom over the creek and into position.

would be borne by the town.

"No additional costs are associated with the revised schedule, and no further impacts are anticipated at this time," Reyes said.

Enjoy life
uninterrupted.

Even in the
dead of winter.

Wintertime is no time to get left in the dark. Count on a Generac home standby generator to deliver the power you need, when you need it most.

Request a free quote today.



BRODY'S MECHANICAL SERVICES
(519) 428-4102
www.brodysmechanical.com

GENERAC



Oldridge
heating & cooling
Established 1961 - Locally Owned

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

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

"We give you comfort"

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

Norwich Chamber of Commerce Awards celebrate township's local achievements

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 7



(JEFF TRIBE PHOTO)

Judy Cayley Memorial Award winner Peter Luciani (right) accepts his award from Luann Wagner.



(JEFF TRIBE PHOTO)

The Township of Norwich Chamber of Commerce Special Achievement Award recipient Kelsey Van Ymeren (centre) is flanked by award sponsor Andrew Malcolm of Malcolm Holdings Inc./Malcolm Excavating (left) and nominator John Snook (right).



(JEFF TRIBE PHOTO)

Home Hardware Building Centre owner John Snook (centre) accepts the Small Business award on behalf of his team from Jason Crevits representing sponsor Thompson Goossens Accountants LLP. From left in the photo, are: Brett Snook, Leah Mitchell, Nick Krizmonics, Snook, Tyler Dyment, Crevits, Max Martin, Deb Finch and Chris Takacs.



(JEFF TRIBE PHOTO)

From left, Nathan Malcolm, Andrea Ormston, Deb Malcolm and Andrew Malcolm accept their Large Business Award from sponsor Henk Vrugteveen of Oxford Pallet & Recyclers Ltd.

We want to hear from our community!
info@tillsonburgpost.com

EMERGENCY PREPAREDNESS STARTS WITH YOU!

Make a Plan, Build a Kit, Stay Informed

MAY 3-9 IS EMERGENCY PREPAREDNESS WEEK



We are all the patient experience

HOSPITAL HAPPENINGS

LISA DAHM

Integrated Executive Assistant, AHI/TDMH

At Alexandra Hospital, Ingersoll (AHI) and Tillsonburg District Memorial Hospital (TDMH), the sites of Rural Roads Health Services (RRHS), we appreciate every opportunity to celebrate the dedication of our team. This week, April 27 to May 1 is Patient Experience Week.

Patient Experience Week (Px Week) is an annual event to celebrate healthcare staff impacting patient experience every day. We know that brilliant things are being done every day to improve the experience of care for all involved – patients, family members, care givers and health care providers, but Px Week provides a specific moment in time for us to celebrate these accomplishments, to re-energize and re-inspire the team and to recognize the people who impact the patient experience every day.

Px week helps promote the concepts and commitments of patient and family centered care (PFCC) and what that means at Rural Roads Health Services:

- We listen to patients and providers.
- We continuously improve the patient and provider experience.
- We are patient and family-centered offering:
- Dignity and Respect
- Empathy and compassion
- Equity, diversity and inclusivity
- Communication and information sharing
- Collaboration
- Patient empowerment
- Coordination of care

During Px Week, hospital leadership

watches for “Random Acts of PFCC”, identifying staff who embody the commitments of PFCC.

The RRHS team never fails to demonstrate what an amazing team they are, during Px Week and beyond. Over the last few years, we’ve seen switchboard team members who sit with elderly patients in the emergency department, answering questions and providing support as they wait. There have also been team members recognized for going above and beyond, by taking time out of their own off-hours to come back to the hospital to visit with long-stay patients who may not receive many visitors.

Last year a member of the housekeeping staff prioritized a patient bed over other regularly scheduled work in order to provide space for a patient who had been on a transport stretcher longer than expected. He went so far as asking which colour blanket the patient would prefer in their room, making a huge impact on the patient and family.

The volunteer patient advisors, who belong to our Patient and Family Advisory Council (PFAC) help to plan services and improve the overall experience for patients by sharing their thoughts and ideas to make sure the voices of patients and their families are heard. Our volunteers often take extra steps to go out of their way, finding information for patients, or walking them to where they need to be rather than pointing them in a direction.

Although we know that our team is making a positive difference every day, sometimes it goes un-noticed and people may not realize how much what they are doing matters. That’s why Px Week is important, but it’s not the only time we can recognize the team for their day-to-day good work. Anyone can share their patient experience by completing a patient and family experience survey, or emailing Patient.Feedback@rrhs.ca.

Job fair attracts huge crowd



(JEFF HELSDON PHOTO)

Tillsonburg’s Job Fair+ saw increased attendance, with attendance almost double that of the last bi-annual event. There was also an increased number of potential employers at the event.

JEFF HELSDON

Editor

Tillsonburg’s Job Fair+ saw huge numbers of job seekers attend the event at the community centre last week.

About 420 people had registered for the event at 3:30, with more than an hour still to go. Attendance at the last version of the bi-annual event was 262 for the entire day.

Gail Lonsberry, employment services manager with the Tillsonburg Multi-Service Centre, said an increase in the number of vendors may have been a factor. Amongst these were Sopremo, a new factory in town, which was recruiting for a number of positions from machine operators to forklift drivers and administrative positions.

Another big attraction was peopleCare, which is opening a long-term/seniors living facility on Maple Lane and will be hiring more than 200 people.

“I think there’s been a lot of people come for that,” Lonsberry said. “We’ve had people come from out of town who were going to school in Kitchener.”

Marie Bowie, executive director of peopleCare, said they will be hiring more than 200 full-time and part-time people in the

near future, prior to the facility opening in late August.

“We’ve had a fabulous turnout today,” she said.

The event featured a wide range of potential employers and employment training organizations. These ranged from the Canadian Armed Forces to A & W, and covered a multitude of potential careers, such as automotive, painters, cooks, early childhood educators, delivery drivers, construction labourers and machine operators.

When asked whether he knew of any changes in the town’s employment situation, Tillsonburg Development Commissioner Cephias Panschow answered, “My perspective is that the overall economy is soft, and we have seen a number of layoff announcements across the province, with some minor ones in the area.” My sense is that it is the softness in the economy, including companies not hiring at the same pace as previously, not filling vacancies, and yes, some layoffs, that are resulting in higher unemployment and increased job seekers.”

He said the increased number of people may also be due to the job fair becoming better known.

SERVING TILLSONBURG FOR OVER 50 YEARS

**TIME FOR MAINTENANCE OR NEW TIRES?
COME CHECK OUT OUR NEWLY RENOVATED BUILDING!**



Why Choose Tillsonburg Tire?

- We use the latest equipment for repairs and maintenance.
- We are a Signature Tire dealer - Offering great value on new tires and wheels.
- Our team of experienced staff and technicians are up to date and ready to serve your needs.
- We offer hometown service in a convenient location near the downtown core.
- Convenience. Wait in our comfortable waiting room, or use our complimentary drop off and delivery service.



**Tillsonburg
Tire & Service**

**55 BROADWAY,
TILLSONBURG, ON**
tillsonburg-tire.ca | 519-842-5943



**Avondale
United Church**
60 Harvey St.
(519) 842-5532

**Sunday Service
10:30 a.m.**

All are Welcome

Avondale Warming Centre -
Mon - Fri: 11:00 AM - 3:00 PM

Worship
With
Us



POLICE BRIEFS

Driver arrested during RIDE program in Courtland

An individual has been charged following an impaired driving investigation in Courtland.

On Saturday, April 18, at approximately 12:45 p.m., members of the Norfolk County Ontario Provincial Police (OPP) were conducting a Reduce Impaired Driving Everywhere (RIDE) program on Main Street of Courtland when a vehicle was stopped and the driver was assessed for sobriety.

Following a roadside sobriety test, the driver was taken into custody without incident. As a result, 26-year-old Dawson

DesCamps of Norfolk County has been charged with the following alleged offences:

- Operation while impaired - blood alcohol concentration (80 plus),
- Operation while impaired - alcohol and drugs.

The accused is scheduled to appear before the Ontario Court of Justice in Simcoe on Tuesday, May 26.

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

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

Correction

In the March 26 edition, a minimum purchase of two suits was incorrectly included in the Zabian's Men's Wear advertisement. The suits starting at \$399 do not have any minimum purchase requirement. We apologize for any inconvenience.



FOUNTAIN INSTALLATION

(CONTRIBUTED PHOTO)

Professional diver Josh Matheson again volunteered his services when members of the Kinsmen Club recently continued their yearly ritual of installing the fountain on Lake Lisgar. Using a crane from 3E Power Services, the fountain was transferred from a truck into the water and moved into place.

Exclusive PROM & WEDDING PACKAGES

Suit Packages From
\$399.99

Suits Start From
\$249.99

INCLUDES:

- Premium Quality 2-Piece Suit
- Dress Shirt
- Tie & Pocket Square
- Socks
- **Over 1600 Suits In Stock**

519 539 8011 • Zabians.ca

DOWNTOWN WOODSTOCK • 471 DUNDAS STREET

SHOP IN-STORE | OPEN 7 DAYS A WEEK | IN-HOUSE TAILOR AVAILABLE

Zabian's
MENS WEAR

SPORTS

COWARD PHARMACY
PharmaChoice
 Part of Tillsonburg's Independent Spirit Since 1874

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

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

wiltshire
 REALTY INC. BROKERAGE

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

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

** Broker of Record * Sales Rep.

Gemini baseball team looking to get its 'mojo' back

JEFF TRIBE

Post Correspondent

It's a storyline Tillsonburg Gemini baseball catcher Liam Nunn heard during the school hockey season: a young team looking to make strides forward as they step up to new challenges.

"Get them acclimated," said Nunn Wednesday, April 14th at Royal Field in Dorchester, following an 8-0 Thames Valley Regional Athletics shutout loss to the Lord Dorchester Beavers. "Same thing, just gotta get the bats going."

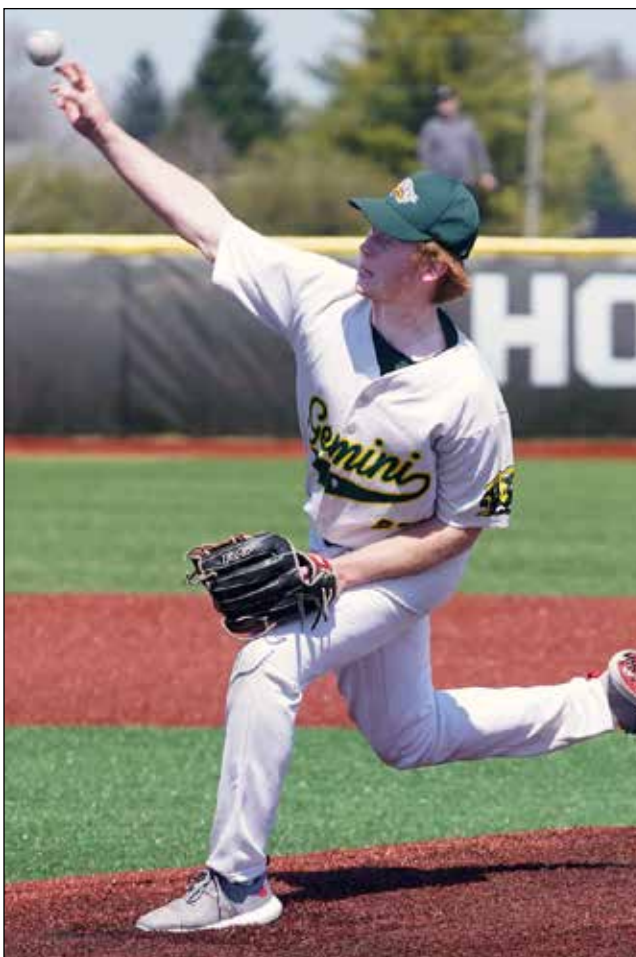
"Clean up some defence, but mostly hitting."

The Gemini had opened their 2026 season with a 7-3 win over Woodstock CI Red Devils the previous week, pitchers Brendan VanDenNeucker and Kaydin Weaver combining on an 82-pitch victory. The Beavers were a different prospect, a strong combination of both pitching and defence.

"Probably the best team in the league," said VanDenNeucker, a 'measuring stick' as coach Derek Partlo called them.

Tillsonburg's self-assessed measure is there is room for growth, says centre fielder Nathan Gaitens.

"A lot of young guys," continued the Gemini leadoff hitter, who also patrols the blueline as a defenceman with the Greater Ontario Hockey League (formerly Junior B) Cambridge Redhawks. Gaitens and company took a 1-0 Sutherland Cup (league championship)



(JEFF TRIBE PHOTO)

Gemini relief pitcher Landon Stortz sends a pitch homeward against Dorchester.

lead over the St. Marys Lincolns with a 2-0 win Saturday, April 25. "We've just got to get our bats going," Gaitens added. "Just get our mojo back."

A Gemini team which went to the provincial Ontario Federation of School Athletic Associations (OFSAA) championship tournament last year, enters this season with high expectations.

"Now it is," said VanDenNeucker, whose post-game goal had become 'win the rest.'

"Seven-game season," added Tillsonburg's Brodie Seitz. "Gotta adjust quick."

The Gemini lost two or three key performers from last year's OFSAA roster says Partlo, but has retained several key veterans. They will have to provide mentorship to a lineup including new players, many adjusting to wood bats for the first time, along with playing against competition which may be several years older.

"We've got some good young players, but it's going to take a little while to get used to this level."

The learning curve will have to be navigated quickly, but wins in May still mean much more than wins in April, even across a short season.

"If Dorchester is the measuring stick, we're not too far off and we have a couple of weeks to get where we need to be."

Partlo looks forward to staying outside on a real di-



(JEFF TRIBE PHOTO)

Brendan VanDenNeucker dives safely back into first base.



(JEFF TRIBE PHOTO)

Tillsonburg's Landon Stortz takes a healthy cut at a Dorchester pitch.

among, as opposed to working inside a gym as a positive step forward, taking advantage of the opportunity to get a few more practices in.

"And see where we can get to by the end of the year."

JUNIOR BADMINTON TVRA SOUTHEAST CHAMPIONSHIP	
TUESDAY, APRIL 21 AT ST. THOMAS PARKSIDE	
MIXED DOUBLES	
MADISON DEADMAN AND TY SWICK, 3RD	ADVANCE TO WOSSAA

TVRA VARSITY BASEBALL	
THURSDAY, APRIL 23	
ST. THOMAS ST. JOE'S	7
GEMINI	2

TVRA SOUTHEAST BOYS SOCCER	
TUESDAY, APRIL 21	
LORD DORCHESTER	4
GEMINI	0

TVRA SOUTHEAST GIRLS SOCCER	
GEMINI	2
WOODSTOCK ST. MARY'S	0

BATTLE OF THE BADGES

Members of the Tillsonburg Fire Rescue Services and Oxford OPP faced off Saturday in the annual Battle of the Badges. The charity event is supporting St. Joseph's Health Care London's rehabilitation program at Parkwood Institute.



(JEFF HELSDON PHOTO)

Taking part in the puck drop before the game were Gump Hildebrand, president of the Tillsonburg Firefighters Association; Kelsi Break, manager of Communications and Public Affairs for St. Joseph's; Const. Randi Crawford; and Sergeant Steve Smith.



(JEFF HELSDON PHOTO)

The police clear the puck from their end during the game. The police won the game 10-4. Attendance at the game was up from last year at more than 250 people, and \$1,450 was raised.

Answer the call.

Volunteer with Ontario Corps.



Sign up at ontario.ca/OntarioCorps

Paid for by the Government of Ontario



The next generation of Lions and a family legacy of service

ROBIN KRAFFT

Post Contributor

Distinguished Lions Club member Blair Oatman shared his perspective on what it means to belong to the Lions, and how the club aligns with his family's values.

Blair and his wife Kelly (club secretary) have been members for 11 years, joining the club together. Kelly's father, the late Rick Schiedel, served as a Kinsmen. Blair's mother Terry Fleming has been a long-time Lion's Club member, and she was the first female president of the Tillsonburg Lions Club.

"My mom's a member and my dad was a member years ago," Oatman said. "Serving with my mom for the past 11 years has been great. It's great to be able to share her passion and drive for serving the community. The club is for men and women. It's about 50/50. Women are our fastest-growing membership. We have a lot of husband-and-wife members."

Increasing their numbers is a current focus. As the Membership Chair, Blair helps to induct new members. He is the official representative and liaison, sharing information and answering questions.

"We want to entice younger people to come in," Oatman said. "We try to see what we can offer to that demographic. The friendships that grow are part of it. We have people from all walks of life, everyone's welcome."

Those relationships go well beyond the

local club. When Blair and Kelly attended a recent convention in St. Catherines, they were welcomed by many familiar faces.

"We could go to a meeting anywhere and we know everyone," Oatman said. "It's one big family. We have a common purpose and camaraderie. Nobody joins to have personal gains or for the thank-yous."

His extended Lions family, a district of 43 clubs and 1,350 members, recently offered him their vote of confidence for the position of Second Vice District Governor. Running the District, overseeing, and helping as part of the committee are all things Blair feels comfortable with now, but it wasn't always that way.

"We had the misconception that we didn't have time, but we came to one meeting and said yes," Oatman said. "You find the time. You can be involved as much as you want. I enjoy the district level, learning and meeting new people is a great experience. I've gained a lot of leadership skills like public speaking. Before this, I couldn't stand in front of a group of people and talk, but my motivation is different and this is my community."

Blair described how all the different clubs support one another. Attending meetings at other Lions clubs is a common way to share ideas and get new inspiration. He explained that every club does something different, and it's helpful to see how some things work and some things don't.



(CONTRIBUTED IMAGE)

Taken at a recent Lions Convention in St. Catherines, (from left) Lion Blair Oatman, Lion Kelly Oatman, Vera Pipher and Lion David Pipher. Oatman was voted in as Second-Vice District Governor at the event.

He describes the Tillsonburg Lions Club as fairly laid back. There is a code of ethics and guidelines that need to be followed, mandated by Lions International. "It's all about having fun, but we follow those bylaws," Oatman added.

Blair is also the Bingo Chair, noting that it was the first thing that he and Kelly attended and continue to enjoy. It's been a staple weekly event in Tillsonburg for decades, and the attendance rivals some bingo halls, but it was another Lions Club project that really got its claws into Blair and Kelly.

They first visited Lions Camp Dorset in 2017 for the spring clean-up. The camp is entirely funded by the Lions and provides a unique experience for people who require dialysis and their families, complete with a staffed Medical Centre.

"There are 14 cabins as well as two rows of efficient units," Oatman said. "In all the cabins are note pads in which patients that visit can write about their experiences at

the camp. In reading these, you realize how much this camp means to the patients and their families. That's what got both Kelly and I hooked. Since that time, I became our district chair representative for the camp from 2018 till 2025 and joined the board in 2022."

Kelly and Blair would love to see their children and grandchildren become Lions members in the future, although they already lend a hand occasionally. They would also like to form a Leo club, for children ages 12 – 18. It would represent four generations involved with the Lions organization at the same time, an admirable goal that indicates family values.

"It's humbling, the history in this room," Oatman said, looking around the Lion's Den as members gathered for their meeting. "There's so much knowledge in this room that I look up to, and I often ask them questions. After 40 or 50 years, they've done it all. It's time for other people to step up."

Shop with us for all your grocery essentials

- Grocery
- Bakery
- Floral
- Fresh Seafood Counter
- Meat Department
- Salad Bar
- Hot Deli
- Mealtime and Sandwich Program
- PC Express
- Pharmacy
- Garden Centre (seasonal)



400 Simcoe St, Tillsonburg • 519-842-9031
Open Daily: 7 a.m. - 9 p.m.

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

Spitfire replica one step closer to new home

JEFF HELSDON

Editor

A replica of a Second World War Spitfire is one step closer to becoming part of a memorial garden at the Tillsonburg Airport.

The full-sized replica was on the roof of K-W Surplus after owner Ray Whittemore purchased it in 1995. When he decided to sell the business and offered the wood-and-fiberglass replica to the Canadian Harvard Aircraft Association, of which he is a member, a vision quickly emerged to mount it on a pole and make it the centerpiece of a memorial garden.

John Britton, who is heading up the project for CHAA, said the memorial garden will be a community project. The vision still needs council's blessing, but Airport Advisory Committee members already know of the plan and have given their blessing. The memorial garden will pay tribute to those who served with the Royal Canadian Air Force and were part of the British Commonwealth Air Training Plan, which led to the construction of Tillsonburg Airport. Two CHAA members who made contributions to aviation in Canada will also be honoured.

Britton said there were a few hiccups in removing the plane from the roof.

"Being outside on the roof in the weather, it is in need of restoration," he said.

Deterioration was noted in several parts, including the fuselage, the propeller - one blade broke off during removal - and the wings. Made of wood and fiberglass, most issues are due to wood decay.

"It's going to be a good, solid base to build from," Britton said.

The City of Windsor has a similar replica mounted



(CONTRIBUTED PHOTO)

Crews removed a Spitfire replica from the roof of K-W Surplus last week. The plane will be part of a memorial garden planned for Tillsonburg Airport.

on a pole in one of its parks, and Britton has been in touch to see if he can borrow the engineering of how it was done.

The Spitfire is presently in Woodstock at a CHAA member's, but it will be coming to Tillsonburg Airport for restoration in the near future.

We want to hear from our community!
info@tillsonburgpost.com

WINDOW TINT
 Benefits Beyond Solar Control

Sunscape
 BY MADICO

- Rejects more than 99% of UV rays
- Saves energy and makes you feel more comfortable
- Decreases glare and unwanted heat
- Resists scratches and everyday wear
- Holds shattered glass together in case of breakage
- Enhances privacy and security

My Paint & Decor
 Tillsonburg - 142 Simcoe St. 519-842-2833
 Simcoe - 100 Young St. 519-428-4066
mypaintanddecor.com

mymotors.ca
 QUALITY PRE-OWNED CARS & SERVICE

AUTO REPAIR & SERVICE

Our experts ensure optimal performance for your vehicle.

TILLSONBURG LOCAL SERVICE

TRUSTED BY CUSTOMERS

Our Services:

- Tire Change
- Oil Change
- Air Conditioning
- Fluid Top-ups
- Brake Replacement
- Battery Service
- Wheel Alignment
- Safety Inspection

Pick up & Drop off Service Available

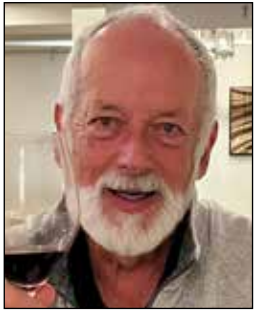
Call Now **519-688-3202**

SENIOR DISCOUNT 20% OFF (SPECIAL OFFER)

REGULAR DISCOUNT 15% OFF (SPECIAL OFFER)

mwencil@mymotors.ca ped@mymotors.ca | Mymotors.ca, 7 Rouse St W, Tillsonburg, Ontario, N4G 5T5

Thoughtful walking in Ottawa



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

PAUL KNOWLES

Tillsonburg Post Columnist

There are thousands of destinations we can visit that offer lovely places to stroll. Beaches, boardwalks, elegant main streets, the works. But there is something unique and special about walking in our nation's capital. Because in Ottawa, while there is certainly lots to be seen, there is even more to be thought about.

On our recent visit to Ottawa, we walked the route from the National War Museum to the National Gallery of Canada (that's mostly along Wellington Street), and found many reasons to pause and ponder.

I wrote, a few months ago, about the war museum, so I won't go there again this time. But just across the street from the war museum is a thoughtful and sobering monument – the National Holocaust Monument, which is entitled Landscape of Loss, Memory and Survival.

The monument is relatively new, designed by a team led by architect Daniel Libeskind, and inaugurated in 2017 to mark one of the most horrific chapters in human history, the mass extermination of six million Jews and many, many others. When we visited, we were the only people in the place, which seems a shame and yet felt like an honour. It's a powerful place that tells its somber story in art, word and images. The experience of visiting the space reminded me of my visits to Anne Frank House in Amsterdam, where everyone leaves in contemplative silence.

As you walk from there up Wellington, toward the Parliament Buildings, you pass the Supreme Court of Canada. Frankly, that might have not meant a lot to me in past years. But in these days, when we hear far too much about the blatant politicization and manipulation of the U.S. Supreme Court, it was worth a moment or two to stand and think about our much more objectively fair and just system, and to feel thankful for the sane and equitable way our country is run.

There is a plaque mounted near the street that points out that, "The Supreme Court is independent and impartial... and makes sure laws are applied clearly and fairly across the country. Also, it is the only supreme court in the world that is both bilingual... and bijural (hears and decides on cases from two legal traditions: common law and civil law)." As you read that plaque, you are standing in Ontario, with a primarily English and common law tradition, but just behind the Supreme Court building, across the Ottawa River, is Québec, with its primarily French and civil law tradition. The twin foundations of our nation.

The other thing you will notice on the plaque is that among the nine Supreme Court Judges are five women... a proportion you are unlikely to find in most countries in the world. And one of them, The Honourable Michelle O'Bonsawin, is also co-president of the World Assembly of Indigenous Judges. All of this should leave thoughtful Canadians feeling proud.

From the Supreme Court, let's take a two-minute detour onto Sparks Street, to honour a true Canadian hero. In a rather unlikely retail-oriented spot, considering all of the statuary that dots the Parliament Hill region, is a fine sculpture of Terry Fox, honouring the heroism and sacrifice of that great Canadian.

And speaking of statues and Parliament Hill, visitors can spend hours contemplating all of the history commemorated in the statues around our still-shrouded, under-continual-ren-



Ottawa's memorial to the Holocaust.

(PAUL KNOWLES PHOTO)

ovations Parliament buildings. There are many inspiring sculptures here – I particularly like the statue of Sir Wilfrid Laurier, gazing at the iconic hotel that bears his name!

But a more recent addition caught our attention – the War of 1812 Monument, entitled "Triumph Through Diversity." Designed by Adrienne Alison, was created and installed in 2014, marking the 200th anniversary of the end of the War of 1812-1814. That war took place because the United States launched an expansionist effort to take over what is now Canada, but the American effort was rebuffed. Just this morning, I read that Prime Minister Mark Carney has a small figure of War of 1812 hero Sir Isaac Brock on his desk as a constant reminder that Canada can and must stand strong in the face of threats from south of the border.

The War of 1812 Monument bears these words, on a bronze plaque: "Fought on land and water, the War of 1812 helped shape the future of Canada. To defeat the American invasion, people from various walks of life came together – men

and women; military personnel and civilians; English, French and Aboriginal peoples." The impressive monument reflects that Canadian diversity.

That's just a few of the thoughtful pauses available on an Ottawa stroll. There is much more – the eternal flame on the grounds of Parliament and the temporary home of the Canadian Senate that was once an opulent railway station (and the Famous Five, "Women Are Persons" monument that is now located there). The historic Rideau Canal, with its system of locks. And at the far end of this walk, the National Gallery of Canada, our finest repository of great art.

My on-line map says the walk from the War Museum to the National Gallery takes 40 minutes. Actually, it can take you through centuries, and into multiple worlds of contemplation... and gratitude.

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)

The stark images in the heart of the Holocaust demand thoughtful attention.



The home of Canada's Supreme Court.

(PAUL KNOWLES PHOTO)

McIntyre's Wish returns for one final night



MUSIC CORNER

BEN ADDRESS

Tillsonburg Post Columnist

There are some shows that feel bigger than the music. That is exactly what's coming as Pastor Troy Van Ginkel, who is also known in the local music scene as McIntyre's Wish, prepares for one final performance before he and his wife Robin head off on a new chapter at the end of May.

The upcoming farewell celebration for the St. Thomas-based musician and pastor is not just another gig but more so a send-off shaped by community. Troy Van Ginkel has spent years building connections across Straffordville, Springfield, Vienna and Tillsonburg and is excited for the upcoming party planned for him and his wife.

"It does feel like more than a just a show. Thanks to Kim, the owner of the Copper Mug, this is a farewell party. When I performed there last, she asked to have McIntyre's Wish back," Van

Ginkel explains. "She was booked until late fall but when I mentioned that I was moving away she messages me that she wants to have a going away party for me that would include other musicians I have had the joy of getting to know and work with. It still warms my heart that she would want to do this for me and makes me realize how blessed I am."

That sense of gratitude and connection has always been at the core of McIntyre's Wish. What began as a shift away from classic rock stages in Hamilton and Winnipeg grew into something far more intimate with a live set based around storytelling and the communal spirit of Celtic folk music.

"McIntyre's Wish was born of a desire to share Celtic folk music with people. I used to play classic rock when I was performing in clubs in Hamilton and Winnipeg," Van Ginkel says. "Something about the closeness of Celtic music and the kitchen party atmosphere inspired me.

"Through solo performances and with Johnny Wilson's band, Johnny & the Shenanigans, I was able to truly find that closeness. This also impacted my faith journey as I moved toward that same desire for closeness as a pastor. In fact, my musical journey and faith journey have mirrored each other throughout my time in this area."

That overlap between music and ministry is exactly what has made Van Gin-

kel such a unique presence in the local scene. Whether on a stage or in a church his goal has always been the same which is to bring people together.

For this final Tillsonburg gig he won't be doing it alone. The evening is shaping to be more like a true kitchen party and less of a farewell. An open, collaborative send-off where friends, fellow musicians and long-time collaborators are invited to step up, share songs and celebrate alongside him.

"It means less work," Van Ginkel jokes. "Seriously, I have been blessed to work with a number of musicians in this area over a few short years. Johnny Wilson, Brett Coelho, Corny Hamm, Rob Cromwell, Floyd, Justin Love & Peace, Jeremy and Tina of Ace of Swords, Michael Brunelle Jr, Captain Finn and his fellow pirates The Salty Sea Dogs, the Bayham United Warped Christmas Singers and others. If I could share the stage with every one of them again it would feel magical to me."

If you have ever shared a stage, or even just a pint, during one of the McIntyre's Wish sets then this is the kind of night you will want to show up for. A night where you can expect laughter, stories and spontaneous collaborations with a few emotional moments mixed in with the music.

As for what comes next, Pastor Troy Van Ginkel is heading into a new community with the same spirit that has de-

finied his time here.

"I'm going into a college town so I'm hoping to take McIntyre's Wish's spirit of closeness, laughter, sorrow and joy in music to an area with a lot of pubs," Van Ginkel says with a smile. "It will give me a chance to work again with a friend and former Shenanigan fiddle player named Stefan. I'm hoping that I might find that same spirit that grew out of my time here in my new home."

This farewell is not going to be the last we hear of McIntyre's Wish. You can also catch up with Van Ginkel at a show or church service.

"I would still love to do an East Coast tour. If I ever announced that, it would be surprise, especially to Robin," Van Ginkel declares. "Pastorally, I think some people would be surprised to find out I'm leaving one congregation with one service a week to go to serve four churches."

Before that next chapter begins, we still have one more night to gather and to say thank you. If McIntyre's Wish has ever meant something to you this is your chance to be part of the send-off.

A celebration for Van Ginkel and his wife Robin takes place Sunday, May 3 at The Copper. The event starts at 4 p.m. with no cover charge for this free event. To keep in touch with news and tour dates you can follow the social media page for McIntyre's Wish by searching them on Facebook.

UPCOMING SHOWS

APRIL 30 - JAY RAWK
The Copper Mug - Free Entry - 8 p.m.

MAY 1 - STUNT
The Copper Mug - Free Entry - 9pm

MAY 2 - MO DANGER
The Copper Mug - Free Entry - 8:30 p.m.

MAY 2 - KICKN KOUNTRY AND OLD R&R
Tillsonburg Legion #153 - \$8 - 1 p.m.

MAY 3 - MCINTYRE'S WISH
The Copper Mug - Free Entry - 4 p.m.

MAY 16 - COMEDY SHOW W/ BRYAN O'GORMAN & TYLER SHAZMA
Paddy's Underground - \$20 - 8 p.m.

MAY 20 - KRANG, ANTILLECTUAL & THE MCBAINS
The Copper Mug - \$10 - 7 p.m.

MAY 27 - LUICIDAL, BLACKPOUT & POT OF GREED
Paddy's Underground - \$25 - 8 p.m.

**20 John Pound Road
Tillsonburg**
Live Music • Comedy • Pub

• Live Entertainment • Karaoke • NTN Trivia
• Fundraisers • Birthdays • Anniversaries
• Meetings • & More
Fresh made foods, in house smoked meats and lot of love, just like Mom used to make.
79 Broadway St, Tillsonburg
519-842-6227

IG WEALTH MANAGEMENT
WALK FOR ALZHEIMER'S
WALK WITH US.
MAY 30 & 31
alzswp.ca/wfa

PROTECT YOUR VEHICLE FROM ITS WORST ENEMY, RUST.
KROWN
The ultimate vehicle rust protection since 1986.
BOOK YOUR RUST PROTECTION APPOINTMENT TODAY!
TIRECRAFT
Helping Canadians Get Ahead
M&J Tirecraft
327 Simcoe Street, Tillsonburg, ON
519-842-3321 | tirecraft.com



Remembering Matthew Scholtz, Tillsonburg's longest-serving librarian



**OCL
BOOK
TALK**

MATTHEW GRIFFIS

Oxford County Library

Last month would've been Matt Scholtz's 80th birthday. Scholtz served as Tillsonburg's Chief Librarian for 40 years before retiring in 2010, two years before the town joined the county library. Matt, as nearly everyone addressed him, was not the Tillsonburg Library's last chief, but he filled that role longer than anyone else. And now, nearly three years since his passing in 2023, we still remember him and his contributions to this community.

Matthew G. Scholtz was born in Czechoslovakia in 1946 and spent his earliest years in Germany. In 1951, his family moved to Kitchener, Ontario. He later attended Western University, completing a bachelor's degree in English and history and then a

master's in library science. But while young Matt received job offers from libraries in Detroit and Oshawa, something about small towns appealed to him: he liked their pace and sense of familiarity. So, when Tillsonburg's library offered him a job, Matt knew what to do. He arrived here in August 1970. It wasn't long before he fell in love with a local Salvation Army officer named Betty, got married and began a family. By then Matt knew he would spend the rest of his life here.

In his first years as Chief Librarian, Matt helped plan a new and more accessible library building. His role placed him at the centre of community life, a position that encouraged him to be more than just a librarian. Among other achievements, Matt helped revive the town's Chamber of Commerce and served on the chamber's executive committee for more than 30 years. He wrote weekly columns for the Tillsonburg News and even worked as a correspondent for the London Free Press.

In time, his service would extend beyond Tillsonburg. In 1980 he founded and served as first chairperson for the Association of Small Public Libraries of Ontario, an organization that supported the unique needs of smaller public libraries. Even in his later years Matt remained dedicated to the library and to Tillsonburg, participating in community theatre and serving as treasurer of the local theatre board. His passion for local history helped

him publish two books on the subject: Tillsonburg Diary: A Chronological History 1824-1994 in 1995 and Tillsonburg Album: A Photographic History in 2014.

Matt was famous, perhaps even infamous, for keeping the library open no matter what. Living just blocks away made getting there easy for him; and in the winter, it wasn't unusual to see Matt, clad in toque and mittens, shoveling heavy snow from the library's sidewalks. He was also very progressive with technology: Not only did he continuously expand the library's electronic collections (adding music in the 1970s, films and movies in the '80s, and CD-ROMs in the '90s), in 1982 Matt installed a Telidon machine in the library. (Preceding dial-up internet, the Telidon system received information over a phone line and displayed it on a TV screen.)

Matt also began computerizing the library's catalogue in the 1980s, a time when few smaller libraries had the courage or the skills for such work. When the modern internet arrived in the '90s, Matt installed online terminals before they were common in small libraries. And in the 2000s, just a couple years before Matt's retirement, the Tillsonburg library became one of the first in Ontario to offer a self-checkout machine.

My own memories of Matt are few but warm. Soon after I began as the Tillsonburg Branch's local history specialist, Matt invited me out for coffee.

Thereafter we communicated occasionally about Tillsonburg's history and about the changing landscape of librarianship. Matt's passing in June 2023 ended our brief friendship. The Tillsonburg branch misses Matt and his regular visits very much, and I know that many of our patrons miss him too. Even in 2026, I still hear stories of the old Tillsonburg Public Library and how Matt made it a centre of this community.

For the last three years I've maintained a small tribute to Matt in the library's staff workroom. It includes news clippings about his retirement plus a large photo of Matt in the basement of the old Carnegie building. In my mind, this image represents what I'm certain drew Matt to his vocation—it's what calls many of us to this field. The photo shows one of the library's large reading tables covered in 400 newly-arrived books. In the back sits Matt, beaming at the donation. But his isn't a perfunctory smile for someone's camera; it's a genuine smile of satisfaction and sense of purpose. Matt knew that, while library work is no path to fortune or power, improving the life of one's community is its own reward, and not a small one.

And as Matt's example shows, it is often more than a reward. It's the hallmark of a life well lived.

Matthew Griffis is the Digital Literacy and Local History Technician at Oxford County Library's Tillsonburg Branch.

DEALS FOR DAYS EVENT NOFRILLS

FLYER PRICES EFFECTIVE THURSDAY, APRIL 30TH TO WEDNESDAY, MAY 6TH, 2026

<p>App exclusive offer </p> <p>4 DAYS ONLY: THU., APRIL 30 - SUN., MAY 3</p> <p>Member Price \$6.99</p> <p>NO NAME MEDIUM EGGS 30'S LIMIT 2, AFTER LIMIT RETAIL: \$7.99</p> <p>Non-Members \$7.99</p> <p>Members Save \$1</p>	<p>SAVE 22%</p> <p>MARCANGELO ITALIAN SAUSAGES OR MEATBALLS</p> <p>9.99</p>	<p>INCLUDES HALAL</p> <p>ONLY 3.50</p> <p>GROUND CHICKEN</p>	<p>AIR CHILLED</p> <p>WHILE SUPPLIES LAST</p> <p>ONLY \$8</p> <p>BONELESS, SKINLESS CHICKEN BREAST</p>	<p>SAVE UP TO 54%</p> <p>OASIS JUICE, DEL MONTE NECTAR OR ARIZONA ICED TEA OR FRUITE BEVERAGES</p> <p>1.25</p>
<p>SAVE 25%</p> <p>\$3</p> <p>PC VEGETABLES, FROZEN ASSORTED</p>	<p>6 OZ CLAMSHELL</p> <p>SAVE UP TO 50%</p> <p>1.99</p> <p>RASPBERRIES OR CANTALOUPE</p>	<p>PKG OF 6</p> <p>ONLY 1.88</p> <p>FARMER'S MARKET MINI CUCUMBERS</p>	<p>ONLY 1.44</p> <p>BROCCOLI CROWNS</p>	<p>340 G</p> <p>397 G</p> <p>SAVE 43%</p> <p>1.99</p> <p>PC COLESLAW OR GARDEN SALAD</p>

CORREY & RITA'S NOFRILLS

671 BROADWAY ST, TILLSONBURG, ON (519) 688-0709

OPEN DAILY FROM 7AM TO 9PM • SEE OUR FULL FLYER FOR MORE ITEMS AT LOW PRICES!



Live Fully at Cedarview

At Cedarview Retirement Living, we believe the best chapters are still being written – a place where purpose, joy, and freedom come together so you can live each day fully, on your own terms.

Why Cedarview?

- Beautifully landscaped grounds
- Daily prepared meals
- Bi-weekly housekeeping
- Community Bus
- Weekly activities & entertainment
- Onsite salon
- Designed for comfort, wellness & independence at every stage

Book a Tour Today!



519-602-0282

511 Finkle Street Woodstock, ON
N4V 0C4 CA



CEDARVIEW

COMING EVENTS

APRIL 30, MAY 1 & 2 | DOORS OPEN 7 PM, CURTAIN 8 PM

LANGTON SHOWTIME, EST. 1971 - TURKEY POINT B&B
Langton Community Centre

A musical comedy featuring local talent for all ages. Advance Tickets call 519-875-2602 or purchase at Dave's Variety, Delhi or at the door (cash only).

MAY

MAY 2 | 10 AM - NOON

"BEE HAPPY" MESSY CHURCH
St. Paul's United Church, 88 Bidwell St., Tillsonburg

Crafts, games, snacks, music, and a hot lunch. Children should be accompanied by an adult.

MAY 2 | 1 - 4:30 PM

LIVE BAND AT THE TILLSONBURG LEGION
Tillsonburg Legion, 16 Durham St., Tillsonburg, ON

Featuring Kick'n Kountry. \$8 cash at the door. Cash bar. Hot dogs and Hamburgers available from noon to 2pm. All Welcome! Doors open at noon.

MAY 2 | 2 - 4 PM

SPRING WALK AT DELHI QUANCE PARK
Delhi Tobacco Museum and Heritage Centre, 200 Talbot Road, Delhi, ON

Join us for a spring walk through Delhi Quance Park and end with a tour of the Delhi Tobacco Museum, featuring the Velodrome exhibit. Donations to the museum are appreciated. Questions? Contact Alex Dobias 519-900-9600 x 3367 or adobias@geph.ca

MAY 3 | 2 - 4 PM

KC AND THE SUNSHINE GIRLS
Mt Elgin Community Centre, 333204 Plank Line, Mount Elgin, ON

Put on your Boogie Shoes for an afternoon of dance hits of the 70's & 80's. This Tribute Show is being hosted by Mt Elgin United Church. Tickets are available by calling Joanne 519-485-1988 or Dawne 519-421-6836.

MAY 4 - 9

ROTARY BOOK FAIR
Tillsonburg Mall

The Tillsonburg Rotary Club is holding its fall book fair at the Tillsonburg Mall from Monday May 4th to Saturday May 9th. Give your used books, CD's and puzzles a new home! Help the

environment by bringing your own bags to take home your purchases.

MAY 5 | 7 PM

ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING NOTICE
423 Charlotteville Road 1, Forestville

Forestville Cemetery Board will hold their Annual General Meeting on Tuesday May 5, 2026 @ 7:00 p.m. @ Dave Reeves place. Please bring your own lawn chair. Everyone welcome to attend!

MAY 5 | 7:30 PM

GREATEST PLAYLIST LIVE!
Norwich United Church (80 Main st w Norwich)

Admission by donation. Once again, the Norwich Musical Society Band and Mitchell Legion Band will combine forces and become "Greater Than the Sum" for a spectacular spring concert! You're guaranteed to hear hits from record player, Walkman, or digital streaming eras!

MAY 6 | 12 - 1 PM

TILLSONBURG LEGION LUNCH
Tillsonburg Legion, 16 Durham St., Tillsonburg, ON

Serving pulled pork or pulled chicken on a bun with coleslaw, potato salad, dessert, tea, and coffee for \$15 per person (HST included). For more information call 519-842-5281.

MAY 7 | 6:45 PM & MAY 9 | 10 AM - 2 PM

THE NORWICH LAWN BOWLING CLUB INVITES YOU TO COME AND TRY LAWN BOWLING

20 Stover Street South, Norwich

It's the perfect blend of strategy, socializing, and friendly competition. Free instruction. We have the lawn bowls, the "how to", and refreshments. Regular jitneys are Tuesdays and Thursdays at 6:45 and first year membership is only \$70! You can find us on Facebook, and our website, norwichlawnbowling.ca, or you can contact me, Sandra Bertrand, at 519-535-0542. See you on the greens!

MAY 10 | 9 AM - 1 PM

MOTHER'S DAY BRUNCH
Tillsonburg Legion, 16 Durham St., Tillsonburg, ON

Serving pancakes, bacon, sausage, home fries, eggs, tea, coffee, juice for only \$15 Adults and \$8 Children cash at the door. Flowers for the first 100 Mothers!

MAY 11 | 7:30 PM

DELHI & DISTRICT HORTICULTURAL SOCIETY MEETING

Delhi Senior Friendship Centre, 418 Queen St., Delhi, ON

Guest Speaker - Jeff Leadrer, a field naturalist; a founding member of Brant for Nature. He will introduce us to the app which helps identify plants and animals around us, explain this app and how we can navigate it on our devices. Should be very interesting. All welcome. (Enter at rear parking off William Street.)

MAY 13 | 1:30 PM

YOUR VOICE FOR NATURE
Ingersoll Centre for Seniors, 250 Ingersoll St S, Ingersoll ON

Brian Craig will examine the ways you can influence and ensure the conservation of nature in The long Point Biosphere Region which is essential for the quality of life on our planet. To confirm attendance email libwiz@hotmail.com

MAY 19 | DOORS OPEN 5 PM, LIVE AUCTION STARTS 6 PM

TILLSONBURG HORTICULTURAL SOCIETY'S ANNUAL GARDEN AUCTION & SALE

Lion's Auditorium, TCC, 45 Hardy Ave., Tillsonburg

Everyone welcome! Open to the public. \$2, \$5, \$10 sale tables with annuals, perennials, vegetables, containers & decor. Prize table draws (cash only). Bake sale with pies and tarts, cookies and bread, sandwiches & more! 42 Bottle wine raffle sponsored by Century 21. Live auction includes trees, shrubs, annuals, perennials, garden decor, & tools.

MAY 21

PENTECOST SUNDAY SERVICE
St. John's Anglican Church 46 Ridout St. (519) 842-5573

Join us on this day which commemorates the descent of the Holy Spirit onto the Apostles. It could be called the 'birthday' of the church. We wear red, enjoy fellowship and cake after the service. Come and see! We are a place where people gather.

MAY 23 | 8 AM - NOON

PLANT & BAKE SALE
Delhi Tobacco Museum & Heritage Centre
Delhi & District Horticultural Society is having its annual Plant & Bake Sale. Great selection of perennials and home-baked goodies.

JUNE

JUNE 10 | 10 AM - 3 PM

THE BROWNSVILLE ANNUAL SCHOOL REUNION
Brownsville Community Centre

There will be a Potluck lunch, so please bring your favourite dish. All former students and spouses are welcome to attend. If you have any Historical information or pictures please bring them with you. If you have any questions please contact Patty Meertens at rpmeertens@gmail.com.

JULY

JULY 17 & 18

BRANTFORD UKULELE FESTIVAL

Tickets for the 2026 Brantford Ukulele Festival, set for July 17th and 18th are going fast! Register before April 17th to get in on the Early Bird special. Get details on performers, workshops and more at brantfordukulelesociety.org.

ONGOING CLASSES, CLUBS & ORGANIZATIONS

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

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

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

OXFORD COUNTY DIABETES EDUCATION PROGRAM

Appointments are available at Alexandra Hospital Ingersoll and Tillsonburg District Memorial Hospital and by phone

Are you looking for support with your Diabetes? Our Team of Registered Nurses, Registered Dietitians and a Social Worker is here to support YOUR goals. We can help with medication adjustments, lifestyle and diet changes, stress management, weight reduction strategies and more. SELF REFERRALS ARE WELCOME. Please call 519-485-9611 to book an appointment. Let's work together!

MONDAYS | 9 - 11:30 AM

OTTER VALLEY TAI CHI
St. John's Anglican Church, 46 Ridout St. W., Tillsonburg

New Monday morning classes have begun. Spots still available: 9:00 - 10:30 am Introduction, 10:30 - 11:30 am Foundations. Enjoy gentle exercise with others as you work to improve flexibility, balance and stamina. Call 519-688-9779, email ottervalley@canadiantaichiacademy.org, visit canadiantaichiacademy.org.

MONDAYS | 7 - 9 PM

MODERN SQUARE DANCING IS FOR YOU!

Thames Valley Dance Club

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

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

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

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

If you have never belonged to a stamp club, now's the time. Meet new friends, grow your knowledge and collection. Contact: Don Eaton dhfe@silomail.com. Website: <http://www.rpsc.org/chapters/oxford>

3RD WED. OF MONTH | 10 AM - NOON

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

Our retired and semi-retired members enjoy diverse interest groups, friendship and fellowship. We have interesting speakers at our monthly meetings as well as time to socialise.

Current and prospective members are welcome to join us at the Army, Navy & Air Force Club, Simcoe, which is on the corner of Water St. and Culver St. Simcoe. Enter via Culver St. For more information, please visit our website at: lynnriverprobus239.com or email lynnriverprobus239@gmail.com

Overheard at the Coffee Shop

Brought to you by: *Tim Hortons*

Tillsonburg locations: 401 Simcoe St., 73 Oxford St., 200 Broadway St.

MY SEASONAL ALLERGIES JUST GOT RENEWED FOR ANOTHER YEAR.

WHEN YOU LIE ALL THE TIME, DON'T BE SURPRISED WHEN PEOPLE ARE SKEPTICAL.

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

Local singer to perform at CMAO show, nominated for four awards

JEFF HELSDON

Editor

“Have boots will travel” is the chorus in Olivia Mae Graham’s song Boots that brought her to the Country Music Association of Ontario (CMAO) awards last year as a nominee for Breakthrough Artist of the Year. Little did she know her boots would be traveling in an upward direction, and the speed she would be going.

Graham is nominated for four awards this year for her new album Nobody, and her team for another two. She will also be one of nine performers taking to the stage for the awards show on May 31 at the Port Credit Memorial Arena.

The awards show tops off what has been a fast-paced couple of years for the young singer. She opened for Terri Clark at Burning Kiln, played at the Norfolk County Fair as the opener for the James Barker Band in 2024, and just recently released her first album Nobody.

The awards nomination process began in February and moved to a final ballot, the results of which were announced March 31.

“It’s been a couple of months of wondering and waiting,” she reflected in an interview last week.

Graham is again nominated for Breakthrough Artist of the Year, an award that an artist can be nominated for twice in their career. She is nominated for Female Artist of the Year, which is a huge testament to her talent, but having her debut album nominated for Album/EP of the Year was over the top.

“I’m so proud of this album,” she said. “To see it in that category, I cried. I didn’t think that was going to happen.”

“Have boots will travel” is the chorus in Olivia Mae Graham’s song Boots that brought her to the Country Music Association of Ontario (CMAO) awards last year as a nominee for Breakthrough Artist of the Year. Little did she know her boots would be traveling in an upward direction, and the speed she would be going.

Graham is nominated for four awards this year for her new album Nobody, and her team for another two. She will also be one of nine performers taking to the stage for the awards show on May 31 at the Port Credit Memorial Arena.

The awards show tops off what has been a fast-

paced couple of years for the young singer. She opened for Terri Clark at Burning Kiln, played at the Norfolk County Fair as the opener for the James Barker Band in 2024, and just recently released her first album Nobody.

The awards nomination process began in February and moved to a final ballot, the results of which were announced March 31.

“It’s been a couple of months of wondering and waiting,” she reflected in an interview last week.

Graham is again nominated for Breakthrough Artist of the Year, an award that an artist can be nominated for twice in their career. She is nominated for Female Artist of the Year, which is a huge testament to her talent, but having her debut album nominated for Album/EP of the Year was over the top.

“I’m so proud of this album,” she said. “To see it in that category, I cried. I didn’t think that was going to happen.”

She was also nominated for Music Video of the Year for Nobody. Nobody producers Jay Allen and Aaron Murray were nominated for Record Producer of the Year, and her guitarist, Nolan Gibson, is nominated for Musician of the Year.

Graham said the nominations were “cool, mind-blowing”, but more was to come. With her direction up, the boots went to the accelerator when she was asked to perform at the awards show.

“When I asked to perform, this is everything I have ever dreamed of,” she said. “For me, that was a real cool milestone.”

The Norfolk County girl will be one of nine performers for the awards show.

“With the amount of people nominated, getting on the awards show is a pretty big thing,” she said.

One thing that’s different for Graham is she is an independent artist and has no record label backing her.

“It’s cool when you don’t have a record label behind you, and you hit those milestones. I’m just proud of the team I’ve been building,” she said.

Performing at the CMAO awards is more than just another performance. Graham plans to sing a new song from her album, which hasn’t been released yet, and will release it that day. She is aware the audience will be country music fans, including a large contingent from this area, but also radio station executives and people a budding singer wants

to make a good impact on.

“For me it’s a one-stop shop for a good impression,” she said.

With the awards finalists just announced a month ago, and the performers listed a week later, it’s been a “whirlwind” for Graham. She has been having media interviews daily. One of these was an on-air interview with Country 107, which was special to her because she had grown up listening to the station.

Her success is much wider spread than Tillsonburg, though – it’s global. Nobody was released Canada-wide, in Australia, and the United Kingdom. She has done interviews with stations across the country and in Australia.

Another interview was with Michelle Lee from a Nashville radio station. This was the first American station playing Nobody, and Lee told her, “Your music needs to be the center of everybody’s day.”

“Those kind of comments mean the world to me,” Graham said. “I’ve been writing songs forever. When people connect to them like that, we’re doing our job right.”

Graham has also been overwhelmed with messages of support from her friends, neighbours and local fans.

“To have a community rally around you is the coolest thing ever,” she said.

Saying it’s been a real tsunami of emotions in the past few weeks, Graham drew the analogy, “Sometimes it’s easy to wallow in sadness; we never wallow in happiness.”

Community for Graham means both Norfolk and Tillsonburg. She grew up south of Tillsonburg in Norfolk, and identifies with both communities as Tillsonburg is where the family came for shopping and any activities, and it’s where she tells people she is from. Her connections run deep to both.

Saying she was singing before she was talking, Graham started taking music lessons when she was four from Alison and Darrin Schott, who lived around the corner from her. This couple is highly regarded as music teachers, and now living in Tillsonburg, they were based at the Roosevelt Dance Hall south of Glen Meyer at the time.

“How wild was it - I grew up in the middle of nowhere, and lucked into the most incredible music teachers in the middle of nowhere,” Graham said.



Olivia Mae Graham. (CONTRIBUTED PHOTO)

“They’re the reason I know anything about music at all. I owe them the utmost credit.”

Alison is assisting her with her stage look for the awards performance.

With the performance at the CMAO awards being a pinnacle she has worked towards, preparing for that night has been her focus. She recalls shopping for a dress for the performance.

“My mom and I went shopping a few weeks ago when all of this got announced,” she recounted. “We scoured the boutiques, and found the perfect outfit for the awards weekends. For me, that’s when it became real.”

But, instead of buying the dress on the spot, she walked out of the store and sat in the car with her mother, still overwhelmed with the idea of performing at the awards, and lamenting to her mother that she couldn’t believe it was real.

“She said, ‘Honey, it’s already real,’” Graham said of her mother’s response.

And then, there’s the boots: Graham had to have a new pair for the show. Tillsonburg line dance teacher Lena Kovacs is helping with customizing the look of both the boots and Graham’s entire outfit for the evening. The budding young singer teased that hanging around with a line-dancing teacher may have rubbed off, and it may show through in some manner in the future.

The question on many fans’ minds is if there will be a summer tour to support the album, to which Graham responded, “There’s no slowing down over here. We’ll definitely be planning more shows. I always say it’s one song, one show, and one fan at a time has always been my philosophy.”

COMING EVENTS

TUESDAYS & THURSDAYS | 7 - 9 PM
SATURDAYS | 10 AM - 12 PM

LEARN BRAZILIAN JIU-JITSU (BJJ)
North Broadway Baptist Church

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

nbmfa@northbroadwaychurch.ca

EVERY OTHER FRIDAY | 1 - 4 PM
SPRING INTO THE INGERSOLL
COUNTRY MUSIC JAMBOREE

Masonic Hall, 190 Thames St. S., Ingersoll
Join us, walk ins welcome. Qualifications - love 50-70’s country music. Perform, listen, dance & enjoy!
May 1, 15 & 29, June 5 & 19.

FRIDAYS | 1 PM
INTERESTED IN BRIDGE?
JOIN US AT THE TILLSONBURG
DUPLICATE BRIDGE CLUB
Tillsonburg Senior Centre - 45 Hardy Ave,
Tillsonburg

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

1ST AND 3RD TUES. OF MONTH
TILLSONBURG LIONS

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

1ST WED. OF MONTH | 7 PM
WAGNER MEMORIAL TEETERVILLE
LEGION BRANCH 526 - MEMBERS
GENERAL MEETING
The Wagner Memorial Teeterville Legion
Branch 526 - 3890 Teeterville Road,
Teeterville, ON

Not a member? Contact us to join. For More Information Call, the Legion 519-443-5588. www.teetervillelegionbranch526.ca

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

The Wagner Memorial, Teeterville Legion Branch 526 - 3890 Teeterville Road, Teeterville, ON

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

VON OXFORD GRIEF CARE:
FREE MONTHLY GRIEF SUPPORT GROUP

Register at: oxford.griefsupport@von.ca or 519-539-1231 Ext 6299 or 6296

RIDDLES

What kind of cheese is made backwards?

Edam

What kind of cup doesn't hold water?

A cupcake

What fruit is known for being sad?

A blueberry

What kind of apple is known for having a bad temper?

A crabapple

What is always coming but never arrives?

Tomorrow

What breaks yet never falls, and what falls but never breaks?

Day and night

What word in the dictionary is spelled incorrectly?

Incorrectly

What month of the year has 28 days?

All of them!

What goes up but never comes down?

Your age

What gets wet while drying?

A towel

What has many keys but can't open a single lock?

A piano

I'm a word with six letters. Though, if you remove one, 12 remains. What am I?

Dozens

SUDOKU

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

Solutions on Page 23

Level: Beginner

PET OF THE WEEK



BRUNHILDA

SPONSORED BY:

Your
**Family
Pet Centre**

**107 E Concession St. E.,
Tillsonburg, ON
N4G 4W4**

519-688-2672

HOURS:

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

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

WORD SEARCH

FARMER'S MARKET

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

- MARKET
- VEGETABLES
- FRUIT
- FRESH
- HARVEST
- BAKERY
- FLOWERS
- LOCAL
- VENDOR
- HONEY
- BASKET
- CHEESE
- TOMATO
- CARROTS
- COMMUNITY

BUSINESS DIRECTORY

CLASSIFIEDS

AUTO REPAIR

GEORGE'S AUTO REPAIR INC.
 Tire Services | Oil Changes
 Maintenance & Repairs
 519 842-7058 • GEORGESAUTO.CA
 10 Bridge St W., Tillsonburg
 OPEN MON TO FRI: 8 AM - 5 PM



CONSTRUCTION

OTTER CREEK CONSTRUCTION
 Interior Renovations
 Exterior Upgrades
 Residential and Commercial
 ottercreekconstruction.com
 519-983-2008 | dvan.occ@gmail.com
 7 McGuire Cres, Tillsonburg

HEATING & COOLING

TILLSON MECHANICAL
 HEATING & COOLING
 Sales, Service & Installation for all your heating and cooling needs!
Bill Szucsko & J.P Riches:
 (519) 860-1766
 admin@tillsonmechanical.ca

GARAGE SALE

COMMUNITY GARAGE SALE: Love to search for treasures? Our annual Community Garage Sale is on Saturday, May 9th, 8:00 am - 1:00 pm. Hickory Hills Adult Community, 48 Wilson Ave. Tillsonburg. A great number of homes will be selling a plethora of wonderful treasures. A fun day of shopping! Hope to see you there!

TREES

For Sale: Shade Trees; Maples, Oaks, Birch, Beech, Honey Locusts, Elms, Magnolia, Hydrangea Tree, Tulip Tree, Crab apples, Ivory Silk Lilac, Chanticleer Pear, Golden Weeping Willows and more. Apples, Pears, Peaches, Plums, Apricots, Nectarine, Blueberry, Haskap etc. Lots of healthy strong Spruce, Cedars and White Pine for your privacy hedges and windbreaks. Hundred of flowering shrubs.
 Reg Hours 7am- 6pm Mon-Sat at Martins Nursery c/o Emanuel Martin. 42661 Orangehill Rd., Wroxeter, ON

LAWN CARE

HAUL IT FORWARD
 NOW BOOKING
 2026 SPRING LAWN CARE
 • WEEKLY OR BI-WEEKLY MOWING
 • TRIMMING, EDGING & MULCHING
 • AERATING & OVERSEEDING
 • SPRING CLEAN-UPS
 519-550-6350
 haulitforward@outlook.com

AUTOMOTIVE

HARM'S AUTOMOTIVE
 AUTO REPAIR AND PARTS
 406 ON-19, Tillsonburg, ON
 519-409-1555
 harmsautorepair@gmail.com

CLEANING

Service Team
 Professional Air Duct Cleaning
 Call Steven Beausoleil
 519-688-2557

We want to hear from our community!
info@tillsonburgpost.com

CELEBRATION OF LIFE

JIM SWINN
 1951 - 2025



The family of the late Jim Swinn invites you to a **Celebration of Life** to be held on **Sunday, May 3rd, 2026** from 1:00 - 4:00 pm at the Carriage Hall, 25 Brock St. West, Tillsonburg

CUSTOM WINDOW COVERINGS

Shades3
 Blinds • Shutters
 Rollers • Automation
 17 BROCK ST E,
 TILLSONBURG
 519-550-6770
 SHADES3.CA
 Free In-Home Consultations

GLASS & MIRROR

Royal
 Replacement Window Specialists
 HOME • INDUSTRY
 GLASS & MIRROR GLASS AND PLASTICS
 370-B Simcoe St., Tillsonburg, ON
 Tel: 519-842-4970 | Fax: 519-842-3385
 royalglasstillsonburg@gmail.com

PLAY CENTRE

rain or shine playtime
 55 Broadway St. Unit B
 rainorshineplaycentre@gmail.com

PAINTING

CONTEMPORARY PAINTING AND DESIGN
 Chris Imhoff
 Owner
 (548) 788-1189
 ContemporaryPaintingandDesign.com
 Chris@ContemporaryPaintingandDesign.com



ROOFING

Wolfe's Roofing
 • We'll Better Any Price!
 • No Down Payments
 • Don't Pay Until Job Is Completed To Your Satisfaction
 • Over 2,500 Completed Homes
Free Estimates!
 519-842-7215
 jeff.wolfe80@hotmail.com
 www.wolfes-roofing.ca



VINYL WINDOWS

Courtland VINYL WINDOWS LTD.
 NORTH STAR WINDOWS
 VDK WINDOWS & DOORS
 PREMIUM VINYL DECKING
 MODERN WINDOW COVERING
 SIDING & ALUMINUM PRODUCTS
 5" EAVESTROUGH
 519-688-2162
 WWW.COURTLANDVINYLWINDOWS.COM



QUIZ ANSWERS

1. Komodo Dragon
2. Gucci
3. One
4. Platypuses & echidnas
5. Percussion
6. Rudyard Kipling
7. USS Enterprise
8. France
9. Thanos
10. Bingo

SUDOKU

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

PUT YOUR MONEY WHERE YOUR HOUSE IS

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





Maurice Verhoeve
Owner/Funeral Director



Margaret Verhoeve
Office Administrator



VERHOEVE

MAURICE J. VERHOEVE FUNERAL HOMES

Burial and Cremation Services Inc.

40 Queen Street, Langton / 262 Broadway, Tillsonburg



Robert Verhoeve
Funeral Director



Krystyna Verhoeve
Funeral Director

Now's the time!

PLAN AHEAD *with* US

- ✓ By planning your own end-of-life decisions now, you're giving your loved ones one less thing to worry about later.
- ✓ Lock in the cost at today's prices.
- ✓ Do it your way.

Call: (519) 842-4238 Today.

verhoevefuneral@kwic.com

www.verhoevefuneralhomes.com



We offer funeral services that are affordable enough to meet the needs of every family.

Consultations are available at no cost.

Our Complete Direct Cremation Package:

(Includes all basic fees and required disbursements)

\$2499 + HST

***Prices are subject to change anytime*