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Tillsonburg approves Community Safety and Well-Being Plan update

JEFF HELSDON

Editor

Tillsonburg council gave the nod to an update of its Community Safety and Well-Being Plan.

Sarah Hamulecki, Oxford County's Manager of Strategic Initiatives and Intergovernment Affairs, and county Warden Marcus Ryan gave an overview of the plan. In Oxford, all eight municipalities agreed to adopt a single plan and have the county lead implementation. Called Safe and Well Oxford, the plan must be reviewed and updated every four years.

"They're quite unique in the sense, yes, they're legislated, but the plans themselves don't actually hold a lot of power per se," Hamulecki said. "The plans aren't necessarily what's actually doing the work; it's our community partners, our service providers, and our stakeholders that are advancing the goals and investments of the plan itself. The plan is an opportunity to collaborate to bring the partners together, to help problem solve and get creative with our solutions as we work towards the goals and solutions."

Ryan explained that the review, led by StrategyCorp, began in 2025. The company reviewed the data, surveyed area municipal staff, councillors, and residents, and presented the information gathered

at a summit in October. The plan was at the point where it was ready to be endorsed.

One of the priorities was to add gender-based violence as one of the priority areas.

The original plan had four priority areas. The new plan has six priority areas: mental health and well-being, housing for all, people and belonging, substance use and addictions, gender-based violence, affordability and economic stability.

Another change is the addition of a full-time coordinator for the plan to provide support.

"It was pretty loud and clear at the summit there was a need for resources, both people and financial, from our service providers," Hamulecki said.

Communities will remain engaged on an ongoing basis, with a particular focus on youth.

Throughout the process, things will be looked at through both urban and rural lenses.

"For instance, homelessness looks different in urban areas than what is seen in rural centres," Hamulecki said. "By ensuring we are looking at situation through both of those lenses will ensure we are looking we will hopefully be able to better reflect our unique environment here in the county."

CONTINUED TO PAGE 2



AND THE OTTER PREDICTS . . .

(JEFF HELSDON PHOTO)

Move over Wiarton Willie, Tillsonburg's Olive the Otter is joining the weather prognostication scene. Tillsonburg Mayor Deb Gilvesy, left, and otter handler/curator Kate Bakos brought Olive out of her den at high noon on Groundhog Day. In this case, Olive saw her shadow, meaning six more weeks of winter. The mayor and handler didn't want to hear anything about an extended winter and pointed to the technicality in the lore stating after seeing the shadow, the prognosticator must return to its den immediately. In this case, Olive enjoyed the sun before returning to her den, meaning spring is hopefully on the way.

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New Community Safety and Well-Being Plan includes affordability as a measure

CONTINUED FROM FRONT

Deputy Mayor Dave Beres picked up on the involvement of youth and asked how involved school boards were in the process, "because this is about the future."

Hamulecki explained school boards would have taken part in the survey and agreed they wanted to do a better job at involving youth.

Coun. Kelly Spencer said she attended a program on safe and wellness programs at the recent Rural Ontario Municipal Association conference. As part of that, she said it was mentioned that there had

been a 30 per cent increase in homelessness in rural areas, and asked whether that was being seen in Oxford.

Ryan said it's hard to nail down the exact breakdown on homelessness.

"At best, the homeless situation in Oxford is the same as it was two, three, or four years ago," he said, explaining the county is spending a lot of money to make it better.

Coun. Chris Rosehart questioned who would have their "feet on the ground with the people that are out here, that are homeless, that are dealing with ad-

ditions."

"It's nice to sit in a group; it's nice to sit around in meetings, but who is going to be out here," she asked, figuring it wouldn't be the new staff person.

Ryan said it is correct that the staff person wouldn't be out there, but the groups that contribute to the plan already would be.

"The idea of this plan is not to add more feet on the ground, more FTEs, and more boots on the ground as municipalities," he said. "The idea is coming together as a group of groups that they will find ways

to be more effective and efficient. That could be different in Tillsonburg than it is in Thamesford than it is in Ingersoll."

Rosehart questioned how this would occur when homeless people don't use the existing shelters, but didn't receive an answer, as Ryan said the plan doesn't give municipalities or police more power.

The motion passed by council was to approve the updates and to have Oxford County lead the implementation of the Safe and Well Oxford plan on behalf of Tillsonburg.

Questions abound about new carbon monoxide regs

JEFF HELSDON

Editor

The province's new carbon monoxide detector rules are resulting in many enquiries to the Tillsonburg Fire Department.

Taking effect on Jan. 1, the new regulations require a carbon monoxide detector on every story of a home and outside sleeping areas, plus include new provisions on when a carbon monoxide detector is needed. A detector is also required if there is an attached garage. Carbon monoxide is a scentless gas created from the burning of fuels, such as natural gas, propane, heating oil, or wood. Carbon monoxide poisoning can lead to headaches, nausea, dizziness, confusion, drowsiness, and death.

The Tillsonburg department staff receive several calls per day about the regulations, plus many e-mails and questions on social media.

"They want to know the legislative requirements for installation of carbon monoxide detectors," said Geoff Hayman, Tillsonburg Fire Department's fire prevention officer. "They want to know where they have to put carbon monoxide detectors."

In Tillsonburg, the focus is on educating the public about the new regulations. That's not the case in other municipalities. The new regulations were compared to speeding tickets, where a set fine could be issued for non-compliance, or a summons to appear in court could be issued. Often, a court appearance results in a higher fine. Fines of up to \$10,000 have been issued in

other municipalities for multi-residential units or if there is a fire.

"If it's a serious offence and there's a fire, we can haul them into court, and they're subject to the legislation with fines up to \$100,000," Hayman said.

"We want to stress the importance of this; the community needs to take it seriously," said Sara Barclay, public educator with the Tillsonburg Fire Department.

In the case of rental units, responsibility for maintaining working smoke and carbon monoxide alarms is split between the tenant and landlord. The landlord needs to provide and install the detectors. The tenant is responsible for reporting any issues with the detector to the landlord and cannot disable the unit.

Hayman recommended the landlord

keep a log to track when they install smoke and carbon monoxide detectors, provide tenants with instructions on maintenance, and have the tenants verify it.

He wanted tenants and landlords alike to know that interpretations can vary depending on the situation. For instance, he said, in a multiple-storey building heated with hot-water radiators and a single gas-burning heater in the basement, a detector is only needed in the basement. However, in the same scenario with a forced air furnace, detectors are needed in each unit.

"The interpretation of the regulations for the structure is unique to each structure," he explained.

The fire department is willing to provide advice for individual situations as well.

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EDITORIAL

Your chance to help

How do you solve homelessness?

That's one of the common themes on Facebook pages associated with Tillsonburg is more needs to be done to help the homeless population.

Homelessness is a complicated problem, one intertwined with mental health and addiction issues. The key to helping, though, is people need to want help.

For those who want help, Tillsonburg Light House is an option, and one that has a proven track record. This transitional housing provides a roof over the head of homeless people as they move forward with their lives. Since it opened in 2023, 31 clients have entered the Light House.

Funding for Tillsonburg Light House is

provided through the United Way's Coldest Night of the Year fundraiser. By supporting the Coldest Night of the Year, it's an opportunity for local residents to make a difference for the town's homeless population.

Assisting with Coldest Night of the Year can be through a monetary donation to a participant, volunteering to help that night or taking part in the walk and collecting pledges.

Making donations, signing up and volunteering are all simple through the Coldest Night of the Year web site at cnoy.org.

With this year's sustained cold snap being one of the longest in recent records, let's make the Coldest Night of the Year the most successful yet.

Letter to the Editor

Good Day

I would like to send my regards to all the staff at the Post.

Since the revival of our local paper, it has become a go to for news and information.

The other paper which we receive does not carry the same in-depth information for our community.

What I think maybe your staff could dig into as a topic of interest is how the railroad helped grow this and other communities alike.

We are growing at leaps and bounds and keeping our history in the limelight is so important.

Keep up the good work.

Phil Donoghue

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info@tillsonburgpost.com**



Frosty morning.

(JEFF HELSDON PHOTO)

Wishing for a 'Norm'-al Valentine's Day again



**WRITER'S
CORNER**

NORMA COLLIS

Tillsonburg Post Columnist

I once taught in a large, open area, elementary school that rivaled Disney Land as being the "happiest place on earth."

Setting the tone and often instigator of uproarious laughter, was our gregarious custodian named Norm.

If you wanted to view the best Halloween costume ever...Norm was your man. One Halloween day as I was driving to work, a car pulled up beside me at a stop light. An elderly-looking "woman" with purple hair and huge red lips was in the car stopped next to me. She began to blow kisses my way. It took a minute or two to realize that the senior

driver was indeed...Norm!

One of my fellow teachers, had a wedding anniversary that fell on Valentine's Day. Every year, her husband sent her a huge bouquet of flowers, and they always delivered to the front office of our school. The flowers were always so magnificent, they put every other husband within a 10-mile radius to shame.

To protect the innocent, we will call the happy anniversary recipient, Mrs. Brown. Mrs. Brown was usually a very pleasant and thoughtful person, except on wedding anniversary day. The soft dulcet tones of our school secretary's voice would chime out over the school PA system, "Mrs. Brown. Mrs. Brown, please come to the front office."

Mrs. Brown would make her way down the open area hallway past my school library and then past the open doorways of clusters of open area classrooms. She slowly made her way down the long hallway, in a regal manner, turning this way and that way, and announcing to one and all, "This will be my flowers. My husband always sends me flowers on our wedding anniversary you know."

Norm had already spread the word to the rest of us that this year's anniversary floral arrangement would be "extra special." Earlier

in the day, he had paid a visit to the local high school. That building had a greenhouse attached to it. The school ran a successful horticulture programme and produced long stemmed flowers of a high quality.

"Do you have any over-sized florist boxes," Norm inquired.

The students produced a magnificent, shiny white box that if stood on end, was as tall as a kindergarten child.

"Do you have any nice tissue paper?" asked Norm.

"How about some beautiful ribbon to tie around the box?" Norm then inquired.

All requests were granted.

"Now," said Norm "I want you to get me every dead flower you can find and throw it in the box. Make the flower collection look as messy as possible."

The students and their teacher gleefully did as they had been asked.

"Now, lets tie this sucker up with the biggest, fluffiest bow you can make."

The bow was of a sheer material and it was bright pink. Mrs. Brown was a red head, and she never ever wore the colour pink. Just before morning recess, the soft tones of our school secretary's voice

came across the PA system, "Mrs. Brown, Mrs. Brown, report to the front office please."

Mrs. Brown made her way down the long corridor, announcing to one and all that her anniversary flowers had arrived. She even made her announcement to the group of a tiny junior kindergarten children who were clustered around my knees at the school library story chair.

A few seconds after she had passed by, the entire school was treated to the results of Norms' floral efforts.

"Norm!" she bellowed "Darn you Norm!!!"

"I guess she didn't like her flowers," remarked one of my little innocent JK students.

"I guess not," I sighed.

I knew once I told this story to my spouse, he would gleefully grab on to the information and use it to his advantage.

"Oh, don't worry," my husband told me. "I will never ever send you flowers at school. I wouldn't want you to be 'Normed?'"

All I could say in response was "Norm. Darn you Norm!!!"

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

Lunch, learn and bits of Tillsonburg's history



**THE
STAGE
IS THE
WORLD**

LAUREL A. BEECHEY

Tillsonburg Post Columnist

The popular Lunch and Learn Series is lined up and ready to go at Annandale National Historic Site, from February to May 2026. It is a four-part series of catered lunches and interesting presentation on local history, hosted in the Corner Gallery (program room).

Here's the scoop: Once a month for four months, you have the choice of Thursday or Friday, to attend, plus the bonus of touring the museum, before or after, is included in the ticket price. Preregistration is required as the lunch and learns are usually hot tickets.

Lunch is served at noon, with the presentation following about 1 p.m.. If you have dietary concerns, please contact Kathleen at 519 842 2294 asap about the menu as a substitution can usually be arranged.

Cost is \$37.75 single ticket (taxes included) or \$125.50 for the series pass (taxes included)

The Learn part

You choose to attend on Thursday, Feb. 26th or Friday,

Feb. 27th for Heather Rennalls, a local area historian and author, who will be honouring Black History Month, presenting "Almost Forgotten: Black History in Oxford County". There is a rich history of Black people and their contributions within Oxford County."

On Thursday, March 26th or Friday, March 27th, Tillsonburg's own, Joan Weston, will present "From Field to Fork: Tillsonburg's Legacy in the Food Industry". This is a legacy that started with the Tillson family, who sold their pan dried oats around the world. Today, we still are processing food in town.

Thursday, April 23rd or Friday, April 24th Kate Bakos, Cultural Heritage Manager/Curator of Annandale National Historic Site/Museum, will speak on Annandale House built by E.D. Tillson. Tillson followed the suggestions of Oscar Wilde in the early 1880s and built the house in the Aesthetic Movement. Kate will be presenting "Culture in the Countryside: The Aesthetic Movement in Tillsonburg"

Thursday, May 28th or Friday, May 29th Patty Phelps, the museum's retired curator, is returning to celebrate the 145th Anniversary of E.D. Tillson's Model Farm, which enticed many far away visitors to view the latest technologies and ideas, like an air-conditioned barn with indoor silos.

A bonus event will Annandale NHS's yearly Women's Day Celebration with Afternoon Tea with Canadian Trailblazers. It is a special tea honouring the bold, brilliant, and barrier-breaking women of Canada's past and present. Sip, snack, and celebrate their legacies in an afternoon filled with discovery and delight. Pre-registration is required for this event on Wednesday, March 5th, 1:30 p.m. Tickets are \$30, tax included.

While you update your calendars with the above, you might want to get your tickets to Theatre Tillsonburg's next production: Hilda's Yard. It is 1956, the yard is qui-

et. The nest is empty... or is it? Sam and Hilda Fluck are enjoying life as empty nesters until both of their grown children land back home. Norm Foster's signature wit and warmth shine in this delightful look at family, change, and second chances.

You may have noticed in the last few editions of the Tillsonburg Post; 'This Week In The '50s', which is being sponsored by Hilda's Yard? Did you live through the 1950s? Remember when a dog went into space? It has interesting, trivia, check it out! The production runs Feb. 19-22 and Feb. 26 thru March 1: These dates are Thursdays to Sundays. with two matinees. Note carefully: Thursdays, Fridays and the second Saturday open at 7:30pm. The first Saturday and both Sunday shows are at 2 p.m.

Historical tidbits

Tidbit 1: I get ask about the spellings our town's name quite often, so I thought I should share them,. In the beginning, 1825, it was Dereham Forge. In 1837, the town's people voted to change the name to Tillsonburg. In 1839, Postmaster Benjamin VanNorman had the post office stamp made, but it was spelt with 'h', Tillsonburgh. In 1847, the Tremain Map and other lot and road maps used Tillsonburgh. In 1867, the post office moved across the street with a new address, so a new stamp was made. The result was the 'h' was gone, and we lost one 'L', Tilsionburg. But in 1902, upon the death of Edwin Delevan Tillson, it was brought to council, to honour E.D. that spelling was permanently changed to two "L"s.

Tidbit 2: There are streets, roads, alleys lanes and ways but Tillsonburg's Broadway with no street or road.

Tidbit 3: Stoney Creek flows through Lake Lisgar to the Otter by the white bridge. Clear Creek flows through Partecipark to the Otter by The Mill Inn and Eatery.

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Tillsonburg POST

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1. Everyone has a story
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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

Resident raises concerns about dog park

JEFF HELSDON

Editor

Tillsonburg resident David Csepei called on council to address ongoing problems at the town's dog park.

Appearing before council as a delegation at the Jan. 26 meeting, Csepei said the current dog park is too small. He often sees the big dog section so overcrowded that larger dog owners take their pets to the smaller dog side.

"There's been some altercations, some verbiage gone back and forth," he reported.

Csepei also said the park is poorly managed with little maintenance. He asked for a sign to be replaced at the park several months ago, and it hasn't been. He also said the no-smoking rule isn't enforced and alleged that there is mould in the park's mulch, which can cause health problems for dogs. He wanted to see it returned to a grass base instead of mulch.

"If you don't want to maintain it, in all fairness, get rid of it," he said.

Csepei suggested if there is going to be an expansion, another location should be considered, mentioning the park off Charlotte Ave.

Coun. Chris Parker said he hears many

complaints about the current park and asked Csepei, "What makes you think building another dog park would avoid those problems?"

Csepei said a new park would divide the problem in half, adding, "You can't assume the new dog park will be as bad as the current one. The park on Charlotte is wide open, so maybe there will be less chance of someone making a mess."

Parker said he used to frequent the dog park, but was bitten there. He questioned whether Csepei had brought up the issues with staff, and was told the resident had continually called to have the grass cut and the dog waste bag replaced.

Parker informed him the best way to report issues was through the town app so it can be tracked.

Coun. Kelly Spencer said she has spoken to Csepei about the issue and sent an e-mail to the director on the topic.

Coun. Chris Rosehart heard stories of people going to the park with coffee and cigarettes, then letting their dogs run free.

Although Mayor Deb Gilvesy suggested that council could ask for a staff report on best practices in other communities as part of its motion, the presentation was accepted only as information.

Public health seeking information on dog bite

Southwestern Public Health is seeking assistance in identifying a dog involved in a bite incident that occurred on Jan. 28 at Coronation Park in Tillsonburg.

An individual was bitten by an off-leash dog while walking near the bridge in Coronation Park. The dog appeared friendly at first, but then bit the individual in the face. It was not wearing a collar, and did not have an owner visibly nearby. The dog is

described as a medium-sized, short haired, brown dog.

Public health is seeking information about the dog to verify its rabies vaccine history.

If you have any information about this dog or its owner, please contact Southwestern Public Health at 1-800-922-0096 and ask to speak with a Public Health Inspector.

Two individuals arrested for shoplifting in the Town of Tillsonburg

Members of the Oxford detachment of the Ontario Provincial Police (OPP) have arrested two individuals after investigating a series of shoplifting incidents that occurred between Jan. 28 and Jan. 29 at a shopping centre on Broadway.

On Jan. 29 police located and charged two suspects for shoplifting from multiple businesses.

As a result of the investigation, James Porchak, a 45-year-old resident of Tillsonburg has been charged with the following

offences:

- Theft Under \$5000 (four counts)
- Fail to Comply with Probation Order (five counts)

Dustin Vanhaverbeke, a 35-year-old resident of Tillsonburg has also been charged with the following offences:

- Theft Under \$5000
- Fail to Comply with Probation Order (four counts)

The accused individuals are currently being held in custody awaiting a bail hearing.

THIS FRIDAY SATURDAY & SUNDAY

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This Week In the 50's



Welcome to *THIS WEEK IN THE 50's* Sponsored by Hilda's Yard opening Feb 19th – March 1st 7:30 at Theatre Tillsonburg. A Hilarious Norm Foster comedy set in the 50's. Come Dressed in your 50's clothing for a retro night out at the theatre. This week's flashback "Modern Conveniences of the 50's."

At the center of our play Hilda's Yard, Sam and Hilda are excited to buy a new modern convenience for themselves, a console TV. It made us wonder what other conveniences saw wide spread popularity.



DID YOU KNOW?

This era saw daily household tasks streamlined into simple yet efficient methods through the innovations of science. Take making a supper, with Swanson's new TV Dinners (1953) families could have an entire meal without the hours of cooking preparation. Even the original three sectioned packaging was meant to look like a TV to capitalize on its' popularity. All the feeling of a traditional meal in less than half the time.



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- This was the heat and serve and can opener cooking generation. Modern conveniences made meal prep a breeze.
- Breakfast preparation was made easier through a series of electric appliances, the toaster, can opener, coffee percolator, juicer, blender and frying pan. Quick prep for the morning on the go routines.
- Canned soups, boxed cake mixes, and instant gelatin (Jell-O) became ready made meals.
- Baking a cake alone bought back hours! A traditional scratch cake could take 1.5 – 3 hours but a Betty Crocker mix might take 45-mins!
- Electric Laundry Machines and Spin dryers became a standard, with about 90% of houses with electricity having these appliances by 1958. Their popularity and affordability also lead to a new business – the Laundromat became a staple in cities at this time.
- Another appliance the electric vacuum cleaner also took off with new upright models. At just under \$100.00, every household had a quick way to clean up.
- And what home would be complete without a refrigerator that had a built-in freezer - 98% of homes by 1952 putting ice harvesting and delivery out of business.
- Transistor radios took up less space than their tube counterparts and new window air conditioners brought new levels of comfort into homes.
- Post war North America saw a housing shortage so building booms created what we now know as the Suburbs. The concept of having a single family home with a yard was now part of city living.
- This kind of housing also meant commuting from the burbs into the city, so the car became a necessity in most homes and spawned its own culture – a topic for our next edition.



SPECIAL DONUTS FOR SPECIAL OLYMPICS (JEFF HELSDON PHOTO)

Local members of Tillsonburg Special Olympics Ontario and the OPP volunteered to decorate Special Olympics donuts at the Oxford Street Tim Hortons on Jan. 31. All proceeds from sales of the Special Olympics donuts between Jan. 30 and Feb. 1 at Tim Hortons nationwide were donated to Special Olympics Canada. Left to right are Constable Taylor Smith, Jamie Van Parys and William Ypma. Van Parys and Ypma will be participating in the Special Olympics Canada Summer Games in August in Medicine Hat, with Van Parys competing in bocce ball and Ypma in golf. This was the fifth year the Oxford Street Tim Hortons has had Special Olympics athletes in the store decorating donuts.

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The task of keeping snow in check is massive

JEFF HELSDON

Editor

The challenge of navigating the paths cut through snow banks downtown to access retail stores became much easier last week after town crews executed a snow lift.

Although the process sounds simple, removing the snow that accumulates from the onslaught of snow and cold weather from downtown sidewalks and curbs is actually a well-orchestrated procedure that takes all night.

The process starts by moving the snow from the sidewalks and curbs into the roadway. A Trackless sidewalk unit equipped with a plow, a road grader, and a front-end loader is used to move it onto the road.

“These pieces of equipment work together to pull snow away from buildings and sidewalks and place it into the street,” said Richard Sparham, the town’s manager of public works.

Explaining the process in more detail, he explained once the snow is on the roadway, a road grader is used to form it into nar-

row, continuous piles reminiscent of windrows formed when harvesting wheat in the old days. A high-capacity snowblower then collects the windrows and loads the snow directly into dump trucks. A front-end loader pitches in when needed.

With the process flowing smoothly, dump trucks – both town-owned and contractor trucks – are lined up like a well-executed military convoy, waiting to haul away the snow.

“At full operational capacity, our snow removal train can remove approximately 200 cubic yards of snow per hour,” Sparham said, adding that 200 cubic yards of snow per hour is equivalent to 20 to 25 dump truck loads. With the operation taking most of the night, it gives a concept of how much snow was actually removed.

The snow is then hauled to a storage site, piled in mounds, and left to melt in warmer weather.

Not only does the snow lift make parking easier, but it also improves safety and visibility for both pedestrians and vehicles in the downtown.



(JEFF HELSDON PHOTO)

A front-end loader fills a dump truck with snow in the middle of the night at the intersection of Harvey and Ridout Streets. Road crews started a snow lift on Jan. 26 at about 9 p.m. and worked through the night, finishing the next morning.

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Visiting the house where I grew up

WRITER'S CORNER

WAYNE HUTCHISON

Post Contributor

I grew up in Tillsonburg, living here from 1965 to 1990. I have many good memories from that time and will try to share some of those memories.

To start with I revisit the place we lived in for most of the 1970s, North Street East, on what was then the very edge of town. In fact, the middle of North Street was the town limits before the early 1970s.

In April of 2022, I was in town for a couple of weeks to visit my dad in the hospital and make sure his affairs were looked after. While working remotely from his house on Victoria Street, I took advantage of one particularly sunny afternoon to explore my hometown. I drove down North Street and was shocked to see our old house at 49 North Street East had been torn down and was in the process of being replaced by a modern commercial office building. Our house had still been there the summer before, and I had thought I should take dad to pay a visit to the old house and see if the current owners would let us look around a bit. Unfortunately, as often happens

with the best of intentions, I waited too long.

I turned off onto Huntley Ave, parked, and then walked to the new foot path that runs from North Street to the Trans Canada trail along the east side of our old property. My purpose was to see what had changed, and what was still the same. I recognized very little of what I saw.

Back then, our's was one of only three houses on the south side of the street between Broadway and Tillson Avenue. That was no longer the case – there were now dozens of new houses and condos, on what we knew as Randy Keba's tobacco farm and the Hosner place. And to the west, there are now the Tri-County Plaza and Canpipe buildings, in what was a large open grass field that was home to the CKOT radio towers back in the 1970s.

Our property was long and narrow, extending from North Street all the way back to the New York Central railway tracks. There was a small one-story grey brick house, built in 1962, set back from the road and offset towards the east side of the lot, and an older horse barn farther back behind that. In between the house and the barn was a concrete pad as wide as the house and extending all the way from the house to the barn – perfect for hundreds of hours of road hockey games!

I'm pretty sure the tree that housed our early tree fort was still there – it had a very familiar shape. But the house I grew up in, the horse barn that I climbed around in to feed

and clean up after the horses, and the concrete road hockey surface were all long gone. In their place were a two-story modern office building, a large metal-sided storage building, and a paved driveway and parking lot. Even the last two of the four spruce trees in front of the house, planted by my parents in 1972, had finally been cut down.

Fifty years ago, behind the barn, the entire property was fenced off for horses – with two-rail wooden fencing from the barn to the railway tracks, along the base of the tracks, and back up the west side of the property before connecting back to the barn. This was what we called the "big field." There was also a smaller horse corral fenced off right behind the barn where all the horses were put when let out of the barn. Right down the middle of the field was a dirt lane so you could walk or drive to the back of the property – where there was a small tree lot. We used to plant a large portion of the big field with various vegetables for our own use, and also to sell from a little table we'd set up out by the road.

Along the west side of the property there was a drainage "creek" that connected the pond north of what is now the Martin Street Park to the creek that eventually runs down behind Victoria Street to Participark. On the east side of the property there was a smaller underground culvert that also took drainage from North Street almost to the NY Central tracks before it emptied into a little creek that ran diagonally across the southeast corner

of our property and connected to the creek on the west side just before going under the train tracks. This little diagonal creek created a triangular-shaped "island" that became home, eventually, to our "fort", a common gathering place for neighbourhood kids in the summer time. We built a wooden bridge across the creek that got a lot of use over the years as many kids used our lane and bridge as a short cut to and from the new community centre.

The old wooden horse fence was gone, replaced by chain link and barbed wire. The creek on the west side appeared to be completely underground now, or maybe removed, and the little stream that created our island was no more, replaced by an open drainage ditch running the full length of the east side. The woodlot at the back was gone, and our big field was covered with gravel now. And even though the new foot path alongside our property was an improvement over our old dirt path, once you get to the Trans Canada Trail you can no longer continue on to the community centre – there is a tall chain link fence along the south side of the trail now, so cutting through to Erie Court is now a lot more difficult.

As I stood up on the Trans Canada Trail and looked north over our old property, I was saddened to realize that all my memories of that house and property were now only that – memories. I guess it's true that you can always go home but you can never go back...

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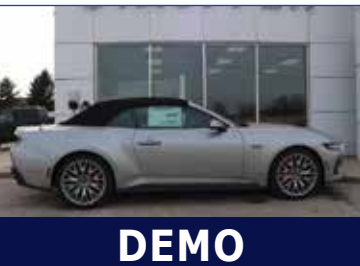
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New operations added to FarmFood360 collection

STAFF

Grant Haven Media

Instead of bringing people to the farm, a provincial organization is continuing its work to bring the farm to people.

Farm & Food Care Ontario (FFCO) recently announced the launch of three more additions to the FarmFood360 collection, which offers virtual reality tours of Canadian farm operations. The newest additions include a grain farm from Eden, an apple orchard from Bowmanville, and a field tomato operation in Chatham-Kent.

"We sincerely value the ongoing dedication of Farm & Food Care Ontario in promoting Ontario's agri-food sector, and we're proud of this partnership that highlights the important work of our members," said Peter Katona, communications manager for the Agricultural Adaptation Council, which offered partial funding for the three projects.

"These projects showcase the diversity and strength of Ontario's agriculture and agri-food industries while giving Canadians an engaging, behind-the-scenes look at how their food is grown and prepared with care."

The first of the new tours explores the VanQuaethem family's grain farm in Eden. Viewers can see the key stages of growing and harvesting, including soil preparation, planting, crop management and harvest. It highlights some of the modern equipment and technology used on 21st century grain operations. Family members – Brian, Kelly, Curtis, Sherry, and Joe – show viewers how they manage the land, weather, and pests and diseases. The Grain Farmers of Ontario helped produce the tour.

"We're proud to help shine a spotlight on the grain farmers who work tirelessly to produce one of the country's most versatile crops," said Jeff Harrison, GFO chair. "This tour provides an immersive experience that shows the care and complexity involved in growing grain corn, right from the field."

Stepping out of the combine and into the orchard, visitors can also take a tour of Bowmanville's Algoma Orchards, where they'll learn about the full growing cycle of apples, from spring blossoms to fall harvest.

It also covers key apple farming practices like pollination, pruning, picking and packing, as well as cider processing and the work that goes into controlled storage. The Ontario Apple Growers helped with this tour.



(FARMFOOD360 SCREENSHOT)

A video from FarmFood360 features Eden-area farm family, the VanQuaethems. Brian, Kelly, Curtis, Sherry, and Joe tell their story.

"Our growers put tremendous dedication into producing high-quality apples for Canadian families," said Chris Hedges, chair of OAG. "This virtual orchard tour offers a unique look at everything that goes into nurturing and harvesting a successful crop each year."

Finally, tomato lovers can learn about the hard work that goes into producing the classic kitchen staple, as the Pinsonneault family welcomes virtual visitors to their Chatham-Kent field tomato farm. This tour showcases the specialized equipment needed to plant and care for the crops, as well as how they're grown and harvested for processing. Viewers can learn about the unique weather, pest and disease challenges farmers like them face. The Ontario Processing Vegetable Growers and Conagra Brands helped with this tour.

"Field tomatoes play a vital role in Ontario's processing

sector, and this tour gives viewers an inside look at a crop that many rarely get to see up close," said Dave Hope, OPVG chair. "We're excited to help share the stories of the farmers who grow these tomatoes with such precision and pride."

The project also received support from the Sustainable Canadian Agricultural Partnership, a joint program led by the federal government with the help of provincial and territorial governments.

FarmFood360 offers several VR tours that can help Canadians learn more about the day-to-day work of farmers and the pride they have in their work. Since its inception in 2016, nearly 30 tours have been produced. The website attracts more than one million online visitors each year.

For more information or to take part in an online tour, visit FarmFood360.ca.

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Tillsonburg council briefs

Coldest Night of the Year

The public was encouraged to support the Coldest Night of the Year fundraiser during the open session portion of the Jan. 26 council meeting.

Coun. Kelly Spencer raised the topic, saying she intended on attending the Feb. 28 event at the Tillsonburg Community Centre. Money raised through the United Way-sponsored event is used for Tillsonburg Light-house to assist people to transition from being homeless. Participants, sponsors and financial contributors are all needed.

Mega snow

Councillors Pete Luciani and Chris Rosehart both complimented the town's roads crew members for keeping the snow in check in what has been a cold, snowy winter.

"We're dealing with an awful lot of snow," agreed Mayor Deb Gilvesy. "It's getting awful hard to find a place to put it."

She also asked the public to understand that crews must have a mandatory rest period and sometimes there will only be a skeleton crew during ongoing events. The mayor also pointed out it's difficult to keep the roads

clean when it's so cold and salt is less effective.

Emergency fire equipment replacement

The fire department used emergency provisions to approve the replacement of a breathing module used to refill firefighter's self-contained breathing apparatus.

Under the town's purchasing policy, emergency purchases are allowed for "immediate danger to health, safety, life or property, or requires the immediate procurement of goods or services". The failure of the existing unit constituted an emergency.

The replacement unit, which was a rebuilt unit, cost \$26,741.

Property tax arrears climbing

A trend of climbing property tax arrears seen in Tillsonburg over the past five years, continued in 2025.

A report to council at the Jan. 26 meeting showed \$1.9 million in tax arrears. This amount covered 623 properties, with a breakdown of 591 residential, 28 commercial and four industrial. In the report, Revenue Manager Ted Lyons explained that large industrial properties can push the total up, as was the case in 2025 with three industrial accounts accounting for \$300,000 in arrears.

"These properties have not historically been in arrears and staff are hopeful these accounts will be paid up to date in 2026, resulting in a large reduction in the overall arrears," he wrote in the report.

Tax arrears in 2020 were \$465,931, and have increased since then. Annual increases ranged from 14 to 48 per cent.

A comparison of tax arrears as a part of total taxes levied put Tillsonburg fourth of 19 Southwestern Ontario municipalities at 4.1 per cent. Tillsonburg was also less than the Southwestern Ontario average of 6.3 per cent. Many municipalities also saw their tax arrears climbing.

Council received the report for information.

Funding approved for below market rate rents

Tillsonburg council approved an agreement with Harvest Avenue Inc. for a funding agreement for 29 below-market-rate units in the 132-unit building at 14 Harvest Ave.

The agreement provides a property tax incentive and a 50 per cent reduction in the building permit fees up to a maximum of \$20,000. The agreement affords provisions for town staff to verify the number of below-market-rate rental units in the building.

Tillsonburg brings up multiple issues at conference

JEFF HELSDON

Editor

The Tillsonburg delegation brought up multiple issues at the recent Rural Ontario Municipal Association (ROMA) conference in Toronto.

A delegation of Mayor Deb Gilvesy, Deputy Mayor Dave Beres, Councillor Kelly Spencer and CAO Kyle Pratt attended the convention, meeting with ministers and attending presentations on municipal matters.

In an update at the Jan. 26 council meeting, Gilvesy said they met Hon. Rob Flack, the Minister of Municipal Affairs, to discuss the land use study in Oxford County. Tillsonburg raised a concern about the amount of commercial land initially identified in the study, and requested an increase.

A package was also dropped off with Ministry of Health staff in regard to the doctor shortage and the new clinic for unattached patients. A meeting wasn't requested because there wasn't enough data from the clinic at the time requests for meetings had to be made. Gilvesy said since the clinic opened in July, there have been 460 appointments, and 97 per cent of openings were filled. There are 14,000 residents in Oxford County who aren't attached to a primary care provider.

Speaking to Health Minister Sylvia Jones presentation, Gilvesy said, "She didn't want to see municipalities have recruitment packages available because then municipalities are competing against each other."

The minister also said Ontario is on track to connect all residents with a primary care provider by 2031, but Gilvesy said in the meantime there are still 14,000 Oxford residents without a doctor.

On homelessness, it was said there are 85,000 individuals in the province who are homeless, which is an 18 per cent increase over the prior year. However, rural

homelessness saw a 30 per cent increase.

"This is a problem that's not easily solved," Gilvesy said.

Beres, who is on the ROMA board, explained municipalities attend the convention to request funding. Most provincial ministers and the premier attend the annual gathering.

Spencer commented that she finds the seminars and workshops valuable.

"I learned some relevant information that I believe will benefit the town," she said.

Later in town council's meeting when accepting the

Long Point Region Conservation Authority's board minutes, Gilvesy added the proposed conservation authority amalgamation was a topic of discussion at ROMA.

"Every municipality is upset about the amalgamation of conservation authorities and that was a common theme," she said.

Beres, who is the town's representative on the authority board, said LPRCA staff and the board made a presentation to the minister on the topic.

"It's a voice that needed to be heard and was heard," he said.

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Curling club plans event for Team King

JEFF TRIBE

Post Correspondent

Jayden King has enjoyed receiving curling congratulations from his home club's membership along with friends and competitors he's met across the province and nation.

But the Farm & Food Care Ontario Men's Curling Championship winning rink's skip made sure to dedicate time for a personal thank-you to neighbours and super fans Les and Nora Peter, who first introduced him to the sport.

"It was a great moment to share with them," said King.

He hopes the long-time curlers can be in the crowd during Montana's Brier Feb. 27 to March 8 in St. John's Newfoundland, a competition which will arrive sooner than one might expect.

"It's been super exciting to get the planning underway," said King. "But it's been a lot."

Balancing high-level curling with school and work is an ongoing challenge for King, a physiotherapy student at the University of McMaster. Currently on placement at Gateway Neuro Physio, he is working primarily with those battling Parkinson's and other neurodegenerative diseases.

King will be representing the Tillsonburg Curling Club (TCC) at the Canadian championships, heading into the annual event with 'official' support from his home club and broader community. Team King Send Off is scheduled for Saturday, Febr. 21 at the club, an extended combination of celebration, social and fund-raiser. Curling Canada assists teams with expenses associated with attending the Brier, however not all are covered.

The day will open with a learn to curl crash course from 10 a.m. until noon, followed by social time leading into 1 p.m. ceremonies including player introductions, well-wishes from community members and officials, and presentations to the team. From 1:45 to 2:25, King and his rink will play a four-end exhibition



(CONTRIBUTED PHOTO)

Team King Send Off is scheduled for Saturday, Feb. 21 at the Tillsonburg Curling Club (TCC), a combined celebration/fundraiser for local Jayden King (arms folded on the table, left, following their Tankard win) and his rink. King will be representing the TCC in the Montana's Brier Feb. 27 to March 8 in St. John's Newfoundland. Team King Send Off features a 10 a.m. to 12 noon curling crash course, social time, official ceremonies beginning at 1 p.m. and a four-end 'friendly' between King's foursome and representatives from the TCC.

game against a foursome of TCC members, looking to use knowledge of their home ice to advantage.

"Each league is selecting a representative to play against our team," said King, looking forward to fun and friendly competition.

"It's going to be a real great day," he added. "Just a relaxed time before the real work begins at The Brier."

Donations will be accepted during Team King Send Off. In addition, 'My Back Still Aches' Tillsonburg Curling Club hoodies (https://tillsonburgcurlingclub.com/images/TCC_Hoodies.jpeg) and hats (https://tillsonburgcurlingclub.com/images/TCC_Hat.jpeg) will be on display and available for sale, \$12 of which from each purchase will be donated

in support of the team.

"Curling is a cold sport, so we've got hoodies," King explained.

Montana's national sponsorship of The Brier is also being linked into Team King Days at Montana's Woodstock. Support Team King cards will be available at the TCC the week of February 9. From Monday, Feb. 16 through Wednesday, Feb. 18, presenting Team King cards to one's wait staff member at the Woodstock location will result in 15 per cent of the meal's purchase price (excluding alcohol and taxes) donated back to Team King and a Montana's Curling Card, offering patrons discounts on their next visit.

In a sense, King admits he may not have fully absorbed the fact he'll be heading to The Brier, a goal most curlers

don't realize in a lifetime of curling.

"You can't just roll into The Tankard and win," he said, the 'surreal' 15 minutes following their victory and subsequent reflections on the hours and years of work it took to get there, all part of the experience. "It's really nice to see it come through."

There is a measure of pressure to represent the province well at The Brier King admitted, balanced by the 'really cool' support he has received from amongst the curling world, and importantly, his home club and community.

"It's awesome knowing everyone is behind you and cheering for you," he concluded. "You're going to go out and do your best, wherever the rocks stop, that's what's going to happen."



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Fody's, ReMax tied for first in Club Oxford A Division

JEFF GWYN

Post Contributor

A Division is seeing a tight race with Fody's and ReMax tied for first with 30 points each. The B Division race is a different story, with Source for Sports solidly in first with 39 points, well ahead of the three teams that are within a point of each other for second.

January 25

A Division

Apple Shack 7, Fody's 7

Apple Shack looked to be good in this one, but it was a shootout. They found their scoring, but couldn't stop Fody's either, and it was an exciting game until the end. Fody's looked in trouble early, but capitalized on some Apple Shack penalties to get back in this one. Their speed earned them a point tonight.

Travis Horvath had four points for Apple Shack. Shane Balcomb had three points for Fody's.

ReMax 2, Health Hut 1

ReMax found some alternate chances in this game. They picked their spots in this one, relying on a good defensive effort to keep the score in check. Health Hut didn't let ReMax get things going, and played well defensively. A tough night in the offensive zone, but they did have some chances.

Jordan Kobayashi had two points for ReMax. Ryan Dayman had a goal for Health Hut.

B Division

Glass 3, Source 2

Glass had a solid game, proving they are a tough team to beat. They had their top line going and buckled down defensively as well. Source had some chances, but couldn't cash in. Some quick shots by Glass caught them off guard in this one.

Mike Haegens had two goals for Glass. Ryan Kyle had a goal for Source.

Royal LePage 4, Airmount 0

Royal LePage keeps plugging along. They have found some scoring in the new year, and it's helping their playoff push.

An overall solid game. Airmount killed off a long 5-on-3, but couldn't get any momentum tonight. They seemed to have trouble just getting things to click tonight.

Chris Koteles had two points for Royal LePage. Ben Serrador had the shutout.

Carquest 4, RND 2

Carquest pushed through and held onto their lead in this one, a huge relief for them. They are needing the points as play-offs draw near. RND pushed hard in this one and didn't give up. They gave Carquest a scare late. They have just been on the wrong side of the close games lately.

Evan Prouse had three points for Carquest. Gaige Benish had two points for RND.

B-Line 2, Prouse Mortgages 1

B-Line kept their heads in the game and pressured all the way to the end. A big win in the final seconds against a tough team will help their confidence. Prouse Mortgages didn't have it tonight. They couldn't get their rebounds and just seemed to be missing things by a bit tonight.

Brandon Rosehart had a goal for B-Line. Jeff Prouse had the goal for Prouse Mortgages.

Source took advantage of their rush opportunities tonight with a lot of chances on them. They had some penalty trouble, but did well to kill them off all night. B-Line had sporadic chances, but couldn't get their sticks on the rebounds. A tough night against a speedy Source team.

Patrick Cottrell had a hat trick for Source. Kurtis Bull had the goal for B-Line.

RND 5, Airmount 2

RND found their scoring and kept pressure on all night. They kept their cool and kept out of the box for the most part tonight. Airmount had trouble getting into the offensive zone. While they did get chances, they didn't have much follow up on them.

Dawson Hussey had two points for RND. Steve DeBlair had a goal for Airmount.

Carquest 5, Glass 2

Carquest was able to answer back early to Glass' scoring. Their top line was in on every goal and they played hard to the buzzer. Glass started off strong, but a chaotic end to the first changed the momentum. A tough night after some good defensive games.

Brett Ferguson had four points for Carquest. Adam Matthews had a goal for Glass.



(JEFF HELSDON PHOTO)

A defender from Airmount attempts to clear the puck with an RND forward on his heels in a Club Oxford game on Jan. 28. RND won the game 5-2, which put the team ahead of Airmount in the B Division standings.

January 28

B Division

Source 4, B-Line 1

CLUB OXFORD A DIVISION	GP	W	L	T	PTS
FODY'S AUTOMOTIVE	23	14	7	2	30
REMAX REALTY	23	13	6	4	30
THE HEALTH HUT	23	6	12	5	17
THE APPLE SHACK	23	6	14	3	15

CLUB OXFORD B DIVISION	GP	W	L	T	PTS
SOURCE FOR SPORTS	24	19	4	1	37
39	23	10	6	7	27
CARQUEST AUTO PARTS	24	10	8	6	26
TILLSONBURG GLASS	24	9	7	8	26
ROYAL LEPAGE REALTY	23	10	8	5	22
B-LINE TRUCKING	24	7	13	4	18
RND CONSTRUCTION	24	5	14	5	15
AIRMOUNT FARMS	24	6	16	2	14

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MINOR SPORTS

SCRAPBOOK

(STUART BLOWER PHOTOS)



A barrage of Tillsonburg Tornados forwards advance the puck in a game against the Ingersoll Express.



Danicka Homick of the U-15 Tillsonburg Lightning sets up a goal in a game against the Wallaceburg Shamrocks.



Several players from both the red and blue teams vie for the puck in a recent U-4 hockey game.



A recent U-6 Timbits game saw Sully O'Farrell, and Brooks Lambert, centre, of the white team challenged by the purple team's Louis Vandepoele and Grant Martin.



Tillsonburg Twisters played Lyla Smith, left, and Sophie Myny, right, keep control of the ring from an Elora-Fergus Edge player in a U-14 ringette game.



Ryan Daradics (#11) is on hand to help clear the puck for goaltender Sullivan Leppard in U-16 Storm action recently against Mt. Brydges Cougars.

Tillsonburg Curling Club supporting national competitor



**ON
THE
BROOM**

NORA PETER

Tillsonburg Post Columnist

As I sit down to write this column, the 1-2 Qualifier games for the Scotties Tournament of Hearts are being shown on TSN. Lawes and Einarson, as Team Canada, were the winners. My picks to be in the championship game on Sunday is Lawes, and I think maybe Peterson will fight their way back into the finals. I'll note how my prediction turned out in the next write-up.

Today is significant because exactly four weeks from today marks the opening games of the Men's Brier in St. John's, Newfoundland. The exciting part of the Brier is that Team King playing under the Tillsonburg Curling Club banner will be Team Ontario's representative at this year's event! When you see an Ontario game on TSN you will hear Tillsonburg mentioned as their home club.

The club has adopted Team King and are sponsoring several fundraisers and a send-off event to give them lots of support for their trip to the Brier. A hat and hoodie

fundraiser has already ended but the club has partnered with Montana's (who sponsor the Brier) in Woodstock, to sponsor three days of "Support Team King" dates where 15 per cent of your meal (exclusive of alcohol and taxes) will be donated back to Team King. The dates are Monday Feb. 16, Tuesday Feb. 17, Wednesday Feb. 18 – you'll also need to pick up a Montana's Support Team King card to use for the rebate which are available through the club after Feb. 9. Make it a date!

On Saturday, Feb. 21, the public and club members are invited to attend a Team King Brier Send-off event which starts at 1 p.m. Team King will be introduced, skip Jayden King and several local community well-wishers will speak. People will be treated to a fun 4-end game (1:45 p.m.) against the team with a variety of club members representing the different club leagues testing their skills. On that day a donation box will be available if you are interested in making a personal donation of support. Fundraising is being done because while Curling Canada assists with some of the team costs, it does not pay all expenses the team will incur. The home clubs of the other team members, like Ilderton and Coldwater, are also fundraising to support the team.

Team King leaves for St. John's on Wednesday, Feb. 25 and play begins at the Brier on Friday Feb. 27. Teams play eight round robin games in their pool, which are completed by Thursday. TSN will carry the games, but Team Ontario will not

always be the featured game. Team King does not know yet which pool they will play in until other provinces complete their playdowns. At this time, he is ranked fifth and Jayden thinks they will be in the same pool as Jacobs and Gushue. Could make it very tough to make it past pool play.

Speaking of supporting people - the club did a great job supporting the Helping Hand Food Bank. Their annual food drive delivered 440 pounds of non-perishable food collected from members and \$1,400 donated by the Senior Men's League. The senior men have been making cash donations for the past six years and to date have given over \$11,500. Well done gentlemen!

Some key dates to remember: Saturday, Feb. 7 pick up your pasta dinners; Montana's Support Team King Feb. 16-18; Feb. 28 deadline for entry to Scotch Doubles Bonspiel – entries still available; buy your club progressive 50-50 tickets by March 23. Curling rocks!



(CONTRIBUTED PHOTO)

Henry Puhr, left, and Wade Jones Sr. recently dropped off the food donations collected by the Tillsonburg Curling Club.



(CONTRIBUTED PHOTO)

Tillsonburg Curling Club's senior men's curling league collected donations for the Tillsonburg Helping Hand Food Bank, and recently presented a cheque to Samantha Hamilton, left, food bank coordinator. Kari Silventoinen, centre, and Wade Jones Sr. made the presentation.

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The numbers in each row add up to the totals on the right.
The numbers in each column add up to the totals on the bottom.

6		19	27
	8	11	22
15	1		16
24	11	30	

0	1	51
11	8	3
61	2	9

Solution

Get Scrambled

Unscramble the words to determine the phrase.

R F E I H S E R O

Answer: Fire Horse

CANADA

MONTH



HISTORY

1866

The colonies of Vancouver Island and British Columbia are united and named the Colony of British Columbia.

NEW WORD

LANTERN

a lamp with a transparent case



ENJOYING WINTER

(JEFF HELSDON PHOTO)

Tillsonburg resident Dan Mahony is a local resident embracing the winter weather and the recreational opportunities it offers. An avid cross-country skier, he wasn't deterred by the snow depth and was out last week in the Westmount Park with his snowshoes breaking a trail in the snow so he could ski around the park.

Holiday FACT:

This holiday occurs each winter and is widely celebrated among Asian communities.

Answer: Chinese/Lunar New Year

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Anglers heading to Long Point Inner Bay's hard water fishery

JEFF TRIBE

Post Correspondent

Freeze it, and they will come.

"It's exciting," said Brad Woodward Jr. of Woodward's Ice Fishing (519-586-7510) out of St. Williams, taking a moment to chat during a busy afternoon. "Nice to see everyone get back down here, happy and chipper.

"And to see the fish come in."

Long Point's Inner Bay can be a four-season fishery - when Mother Nature cooperates. When it freezes, anglers do in fact come, in the main seeking perch fishing action backed up with a tasty feed. They're a mixture of do-it-yourselfers and those looking to access one of four area ice fishing outfitters.

"We've got lots of ice and it's just getting better," said Woodward on Jan. 29, his previous measurement revealing between eight and nine inches. "There's probably more than that now."

It must be emphasized, no one should head out on ice of any perceived thickness without caution and experience. Brad certainly qualifies given the Woodward family has been operating the business for eight years, he works at a marina during the summer and is also a commercial fisherman.

"Fishing here forever."

Woodward's began operation Jan. 27. Clients are loaded on a sleigh, shuttled to one of 26 ice huts, a fire lit for them, holes drilled and minnows supplied. The fishing day runs per client's individual choices between daylight and 4:30 p.m.

"The fishing is not too bad right now," said Woodward, noting a majority of perch being caught, with the odd pike. "Seems to be getting better every day, so that's a good thing."

Woodward, who enjoys his perch in a fish taco, says clients come for both fishing and the experience, family and friends spending time together.

"The views are pretty epic too."

It has been 'happy chaos' next door at Bayside Ice Fishing (519-586-2666) says Crystal Lambrecht, also operating out of St. Williams.

"My phone is going nuts," she reported of a busy start to their hard water season, which opened Jan. 26.

Lake Erie ice fishing is special says Lambrecht, in the sense that rather than working off electronics in deeper water, anglers can watch fish approach their bait in its comparatively shallow depths.

"You can see the action happening when it's happening."

Lambrecht prefers a breaded perch fillet, and while catching and eating is



(FILE PHOTO)

Tillsonburg Post Editor and award-winning outdoor writer Jeff Helsdon keeps a close eye on his perch jigging rod.



(FILE PHOTO)

Dan Yeoman shows off a classic Lake Erie 'jumbo' caught during the 2025 ice-fishing season. Anglers are back out on the ice this year in search of a shared experience capped by a tasty perch fry.

certainly part of the ice fishing experience, so too is the camaraderie inside a hut, as evidenced by the reaction of a couple of first-timers earlier that day.

"All of them said they're coming back, they really enjoyed it."

James Carroll of Jimmy Riggin' (519-586-7990) operates out of Old Cut, where ice was a little earlier and a little thicker, deeper yet as of Jan. 29.

"Right now, we've got 14 inches - a lot," he reported.

Carroll took his 20 huts out Jan. 22 and 23, opening for business on Saturday, Jan. 24.

"Tons of fish," reported Carroll, noting to date, there have been a number of smaller perch mixed in with the jumbos. He had also seen two pike, which is normal for this time of year.

"It's early, the pike don't usually start until a little later."

Given the amount and quality of 'good, black ice', Carroll is hoping for a lengthy season. It might be considered a mixed blessing given operators face both heavy physical labour when moving huts and also brutal winter weather - particularly this year - seven days a week, without letup.

"It can quit snowing," Carroll laughed. "It's going to be a long one," he added, enthusiastic despite inherent challenges. "I love it."

Collins Harbour Bait & Tackle (519-

586-2212) is not a traditional ice fishing operator, but its model of offering bait, tackle and an offshore shuttle has proven popular with clients calling from as far away as Windsor, Niagara and north of Guelph.

For a fixed access fee per adult (kids 12 and under are free), clients receive parking and access to regularly running shuttles from 6 a.m. to 5 p.m. They board the shuttle near shore and ride out to a flagged location roughly a kilometre offshore. When they wish to return, they return to the flag and await the shuttle's arrival.

"It's like a bus stop," said operator Marshall Collins.

There are two shuttles, one for carrying people, the other freight. He anticipated both would be operational around press time (Feb. 5) or into that weekend when ice in front of the 274 Front Road property (formerly, Shady Akers) firmed up a little more. As of Jan. 29 he was measuring between 8.5 and 10 inches.

"I like to see a solid ten inches," said Collins.

Interested persons are advised to call the office to check on operational status. In the interim, some patrons are parking, purchasing minnows and walking out on their own power.

"Keeps us busy during the winter," Collins concluded.

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Want to digitize your old home movies? The library can help



**OCL
BOOK
TALK**

MATTHEW GRIFFIS

Oxford County Library

Nothing lasts forever, not even your family's old home movies. That's why you should consider converting them to a newer format. And fortunately, the Tillsonburg library can help you with that.

But first, let's review which formats you likely have in your family's collection. The first common home movie format was 8mm film, which Kodak introduced in 1932. It became popular in the post-war era, particularly among the parents of baby boomers. My grandparents had the first home movie camera in our family, and it was an 8mm camera. My grandfather filmed his scout troop's parades, his children's birthdays, visits with relatives in Missouri, and life in 1950s Simcoe.

Then came Super 8mm film in the 1960s. "Super 8", which became the home standard by the 1970s, used smaller sprocket holes, which allowed for larger, more detailed frames. My parents bought their Super 8 camera not long after they married to capture their first home, the arrival of their children, and family life in the early 1980s. Only premium 8mm and Super 8 formats offered sound, however.

Then came video camcorders, which recorded to magnetic tape. Although now they seem as archaic as film cameras, in the 1980s camcorders were a marvel. Projectors and splice tape were things of the past, soundtracks were standard, and you didn't have to send cartridges far away for devel-

oping. The first home camcorders used VHS or Betamax tapes; later models recorded to smaller tapes (the Hi-8 type, for example). A little later, "Super VHS" offered even better quality. But after the first all-digital models emerged in the 1990s, analog home movie cameras slowly disappeared. By the 2010s, dedicated home movie cameras of any kind seemed quaint. Today, when parents want to capture their child's birthday or piano recital, they reach for the phone in their pocket.

The point: New technologies can make life easier, but they also bring obligations. One of them is to preserve information stored on older media so that newer generations can enjoy it. We transferred all my family's film reels to high-quality VHS in the 1990s and our VHS home movies to DVD in the 2010s. Now, using personal equipment, I'm converting those DVDs into high-quality digital files stored on an external hard drive. I also use inexpensive software to stabilize shaky shots and correct over- or under-exposed footage. It's impressive what the average person can do now, not just to preserve their family's home movies but correct the limitations of older formats.

The library's conversion station can get you started on your home movie conversion project. For now, it offers only a VHS machine for playback, but owners of smaller or Super VHS tapes may connect their original camcorders directly to the computer to convert those formats. We've considered adding a film convertor to the station, but at present those devices seem expensive for the quality they offer. Consider taking your standard and Super 8mm films to a professional conversion service. (And yes, they exist in our region.)

If you'd like an orientation to our video conversion station, or referrals to local professionals for converting older formats, contact me at the Tillsonburg library. I'm happy to help.

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

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Weekend Quiz

by Jake Grant

1. What is the birthstone for February?
2. What is commonly known as the "love hormone?"
3. The Patriots and the Seahawks last met at what Superbowl?
4. Who is Lady Whistledown in Bridgerton?
5. What is the meal called that Muslims eat to break their fast at sunset?
6. How many dots are on a six-sided die?
7. What kind of wool do dogs make?
8. What does CBC stand for?
9. A group of caterpillars is called what?
10. Finish the quote "Shall I compare thee to a ___?"

This week's answers are found on pg. 27

TOWNSHIP OF NORWICH NEWS



Norwich turns down Safe and Well Oxford over concerns of 'priority groups' description

LUKE EDWARDS

Post Contributor

Norwich is required to have a community safety and well-being plan, but it appears for the moment that plan will be different from its Oxford County neighbours.

Councillors voted against a staff recommendation to adopt the Safe and Well Plan developed by the county in consultation with local area municipalities, services groups and members of the public. It was unclear what would happen next, as CAO Matt Smith admitted before the vote he was unsure and would have to report back to council.

The plan is an update to an earlier plan that was endorsed in 2021 following provincial legislation that requires municipalities that provide police services

to have such a plan. Reviews are required every four years.

While councillors seemed supportive of the majority of the plan, Coun. Karl Toews raised one issue, which was shared by fellow councillors Shawn Gear and Adrian Couwenberg. His problem was with sections of the plan that referred to "priority groups" who face added barriers. The report describes priority groups as "Indigenous peoples, racialized populations, newcomers, 2SLGBTIA+ individuals, people with disabilities, older adults (i.e., people who are 65+), and youth."

"If certain groups are getting a priority status in our community safety and well-being plan, that means, in my mind, there's an inescapable conclusion that the health and safety and wellbeing of some Oxford residents is more important, is prioritized, over the health and safety and wellbeing of other Oxford residents," he said.

Oxford County Warden Marcus Ryan defended the plan, and said seven of eight other municipalities had approved the draft plan as is. While no plan is perfect, he said extensive work and consultation had gone into crafting this one.

"This has been a long process," he said.

Coun. Lynne DePlancke supported the plan and said it depends on how you interpret the word priority.

"To me priority means we need to deal with those people that need the help now," she said.

For his part, Toews did seem to acknowledge there were groups more at risk, and suggested changing the phrasing to "groups of particular concern." However, he also argued the focus should be on the problem, not the group the person belongs to.

Norwich CAO Matt Smith said no matter how it's worded, there are some populations who are more at risk.

"It's a proven fact there are some marginalized groups that are more at risk for some of those priority risk factors," he said. "Getting tied up in the language and trying to make it perfect won't serve us well."

The plan itself doesn't come with a ton of power, but is aimed at focusing both municipalities, the public and social groups to work together to address safety and well-being shortfalls. The Safe and Well Oxford Plan includes six areas of focus: mental health and well-being, housing for all, people and belonging, substance use and addiction, gender based violence, and affordability and economic stability.

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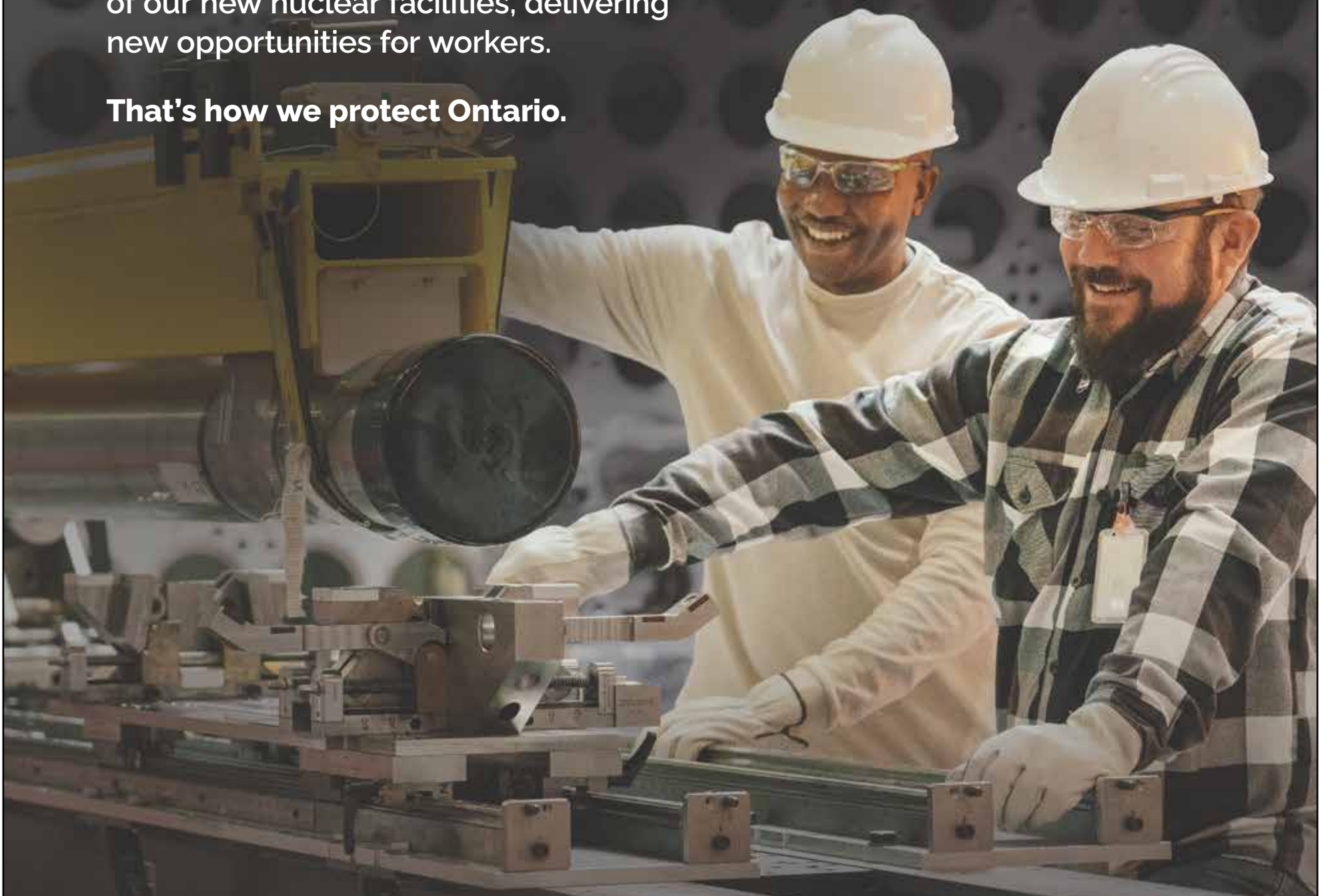
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In the midst of history



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

PAUL KNOWLES

Tillsonburg Post Columnist

One of the many things I love about travel is that sometimes, out of the blue, you find yourself in the middle of an historic moment.

Perhaps my oddest moment came in 2004, when I was staying at a National Trust moated manor house in England. The owners were passionate fans of fox hunting, which was about to become illegal in the United Kingdom. There was one hunt left – would I like to come along?

I did. I was cheering for the fox – especially when I learned that the hunters, mounted on horses and following hounds, were using cell phones to report the fox's location. That seemed rather unfair. The good news (for me and the fox, if not the hunters and hounds) – the fox escaped. And I added an odd but genuine historic experience to my travel writing resumé.

I've been in the U.K. for more significant events. Way back in 1995, we happened to be staying in the village of Stadhampton, just outside Oxford. We were there on May 8, the 50th anniversary

of VE Day – the end of World War II in Europe. We were invited by our B&B hosts to join a community event on the village common. I remember music, lamb stew, a world-class bonfire (a tribute repeated across the U.K.), and the apparently unscheduled appearance of a dark-suited man with a cigar, a doppelganger for Winston Churchill. It was a remarkable evening of nostalgic joy and sad reflection.

Two years later, I led a group of good friends on the “Grand Tour” of the U.K. We were there in the first week of September, 1997 – the week following the death of Princess Diana on August 31.

Throughout our two-plus weeks in the U.K., the tragedy was top of mind. We saw the forest of floral arrangements in front of Buckingham Palace. We purchased Elton John's “Candle in the Wind” CD in Harrod's. We adjusted our itinerary to account for the closure of everything on September 6, the day of her funeral.

And during our tour of Canterbury Cathedral, I noted that the personal speakers they then used for tours had a different program from my most recent visit. The tour was avoiding the beautiful Chapter House. But, “come with me,” I said, and led my friends to the Chapter House. The doors were open, and inside, there were tall candles burning and a number of “Books of Remembrance” open on tables, ready to be signed. And, in all sincerity, keenly aware of the mourning of a nation, we each sat and signed the books that were eventually to be given to Diana's family.

These kinds of moments, when as



(PAUL KNOWLES PHOTO)

Stadhampton celebrated the 50th anniversary of VE Day with a huge bonfire in the village square.

a traveller I was dropped straight into history, have happened in other parts of the world, as well. A few years ago, I had the amazing fortune to be part of a small group of travel journalists invited to witness – and dive – at the installation of a huge number of statues at Grenada's Underwater Sculpture Garden. Joining us was the sculptor, Jason de Caires Taylor, an artist who is making vital and dramatic artistic statements about our environment, all over the world.

There have been other such moments such as a free, pop-up concert by Jimmy Buffett in Key West; or the celebration of the Hungry Ghost Festival in Hong Kong. But what actually sparked today's feature were two events in the

United States, a country I currently am not visiting, although I deeply regret the need for such a decision. And these two moments, to which I was a silent witness, capture for me the entire recent history of our neighbour to the south.

The first happened on January 20, 2009. I was with a buddy in a waterfront bar on the Intracoastal Waterway in Pompano Beach. We couldn't help but notice that all service had completely ceased. Everyone – bartenders, wait staff, cooks, hostesses – had abandoned their posts, and were glued to the TVs mounted behind the bar.

Because this was a moment no one had dared to hope for – the inauguration of Barack Obama, the first Black President of the United States. There were cheers, and tears, and no one minded that it took an extra hour to get a drink or dinner. It was a time of enormous hope.

In contrast, I was back in the state of Florida, this time in my beloved Key West, on the morning of November 9, 2016. I came down to breakfast at the B&B, to find the gay couple who owned the place sitting in shock, while their Latino cook sobbed in the kitchen. The reality was sinking in – Donald Trump had won the election and all three of these folks were terrified that their lives had changed, for the worse, and forever.

So today, as I have considered the question, “Should I travel to, and write about, the United States?,” those two moments are front and centre in my thoughts. And for now, I stand with my Key West friends, against what is happening in the U.S. – while hoping that the spirit of 2009 may again become the dominant reality, and soon.

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 Chapter House in Canterbury Cathedral where, in 1997, the author and friends signed books of condolence following the death of Princess Diana.



Canterbury Cathedral.

(PAUL KNOWLES PHOTO)



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RIDDLES

I'm your home and the third from the Sun. I've got water and life—aren't I the fun one? What am I?

Earth

I'm the planet with the most bling, I've got rings you can't help noticing! What am I?

Saturn

I'm red all over, with dust in the air. Some people think I might have had water to share. What am I?

Mars

I'm closest to the Sun, but I don't get much attention. I'm small and speedy—just thought I'd mention! What am I?

Mercury

I've got rings around me, but I'm not Saturn. I'm tilted sideways, so my days take an odd pattern. What am I?

Uranus

I'm a gas giant and the biggest by far. With a Great Red Spot, I'm the king of the stars! What am I?

Jupiter

I'm the hottest planet, though I'm not closest to the Sun. What am I?

Venus

I have storms that rage for hundreds of years. My winds are the fastest—no competition here! What am I?

Neptune

SUDOKU

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

Level: Beginner

Solutions on Page 23

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Sat: 9 a.m. - 6 p.m.**

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

WORD SEARCH JANUARY NEWS HIGHLIGHTS

R I R A N U P R I S I N G R O Z I B F I
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 C A N A D A C H I N A D E A L O F P S J

- STRANGER THINGS
- VENEZUELA
- MADURO CAPTURED
- ICE IN MINNESOTA
- RENEE GOOD
- IRAN UPRISING
- GREENLAND
- SPAIN TRAIN CRASH
- CANADA CHINA DEAL
- CARNEY WEF SPEECH
- US LEAVES WHO
- ALEX PRETTI
- SNOWSTORMS
- SEATTLE SEAHAWKS
- NEW ENGLAND PATRIOTS

COMING EVENTS

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63 KING STREET, DELHI, ON | (519) 582-1100

FEBRUARY 17 | 5 - 6:30 PM
St. Paul's United Church, 88 Bidwell St., Tillsonburg
INVITES YOU - YOUR FAMILY, FRIENDS AND NEIGHBOURS TO OUR ANNUAL PANCAKE SUPPER ON SHROVE TUESDAY
 Adults - \$12, Children under 10 - free. Cash payable at the door. LOOK FORWARD TO SEEING YOU THERE.

FEBRUARY

FEBRUARY 6 | 1 - 4 PM
KEN LIGHTHEART AND THE NORTHSORE RAMBLERS DANCE AT THE TILLSONBURG LEGION
 \$7 cash at the door. Cash Bar open. All Welcome!

FEBRUARY 7 | 10 AM - 12 PM
"A TICKET A BASKET" MESSY CHURCH
St. Paul's United Church, 88 Bidwell St. Tillsonburg
 Join us for crafts, music, snacks, crafts and a hot meal! Children must be accompanied by an adult.

FEBRUARY 8 | 9 AM - 1 PM
SWEETHEART VALENTINE'S BRUNCH AT THE TILLSONBURG LEGION
 All welcome to enjoy pancakes, sausage, bacon, eggs, toast, home fries, fruit cups, tea, coffee, and juice for only \$15 per adult and \$8 per child 10 years and under. Cash at the door. All Welcome!

FEBRUARY 9 | 7:30 PM
DELHI & DISTRICT HORTICULTURAL SOCIETY: PICK YOUR OWN FRESH FRUITS & VEGETABLES WHEN IN SEASON
Delhi Senior Friendship Centre, 418 Queen St., Delhi, ON
 Guest Speaker - Andrew Sloat from Andrew's Greenhouse, Waterford, ON. Should prove very interesting. All welcome to join us.
 Enter at rear parking lot off William St.

FEBRUARY 25 | 1:30 - 3 PM
FREE SENIOR DIGITAL LITERACY CLASSES
Tillsonburg & District Multi-Service Centre, 96 Tillson Ave, Tillsonburg, ON
 Encompassing Cybersecurity, Facebook, Zoom, Google Maps, YouTube, and Microsoft Suite.

FLAG RAISINGS FOR BLACK HISTORY MONTH 2026
 Join us this February to celebrate Black History Month in Oxford County. Commemorate the history of our Black communities and learn how diverse the

community has grown. Pan-African Flag raisings and receptions including local historical displays by the Oxford County Archives and various museums and spoken word presentation by Duane Kumala-Thomas will be held in the following communities throughout the month:

FEBRUARY 17 | 10 AM
NORWICH
Norwich Community Centre - 53 Stover Street South
 Reception to follow inside the Community Centre's Auditorium.

FEBRUARY 24 | 10 AM
TILLSONBURG
South Broadway Parkette at Oxford St.
 Reception to follow at Tillsonburg Public Library (2 Library Lane).

Everyone is welcome. For more information visit instagram: @oxfordroots or http://reveleddotme.wixstudio.com/oxfordroots

FEBRUARY 21 | 2 PM
A VELOCIPÈDE - A WHAT??
The Edison, Vienna & Area Museum, 6209 Plank Rd. Vienna
 Join Mr. David Harding as he takes us on a journey from Eden to Port Burwell on an unusual, antiquated piece of railroad equipment. Railroads covered great distances & in the time before motorized vehicles, walking the line for maintenance was a long walk! For further information email: bayhamhistoricalsociety@hotmail.com

MARCH

MARCH 21 | 9:30 AM - 4 PM
OXFORD PHILATELIC SOCIETY OXPEX & OTEX 2026 STAMP SHOW
St. Mary's Catholic High School, 431 Juliana Drive, Woodstock, ON
 Free admission and parking. Framed and Judged exhibits, Stamp dealers, youth gift bags, Sales Circuit, draw prizes. Contact: dhfe@silomail.com. Web: http://www.rpsc.org/chapters/oxford

ONGOING CLASSES, CLUBS & ORGANIZATIONS

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

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

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

TILLSONBURG

WHEN: 2nd Tuesday of every month
WHERE: VON Oxford Office 24 Brock St. W., Tillsonburg
TIME: 6:30 p.m. - 8 p.m.

INGERSOLL

WHEN: 4th Tuesday of every month
WHERE: Ingersoll Public Library 130 Oxford St., Ingersoll
TIME: 10:30 a.m. - 12 Noon

WOODSTOCK

WHEN: 3rd Saturday of every month
WHERE: Sakura House Hospice 715180 Oxford Rd.4, Woodstock
TIME: 10:30 a.m. - 12 Noon

TILLSONBURG SENIOR CENTRE WEEKLY PROGRAMS FOR 50+

Scrabble Tues mornings, Drum Fit Wed afternoons, BINGO Fri afternoons, Karaoke second Fri afternoon of month, and many more! Over 35 programs a week! Call 688-2520 for details.

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OBITUARY

PAUL JOSEPH LAPLANTE NOVEMBER 8, 1952 - JANUARY 27, 2026



Welcomed Home into eternal life with His Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ... Paul passed away peacefully, with loving family by his side, on Tuesday, January 27, 2026, at the St. Thomas Elgin General Hospital, Paul Joseph Laplante, a lifelong resident of Tillsonburg, at the age of 73. Son of the late Alphonse and Anna Laplante. Paul will be remembered as a good,

down-to-earth Christian who was kind, helpful and faithful. He had a warm smile that was welcoming. Loving father of Shawn, Angela and the late Brad Laplante (December 4, 2024). Proud and loving "Bigger Bum" or Pauly Wally of: Marissa, Hunter, Cori Sue, Jessica, Brandon and Jordan. Loving great-grandfather of: Mia and Athena and Mavis and Oliver. Predeceased by two brothers: Roger (2014) and Joe (2016) and two sisters: Elaine (1945) and Diane Kisilak (2020) and her husband Ludwig (1998). Paul is survived by Ron (Janice) of London; Charmaine Dykstra (Shelte) of Innerkip; Richard (Josephine) of Tillsonburg, and two sisters-in-law: Vivian of Woodstock and Marlene of London, as well as by nieces, nephews, cousins and many friends.

Friends, neighbours and relatives are invited to attend Memorial Gathering on Saturday, February 7th, 2026, between 1:00 and 2:30 p.m. in the Maurice J. Verhoeve Funeral Homes Chapel, 262 Broadway, Tillsonburg. A Memorial Service will take place at 2:30 p.m., by Pastor Dave Heinrichs, of First Baptist Church. A reception will follow. Friends and relatives are invited to share personal condolences, favourite memories and photos, order flowers or contribute memorial donations to "Salvation Army" (Tillsonburg) via Paul's online tribute page at www.verhoevefuneralhomes.com, by contacting the Maurice J. Verhoeve Funeral Homes- Burial and Cremation Services Inc. (519)842-4238.

PAINTING



Chris Imhoff
Owner
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ContemporaryPaintingandDesign.com
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TREES

Hundreds of shade trees, fruit trees, apples, pears, peaches, plums, sweet and sour cherries, apricots, nectarines, blueberries, haskapp grapes, raspberries, elderberries etc. Lots of spruce, pine, cedars for windbreak and privacy hedges. Sizes 1-8 ft. in containers ready to go. Flowering shrubs and much more. Mon-Sat 7:00am to 6:00pm. Martin's Nursery, 42661 Orangehill Rd Wroxeter, ON N0G 2X0 (1 Conc. North of Wroxeter on Belmore Line)

QUIZ ANSWERS

1. Amethyst
2. Oxytocin
3. Superbowl XLIX
4. Penelope Featherington
5. Iftar
6. 21 dots
7. Chiengora
8. The Canadian Broadcasting Corporation
9. An Army
10. Summer's day?

SUDOKU

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

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

Maurice J. Verhoeve Funeral Homes - Burial and Cremation Services Inc.

262 Broadway, Tillsonburg & 40 Queen Street, Langton

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Have you considered how you want to be remembered? Will your funeral or memorial be a profession of your faith, or will it be focused on your legacy? Will your family and friends celebrate your life openly or will an additional celebration be held later for members of the public to attend? What is your preference- burial or cremation? Even if you don't have a preference, can you honestly say that if you were to pass away today, your loved ones would feel reassured by your advanced planning? OR would they feel overwhelmed with decision making, second guess themselves and stumble through the estate settling process?

Did you know? When funeral expenses are pre-paid, prices for all prepaid goods and services are locked in. "Your personal life insurance is separate from having your funeral prepaid, it does not guarantee the cost against price increases." There is no cost to transfer.

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Margaret Verhoeve
Secretary



Krystyna Verhoeve
Funeral Director



Hector Verhoeve
(1938 -2015)

The Verhoeve family has been serving the Langton and Tillsonburg communities since 1958, we are 100% family owned and operated with the goal of putting your family first.

