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MAY 15, 2025

VOLUME 1 • ISSUE 17

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Hospital announces opening of 12-bed Transitional Care Unit

JEFF HELSDON

Local Journalism Initiative Reporter

A new 12-bed Transitional Care Unit has opened at Tillsonburg District Memorial Hospital (TDMH).

The Ministry of Health provided \$1.6 million in funding to allow the unit to open on April 1 and will fund it through the end of March 31, 2026. The Transitional Care Unit (TCU) is intended to transition patients to long-term care, retirement homes or safely return home with the support of community services. In the short time it's been open the unit has achieved success in that goal.

"The TCU is important as it provides high-quality, individualized care for patients while they are awaiting their next care setting," said Nadia Facca, president and CEO of TDMH and Ingersoll Alexandra Hospital. "It is restorative care, focusing on physiotherapy and recreational therapy. Since opening, the unit has already achieved early success, with patients transitioning to LTC, retirement homes or safely returning home with the support of community services. We are also noticing better patient flow throughout the hospital from the emergency department to the inpatient units."

A dedicated space has been set aside for the TCU in the second-floor North Wing. Staffing includes a multidisciplinary team with nurses, personal support workers, a recreational therapist, occupational therapist (OT), physiotherapist assistant (PTA), and physiotherapist. This wing was formerly used as surge space for acute medicine beds for patients with lower acuity when needed.

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WARM WEATHER IS CRUISING TIME

(JEFF HELSDON PHOTO)

Spring means it's time for the classic cars to come out of storage for car shows. The Tillsonburg Cruisers started their regular Tuesday cruise nights in the lot between the Simcoe Street Wendy's/Tim Horton's and Erie & Creek Tackle. Cars ranging from a 1926 Ford Model T to a 2024 Corvette were on display. Fundraising at the event has aided Sakura House in Woodstock, the Hospice of Elgin and the local hospital. The events will continue on Tuesdays until fall.

More details released about temporary health clinic

JEFF HELSDON

Editor

More details were released about the temporary Tillsonburg Unattached Care Clinic for residents without a family doctor or nurse practitioner.

The Oxford Ontario Health Team (Oxford OHT) announced the location of the new, temporary clinic last week. This clinic is only for people who are not attached to a primary care provider, and is not a walk-in clinic.

"We are very excited to announce that the Tillsonburg

Unattached Care Clinic will be co-located in Roulston's Pharmacy – Tillsonburg at 671 Broadway St, Unit 112, and will begin offering appointments in the coming months", said Stephanie Nevins, Executive Director for the Ingersoll Nurse Practitioner- Led Clinic.

The clinic will have a nurse practitioner, a registered practical nurse and support staff. This initiative is aimed at improving access to primary care for unattached patients in the community. The clinic will provide episodic care, chronic condition support and preventative health services. Prescriptions can be renewed, but with the pro-

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More details released about temporary health clinic

CONTINUED FROM FRONT

visos of no narcotics and the patient not going elsewhere for renewals. It will operate by appointment only and is not a walk-in or urgent care clinic. Information on how to book appointments and official clinic hours will be shared in the coming months.

The Town of Tillsonburg approved funding for the clinic earlier this year. It came to fruition with the support of Oxford OHT members, including the Ingersoll Nurse Practitioner-Led Clinic, Roulston's Pharmacy – Tillsonburg, Tillsonburg District Memorial Hospital, and the Thames Valley Family Health Team.

Tillsonburg Mayor Deb Gilvesy called the clinic a welcomed addition to the town.

"Town council recognized the need to fund this clinic with a growing population, retiring physicians and increasing demand for timely and local healthcare," she said. "A lot of ground work was done through the Health Care Committee with recommendations coming forth to council. I would like to take this opportunity to extend a sincere thank you to the Oxford Ontario Health Team for being the lead on this project to bring it to fruition."

"I'm pleased to see the Oxford Health Team stepping up to open a clinic in Tillsonburg to help address the urgent need for primary care," said Oxford MPP Ernie Hardeman. "This is an important step in the right direction—but there's still more work to do. Every resident in Tillsonburg deserves reliable access to a family doctor or primary care provider, and I remain committed to working toward that goal."

Clinic details

The clinic will operate in the back of Roulston's, which has two examination rooms and a reception area. The nurse practitioner and RPN have already been hired and are training at the Ingersoll clinic.

There will be no rostering of patients with the temporary clinic. The Ministry of Health will refer to the Health Care Connect list of residents who are seeking a family doctor.

"One of the ministry's goals is everyone who is in on the list will be accepted as patients," she said.

Nevins emphasized this is not the permanent nurse practitioner-led clinic that is being worked on for Tillsonburg. Patients will be rostered with that clinic.

"In the meantime, we hope to hear from the Ministry of Health, Dr. Philpott and the Primary Care Action Team to open a nurse-practitioner-led clinic," she said.

Nevins explained there has been one announcement of communities that are eligible to apply for funding by postal codes. They are waiting for Oxford's postal codes to be announced before applying for funding.

One of the factors that will be looked at is the size of the Health Care Connect list. There are only 1,800 from Oxford on it now, Nevins said, but pointed out the real number is closer to 9,000. She encouraged residents without a doctor or nurse practitioner to get on the list.

There is no opening date set for the clinic yet, but it is expected to be this summer.



(JEFF HELSDON PHOTO)

David Lopes, partner with Roulston's Pharmacy – Tillsonburg, and Stephanie Nevins, Executive Director for the Ingersoll Nurse Practitioner-Led Clinic, stand in the area of the Broadway location where the new temporary clinic will be located.

Hospital announces opening of 12-bed Transitional Care Unit

CONTINUED FROM FRONT

The MOH supports staffing and program resources required to deliver this level of transitional care and is a significant step in addressing hospital capacity challenges and improving patient flow across the region. The TDMH Foundation generously gave over \$107,000 to support equipment needs for this new

unit.

The opening of the unit helps relieve a capacity problem in the hospital. It operates 50 inpatient beds: 34 acute care medical surgical beds, 10 Complex Continued Care (CCC) beds, and six Level Two Advanced Intensive Coronary Care beds (ICCU). To meet the community's

growing healthcare needs, TDMH routinely operated over capacity, with an average of 12 additional unfunded acute beds open daily for the past several years.

"The addition of 12 new transitional beds at Tillsonburg Hospital is a vital step toward ensuring that patients receive the right care in the right place,

while also easing pressure on our hospital system," said Oxford MPP Ernie Hardeman. "This investment reflects our government's commitment to strengthening healthcare access in our rural communities and supporting patients as they transition back home or into long-term care."

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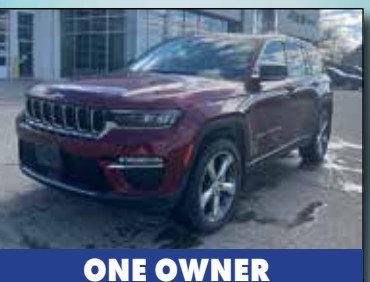
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Tillsonburg council briefs

JEFF HELSDON

Local Journalism Initiative Reporter

Fourth quarter variance is positive

Tillsonburg ended the fourth quarter of 2024 with a \$2.26-million positive variance from its budget.

Treasurer Renato Pullia presented the fourth-quarter report at the April 28 meeting. Portions of the surplus were allocated to certain reserves, but how to use the remainder will be discussed at a future council meeting. Of the total, about half was a labour

surplus from gaps in filling positions. That portion was allocated to the employment reserve.

Record year for building permits

Tillsonburg had a record year for building permits for \$147 million worth of construction.

The majority of this was driven by industrial, commercial and institutional construction. Development Commissioner Cephas Panschow noted this was the first time residential was less than half of the value of the permits. Usually, it's 90 per cent of the value.

Concession Street fix?

Mayor Deb Gilvesy questioned when a fix for Concession Street East, between Broadway and Lisgar Ave., was coming during a presentation on year-end reports.

She asked if this was in the 10-year forecast.

Carlos Reyes, Director of Operations and Development, said fixing the road was discussed in a meeting earlier in the day. His hope was it would go to tender in the next couple of months.

"It might be deemed one of the worst roads in Canada," Gilvesy said.

Pedestrian crossover at Annandale School

A compromise was reached on a planned pedestrian crossover in front of Annandale School.

Although Tillson Ave is a county road, Tillsonburg council weighed in on the topic recently, raising concerns about parking for the business across from the high school and traffic issues.

Carlos Reyes, Director of Operations and Development, reported county staff had proposed moving the crosswalk a few meters south, which the business owner approved of.

Coun. Chris Parker asked if there were any sightline issues for the house on the corner when backing out of their driveway.

"It looks like they will be backing out to the stop line for the crosswalk," he said.

Reyes said the county had taken this into account.

Pickleball changes

A deal was made with the Tillsonburg Pickleball Club for exclusive access to the courts during certain times, but it comes with a fee.

Julie Dawley, Recreation Program and Services Manager, said if the club wants exclusive use they need to pay, which is the same as for other user groups with exclusive access.

Coun. Kelly Spencer asked if other groups would be able to reserve the courts for a fee.

Dawley said this is not being talked about at this time, but many other communities are moving to that model.

"There's lot of avenues for people to play at the drop of a dime, but if we start booking it up, we might run into some issues," she said. "I can see that down the road that may be the way we go, which is something other communities are experiencing too."

The agreement approved was to give the club dedicated use on Monday, Wednesday and Fridays from 8 a.m. to noon, and Tuesday and Thursday evenings from 6 p.m. to 8 p.m. for a rental fee of \$4 per court per hour.

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Asparagus season off and running at Koteles Farms Ltd

JEFF TRIBE

Post Correspondent

Joe Koteles and Richie Johnson zoomed up on a side-by-side, Koteles' phone taking over where the machine's silenced motor left off.

In quick succession, he fielded calls from a 905 area code asking when an asparagus order would be ready, his wholesaler updating the status of shipments to Ft. Lauderdale, Calgary and Montreal, and a \$10,000 quote for the immediate replacement of a refrigerator system's faulty component.

"It's busy I'll tell you," said Koteles during a brief lull. "Busy, busy, busy."

He's been involved in asparagus farming since 1984, an initial 40 acres tripling over time. Koteles began cutting May 2nd this spring at the current 164700 New Road location north-east of Tillsonburg near Five Points. He looks forward to a roughly two-and-a-half-month season into mid-July, depending on the strength of the crop.



(JEFF TRIBE PHOTO)

Ilona Csikos' cheerful smile is a fixture along with fresh asparagus at the Koteles Farms Ltd. market. It's open daily, Monday through Saturday from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m., Sundays from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m.

CONTINUED TO PAGE 5

Tillsonburg POST

Guiding Principles

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6. Newspapers strengthen communities
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8. Newspapers should be locally-owned and operated

Positive news is good news in health care

ER wait times, surgical delays, not having a family doctor – the negative news surrounding health care abounds.

Anyone struggling with a medical issue and not getting the attention they need from a health care professional has a valid concern. After all, getting health care when needed can literally be a life and death matter.

In Tillsonburg, two of these matters – ER wait times and not enough family doctors – are intertwined. People without a family doctor go to ER, and ER wait times go up for things that are not emergencies.

Two announcements this week will help alleviate these situations. The establishment of a temporary nurse practitioner clinic for patients without a primary care provider will help people in that situation. Although the clinic is temporary and there is only one nurse practitioner, it's a step in the right di-

rection. The announcement of one year of funding for a transitional care unit at the hospital will help people waiting to make the transition to a long-term care facility. There have been times bed shortages at the hospital have also been responsible for longer ER wait times.

While neither announcement is permanent, credit should be given where it's due. Tillsonburg council approving funding for the temporary nurse practitioner clinic was a catalyst in moving it along to the point it will open this summer.

To a person in a health care crisis and experiencing the shortfalls of the system, changes can't come quick enough. Unfortunately, the problem was a long-time coming, and the solution isn't one that will appear overnight. For now, last week's announcements were a start and hopefully there are more to come.



(ALIYAH HELSDON PHOTO)

Besides being Ontario's official flower, the white trillium is a sign of spring and a new season returning across the land.

From humble beginnings to a lifetime of compassionate service



**EVERYONE
HAS A
STORY
TO TELL**

ROBIN KRAFFT

Tillsonburg Post Columnist

Born in Belgium, Dr. Vince Vanhooydonk lived on a small dairy farm as the Second World War began. He had seven siblings, and together with their parents, they spent the better part of four years in a fruit cellar that was dug into the ground and served as a bomb shelter.

"We were very lucky," he said, "many had no food, the Germans took everything. People came from Antwerp pretending to be family because they needed food, and we had beets and grain. They sewed pockets in their overcoats in order to smuggle the food and would walk 20 km home."

After the war, his family bought a larger farm but an extremely hot summer in 1947 destroyed everything and his brothers took on general labour jobs in order to support the family. In 1957, young Vince arrived in Canada by boat, with his brother and parents, landing in Halifax.

The family worked on a big dairy farm in Harrow, Ontario. They lived in a small house with no indoor plumbing and used rainwater for washing dishes. He and his brother looked after the large vegetable garden. In Bradford, they worked on 200 acres of rich land, looking after all of the vegetables from seeding to weeding to harvest. The rows were a mile long, and he remembers the intense heat and sunburns. Eventually, his mother and sister insisted that he attend the one-room schoolhouse, so that he could listen to English.

From the moment he decided to become a doctor, he worked every summer and every opportunity he could to save money for school. He worked at a bowling alley as a pinsetter, he repaired railroad tracks, he was an usher at the Canadian ballet, he worked at a steel company, he installed lightning rods and worked as a lab assistant as well as priming tobacco when it was still done with horses. He worked his way through high school as the driver of the bus and picked kids up throughout Bradford and drove them all to school.

He completed his BA in 1967 and his Masters in physiology in 1969, to be followed by four years of medical school. During his medical rotation at Victoria Hospital, he met a patient from Delhi. With his parents now living in Simcoe, he knew the area. The patient mentioned that Dr. Lee and Dr. O'Sullivan, in Tillsonburg, were looking for a partner.

By this time, Dr. Vanhooydonk was married and had two children. Learning that there was only one anesthesiologist in town, he opted to stay in London and took

a six-month course on anesthesia and found it fascinating. He bought a house in Tillsonburg and set up a family practice, but was on call as an anesthesiologist 24/7. When Dr. Dalby retired in 2000, he was the only anesthesiologist left and it was necessary to give up his family practice.

When he had time off, he would travel to Ingersoll to learn more from Dr. Russell, who had started a pain clinic there.

"He had served in a mash unit during the Korean War. He was my mentor," Dr. Vanhooydonk said. "He would teach me how to do injections for chronic pain patients, but he was also a very kind and interesting person."

When he sought to establish a pain clinic in Tillsonburg, Dr Dalby was instrumental in getting approval and the clinic opened in 2000, where Dr. Vanhooydonk treated patients until 2024. He was also chief of anesthesia for 39 years.

"It was a high stress position," he said. "You had to be very aware of proper concentrations, dosages, and to be prepared for anything, always aware of what everyone is doing as well as what was on the monitors."

"I have the highest possible gratitude and praise for the nurses and the surgical and medical staff," he continued. "People put in so much time and I had good mentors especially in anesthesia. I was truly blessed because doing that work, being a doctor, you can't do it alone. It's the entire hospital system that you need in order to do your job, from x-ray to kitchen to maintenance to cleaners; I always appreciated what they did."

Asparagus season off and running at Koteles Farms Ltd

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 4

"So far, the yield is excellent, pushing every day even with cold weather," Koteles said. "And the asparagus seems to be moving well at this time... the next few weeks will tell the tale."

Koteles Farms Ltd. employs around 90, a half-dozen Canadian residents, the balance offshore workers who are crucial to area farming operations.

"If we didn't have them, we'd be out of business," said Koteles.

The farm's asparagus is shipped around Ontario, south of the border to the United States, west, and east into Quebec. A busy on-farm market also offers fresh product daily, 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. Monday through Saturday and 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. Sundays.

Joe's daughter grills asparagus on the bar-

becue, bakes it in the oven and incorporates it into stir-fries. On-farm workers enjoy asparagus stewed, boiled and in soups added Johnson.

"It's nice in a wrap."

"I've even seen people put asparagus on a hot dog," Koteles added with a smile.

Break time over, he checked in with Milena Karaszi inside the farm office, returning

to the fray. There is no 'zero to 60' when dealing with 124 acres of asparagus, rather an abrupt transition from long months of preparation to frantic action.

"Bam-boom, starts out at a hundred," Koteles laughed in conclusion. "Asparagus doesn't slow down for you."

"When you see the little heads coming out, you'd better be ready."

This year is a big one for anniversaries in Tillsonburg



**THE
STAGE
IS THE
WORLD**

LAUREL A. BEECHEY

Tillsonburg Post Columnist

Tillsonburg has anniversaries popping up all over this year!

It seemed every time I turned around, I heard of another one. This list might surprise a few people, as I thought of a few old buildings and/or groups and went on online to find the information. Perhaps you should check your group/buildings dates, you might be quite surprised! Business, groups, buildings, parks, bridges even special times in your own lives, should be remembered, but to honour the past, the event, the people or a person, because they, we, and you, are all part of Tillsonburg's history and made or will make a difference in people's lives.

This a short list for 2025, with many local anniversaries: Otter Valley Playhouse 1989-35 years; library current building 1975-50 years; Tillsonburg Legion current building 1970-55 years;

Community Living Tillsonburg 1955-70 years; Tillsonburg Rotary Club 1950-75 years; Tillsonburg Hospital 1925-100 years; St. John's Anglican Church current building 1900-125 years; Avondale Church building 1885-140 years; Tillsonburg became a police village 1865-160 years; founding of Tillsonburg by George Tillson 1825-200 years.

Canadian Anniversaries this year include: invasion of Quebec by U.S.A. 1775-250 years; Inuit receive right to vote federally 1950-75 years; Beaver becomes national symbol 1975-50 years.

There are also significant worldwide anniversaries in 2025: V.E. Day WW2 in Europe, May 8th, 1945-80 years; V.J. Day WW2 in Pacific Aug 15th, 1945-80 years.

Congratulations and thanks to all those celebrating this year these anniversaries have touched our lives.

Tillsonburg's greatest historic anniversary has to be the 200th! If George had not founded the town, none of us would be here! How many small hamlets, villages and towns were started in the early 1800s in Upper Canada, and just faded away? What made Dereham Forge/Tillsonburg different? This is the year to discover Tillsonburg's past. Leave some time for next week's four days of history, starting May 22nd! Everything noted is at Annandale National Historic Site. If you have questions, please call 519-842-2294 or email kwatkin@tillsonburg.ca

One reason Tillsonburg survived was the easy access to the town due to George Tillson's passion for roads, and building good roads. May's "Lunch & Learn" is "All Roads Lead to Tillsonburg" presented by Joan Weston. You pick Thursday, May 22nd or Friday, May 23rd with lunch at 12 p.m. and presentation until 2 p.m. Cost is \$37.00 (taxes included). Call quickly to ensure your seat and ask about the menu if you have food concerns you can usually get a substitute.

Sunday, May 25th from 1-4 p.m., we have a book launch Meet and Greet, with Tillsonburg's own Jason Pankratz, EdD, and his latest book, "Tillsonburg at 200: 200 Questions and Answers About Our Town". Cost is by donation. Written to celebrate both the release of Tillsonburg at 200 and the 200th anniversary of Tillsonburg's founding. This will be an author meet-and-greet, where you can get your official copy signed! At 2 p.m., Jason will give a short talk about how the book came to be. This event is part of the Town of Tillsonburg's ongoing 200th Anniversary of Dereham Forge celebrations. "Tillsonburg at 200" is now available for purchase at Annandale NHS for \$20 (cash only). This is a fun book, with lots of facts, about all kinds of topics, about our town, past and present. There are questions, and the best part, is there are answers too!!

Jason noted: "The book does not require absolute dedication to read - the

chapters are based on research and some are interactive. Readers will connect with the content as the information prompts their experiences, knowledge, and stories."

I say, "This is a super way to enjoy our town"

I shall cheat and tell you one of the answers: Bill's Pizza!

Monday, May 26th at 7 p.m. you can find out about Tillsonburg's oil boom at the AGM of the Tillsonburg and District Historical Society. Patty Phelps, Curator Emerita, will present, "Tillsonburg's Oil - Boom or Bust: The Story of Tillsonburg's Oil Drilling History".

TURTLEFEST! will start at the museum Friday, June 13th 6:30 p.m. by donation. Rock painting, Las Mexicanas Food and SUPPA Swirls Ice Cream Trucks will have food and treat. Bring lawn chairs, blankets for Teenage Mutant Ninja Turtles II at dusk!

On Saturday June 14th, from 10 a.m.-3 p.m., by donation at the museum, the new exhibit, "Tillsonburg 1825: Honouring early years of Dereham Forge" will launch This is part of the 200th anniversary and how the town grew. Also "turtlely" family fun with tours and 'Turtle Find'. On the front lawn will be wonderful, free, games, crafts, Lego Co., plus live turtles, snakes etc. from Scales Nature Park, Tillsonburg's Slider the Skunk and wildlife information from Skunk Haven.

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New book highlights little-known facts about Tillsonburg

JEFF HELSDON

Editor

Did you know Tillsonburg had a brewery many years ago? Or what is unique about the bricks manufactured in the Tillsonburg Brick Yard?

The answers to these trivia tidbits, and 198 more, are part of Jason Pankratz's recently released book *Tillsonburg at 200: 200 Questions and Answers About Our Town*. The author will be the guest speaker at a Tillsonburg 200th anniversary event on May 25 from 1 to 4 p.m. at Annandale House, when the book will be officially launched.

Pankratz grew up in Tillsonburg and still lives in the area. He taught at Annandale and Glendale before starting in his current role in career development for Conestoga College. While earning his doctorate, he worked at Annandale House for three years during the summer, adding to a fascination with Tillsonburg history.

"I wrote a book a few years ago on a Second World War aircrew and knew my next book had to be about Tillsonburg," he said. "With the 200th anniversary coming up, I thought it was a good opportunity to match that to the anniversary."

That initial book, "Six Graves in the Village", was the story of a crew of Canadian airmen that were shot down over Holland in 1943. It was written at the urging of Frank Moore of the Tillsonburg Military History Club.

Pankratz laid the book out in a unique format. The book has 200 questions and answers about the town. It's laid out

in 10 chapters with 20 questions from each. These include chapters on George Tillson, E.D. Tillson, recreation spaces, Tillsonburg artifacts, and two chapters that Pankratz called "scavenger hunts". He said these will highlight historical architecture and items that people go by every day.

"There's a little bit for everyone in it," he said. "That's what I like about this format – it's not a chronological book. There are people who like facts, and that's what people will love about this book."

Another unique feature of the book will be photo questions that could be categorized as "Where am I?"

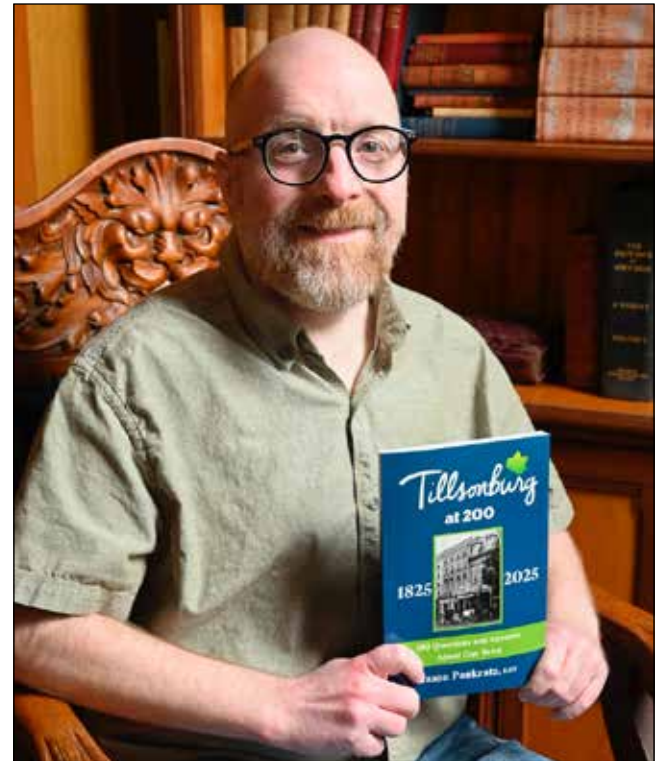
Pankratz relied on history books from Ellen Eff, John Armstrong, John Cooper and Matthew Scholtz, as well as information from Laurel Beechey, for his book.

"Tillsonburg has a niche market and people are interested in its history," he said. "Everyone has a memory of where they grew up in Tillsonburg. It's going to bring back a lot of memories and get people telling their own stories."

The book is for sale now at Annandale House and available online through volumesdirect.com

Pankratz is also available to speak about his book at local functions. He can be reached at drjpankrat@outlook.com for more information.

As to the initial questions, Tillsonburg historians may know the answers – or maybe not. But a few other sample questions were where did George Tillson live before he founded Tillsonburg, what was the original name of the town, and what were the original town boundaries? To find the answers, you will have to purchase the book.



(JEFF HELSDON PHOTO)

Oxford MP Khanna addressed his supporters with his wife at his Sim at his side after Monday night's convincing win.

Canadian Index of Wellbeing Survey opens to Oxford County residents

EMILY STEWART

Post Contributor

Oxford County residents can address their concerns affecting their mental health and wellbeing in a survey from now until mid-June.

An Oxford County press release from May 1 announced that the Canadian Index of Wellbeing (CIW) Survey, sponsored by the county and Safe and Well Oxford, is open to residents of Oxford County who are 16 years old and older until June 15. Oxford County will be participating in the survey for the second time since 2016.

"The survey will help us to gather information, specifically, so we can ensure that our Safe and Well Oxford Plan, our community safety and wellbeing plan, reflects actual lived perspectives of residents," said Warden Marcus Ryan. "What are the things that make them feel well or not well living in Oxford County?"

Nationally, pressing issues have hit communities such as the COVID-19 Pandemic restrictions, inflation, isolation, the cost of living, and now international relations such as tariffs in the past five years. Ryan said the uncertainty of tariffs and other international relations and their impacts are difficult to forecast.

"We can't predict these things, so all the more reason to talk to residents and say specifically, I know you're anxious about a lot of stuff, but specifically, what are those things and then we can say what are the things that Oxford County can do to address these things."

He said any concerns the county's municipal politicians and staff cannot address on their own can then be brought to the attention of other stakeholders.

"I'm sure we will hear in the survey about access to doctors and things like that. Oxford County does not employ doctors or operate clinics, but it means we can talk to our MPPs or MPs," Ryan explained. "We can talk to Ministry of Health and say here's the things our residents are struggling with and it's really hard for us to address say, homelessness, mental health, and addictions if there aren't enough doctors locally for those people to get those help to help them if we're only doing the housing part and we're not doing the healthcare part."

The warden is encouraging all eligible residents to participate in the survey and then get their family, friends, and neighbours to do the same.

"It's not a quick survey, but this is not a simple issue. You know how well do you feel is not a simple question to ask and answer. We put a lot of work into this with the Canadian Index of Wellbeing to try and come up with questions that we think are relevant to Oxford residents and I would really encourage every resident 16 or older to complete the survey and tell us how they feel about these issues," he said. "If we're better informed, we'll at least have the ability to make better decisions to help the residents, but we need them to tell us how they're really doing."

The CIW is at the University of Waterloo and is a national, non-partisan independent group. Its survey collects data on community vitality, work-life balance, living standards, health, education, environmental sustainability, democratic participation and participation in cultural and leisure activities.

Safe and Well Oxford prioritizes addressing substance misuse, affordable housing, mental health, diversity, equity, and inclusion, and gender-based violence across eight of Oxford County's municipalities.

Participants will be entered in a draw for a one in 10 chance to win a \$100 gift card from a local business. To fill out the survey online, visit www.speakup.oxfordcounty.ca/wellbeing-survey. Paper surveys can be requested by calling 1-800-755-0394.



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Port Burwell Writer's Festival on Victoria Day weekend

JEFF HELSDON

Local Journalism Initiative Reporter

There are many Tillsonburg connections to the inaugural Port Burwell Writers' Festival planned for the Victoria Day weekend.

Kim Epple, who lived in Tillsonburg for many years and graduated from Glendale High School, is the event organizer. She attended public school in Port Burwell until she was eight, when her family moved to Tillsonburg. After graduating from Mohawk College's nursing course, she was a nurse in many northern communities in Nunavut, Alberta, Manitoba, and Ontario. The latter included a stint in Pickle Lake, where she ran into former Tillsonburg and Port Burwell resident Bev Hickey.

Epple wrote the book "Go North" about her experiences in the north. She now lives in St. Catharines, and writes for the local paper Merriton Matters, is a member of the Niagara-on-the-Lake Writer's Circle and has been published in the Canadian Nurse.

The writer's festival concept came about when Epple visited Port Burwell for a school reunion and stayed at the bed and

breakfast owned by former Tillsonburg resident Jim Hevenor. The two were talking, Epple mentioned she wrote as a hobby, and Hevenor said several writers lived in Port Burwell. She suggested the concept of a writer's festival, which he agreed was a great idea.

"We have a boatload of writers who have come from the area and people are not aware of that," she said.

The theme of the festival is Port Burwell. Epple has lined up 18 writers for the event.

"I focused on finding writers who have a connection to Port Burwell and the area," she said. "All the writers who are participating have a connection to Port Burwell. I have had to say no to dozens of writers."

Featured writer Kelly Young has written two mystery series and two thrillers. She was born in Tillsonburg and lived in Pt. Burwell before earning a BA in English Literature and retiring to Chatham-Kent.

"I wasn't initially certain that I qualified as a 'local' author," Young admitted recently, "but organizer Kim Epple assured me that authors who either currently live or previously lived

in the area were welcome."

Tillsonburg councillor, business owner, and author Kelly Spencer will attend. She wrote her second book, "Destiny, Life and Self-Leadership," at the former Catholic retreat outside of Pt. Burwell after meeting the owner of the property at the time, Lesa Kirk, and saying she was looking for a place to write.

Another Tillsonburg native, David Stover, is now the owner of book publisher Rock's Mills Press and will give a presentation on Saturday at 12:30 p.m. about writing memoirs.

Doug Lester, who taught in Tillsonburg for many years and recently published the book "With a Little Bit of Luc" about growing up outside town, will be another of the authors at the event.

Of course, Port Burwell's most famous author is Fred Bodsworth, who the Port Burwell library is named after. Author of the "Last of the Curlews", this book was adapted into a television movie and won an Emmy Award.

Linda Emerson, who is from Port Burwell and now lives in Nashville, will sell her CDs at the festival. She works at Ryman Auditorium, the original



Kim Epple.

location of the Grand Ole Opry.

Local authors will be at the book sale at the Parish Hall on Saturday from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. and at the exhibit at the Port Burwell Marine Museum and Lighthouse from 10 a.m. to 5:30 p.m. on Saturday and

Sunday.

Guided walking tours will start at the museum on Saturday through Monday.

Many community events, held in conjunction with and outside of the writer's festival, will continue throughout the weekend. These include a barbecue at the Legion on Friday night, an 189th-anniversary service at Trinity Anglican Church on Sunday at 11 a.m., firefighters pancake breakfast from 8 to noon on Sunday, and tours of the HMCS Ojibwa.

A special showing of

Netting the Waters, a movie by Simcoe resident Darryl Granger about the commercial fishing industry, will take place at Periscope Playhouse on Saturday at 7 p.m. Granger will be on hand for the event.

A complete schedule is available on Facebook under Port Burwell Writers' Festival.

Epple hopes to make the festival an annual event.

"For our first year, I think it's a good start," she said. "From here we can see what people are interested in and continue to grow from here."

(CONTRIBUTED PHOTO)

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Council to look at former Peavey building for town hall

JEFF HELSDON

Local Journalism Initiative Reporter

A new option has been thrown into the mix of potential sites for Tillsonburg's new town hall.

Deputy Mayor Dave Beres presented a motion at the April 28 meeting to explore the feasibility of the former Peavey Mart site at 121 Concession St. E. as a potential site for a new town hall. This is in addition to investigating sites at the existing customer service centre at 10 Lisgar Ave. and a site on the corner of Brock and Harvey Streets. The motion, which Coun. Chris Rosehart seconded, also approved up to \$30,000 in funding to look at an environmental site assessment, building condition and a preliminary floor plan.

Speaking to the motion and a guideline from a prior committee looking at the town hall, which recommended that it be in the downtown, Beres said, "This isn't in the downtown, but it is within one kilometre of it."

Coun. Kelly Spencer asked about the status of a report municipal staff was working on about the other two sites. CAO Kyle Pratt said staff received preliminary drawings a few days earlier and will have a report in the second meeting in May.

Development director Cephas Panschow said he is familiar with the site from being a Peavey customer. He said while it's attractive at face value, being roughly the right size and

having a good-sized lot, it is outside downtown. His quick math was that with the \$3.8 million price on the building and renovations at \$486 per square foot, which was the price of renovations of the customer service centre and may be high, and repaving the parking lot, the cost could hit \$16 million.

"I'm not sure this is the optimal solution, not withstanding the price, but of course we'll find that out if we explore that further," he said. "The question is does it make sense for council to direct us to so considering we have other direction from council on the books."

Coun. Pete Luciani asked if all the money needed to be spent at once if it was found early on that it wasn't acceptable. Panschow said the investigation doesn't need to be completed all at once.

Coun. Bob Parsons said he supports investigating the property, but not spending the money until a review is completed by senior staff.

"I won't support it as written but as a two-step process," he said. "Before we spend the \$30,000 to have the experts review this site, we have talent in our staff. We need to see is the space suitable, what are the pros and cons of this building, and then putting it in the mix."

Beres agreed somewhat with Parsons' point, saying the spending is "up to".

When a vote was called on the resolution, it passed with Parsons and Spencer voting against it.



BIKE RODEO STRESSES SAFETY, FUN

(JEFF HELSDON PHOTOS)

The annual bike rodeo, presented by the Town of Tillsonburg, in partnership with the OPP and Canadian Tire, stressed bike safety, safety equipment and riding skills. (Bottom photo) Mark Salt, recreation program supervisor, and OPP Auxiliary Constable Ian D'Entremont taught participants about bike hand signals. Other stations included bike and helmet fitting, weaving and maneuvering, changing directions and driveway safety. (Top photo) Audrey Wilson was having fun on the pre-school course at the rodeo.

100 YEARS OF CARING FOR YOU!

The Orthopaedic Surgery program at Tillsonburg District Memorial Hospital (TDMH) began in 2021 with a vision to bring more specialized surgical services to our community. What started as a once-monthly fracture clinic for ambulatory patients has since evolved into a comprehensive and high-demand program. With significant support from the hospital leadership and the community—through advocacy, fundraising, and collaboration—TDMH was able to invest in the resources and infrastructure needed to build a sustainable orthopaedic presence in a rural setting. This early community support and a strong partnership with London Health Sciences Center (LHSC) Orthopaedics, laid the foundation for what has now become an essential part of our hospital's clinical and surgical services.

Since those early days, the program has grown significantly. We are now managing around 130 clinical patient encounters per week through our fracture and elective consultation clinics. A highlight of our program has been the complete implementation of same-day discharge surgical procedures - including total joint replacements— a design

that has significantly improved the patient experience and hospital efficiency. With streamlined perioperative care pathways, a strong emphasis on regional anaesthesia for post-operative pain control, and a fantastic perioperative surgical team, we've seen excellent outcomes and high patient satisfaction.

The ability to provide both elective and urgent on call orthopaedic services close to home has been transformative for Tillsonburg and the surrounding communities. Patients are able to be assessed and treated locally, without the burden of travel to larger centers. Going forward, we remain committed to growing the surgical program and continuing to deliver safe, efficient, and local patient-centered orthopaedic care for years to come.

TDMH is excited to celebrate all our successes within the community and looks forward to another 100 years of caring for you! If you're feeling the spirit of generosity, you can reach out to the TDMH Foundation to donate.

Remember, you can share your memories of the last 100 years – TDMH100years@tdmh.on.ca #TDMH100years #TDMHvolunteers100years



How are you doing, really?

How would you rate your overall sense of wellbeing?



Oxford County and Safe and Well Oxford are sponsoring the Canadian Index of Wellbeing survey to support the highest possible quality of life for Oxford County residents.

The survey is open to every Oxford County resident aged 16 years or older. By taking part voluntarily, you'll have a chance to win one of 10 \$100 gift certificates for a local business. The survey closes **June 15, 2025**.

To complete the survey online, scan the QR code above or visit www.oxfordcounty.ca/wellbeing-survey

To request a paper copy, call 1-800-755-0394.



Town undertaking a large valve replacement job

JEFF HELSDON

Editor

A drain critical to lowering the water level in Lake Lisgar is being replaced.

Workers with Watech Services Inc. have been working on repairing the low-flow valve, which is on top of the cement weir west of the gazebo. The valve is essentially a drain to draw down the lake levels. Council approved \$120,000 for the repair last month.

"The crank you see on the top of that has been seized since 1969, they're rebuilding that," explained Leo Ferreira, Manager of Engineering for the Town of Tillsonburg.

Watech has been on site for about three weeks, and was expected to be done its work late last week. A temporary dam was put in place around the area so water doesn't continue to enter the area and allow workers access to the structure. Part of the job is being completed by divers, who are working at the bottom of the drain, six feet down.

Ferreira said the mechanism on the top of the weir will be replaced, and the valve at the bottom will also be replaced if it can't be repaired.

When the drain is functioning, it allows lowering the lake by six feet so it can be cleaned out. There is a problem with increased siltation in the north end of the lake, and the plan is to draw down the water to allow better access for siltation removal. Ferreira said the earliest dredging of the silt will take place is next year.

Below the valve that is being worked on, the water flows into the gulley on the other side of the road. The function

of the jammed valve has nothing to do with flood control or high-water overflows. The separate outflow under the gazebo is responsible for high-water outflow.

Tillsonburg resident and historian Joan Weston has lived beside the lake most of her life. She recalls the last time the lake was emptied was in 1968 as part of a project to rejuvenate the lake and remove coarse fish. She recalls the dead, decaying fish that resulted.

"The stench was horrible. We couldn't open our windows," she said.

The valve was also opened another time in the 1960s when a kid opened it illegally. Weston remembers waking up in the morning and the lake was two feet lower. A padlock was put on the valve after that.

She has been pushing for action on the valve and silt removal.

"If they don't do it next year, we will lose the north end of the lake," she said of the urgency of the silt control. "It used to be eight feet (deep), now it's about six inches."

Weston understands a mud pump will have to be used to remove the silt.

She maintains the other reason the valve needs to be repaired is for flood control. She pointed to six days of torrential rain in 1937 when Lake Lisgar and Lake Joseph both washed out. It's her understanding that despite both the overflow and the low-flow valve being open, as well as sandbags being put in next to the road, the road still washed out.

Lake Joseph, which was in the Big Otter Creek gulley upstream from Simcoe Street, wasn't rebuilt. Lake Lisgar, which supplied the town's water for fire protection, had to be rebuilt.



(JEFF HELSDON PHOTO)

Workers with Watech Services have been busy at Lake Lisgar repairing the low-flow water valve that can be used to drain the lake. It's expected the work should be done this week, or shortly after.

Job fair doesn't see spike in attendance

JEFF HELSDON

Editor

There were no huge jumps in the number of people attending the Job Fair + on May 1, which is likely a sign there haven't been any spikes in unemployment.

The event was organized by the Tillsonburg Multi-Ser-

vice Centre, in conjunction with several partners, and featured more than 20 employers who were hiring.

More than half way through the 1 to 5 p.m. event, there had been 171 people register, which is down about 15 from the last time the event was held.

Gail Lonsberry, employment services manager, said there haven't been a lot of people laid off from CAMI

seeking assistance looking for jobs. She hasn't heard of any large local layoffs, either

With about 20 to 30 job seekers in the room, held in the Lion's Auditorium, MSC job developer Susan DeRoo, said, "It's been this speed all day, which is good. There's been some good connections made."

There was even one company doing job interviews on the spot.

"Those are things we like to see," DeRoo commented.

She pointed out all the companies in attendance were hiring. These ranged from Ontario Truck Driving School, and CarePartners to Courtland Landscape and Grounds, Future Transfer Co., and Thames Valley District School Board and Tillsonburg District Memorial Hospital.

DeRoo said there are also some smaller restaurants hiring, but they often don't attend the job fair because the owners can't get away.



(JEFF HELSDON PHOTO)

The Tillsonburg Multi-Service Centre Job Fair + saw a steady pace of attendees, allowing for good conversations between employers and potential employees.

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Turtlefest announces music line up

Turtlefest is turning up the volume this year, with live music on the main stage all day.

There is something for all music tastes. Each performer brings a unique sound to the stage, offering something for everyone.

Enjoy the smooth jazz and pop covers of the Grace San Andres Quartet, the soulful modern R&B of Conor Gains, and the local talent of the Tillsonburg Trio (Chase Beres, Elle DeClark, and Sam Lafleur). The committee is also featuring Adrian Sutherland, a Juno-nominated roots/rock artist, and

North of 60, bringing the best of country music.

The headliner is Juno nominee Texas King, with special guest Gavin McLeod—brought to you by TD Bank Group and Execulink Telecom.

Hailing from London, ON, Texas King is a rock band known for their high-energy performances and must-see live shows. They've lit up major festivals including Boots and Hearts, Revelree, and more.

We are thrilled to bring these amazing artists to Turtlefest - the music scene this year is not one you want to miss!



GRAND OPENING

(JEFF HELSDON PHOTO)

The grand opening of Roulston's Pharmacy in Tillsonburg was held with a ribbon cutting on May 8. Taking part were, left to right: Karen Martin, partner; Traecy McIntyre, pharmacy technician; Steve Feldman, partner; Kristin McDowell, front store manager; David Lopes, partner; Mayor Deb Gilvesy; Mark Stephens, partner; Blair Snow, partner; and Ashley Edwards, CEO of Tillsonburg District Chamber of Commerce.



HARVARD FLY DAYS TAKE OFF

(JEFF HELSDON PHOTO)

The Canadian Harvard Aircraft Association held its first open house and fly day of the year on May 10. These will continue once per month on Saturdays from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m., with the next one on June 14. Flights are available for a fee at the events as well as historical displays. The association is holding its 40th anniversary celebrations on July 5.

Province announces funds to support gender-based violence in Oxford

The Ontario government is taking action to prevent and address gender-based violence and support survivors in Oxford by investing \$459,830 over three years in Oxford County Community Health Centre to expand its Oxford Sexual Assault Services that supports victims of sexual assault.

"This is good news for Oxford and some of our most vulnerable residents," said Ernie Hardeman, MPP for Oxford. "Ensuring funding for programs that support survivors of sexual assault helps provide safety, healing, and a path forward for those who need it."

This investment is part of Ontario's

actions to better respond to violence, build safer and healthier communities, and support women's well-being and economic opportunities through Ontario's action plan to end gender-based violence.

"Our government is continuing to take action to end gender-based violence in all its forms," said Michael Parsa, Minister of Children, Community and Social Services. "I'm proud that Ontario is funding new and innovative projects across the province. Together with community partners, we are supporting local solutions and building safer and healthier communities for generations to come."

Ontario investing \$798,838 in transit in Oxford

The Ontario government is investing \$798, 838 to support public transit in Ingersoll, Tillsonburg and Woodstock through the 2024-25 Gas Tax program. This funding can be used to expand service hours, increase routes, purchase new vehicles and improve accessibility to increase transit ridership.

"This funding is great news for people in Oxford," said Ernie Hardeman, MPP for Oxford. "Under the leadership of Premier Ford, we are investing in local transit to give people in and around Ingersoll, Tillsonburg and Woodstock more ways to connect with work, school and the people and places that matter most to them."

The Ontario government is investing over \$380 million in 106 municipalities across Ontario to improve local transit through the Gas Tax program.

The breakdown of funding for Oxford municipalities is as follows:

- Town of Ingersoll - \$55,595
- Town of Tillsonburg - \$133,589
- City of Woodstock - \$609,654

For 2024-25, municipal Gas Tax allocations have been maintained at 2023-24 levels. In addition to the Gas Tax program, the government supports municipal transportation projects through the Connecting Links program and the Ontario Transit Investment Fund.

Taste of Summer event on May 31

JEFF HELSDON

Editor

It's time for local residents to prepare their taste buds, bouncing shoes, shopping boots, and fun sensors while getting the groove on for Taste of Summer.

The annual Tillsonburg District Memorial Hospital Foundation fundraiser, planned for May 31, 12 p.m. to 8 p.m., in Memorial Park, offers something for everyone. This includes nine food trucks, vendor villages, a beer tent with local musicians, and family entertainment. Admission is by donation.

The family entertainment includes a dog trick show, petting zoo, Little Ray's Nature Ninja, Captain Corbin the musician, a train ride around the park and inflatable slides.

The entertainment line-up is being handled by Shawn Winters. He lined up Elle DeClark, Fred Hodgson, Carter Nev-

ill, Sydney Barnaby, Chase Beres, Josh Doyle and Broadtree.

Taste of Summer attracted more than 2,000 people last year. Gerry Dearing, executive director of the Tillsonburg District Hospital Foundation, said the majority of people who attend are families with children. He added adults enjoy being in the beer tent, music and vendor village.

The food line-up will include burgers to briskets, tacos to jerked chicken, ice cream, fish and chips, popcorn and funnel cake. The vendors will have crafts, clothing, and items for pets and gardens. Dearing said there's something for everyone.

"That's the whole purpose is to make this an all-inclusive family event," he said. "We want to make the community aware of the hospital and it's fundraising need."

There will also be a hospital tent with information about the facility's equipment needs.

Complaint leads to impaired charge

An individual from Tillsonburg is facing impaired driving related charges following a traffic complaint.

On May 6, 2025, at approximately 10:30 p.m., the Oxford Ontario Provincial Police (OPP) Detachment were dispatched to a report of a vehicle that was driving erratically on Plank Line, in the Township of Southwest Oxford.

Volodymyr Cholii, 46-years-old, of Tillsonburg, has been charged with:

- Operation while Impaired - Alcohol
- Operation while Impaired - Blood alcohol concentration (80 plus)
- Dangerous Operation

A 90-day Administrative Driver's License Suspension (ADLS) and a seven-day vehicle impoundment was initiated as per statute.

The accused was released from custody and is scheduled to appear before the Ontario Court of Justice in Woodstock on June 3, 2025.

The OPP is committed to safety for all who utilize Ontario's roadways. Members of the public are urged to report Impaired Driving by calling 911 in emergency situations. Complaints of impaired, aggressive, or careless driving can also be made by calling 1-888-310-1122.

Local cartoonist featured at Station Arts gallery

JEFF HELSDON

Local Journalism Initiative Reporter

A local cartoonist will be featured in the Station Arts Centre gallery for the next month.

Eric Olcsvary, 24, is a full-time cartoonist. His exhibit, Inking My Way Through It, opened on May 9 and will run until June 8.

He explained he is on the cusp of being a Level 2 cartoonist, working in Indie publishing. He is currently working for two writers, who have hired him, and also is working on his own material.

His solo work is at the core of the exhibit, with many panels from his new book "The Flooded Planet" being on display and for sale at the exhibit. The book will be released at the end of May.

The book is about four creatures, which Olcsvary said may be humanoid.

"They live in a world that's all black and white and devoid of life," he said. "They venture down into this world, and it's a very colourful, full of life underwater city- and it's been abandoned," he said.

To see the full story of where Olcsvary's imagination takes the story, you will have to buy the book.

Drawing cartoons starts out with a pencil on

paper. Olcsvary then goes over it with India ink, it is converted to a digital file and colouring is done electronically.

Olcsvary started high school art at Glendale High School and then enrolled in a specialized art course at Beal Secondary School in London. He was planning on going into graphic art, but after specializing in the second year at Beal, he chose a course that included animation.

"My teacher really pushed me, 'What do you want to do with your art and I did my first comic book,'" he said.

Growing up reading 1980s Batman, Olcsvary said. "There's a big misconception in the industry that comics are dying. They are not dying."

In fact, he said, there are so many options in comics now that comic sales are larger than they have been in a long time.

Olcsvary has published an anthology of several artists' comics, and has aspirations of being a Level 3 cartoonist, working for larger companies.

The exhibit, which is his first solo effort, also features Olcsvary's puzzle paintings. These start with drawings in a sketch book which are then broken up so each has their own story.

More information on Olcsvary's work can be found on his web site at allscherry.com



(JEFF HELSDON PHOTO)

Joe Olcsvary looks at his comics which are part of the display Inking My Way Through It, which is now on display at the Station Arts Centre. Besides his comics, the exhibit also has what he calls his puzzle paintings.

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Local hospitals promote patient partnerships

Patient centred care takes centre stage at Alexandra Hospital, Ingersoll (AHI) and Tillsonburg District Memorial Hospital (TDMH). Health care professionals embrace the practice by involving patients and their family members as partners in the care process.

"Patients and family members are invited to collaborate as advisors in our hospitals as they bring their unique perspective to effect change and improve system processes" according to April Mullen, Chief Nursing Executive & Vice President of Clinical Services at AHI & TDMH. "The ultimate goal of patient-centred care is to listen and create partnerships with patients and their families to continuously improve the quality, safety, and patient experience in our hospitals".

Enter the Patient and Family Advisory Committee (PFAC). Volunteer PFAC members or patient advisors represent patients and their family members by sharing their ideas, experiences and points of view with health care professionals in a collaborative partnership.

"I am proud of my role" said Lynne Burns. "As patient advisors, we have the opportunity to speak on behalf of patients and their family members. We give them a "voice" in the patient centred care process. Patient advisors work in partnership with health care professionals to identify patient needs and make suggestions for improvements where possible."

Patient advisors meet with health care professionals on a monthly basis to support service and system planning intended to improve the hospital experience. Patient advisors participate on hospital committees and partake in working groups to provide input on correspondence and procedures from a patient's point of view. While no special qualifications are required, recent experience as a patient, family member or caregiver, is compulsory. Every member brings their own skill set, experience, and availability to the table.

Marilyn Robson, volunteer PFAC Co-Chair added, "My role in PFAC has given me the opportunity to provide input on several projects our hospitals have undertaken. I find my involvement rewarding and I am proud of our committee's achievements. I would encourage anyone who has been a patient or family member of someone treated in our hospitals to consider joining us. Patient advisors represent all patients by giving them a voice in the patient-centred care process. You can make a difference".

Visit the websites for an application:

www.tillsonburghospital.on.ca

www.alexandrahospital.on.ca

For more information contact: Patient Feedback at 519-842-3611 ext. 5336 or 519-485-1700 ext. 8340 or patientfeedback@tdmh.on.ca



(CONTRIBUTED PHOTO)

Patient Family Advisory Committee (PFAC) volunteers work with TDMH Emergency Department staff to improve access for ambulance offloads and provide patients with a safe monitored area. From left, Angela Stuyt Clinical Manager, Lynne Burns Patient Advisor and Barb Howison Patient Advisor.



ANNANDALE PLANT SALE

(JEFF HELSDON PHOTO)

Annandale's Grade 8 science class started its plant sale to a packed greenhouse on May 8. The program continues after school daily from 3:45 p.m. to 5:30 p.m., and Saturday 9 a.m. to 2 p.m. until the plants are gone. Proceeds from the sale pay for the program.



(JEFF HELSDON PHOTO)

FOOD DRIVE

Realtors Bonnie Mudge, left, and Lisa Stockmans were amongst the local real estate agents collecting food donations as part of Woodstock Ingersoll Tillsonburg And Area Real Estate Board annual food drive. The event took place across Oxford County, with food collected in each community donated locally. In Tillsonburg, donations went to the Helping Hand Food Bank.

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Want to digitize your old family photos? It's easy but be careful



OCL BOOK TALK

MATTHEW GRIFFIS

Oxford County Library

Planning to digitize your old family photos? Great idea. It's tedious but enjoyable work, believe me. I digitized many of my family's old pre-digital photos years ago; I also help patrons digitize theirs using the conversion station at the Tillsonburg Library. The good news is it's easy to do. But before you begin, consider some of the following tips.

First, equipment matters. You don't need the most expensive scanner, but know that cheap ones make cheap scans. Avoid document-fed scanners, which look like fax machines from the 1980s. You don't want to "feed" your precious, irreplaceable family photos to a machine not designed for fragile items. Use a flatbed scanner, the type that has a hinged lid and looks like a little photocopier. But know that most flatbed scanners can scan only photo prints. If you have negatives or slides to digitize too, you'll need a photo scanner—a specific type of flatbed scanner that can see (with a backlight) the image in the negative or slide. At home, I use an Epson Perfection V600 photo scanner, and it does a wonderful job of scanning photographic prints, 35mm negatives, and slides. This is the same model available at our conversion station at the Tillsonburg

Library.

Second, if you still have original negatives in good condition, consider digitizing those even if you have positive prints of the same images. Why? Because the negative is the original, true image and, in my experience, nearly always produces a crisper, more accurate digital reproduction. In the pre-digital days of photo printing services, developers would often return your original negatives in the same envelope as the freshly printed positives. If you saved those negatives, feel glad that you did.

Last, you never know when a broken water pipe or crashed laptop could wipe all your digitized photos forever. So, plan to store them somewhere safe—and, preferably, in more than one place. If you have, say, just 50 scanned photos to store, then perhaps your laptop isn't a bad choice. But have a complete set saved somewhere else, like on an external storage device like a hard drive or USB key—or even uploaded to a cloud-based storage account you can access from any computer. If you have closer to 5,000 images, then save complete sets to multiple devices and store those a good distance away from each other. I store all my digitized photos on an external hard drive and in a cloud-based storage account. I've also shared key images with other family members, so they have copies too. This strategy is called "duplicate and disperse" and can save a lot of frustration and tears.

Have more questions about digitizing your old family photos? Contact me at the library; I'd love to answer them. Our conversion station is free, and I'm available to help you begin.

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



(CONTRIBUTED PHOTO)

On May 23rd, Rev. Canon Frederick G. Scott (re-enacted by Rev. Canon Nick Wells) will be talking about his wartime experiences to an audience at the Tillsonburg Legion commencing at 7 p.m.

Scott became a front line Chaplain of the 1st Canadian Corps in the Canadian Expeditionary Force during World One. Despite his insistence on remaining close to the front lines to give assistance to the wounded, he survived many close calls until he was seriously wounded only weeks before the Armistice. He was subsequently decorated for bravery under fire. The presentation will talk about Scott's search for his son who was killed during the Battle of the Somme during an attack on Regina Trench. In the post war years, he became an acclaimed Canadian poet and authored a book titled "The Great War As I Saw It".

Please join the Military History Club in welcoming Canon Scott to the Tillsonburg Legion. General public \$10.00 at the door and veterans complimentary.

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Tillsonburg Gemini baseball squad 'walk up' to 5-0 TVRA record

JEFF TRIBE

Post Correspondent

It wasn't anything an official scorer would have recorded as an error.

Moreso 'technical difficulties' when the Tillsonburg Gemini Varsity Baseball booth crew mistakenly transferred Landon Stortz's walk-up song 'Can't Stop' by The Red Hot Chili Peppers to teammate Odin Oatway's entry into the batter's box.

"Just one of those things," shrugged Stortz, his generous mood encouraged by a winning streak that also didn't stop through the Gemini's fifth consecutive victory of the Thames Valley Regional Athletics Tier I regular season Thursday, May 8th at Sam Lamb field.

"He feels very sorry," Stortz added with a smile.

The Tillsonburg booth unveiled walk-up songs that day, an elevated touch or reward for a team playing an elevated and confident standard of baseball highlighted by a 10-3 win over the visiting Ingersoll Blue Bombers.

"Bring some hype to the game," Oatway explained.

He brought some bottom-of-the-first-inning offence on the back end of back-to-back one-out singles with Brennan Van Den Neucker, both scoring in a frame which continued with an error and groundout to short. Tillsonburg went up 4-0 in the home second on runs by Ty Cooper (hit by a pitch) and Stortz (single). Nathan Gaitens drew a two-out walk and scored in the fourth, the Gemini extending their lead to 7-0 in the fifth, Liam Nunn drawing a leadoff walk, followed by Cohen Schott and Cooper base hits.

Ingersoll scored three in the top of the sixth on four walks and a base hit, with Tillsonburg answering in the home half on walks to Van Den Neucker and Daxton Kingsbury, along with a



(JEFF TRIBE PHOTO)

Gemini relief pitcher Carver Schott covers home plate during his team's 10-3 TVRA South East Tier I victory.

Brody VanRybroeck run-scoring single.

Starting Gemini pitcher Brodie Seitz picked up the victory with four scoreless innings of work, Carver Schott and Stortz coming on in relief.

Tillsonburg opened its 2025 season with a 7-4 win over St. Thomas Parkside Wednesday, April 23, following up with 10-0 wins over Woodstock Huron Park and Woodstock CI, heading into Thursday's game on strength of a 4-1 win over a tough Lord Dorchester squad the previ-

ous day.

"I think we're playing great," said Oatway, reasons for the team's strong performance varying from 'starting with pitching' (Gaitens) to 'defence and hitting,' (Nunn).

"Just play good," summed up Van Den Neucker of the overall Gemini goal. "Try to get to WOSSAA."

"OFSAA, bud," Gaitens interjected.

"Whatever is the highest," Van Den Neucker agreed.

Varsity baseball's spring season can bring complications said Gemini head coach Derek Partlo. Inclement weather, club team responsibilities and respecting pitcher's pitch counts have limited Tillsonburg's practice opportunities, a challenge offset in part by the team's comparative level of experience.

Many Gemini came up through minor baseball in Tillsonburg together, concurrently competing either on the U18 Tillsonburg Otters, or out of town with teams including Oatway's London Badgers.

Two former Badgers, Van Den Neucker and Seitz, have returned to Tillsonburg, freeing them up to add to the Gemini pitching depth.

"Decent ballplayers who have played some ball," Partlo summed up of the overall roster, along with a pick-up or two including Gaitens, an OHL draftee who hit an off-field 'frozen rope' over the 375-foot sign at Dorchester's Royal Field.

"Just a good athlete," credited Gemini coach Greg Hayward.

Together, the former Tillsonburg Red Sox are striving to see Gemini players have fun while also respecting each other, opposing teams and officiating crews.

"We try and install some old-school play with some new-school players," Partlo explained, happy with the 5-0 record, but aware the team can still be beaten. Their regular season is scheduled to finish Monday, May 12th in Woodstock against the College Avenue Knights, and the following day against the also undefeated 4-0-1 St. Thomas St. Joe's Rams.

"They're having fun, that's what it's all about," Partlo continued in conclusion. "I don't know if grandpa Sam (Lamb) would approve of the walk-up songs," he laughed, "but he definitely would approve of kids out here playing baseball."

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Gemini boys' soccer team looking to close out regular season on a high note

JEFF TRIBE

Post Correspondent

The Tillsonburg Gemini boys' soccer gameplan took a bit of a kick with an early penalty against them.

"That changed that," said coach Lee Janzen of the resultant 1-0 Woodstock CI Red Devils' lead, seven minutes into their Thames Valley Regional Athletics Tier I contest Thursday, May 8 at the Tillsonburg Soccer Club.

His theory had been to get everyone behind the ball, keep everything in front of the team and look to counter in a close game. Although that strategy fell by the wayside comparatively early, Janzen was pleased with the Gemini response during one of their better first halves of the TVRA season.

"They were making some nice passes and moving the ball well," he credited.

However, the Red Devils capitalized on a late mistake, taking a 2-0 lead with two minutes remaining in the opening half.



(JEFF TRIBE PHOTO)

Gemini defender Johnny Hall (left) battles to clear the ball against a Woodstock CI opponent.

"After that, we just put some guys in and had some fun," said Janzen of what went onto the TVRA website as a 4-0 final decision.

The Gemini boys are still looking for their first win through six games of their regular season, which opened Tuesday, April 15 with a 2-0 loss

to the Ingersoll DCI Blue Bombers. Tier I is a challenge says Janzen, for a Gemini roster featuring less high-level experience than many of its competitors.

"There's athletes, they just haven't played a lot of soccer in the past few years. They've been competitive at times which is

good, just not consistent."

Losing not only the team's starting goalie, but also its backup has proven a challenge for Tillsonburg, forced to shift players around as a result. Thursday, Janzen inserted his son Nolan into the Gemini net where his experience as a U17 keeper last summer helped control the score.

"He's a solid midfielder though," said Janzen, Nolan's presence missed there. "It just backs everybody down one step."

The Gemini continue to try hard, showing skill along with their athleticism while at times, struggling with decision-making at game speed, along with 'touch on the ball.'

"They're having fun at least," said Janzen, looking forward to a scheduled Tuesday, May 13 date with St. Thomas Parkside which closes out the regular season.

"We've played this team tough twice," he concluded optimistically, alluding to earlier 2-0 and 3-2 losses. "I think with our full group, we could make something of it."



(JEFF TRIBE PHOTO)

Tillsonburg Gemini goalie Nolan Janzen (right) gathers in the ball against an onrushing Woodstock CI attacker.

Thriver Company expands dance studio to meet growing demand

Tillsonburg dance studio, Thriver Company, a leading dance studio in Tillsonburg, announced a major expansion to its studio space—marking the second time in only three years that the business has grown to meet rising demand and better serve its competitive and recreational student base.

Formerly known as Danscene, the studio has been a pillar of dance in Tillsonburg for nearly 30 years. Since taking over ownership in 2022, co-directors Renee and Elyse Pelland have transformed the studio into Thriver Company, offering dynamic programs for students ages two to adult. Their new space, located within the same building, will add two additional state-of-the-art studios for a total of five spaces. Renee and Elyse are thrilled to have launched registration for their 2025/2026 season with the ability to offer even more classes in response to the growing demand.

"It's incredibly meaningful to carry on the legacy of Danscene while continuing to evolve in response to the needs of today's families," said Renee. "This expansion is a reflection of the love our community has poured into the studio, and the trust they've placed in us to nurture the next generation of dancers."

The announcement comes amid a standout competition season for Thriver Company's Competitive Team, with

dancers earning several category wins, overall awards, and choreography recognitions for the studio, including novice dancers competing for the first time. Graduating dancer, Jordan Pottelberg, has stood out for her solo performances this year, collecting several overall awards and special awards throughout the season. She also notably received an invitation to represent Canada internationally in lyrical and jazz with World Performers Canada.

"We're so proud of our competitive team's accomplishments so far this season, but what makes us even more proud is the culture we've created across the board," shared Elyse. "From first-time dancers in our recreational classes to advanced performers, we want every student to feel like they belong here—whether they're dancing once a week or every day."

As Thriver looks to the future, new and existing Thriver families are encouraged to explore enrollment for the September 2025 – June 2026 dance season, which opened on May 1 for both recreational and competitive dance streams. The studio is also launching new summer programs in 2025, offering exciting short-term dance experiences for dancers ages 4–12.

For more information, visit thriverco.ca or email Renee and Elyse directly at hello@thriverco.ca.



(JEFF HELSDON PHOTO)

TRACK AND FIELD
Monsignor O'Neil Catholic School held its track and field meet at the school on May 5. Alice Wall, competing in long jump, was one of the competitors. Top finishers at the school meet will go on to the board meet later this month at the University of Western Ontario.

Tillsonburg Red Sox drub Walsingham in season opener

GRAHAM NICKERSON
Post Contributor

The Tillsonburg bats looked to be in mid-season form on Friday night as they defeated the Walsingham Senators in Walsingham by a mercy score of 12-1 in their first game of the season. Iron Ring Racher led off the game with an elec-

trifying triple to left field and scored on a King single. The bats stayed hot with a Verhoeve double, followed by a clean J. Verschueren single to right, plating Verhoeve. The Red Sox then sent 11 men to the plate in a six-run, error-filled second inning. The bats relaxed a little with the comfortable lead after that, putting across one run each in the third and fifth innings.

TILLSONBURG	AB	R	H	PO	A	E
RACHER, SS	2	2	2	3	0	0
KING, 3B	2	3	2	1	0	0
DECLARKE*, 3B	0	0	0	0	0	0
B. VERSCHUEREN, 1B	1	1	0	3	0	0
MCPHERSON, EH	4	0	0	0	0	0
VERHOEVE, LF	3	1	1	0	0	0
J. VERSCHUEREN, RF, P	3	0	2	1	0	0
TAPSELL, DH, 3B	2	0	0	0	0	0
FERREL, C	3	1	1	7	0	0
FISHBACK, 2B	1	2	1	0	2	0
KRELLER, CF	1	2	0	0	0	0
TOTALS	22	12	9	15	2	0
*BATTED FOR KING IN 5 TH						

Summary: ER, Tillsonburg 1, Walsingham 10; **LOB**, Tillsonburg 8, Walsingham 6; **3B** Racher; **2B** King, Verhoeve, J. Verschueren; **RBI** Racher, King(4), B. Verschueren(2), Verhoeve(2), J. Verschueren(2); **SB** Chomp, Juhasz, Broda, Mike S.; **W**, Miners; **L**, Chomp; **BB**, Miners(2), J. Verschueren(2), Chomp (2), No. 80 (1), No. 17 (3) **K**, Miners(4), J. Verschueren(2), B. Verschueren(1), Chomp (1), No. 80 (3), No. 17 (1)

Red Sox strike out 13 times in loss to Simcoe Jr's

The script was flipped for the Tillsonburg Red Sox when they went up against the Simcoe Jr's in Walsingham Saturday afternoon in a 12-2 mercy defeat. Simcoe sent fireball-throwing Shortt to the mound and he made quick work of the Red Sox

first three batters by pitching an immaculate inning. That esteemed accomplishment is when the pitcher strikes out the side on nine pitches. The fastball and slider combination offered by Shortt baffled the Tillsonburg hitters. The only hit of the day for the Tillsonburg Nine came in the bottom of the third inning with two aboard and two out when King lashed a hard

Miner took to the hill for Tillsonburg to start the game and looked comfortable in his season debut, fanning four Senators and allowing three scattered hits over two innings. J. Verschueren worked the next two innings not allowing a hit, then B. Verschueren got the call to finish off the game with his blazing fastball. Walsingham's only run came in the home half

of the first by way of a Chomp single and Fipple RBI base hit to left. Tillsonburg's middle infield of Racher and Player-Manager Fishback turned two smooth double plays, including the one that cinched the game for the Red Sox. The game was called after five innings due to the mercy rule. The score as follows:

WALSINGHAM	AB	R	H	PO	A	E
CHOMP, P	1	1	1	0	1	0
NEUMANN, CF	2	0	0	1	0	0
LAIRD, SS	2	0	0	4	1	2
FIPPLE, EH	2	0	1	0	0	0
JUHASZ, C	0	0	0	4	1	0
WOSEL, 3B	2	0	0	0	0	1
BRODA, 1B	1	0	0	5	0	0
LONG, LF	2	0	1	0	0	0
MIKE S., EH	2	0	1	0	0	0
MIKE B., RF	2	0	0	1	0	1
SHANE, 2B	1	0	0	0	2	1
TOTALS	17	1	4	15	5	5

hit ball up the middle to score Vaders and Fishback. Auld replaced Shortt on the hill after the King double and struck out five. In total, Simcoe's ace pitchers struck out Tillsonburg 13 times. Skip King was assigned mound duty and held the Juniors at bay through two innings, giving up two runs on two hits and striking out three. Kreller came in to replace King in the third and pitched steady through an inning but his control wavered in the fourth when he walked three

batters and surrendered four runs. DeClarke was called upon to take over on the bump, but a bothersome hand injury hindered his ball location, giving up four walks and four runs. Fishback came in from second base to finish off the pitching work in the fifth. The Red Sox have shaken off the cobwebs from the long winter's offseason and are ready to play good, fast baseball this summer. The town's support for these boys would be greatly appreciated.

VISITOR	AB	R	H	PO	A	E
LAMB, 3B	3	1	1	0	0	0
AULD, RF, P	3	0	0	1	0	0
KNELSEN, SS	2	0	0	1	0	0
SHORTT, P, RF	2	2	1	0	0	0
NUNN, 1B	1	3	1	2	0	0
COURRIER, C	1	2	0	12	0	0
VAN DEN NEUCKER, LF	1	2	0	0	0	0
LAWRENCE, CF	2	1	1	0	0	0
BLAD, EH	3	1	1	0	0	0
FISHER, 2B	3	1	2	0	1	0
TOTALS	21	12	8	15	1	0

TILLSONBURG	AB	R	H	PO	A	E
RACHER, SS	2	0	0	0	0	0
KING, P 2B, CF, 1B	2	0	1	1	1	1
DECLARKE, P, 1B	2	0	0	6	2	0
MCPHERSON, C, EH	2	0	0	4	0	0
LISTAR, 3B, C, EH	2	0	0	0	0	0
J. VERSCHUEREN, RF	2	0	0	0	0	0
VADERS, LF	2	1	0	0	0	0
TAPSELL, LF, 3B	2	0	0	0	0	0
FISHBACK, 2B, P	1	1	0	0	1	0
KRELLER, CF, P	1	0	0	4	0	1
TOTALS	18	2	1	15	3	2

Summary: ER, Simcoe 2, Tillsonburg 12; **LOB**, Simcoe 3, Tillsonburg 2; **2B** King; **RBI** Lamb, Van Den Neucker(2), Lawrence, Blad(2), Fisher(2), King(2) **SB** Shortt, Lawrence, Fisher(2); **W**, Auld; **L**, Kreller; **BB**, Kreller(2), DeClarke(4), Shortt(2); **K**, King(3), DeClarke, Shortt(8), Auld(5); **Time**, 1:49

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New season of slo-pitch started last week

DAVE WEAVER
Tillsonburg Post Columnist

A new season of slo-pitch commenced in men's slo-pitch last week. Monday night the ladies took to the field.

The men's league will once again be under the tutelage of Chris Parker. Cheyne Sarafinchin continues on as treasurer, Kurt Vaughan is still the Umpire-In Chief as well as A convenor, Parker is B convenor and Josh Stubbs looks after the C loop. Dave Weaver looks after statistics and games played.

The ladies executive is completely revamped, with Tracey Carruthers returning as president from two years ago. Jen Francis returns from the same year and holds down the vice-presidency. Kalyn Salmon a fresh face is holding the secretary position. Maddi Obar also a new comer will be in charge of media. Long-time player Shannon Collings is a first timer and will hold down the executive member position.

Dave Weaver is the scheduler and stats person.

Men's A

Smitty's Electrical is out of the gate early recording two victories in week one. They edged out Leeswood Construction Dirty Mitts and beat up on Courtland Landscape and Grounds Diamond Kings. Leeswood won by two in a low-scoring game over Klassen Realty Hit N Run in the season's lidlifter 1,2 Seal Insulation Hawks won by nine over The Mill and The Mill were also upended by the Cobra Chickens. Bill Klyn Carpentry split a pair defeating Cobra Chickens after dropping their opener against Hit N Run.

Leeswood Construction-7 Klassen Realty Hit N Run-5

Leeswood-Trevor Stuyt 3-3, Greg Onaitis 3-3, Alex Penders HR
Hit N Run-Diedrich Klassen 2-3, Franky Klassen 2-3, Jacob Klassen HR.
Game Synopsis-Alex Penders won it for Leeswood with a two-run fifth inning homer, Devin Lee had a triple and double.

Cobra Chickens-26 The Mill-21

Cobra-Mathew Reimer 5-5 2HR, Caleb Reimer 4-4 HR, Brian Dyck HR, Sam Enns HR, Marcus Enns HR
The Mill-Mike Supinski 4-4, Darren Pace 4-5 HR, Tim Morgan 2 HR, Josh Stubbs HR, Ryan Black HR, Billy Wilson GrSlam HR.
Game Synopsis-Mathew Reimer led the winners with a pair of homers and five runs scored.

Klassen Realty Hit N Run-17 Bill Klyn Carpentry-16

Hit N Run-Pete Wall 4-4, Franky Klassen 4-5 HR, Peter Klassen 2HR, Martin Klassen 2HR, Peter Dyck HR, Peter Wolf GrSlam.
Bill Klyn-Alex Dalby 4-4, Randy Miller 3-3, Nathan Boldt HR.

Game Synopsis-The nine men Hit N Run squad held on for the narrow win despite giving up seven in the last inning.

1,2 Seal Insulation Hawks-20 The Mill-11

Hawks-Johnny Epp 6-6, Jake Klassen 4-4, Ben Bueckert HR, Peter Epp HR, Martin Klassen GrSlam HR.
The Mill-Tim Morgan 4-4 HR, Josh Stubbs 5-5, Bryan Deblaire HR.
Game Synopsis-Lead-off batter Johnny Epp was a doubles machine, hitting four for the Hawks.

Smitty's Electrical-19 Leeswood Construction Dirty Mitts-18

Smitty's-Doug Falkins 4-4, Jesse Legg 4-4 HR.
Leeswood-Chad Vigar 4-4, Justin Miller 3-4.
Game Synopsis-A seven-run sixth won it for Smitty's.

Smitty's Electrical-23 Courtland Landscape and Grounds-10

Smitty's-Jeremy Dennis 4-4, Chris Hass 4-5.
Courtland-Scott Mudford 5-5, Darryl Vandendriessche 3-4.
Game Synopsis-Chris Hass and Christian Bevan each crossed four times for Smitty's.

Bill Klyn Carpentry -17 Cobra Chickens-15

Bill Klyn-Kyle McDougall 3-3, Jake Millar 3-3 HR, Alex Dalby HR.
Cobra-Marcus Peters 5-5 HR, Ethan Fehr 3-4, Marcus Enns HR, Wyatt Blatz HR, Caleb Reimer HR.
Game Synopsis-Ten of the winner's twelve batters scored at least one run.

B Division

This loop should be interesting as three of the top four from last year are no longer present in the division.
Last year's champs, O&L Duct Design have graduated to the top class while Crusaders and Team Awesome folded their teams.
Bayham Construction Lumberjacks, last year's C champs, won their first game in B mercying John Beere. John Beere also lost in a walkoff to Sandy Shore Brew Jays.
Side 2 Side Exteriors Strike Force beat the Pelicans by four rounding out the B action.

Side 2 Side Exteriors-14 Pelicans-10

Side 2 Side-Johnny Klassen 4-4, Frank Klassen 4-4 HR, John Klassen HR, Abe Hamn HR.
Pelicans-Chris Parker 3-3, Ryan Verbuyst 4-5, Steve Leacock HR.
Game Synopsis-Side 2 Side broke up a close game with a seven-run fourth. Frank Klassen led in the game with six RBI's.

Bayham Construction Lumberjacks-22 John Beere-3

Lumberjacks-Mathew Klassen 4-4, Nate Peters 4-4 HR, Tony Hamn HR.

John Beere-Bryan Purser 2-2.
Game Synopsis-The winners scored runs in every inning, and Nate Peters had five runs-batted-in.

Sandy Shore Brew Jays-17 John Beere-16

Sandy Shore-Dylan Cremery 4-4, Josh Knoflock 4-4.
John Beere-Bob Long 4-4, Calvin Smith 4-4.
Game Synopsis-Mike Haegens sacrifice fly walked it off for the winners cashing a Dylan Cremery lead-off triple.

C Division

There will be lots of new teams vying for this year's title with last year's top two teams mov-

ing up to the second division.

Shaw's Ice Cream-Tillsonburg Brands Sluggers-15 Nine Inch Males-11

Shaw's-Sebastian Plain 4-4, Layn Wells 4-4.
Nine-Wes McDougall 4-4, Justin Dygos 4-4
Game Synopsis-George Goertzen and Sebastian Plain each scored four runs for Shaw's.

Townline Equipment Inc. Smokin Aces-20 J/E Bearing-16

Townline-David Klassen 4-5, Daniel Unger 4-5.
J/E-Reece Dally 4-4, Jeff McKay 4-5.
Game Synopsis-Daniel Unger batted in six for the winners.

MEN'S A DIVISION					
PLACE	TEAM NAME	WINS	LOSSES	TIES	POINTS
1	SMITTY'S ELECTRICAL	2	0	0	4
2	1,2 SEAL INSULATION HAWKS	1	0	0	2
2	O&L DUCT DESIGN	1	0	0	2
2	BILL KLYN CARPENTRY	1	1	0	2
2	COBRA CHICKENS	1	1	0	2
2	LEESWOOD CONSTRUCTION	1	1	0	2
2	KLASSEN REALTY-HIT N RUN	1	1	0	2
3	COURTLAND LANDSCAPE AND GROUNDS	0	2	0	0
3	THE MILL	0	2	0	0

B DIVISION					
PLACE	TEAM NAME	WINS	LOSSES	TIES	POINTS
1	BAYHAM CONSTRUCTION LUMBERJACKS	1	0	0	2
1	SANDY SHORE BREW JAYS	1	0	0	2
1	SIDE 2 SIDE EXTERIORS	1	0	0	2
2	COPPER MUG-LUBRICARE WANNABEE'S	0	0	0	0
2	TBA'S	0	0	0	0
2	UNDERHILL FARM SUPPLY	0	0	0	0
2	DESIGNATED DRINKERS	0	0	0	0
3	PELICANS	0	1	0	0
3	JOHN BEERES	0	2	0	0

C DIVISION					
PLACE	TEAM NAME	WINS	LOSSES	TIES	POINTS
1	SHAW'S ICE CREAM-TILLSONBURG BRANDS SLUGGERS	1	0	0	2
1	TOWNLINE EQUIPMENT INC. SMOKIN ACES	1	0	0	2
1	BIRD'S GOLF	1	0	0	2
2	DIAMOND KINGS	0	0	0	0
2	CAIN'S AUTO BRICKHOUSE BOYS	0	0	0	0
2	SMOKIN BASES	0	0	0	0
2	STICKY BANDITS	0	0	0	0
2	TEAM SWINGERS	0	0	0	0
3	TAILGATORS	0	0	0	0
3	J/E BEARING	0	1	0	0
3	RLP MELANIE LUKSYS	0	1	0	0
3	9 INCH MALES	0	1	0	0

HOSPITAL GALA

(JEFF HELSDON PHOTOS)

Tillsonburg District Memorial Hospital held its Century of Caring Gala at the Tillsonburg Community Centre Lion's Auditorium on Saturday night to celebrate the 100th anniversary of the hospital and its volunteer association. The original hospital was built on land donated by local businessman and former mayor John Smith.



A timeline and display of hospital-related historical items retold how health care has changed over the last century. Tillsonburg Deputy Mayor Dave Beres, left, Mayor Deb Gilvesy and former board chair Brad Bennett recall some of the changes they have seen.



The evening's entertainment was a night of storytelling, hosted by Kelly Spencer, right, who is the daughter of former hospital CEO Jim Spencer, a town councillor and businesswoman. Various panels told their stories associated with the hospital, including the one of former employees pictured here.



Food for the gala was set up with a variety of food stations, catered by Chrissy's Catering. A variety of meats, seafood, pasta and salads were served.



The evening brought together old friends, acquaintances, and health care staff for camaraderie and fun.



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SWOX NEWS



Opposition mounts to wind turbine project planned for area

DEBBIE KASMAN

Post Contributor

There is growing opposition to a proposed wind turbine project, the Cedar Flats Wind Project, that could see up to 34 turbines in the area from Verschoyle south to almost Corinth and then west past Highway 73.

At a standing room only community meeting at the Brownsville Community Centre on May 7, the crowd heard concerns from several different speakers about what could be the largest turbines in Canada. The Gunn's Hill project near Woodstock has turbines reaching 156 m or 512 ft. The proposed turbines here could reach 200 m or 656 ft. tall.

Guest speaker Warren Howard of VP Wind Concerns, a province-wide advocacy organization whose mission is to provide information on the potential impact of industrial-scale wind power generation, told the crowd of approximately 200 that his group is worried about shadow flickers, ice throws from moving blades, fires potentially igniting dry crops, contracts that are one-sided or that cannot be broken once signed, and farmers who can't sell their land without permission from the developer once under contract.

Guest speaker Joan Morris, whose farm is located within the wind turbine area near Woodstock, spoke of her family's experience living amongst the wind turbines there. Morris has concerns about access roads and infrastructure, economic tension, potential effect on livestock, high-pressure sales tactics, an inconsistent energy supply, the loss of agricultural land, and wind turbines are not carbon neutral.

Morris also shared concerns expressed by MPP Todd Smith on July 23, 2018 stating that the company was charged three times by the province's Ministry of Environment for multiple violations. The hotly-contested White Pines project in Prince Edward County

went from 29 turbines to 27, then nine and was ultimately cancelled by the Ontario government in 2018.

At a smaller meeting at the Brownsville Community Centre on April 30, representatives from wpd spoke to the approximately 80 people in attendance saying the turbine size for the Cedar Flats Project has not been selected yet, turbine size has increased in recent years because larger turbines bring greater efficiency at lower costs, and this means fewer turbines are needed. The proposed turbines for this area would be quieter than those located near Woodstock.

If the project is approved, construction would last 18 months. The company would use local services and contractors when possible. Representatives said the project would create approximately 200 to 300 jobs and five to 10 permanent positions would be needed for operations and maintenance.

The company would also offer a Community Benefit Fund where the hydro bills of the community could be subsidized or an environmental conservation or restoration project could be undertaken. The local municipality could also receive approximately \$440,000 per year as a municipal benefit, amounting to about \$9 million over 20 years.

Community members expressed concern about Catfish Creek protection and the sensitive species there as well as high water table stability and potential impact on the community well in Brownsville, similar to what is happening in the Chatham-Kent area where wind towers were constructed over the extremely fragile aquifer of the Kettle Point shale.

wpd is beginning an environmental assessment report to identify and evaluate any potential environmental impacts of the proposed project.

The project requires municipal approval before it is considered by the province's Independent Electricity



(DEBBIE KASMAN PHOTO)

Brownsville Community Centre was packed for a community meeting about a proposed wind turbine project that will stretch across SouthWest Oxford into Malahide Township.

System Operator. Then, zone changes and site plan approval would be needed. More information will be presented to Councils in the third quarter of this year.

For more information, contact wpd Canada at cedarflatswind@wpd-canada.ca or the SouthWest Oxford and Malahide Say No to Wind Turbines Facebook group.

Weekend Quiz

by Jake Grant

- How far is a klick in military terms?
- The region of Transylvania is located in what country?
- How many popes have there been?
- What is a male swan called?
- The sport of two people engaging in combat with swords is?
- Vitamin B12 helps your body to form what?
- Cryogenics is the study of what?
- Jack Daniel's whisky is produced in what U.S state?
- Who was the first winner on The Masked Singer?
- What is the only mammal capable of true flight?

This week's answers are found on pg. 31

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Friday, June 13 4pm - 11pm www.turtlefest.ca
 Saturday, June 14 12pm - 11pm Downtown Tillsonburg

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SWOX NEWS



Brownsville Annual Public and Continuation School reunion planned for June 18

DEBBIE KASMAN

Post Contributor

The Brownsville Annual Public and Continuation School reunion will be held on June 18 from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. at the Brownsville Community Centre. There will be a potluck lunch and a \$5 cost at the door to help cover costs. Attendees are asked to bring historical pictures with them.

Historical Context

In Ontario, "continuation schools" generally referred to smaller high schools, often in rural or smaller urban areas serving a specific geographic area that offered a full range of secondary school courses and programs, including academic, vocational, and arts courses leading to the Ontario Secondary School Diploma (OSSD). Continuation schools provided students with a sense of community and sometimes offered specialized programs or smaller class sizes.

In Ontario, continuation schools were introduced as early as 1896 as a historical solution for offering high school education in smaller communities during the late 19th and early 20th centuries. Continuation schools were essentially elementary schools that added Grades 9-12, serving as a bridge between elementary and high school in rural areas. This system arose from budgetary constraints and the need for more accessible secondary education in rural areas where building separate high schools was not feasible.

As communities grew and resources became available, continuation schools eventually evolved into the full-fledged high schools we know today.

According to the 1937 Ontario Schools Act (in Revised Statutes of Ontario), the



(CONTRIBUTED PHOTO)

elected board of trustees of continuation schools had the same powers conferred to them as the public and separate school board trustees for acquiring a school site, erecting buildings and additions to existing buildings, providing equipment for and paying the cost as well as the maintenance of each continuation school. Each continuation school was allowed one principal and two assistant teachers. Funds for the schools were allocated by the county from property taxes the county collected. Agricultural training was also provided in some schools.

The closure of continuation schools was a gradual process, with many closing in the mid-20th century.

According to an essay written by Mrs. L. C. Brown on the community history of

Brownsville, the village of Brownsville was named after Brinton Paine Brown who settled in the area in 1841. Brown was an ordained minister of the Methodist Church. He and others in the area decided they needed a school and Mr. Brown offered a log house he had built to be used as the original school, hiring Mrs. Abram Matthews for the summer who was paid \$8 per month including board. The community then built a new frame school after that. In 1867, a brick school was built north of the village and in 1914 a new school was built south of the village.

According to a newspaper article from the Tillsonburg News published in 1967, the Brownsville Continuation School, built in 1914, was a three-room brick building built where the community centre and park are today. In 1924, two rooms were added to accommodate Junior Matriculation. Two years later, a stone fence and memorial arch were built as a community project to adorn the entrance. The school had both a boys' and a girls' entrance and there were two gates at the front entrance that students loved to swing on. The memorial arch was built to commemorate the soldiers who died in the war.

Sergeant Jack Ker attended the Brownsville Public and Continuation School. An employee of the Borden Company until he enlisted for active service, Sgt. Ker became a wireless air gunner with the Royal Canadian Air Force (RCAF) overseas, serving in England and on the Norwegian Coast. He was shot down over the North Sea and declared missing in action during WWII.

Sgt. George Hall, another Borden employee and wireless air gunner, was reported missing and believed killed over water in 1942. Sergeant Hall was also a former public and continuation school student in Brownsville.

Lieutenant Steward Don M. Honsberger attended both public and continuation school in Brownsville. Lt. Honsberger joined the navy in 1942 and after serving in Scotland, Russia, Newfoundland and Ireland, returned to become the postal clerk of the Tillsonburg Post Office in 1966.

Dr. Hugh McClintock, another public and continuation school graduate from Brownsville, went on to study medicine at the University of Toronto and joined the staff of the Toronto Western Hospital. Dr. McClintock also joined the RCAF where he ended his air force career as deputy principle medical officer at Number One Training Command. Dr. McClintock returned to civilian life becoming the Director of the Gage Institute Chest Clinic at the University of Toronto where he focused on air health effects and respiratory conditions.

The village of Schomberg, north of Toronto, was also named Brownsville, after businessman Thomas Brown settled there around 1830. In 1862, that Brownsville was renamed Schomberg in order to establish its own post office.

Marion Honsberger is organizing the reunion of the Brownsville Public and Continuation School west of Tillsonburg this year.

**Thank you to Dr. George Emery, professor emeritus, Western University, for his historical contributions to the article.*

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Broadway Cinemas closing permanently

JEFF HELSDON

Editor

Tillsonburg is about to become a town without a movie theatre.

Broadway Cinemas posted an announcement recently saying the theatre “will cease operations following the last screening of the day on May 15, 2025.” This is an end of almost three decades of operation of the tri-screen theatre. It leaves Tillsonburg in a unique situation, as most towns with 20,000 people have a movie theatre, unless part of a metropolitan area.

Owner Kent Rapley was asked to comment, but did not respond by press time.

Those contacted lamented about the loss of the theatre, particularly for young people.

“I personally have some great memories there with my family,” said Tillsonburg District Chamber of Commerce President Megan Causyn. “It’s unfortunate that we won’t have the opportunity going forward to stay in our town to watch a newly-released movie in a larger-than-life theatre. This closure will also remove much-needed job opportunities for some of our younger residents, where they learn first-hand about customer service and working hard. It is unfortunate that we are losing this icon in our community.”

Chamber CEO Ashley Edwards was also sad to see the closure.

“It’s always tough to say goodbye to a place that’s been part of our community for so long,” she said. “The local movie theater wasn’t just where we went to see movies—it was where memories were made, first dates happened, and families spent time together. We’re grateful for everything it brought to our town over the years. While we’re sad to see it go, we hope folks will keep showing up for the other small businesses that help make our community special.”

Mayor Deb Gilvesy called the closure the end of an era.

“The closure of Broadway Cinemas marks the end of an era and a significant loss to our community,” she said. “For decades, it served as more than just a place to watch films—it was a gathering space

where families bonded and friends met for great entertainment. Its presence brought life to Broadway and offered an accessible, affordable source of entertainment for all ages. Losing it means more than just losing a screen—it means losing a shared experience and a piece of our town’s identity.”

Valanti Vatilitous, owner of adjacent Olive Eatery, had some customers come for dinner before a movie. She recently saw huge line-ups for Minecraft.

“I am sad to see them go,” she said. “What else is there for kids to do?”

Former Mayor Cam McKnight and Walter Kleer opened the theatre in the mid-1990s. McKnight recalled the Strand had close a year earlier, he was mayor and a town-commissioned study of what people would like identified the need for a theatre. When there were no takers, he said to Kleer, “Maybe we should do it.”

“It’s unfortunate but given the times it’s not entirely surprising,” he said, elaborating more people streaming online since Covid, followed by the writer’s strike and now possible movie tariffs have taken a toll.

“It’s something we put a lot of effort and thought in and I’m saddened to hear it,” Kleer said.

He also acknowledged the influence of streaming at home, and added, “To go see something on the big screen and sound, it’s a night out.”

Saying it wasn’t a business that would make tons of money, McKnight said at the time studios took 90 per cent of the box office revenue from big blockbusters for the first month, and then 80 per cent after four weeks. The rate for smaller movies wasn’t as high. He said the concession stand was what made the money.

The philosophy when Broadway Cinemas opened was to keep the box office price down to get more people in. Kleer recalls a \$4.25 entrance fee and Toonie Tuesdays.

Kleer and McKnight hired Len Walker as the manager. Eventually, Walker purchased the theatre, partnering with Mary LePage and Eric Ball. Rapley, who founded Kwic Internet with his wife Cindy, is also the owner of the Strand Theatre in Simcoe.



(JEFF HELSDON PHOTO)

Broadway Cinemas closed for good on May 15, leaving Tillsonburg without a movie theatre.



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tive in inviting agencies to join its network. Because Tillsonburg Travel belongs to the TRAVELSAVERS organization, its advisors have access to exceptional travel products around the world at the best values. The network’s strong relationships with partners translate into exclusive inventory and offers, VIP access and benefits, and complimentary perks for clients. As a result, Tillsonburg Travel stands out as a travel leader in its community.

With its new Elite designation, Tillsonburg Travel is eligible for a host of rewards, including the opportunity to attend an annual international retreat. There agency owners and managers will experience in-demand destinations and travel products firsthand and forge connections to help them plan even more memorable holidays for clients.

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Since 1961, Tillsonburg Travel has been serving clients from its downtown office. Luke and Nicole VanMaele started the agency in an office on the Market Square. Tillsonburg Travel later moved to its present location at 175 Broadway. MaryBeth McElhone and Lisa Hirt purchased the business in 2005. After McElhone’s retirement last year, Hirt became sole owner and has three knowledgeable, full-time staff members, Cassidy Adcock, Jeanne Jardine and Carrie Butterworth. Tillsonburg Travel takes pride in supporting its community and sponsors local teams and tournaments to give back.

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(JEFF HELSDON PHOTO)

A DUCKY TALE

When the Rotary Duck Race comes together with its semi-annual book fair, it could be time for the ducks to check out tales about their kind. Rotarian Ken Patterson, took a moment from helping with the book fair, which was held the week of April 28 to May 3, to promote the upcoming duck race on May 24. Tickets for the duck race are \$20 and are available online at muckrake.rotarytillsonburg.ca.

The quest for brown trout continues



**SOUTH-
WESTERN
ONTARIO
OUTDOORS**

JEFF HELSDON

Editor

The brown trout is a fish of beauty, with the bright colours of its spots setting it aside from other trout and salmon species and making it a thing of beauty. It's known to be a scrappy fighter and to inhabit everything from small streams to the Great Lakes in Ontario.

It's also one of few species of fish I haven't caught.

I began thinking about changing that last fall. I had fished for rainbow trout and salmon in British Columbia, and cod, Atlantic salmon and sharks in Newfoundland, but the brown trout is practically in my back yard and I haven't landed one. To be fair to my angling abilities, I hadn't tried to catch a trout in a stream in decades, preferring to have a boat under my feet when angling.

Yet, I had seen the photos of brown trout on Facebook and wanted to fill that void. I turned to Dave Simeays, who I went to school with and is the most dedicated stream angler I know. I had seen his photos of browns on Facebook, and had a little bit of brown-trout-envy. He agreed to take me out.

Although Norfolk, Oxford and Elgin Counties are in Southwestern Ontario, there are still many cold-water streams that flow across the Norfolk Sand Plain. These waters are well known to hold migratory rainbow trout (steelhead) that anglers catch in Lake Erie and which create a spectacle when they line up for spawning and jump the smaller dams. But, the trout of the smaller tributaries are a guarded secret, and include native speckled trout and brown trout introduced decades ago.

Simeays and I headed to one of these tributaries – remember they are secrets and I can't reveal its whereabouts – a couple of weeks ago. We discussed equipment briefly, and he advised to take the 10-foot rod I had instead of the 6'6" one I use in the boat, saying it would come in handy to reach the holes without getting too close to the water. I had visions of my youth, trying to navigate the woods



(JEFF HELSDON PHOTO)

Veteran stream angler Dave Simeays demonstrates the best way to approach the holes on area creeks can pay off. He recommends staying down low and kneeling while fishing so any fish in the hole won't spot the angler.

of Norfolk County with friend Mark VanHooren after speckles, and remembering the challenge of steering seven feet of fishing rod through the bush, but took Simeays' advice.

Heading into the bush along the creek, he stopped at a log jam with a deep cut in it. Kneeling down, he said this was essential so the fish don't see you. I began to see where the longer rod was important.

"Browns don't get big by not being smart," he said, mentioning this is where the longer rod helps.

Simeays told me how he fished the streams and rivers of Norfolk and Oxford Counties since he was about six. His father was a devoted trout fisherman and he followed in his footsteps. Nicknamed Stick when he was in high school, I always figured it was because he was tall and skinny. But 'stick' is also a slang name for a fishing rod, so maybe I was wrong?

After about the third hole, something hit my dew worm, adding a little excitement to the frigid morning. It ended up to just be a sucker. Simeays also caught a few fish, but his were a mix of chubs and suckers.

"This isn't thick enough," he said, pointing to the cover surrounding the creek. "Brown trout like it when there are bushes hanging

over the creek with undercut banks."

We continued on for a while longer, and he tangled with another chub, this one larger. We talked about where the brown trout in Norfolk County came from, as brown trout are native to Europe. Simeays believes they are fish of German origin that were first stocked here in the 1850s. He also explained the difference between the lake-run browns, which generally tend to be larger, and the ones that remain in the tributaries throughout the year.

There was also some reminiscing about the Glendale High School days, and the dreaded talk that seems to be part of more conversations these days: the aches and pains of getting older.

We finished the morning without catching a brown trout, but I was wiser about the ways of stream anglers. Brown trout is still on my list – maybe I will tie into one on Lake Erie this summer as I did catch a blue walleye which is also rare, but that's a story for another day. Or maybe I will find a top-secret brown trout honey hole, and won't be able to tell anyone. Only time will tell.

Jeff Helsdon is an award-winning outdoor writer, a columnist for Ontario Out of Doors and writes for several other outdoor publications.

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MUSIC CORNER

Chad Price Does It ALL: From Punk Roots to A Perfect Pearl in Tillsonburg



BEN ADDRESS

Tillsonburg Post Columnist

Chad Price might be best known in punk circles as the third and final front-

man of the band ALL but these days he's forging a new path with his latest group Chad Price Peace Coalition. The band's new album "A Perfect Pearl" releases at the end of the month through SofaBurn Records with new songs being previewed live this weekend at Paddy's Underground.

Price's musical roots run deep. He joined ALL in 1993 after the departure of singer Scott Reynolds. The band formed in 1987 by the instrumental core of legendary punk band Descendents, consisting of guitarist Stephen Egerton,

bassist Karl Alvarez and drummer Bill Stevenson. ALL carried the torch with a more technical, progressive punk sound. By the early 1990s the band had already cycled through two singers and was in search of a new voice. They found it in Price.

"It was kind of a dream gig," Price exclaims. "I went from playing around Colorado to fronting one of the tightest punk bands around."

With Price on vocals, ALL released three studio albums starting with 1993's Breaking Things, 1995's Pummel and 1998's Mass Nerder. These songs brought a grittier more melodic tone to the band's intricate instrumentation. Chad's voice became a defining feature of ALL's later years lending both intensity and vulnerability to their sound.

Punk wasn't the end of the road. Chad Price went on to co-found the band Drag the River in 1996

with Jon Snodgrass of the band Armchair Martian. The group was diving into alt-country and Americana before those genres were buzzwords. That same exploratory spirit defines his newest project Chad Price Peace Coalition.

The latest single from the album A Perfect Pearl is titled A.M. and blends elements from punk, folk and soul.

"I think I listen to so much Jethro Tull that varying styles within the song is becoming natural to me," Price explained of his influences and how they were integrated into the sound of the band. "The record is crafted to sound as one while exploring different styles and feels."

A Perfect Pearl reflects a mature artist who's let go of the chaos and embraced clarity.

"I feel like now that I'm in my 50s and my drinking days are over I finally know exactly what I want to do musically. These new

songs are the culmination of all aspects of music I love."

Chad Price Peace Coalition is bringing that culmination to Canada this week as that make their way to Montreal with tourmates The Raging Nathans. Sharing the stage with acts in contrasting styles is something that doesn't faze Chad at all.

"We love touring with other bands and we're stoked to get to know these guys and hang," Price said. "We are basically totally opposite styles but I don't know if crowds care about that in this day and age. Canada is just my favorite."

There is no need to worry for those who cannot make it out this weekend. Chad Price will return to Tillsonburg this summer for Buddies Fest – a three day multi-stage music festival being held July 11–13 at The Mill with official after-parties being held at The Copper Mug. In an

ambitious full-circle moment Chad Price will perform with ALL, Drag the River and Peace Coalition across the three-day festival.

"Buddies Fest is exciting. I never expected all three acts to be involved in one event like this. It is going to be a lot of work," Price laughed. For Chad the work is the reward. "Music is everything. All things. It's therapeutic for not only the writer but the listener."

The live performance by Chad Price Peace Coalition will take place on Friday, May 16th 2025 at Paddy's Underground. Doors open at 8 p.m. with opening support from The Raging Nathans and local support from The McBains. Tickets for the show are available for \$15 (HST included) in advance by calling The Mill at 519-842-1878 or by visiting Eventbrite.ca. Tickets will also be available at the door for \$20, subject to availability.

UPCOMING SHOWS

MAY 15 - OPEN MIC W/ BILLY GIBBONS
Paddy's Underground
Free - 4:30 pm - all ages/ licensed

MAY 15 - FELICIA MCMINN
The Copper Mug
Free - 8pm

MAY 16 - CHAD PRICE PEACE COALITION, THE RAGING NATHANS, THE MCBAINS
Paddy's Underground
\$15 - 8pm - all ages/ licensed

MAY 17 - K-MAN & THE 45'S, FAINTEST IDEA, FULL THROTTLE
Paddy's Underground
\$15 - 8pm - all ages/ licensed

MAY 22 - OPEN MIC W/ BILLY GIBBONS
Paddy's Underground
Free - 4:30 pm - all ages/ licensed

MAY 22 - JEFF KEMP
The Copper Mug
Free - 8:30pm

MAY 22 - STUNT
The Copper Mug
Free - 8pm

MAY 24 - FROG EYES, FORTUNATO DURUTTI MARINETTI, ONE WAY STREETS
Paddy's Underground
\$15 - 8pm - all ages/ licensed

MAY 24 - RIGHT TURN CLYDE
The Copper Mug
Free - 8pm

MAY 28 - SARAH SMITH, TIM SCHOU
Paddy's Underground
\$15 - 8pm



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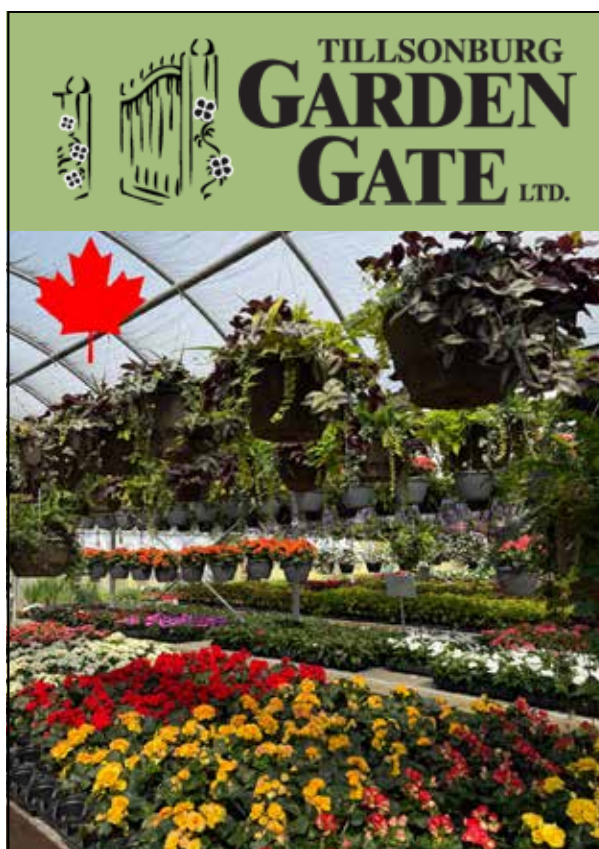
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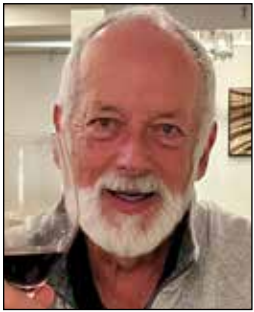
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Torremolinos: a perfect home base on the Costa del Sol



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

PAUL KNOWLES

Tillsonburg Post Columnist

You probably read about the massive power outage in southern Europe a few weeks ago. Most of Spain and Portugal, and parts of southern France, lost all electrical power for almost 24 hours.

Now, for folks in eastern Ontario who lost power for days – some even more than a week – during the recent ice storm, that probably doesn't sound like much. I grant that.

The reason I took note was the we had just spent a lovely three weeks in southern Spain. We flew to Lisbon, Portugal, then to Malaga, Spain and finally took a coach to Torremolinos, our home away from home for three weeks. All of those cities were affected by the blackout.

It left me thinking about what our vacation would have been like, in those circumstances. Airports were shut down. The hotels would have had no power (we were on the eighth floor of a seaside hotel). Food services would have been non-existent.

So... we were lucky. No such disasters struck, and we were able to enjoy our first-ever experience of Spain, specifically, of the Costa del Sol.

I have already written a couple of articles, arising from day trips we took to other Spanish cities – and the British enclave of Gibraltar – during our time there. This week, I am focusing only on our home base, Torremolinos.

And I will admit, Torremolinos is a good spot to use as a home base, as long as you have trips to other destinations planned as part of your stay. Because there are few outstanding attractions in Torremolinos. It is, rather, kind of a tourists' bedroom community.

That may sound boring, but when you actu-

ally stay there, you quickly start to appreciate all the good stuff about the admittedly touristy town. And Torremolinos is indeed a place that welcomes tourists, and knows how to treat them.

The Mediterranean seaside is lined with hotels. Well – that's not quite true. There are lots of waterfront hotels, but between them and the sea is a many-kilometre, tile-paved walking path, with boutiques and restaurants, and an unending supply of public beaches. That walkway itself is a source of unending entertainment. A stroll from our hotel – Ocean House Costa del Sol – to the centre of Torremolinos offered ample opportunities for shopping, people-watching, and drinking and/or dining along the waterfront. There are unique features here, too – flocks of beautiful (but sadly invasive) Monk Parakeets, and a colony of well-care-for feral cats which live in the nocks and crannies of cliffs, and which are cared for by officially-appointed volunteers.

We enjoyed this walkway dozens of times, and never tired of the experience. I mean, Canadians in March, strolling beside the Mediterranean? What can be wrong about that?

Our hotel happened to be located right on the border of Torremolinos and the next town to the west, Benalmadena. Following the path west-ward immediately took us to a beautiful marina, more shops, more dining, more beaches, more everything a visitor might want in a warm-weather getaway.

We did discover one intriguing destination, in the heart of Torremolinos – the Parque Urbano 'La Bateria'. It's important to note, here that like all the Costa del Sol seaside towns and cities, the landscape shoots upward from the seaside. I mentioned cliffs, and I wasn't kidding.

So this armed battery – armed with ancient guns – and guard tower, the "Torre Mirador", rise high above the street. However, clever powers-that-be have built a dramatic, glass-sided elevator that carries visitors up to base of the tower, and to all the gorgeous gardens and water features that are also part of the "Parque".

Downtown Torremolinos – well, considering its location on the top of the cliffs, "Uptown" – offers many more shops, restaurants and pubs.



(PHOTOS BY PAUL KNOWLES)

Torremolinos and the Mediterranean Sea, with the elevator and walkway in the foreground, viewed from the Torre Mirador.

We stopped to enjoy street musicians (there are plenty of buskers about), and then made our way down shop-lined staircases to the beachfront walkway.

Speaking of musicians, one of the great things about staying in a Torremolinos hotel is the nightly entertainment. That is the case with many of the hotels, and you don't have to be a guest to wander in and enjoy the show. We enjoyed all of the shows (and we took one in almost every evening); highlights include an Il Divo style show by a superb trio called The Bohemians, and a Flamenco dancing show that was both beautiful and astonishingly energetic.

The food scene in Torremolinos is highly cosmopolitan. Even in the hotel restaurant – which seats hundreds, and serves via buffets –

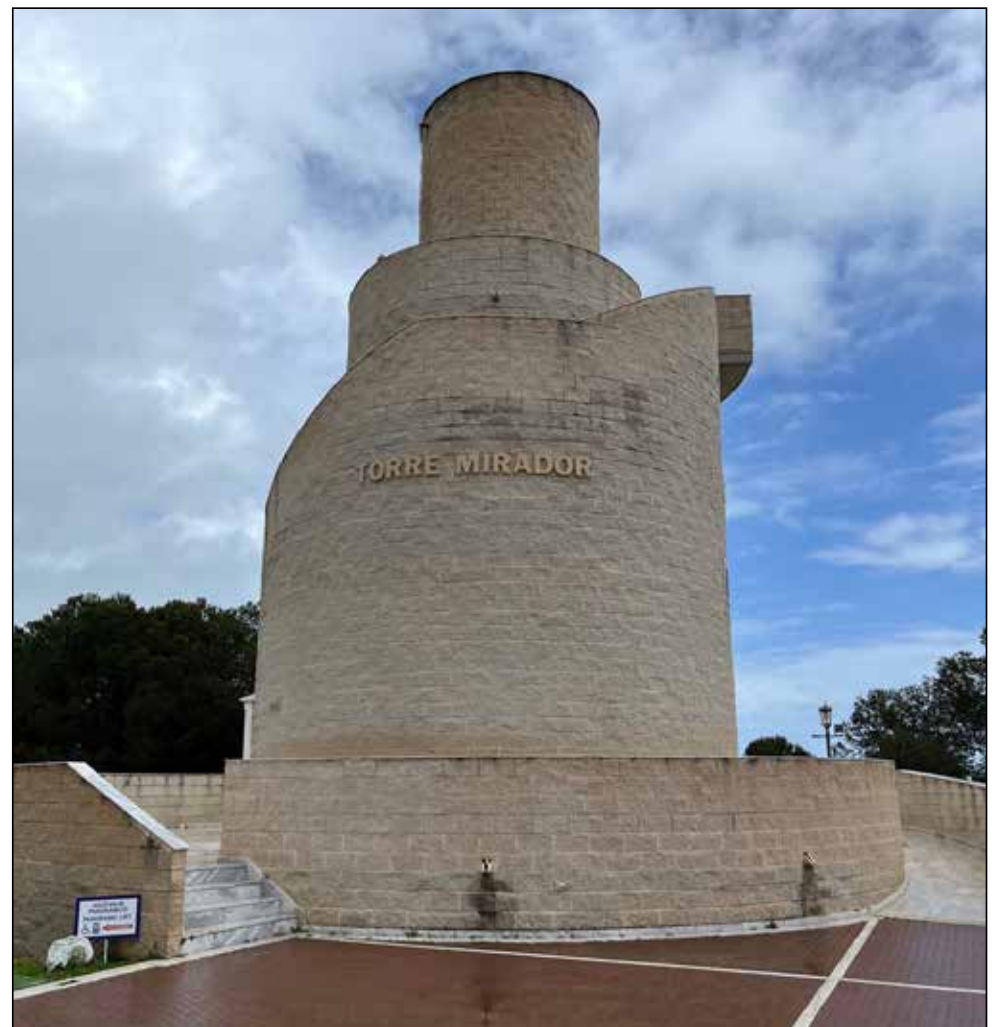
you could find superb choices, including freshly prepared fish (I, unlike normal humans, love squid), and, every day, a new take on paella. We also had the chance to take a class in making paella (I continue my search for round rice here in southwestern Ontario), as well as a very jolly session on creating sangria!

As I said, Torremolinos is a terrific home base for adventures around southern Spain. But not just a place to leave from – our 23 days included 12 without an excursion, and Torremolinos also proved to be a lovely place to enjoy, in its own right.

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



Flamenco!



The Torre Mirador, high above the Torremolinos seafont.



Death Of An Actor

Welcome to 5 Minute Mysteries Sponsored by Habit of Murder opening May 29th, 7:30 p.m. at Theatre Tillsonburg. To celebrate our first Murder Mystery in some time, Theatre Tillsonburg is sponsoring a series of WhoDunits here in the Tillsonburg Post and on our Theatre's social media sites. Our mission: get our readers into the super-sleuth mode, activate your detective mindset and challenge you with a series of written and visual mysteries to solve. This week is our second written mystery challenge "Death Of An Actor." We invite you to solve this 5 Minute Mystery. The solution will be published in the next Tillsonburg Post along with the next written mystery.

During the run of Habit of Murder each night audience members will have the chance to solve the murder in the show and win a prize. Welcome to 5 Minute Mysteries sponsored by Habit of Murder running May 29- June 8 at Theatre Tillsonburg.

The storm raged in the quiet region of Potter's Road. Sister Vivian Salter, a Catholic Nun known for her deduction skills was driving to a crime scene. She was well known for solving all sorts of mysteries, and so was typically the first to be asked to join in, especially when Officer Wallen took the case.

Retreating from the downpour, the nun quickly walked inside the building that hosted the crime scene; Theatre Tillsonburg. Once past the foyer, the theatre was a large, open room, with raised seating leading to a stage. On one side of the space was a hallway that led to a staircase down to the basement to the restrooms, most likely for actors. Sister Salter brushed her damp, dark hair out of her face, her eyes taking in and observing the space. The O.P.P officer on site, Buddy Wallen welcomed his long-time partner and friend quickly escorted her to a secluded

room beside the foyer where three people were already sitting. The kitchen wasn't ideal, but it was private and available. It was not their first investigation together and this one would not likely be the last.

Inside the theatre's kitchen, there was a well-dressed man in a baby blue suit, a yellow tie, with his hair in a classic comb over. He was the type of man you would expect to find in an office, working away at a computer desk. He introduced himself as Max Wheaton.

Beside him was a very attractive woman who looked to be no older than 30. She had a red, velvet scarf around her neck, long dark hair with green highlights. She wore a black dress. Sister Vivian recognized her as a rising actress from Ingersoll known as Emma Harrison, here to star in a show at Theatre Tillsonburg.

Sister Vivian noticed the third person, a man advanced in years. His face worn the vestiges of time with wrinkles, a rounded nose drawing away from the small eyes that narrowed when he saw the nun. He was dressed in a suit, similar to that of a butler.

His vision shifted from scowling at Sister Vivian to Officer Buddy saying, "I am not sure you are making the best decision, requesting the assistance of a Catholic nun."

The sleuth recognized him as Ryan Callahan, the bartender at the local pub, The Bronze Bucket.

Buddy noted, "There has been a murder at Theatre Tillsonburg of one of the actors, and these three were the only ones here with the victim. The victim's name was Winnie Pepper, a 40-year-old, who was rehearsing until she was struck in the back of the head by a metal urn. Her body was discovered at 7:30 in the ladies' room. We still do not know who did this."

Sister Salter nodded at this information and asked each suspect what they were do-

ing before the body was found. Her opening line often revealed so much not always about what was said but what was left out.

Max began saying he visited his wife's office in town before arriving at the theatre. He arrived at about 7 p.m., when he realized that he forgot his script at his wife's office. Max called her at 7:05, and waited outside for her until about 7:20 while smoking a cigarette.

Sister Salter took note of the information, her mind a steel trap capturing all of the facts.

In contrast Buddy, the trained police professional dutifully wrote down the details. Vivian continued on to ask Emma, "So Emma please explain to us what you were doing prior to the discovery of poor Winnie."

Emma explained that she arrived early at around 6:50 p.m., but she had to wait outside the theatre until 6:55 because Max and Winnie were the only ones who remembered the passcode. She had coffee with Winnie, Ryan and Max at around 7:05, went to the washroom to refresh her make-up a little while later, and came out at around 7:25. Sister Salter continued to commit the details to memory as her partner Officer Wallen wrote down each of Emma's facts. They then moved on to Ryan Callahan.

Being questioned by a nun didn't sit well with Ryan, he grunted begrudgingly and began to explain. He had arrived at around 6:57 and saw that Max, Winnie and Emma were having coffee. Ryan went and made himself a coffee and they all drank together. At around 7:08, he saw Emma leave for the washroom. Winnie left shortly afterward to look for and check on some props behind the stage. Winnie was a trained nurse, and as such, was a devil for the details. It made her a perfect choice to double check props, and costumes. At 7:15, Ryan joined Max in smoking a cigarette until 7:20 when they both went back inside. Ryan went to the washroom at 7:30.

He noticed both the ladies' restroom doors wide open and discovered Winnie, slumped over in one of the stalls, her head in the toilet or so Ryan claimed.

After hearing all of the testimonies, Sister Salter pondered the facts of the case.

Buddy caught her quizzical look. He knew his friend well from the years of solving crimes. Buddy glanced at his notepad and then closed it. He then said, "I'll understand if you need some time to figure this one out."

Vivian smiled and said, "That won't be necessary. I believe the facts have led me to a clear conclusion that both you, I and the Lord will be comfortable with."

Sister Salter then confidently pointed at the murderer and said, "Arrest this person for first degree murder!"

...Find the solution in the next issue!

Solution to Café of Murder (Published last issue)

Sunny asked, "How do you know?"

Buddy answered, "We know it was not Ryan Callahan. You saw Darryl alive after Ryan left the café. It wasn't Winnie Pepper, either, because she came straight to you from the fiction section, asked for a cappuccino and left. The same goes for Leo Therriault, as you said "He grabbed his drink and left never having wandered from the counter area." Pausing for a moment, he added, "The videotapes confirm everything you have told me."

Sunny asked, "So, you think it was Poppy Mathews that killed Darryl?"

"Yes, and not only because he was the only one who could have done it. I recognize him. He is also known as "Petrolia Poppy" a sworn enemy of "Duck." No doubt he saw Duck back in the men's room and seized the opportunity. Not a smart thing to do but those two are not known for being bright."



STUDIO TOUR

David Ternapolski of Tillsonburg, left, talks to artist Jared Smith during the Oxford Studio Tour held May 3 across the county in several locations between Woodstock and Tillsonburg. Besides displays in artists' studios, there were several locations, including the Station Arts Centre in Tillsonburg pictured here, where several artists had their work on display.

(JEFF HELSDON PHOTO)



ALICE COMES TO TILLSONBURG

Students at Monsignor O'Neil presented their version of Alice as part of Education Week. The show was presented to St. Joseph's students, the school's own students and to parents. Alice was played by Annie McSpadden and Tristan Ecker played the caterpillar.

(JEFF HELSDON PHOTO)

COMING EVENTS

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TILLSONBURG

WHEN: 2nd Tuesday of every month
WHERE: VON Oxford Office 24 Brock St. W., Tillsonburg
TIME: 6:30PM-8:00PM

INGERSOLL

WHEN: 4th Tuesday of every month
WHERE: Ingersoll Public Library
130 Oxford St., Ingersoll
TIME: 10:30AM-12:00Noon

WOODSTOCK

WHEN: 3rd Saturday of every month
WHERE: Sakura House Hospice
715180 Oxford Rd.4, Woodstock
TIME: 10:30AM-12:00Noon

INTERESTED IN BRIDGE?

Join us every Friday at the Tillsonburg Duplicate Bridge Club at 1 p.m. at The Senior Centre. Don't have a partner? Come anyway and we will match you up with someone. For more information, visit their Facebook page: TburgBridge.

TILLSONBURG LIONS

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

ARE YOU IN A JAM?

May 23, June 6 & 20 from 1-4p.m. Masonic Hall, 190 Thames St S, Ingersoll.
Ingersoll's Country Music Jamboree

Club is celebrating 40 years. New members wanted. Qualifications - love 50-70's country music. Listen, dance, enjoy! The club welcomes walk-ins at the door.

MEMBERS GENERAL MEETING

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Starting at 7:00 pm**
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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

**BAKE, PLANT, PURSE,
AND ACCESSORIES SALE
St John's Anglican Church
46 Rideout St W, Tillsonburg.
Saturday May 31st, 9am-noon
Free admission.**

PLANT & BAKE SALE

Delhi & District Horticultural Society is having its annual Plant & Bake Sale on **Saturday May 17th at the Delhi Tobacco Museum & Heritage Cente from 8:00 am till noon.** Great selection of perennials and home-baked goodies.

WEEKLY CRUISE NIGHTS

Hosted by the Tillsonburg Cruisers

at the Tim Hortons/Wendys.

Everyone is welcome to come and enjoy vehicles of all makes and years.

THE OXFORD COUNTY HISTORICAL SOCIETY PRESENTS: THE PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

Focusing on Oxford County History! "History is alive in the buildings in which we worship – in the stained glass, in our records, books, artifacts and our stories!" Join Reverend Angus Sutherland as he takes us through the history of the Presbyterian Church focusing on Oxford County. Angus is past chair of the Committee for the National Presbyterian Museum (now the Presbyterian Church Heritage Centre), and acting Curator of the Heritage Centre's Communion token collection.

**Wednesday, May 28, 2025, 6:30pm
Woodstock Museum, NHS
Free public meeting – membership optional - refreshments served!
info@oxhs.ca www.oxhs.ca 226-242-4774. Like us on Facebook @ [oxfordhistoricalsociety1987](https://www.facebook.com/oxfordhistoricalsociety1987)**

THE BROWNSVILLE ANNUAL SCHOOL REUNION

June 18, 2025 from 10:00am - 3:00pm

at the 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

INDOOR YARD SALE

**St. Paul's United Church
88 Bidwell St., Tillsonburg, Ontario
SATURDAY, MAY 31, 2025
8:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m.**

We've got it all - clothing, books, Christmas items, children's toys, furniture and much much more. Also available - yummy baked goods from our U.C.W. as well as a food booth to

keep your strength up as you shop. For more info please call 519-688-0011.

LIVE MUSIC - SIVLE

**Tillsonburg Legion
Saturday June 7th at 7pm.**
Winner of the 2024 ISSA Award "SIVLE" is performing. Advance tickets \$10 door \$15. For more info call 519-842-5281.

ROAST BEEF SUPPER

**Tillsonburg Legion
May 30, serving from 5-6 pm while quantities last.**
\$18 per person includes mashed potatoes, gravy, vegetables, buns, desserts, tea and coffee. All welcome!

BOTTLE DRIVE

**Tillsonburg Legion
Friday May 30 and Saturday May 31.** Donate your glass or can beer and liquor bottles to the Legion Building Fund! Drop off to the big white truck in the Legion parking lot 9am to 5pm. Thank you for supporting the Legion!

HOLY TRINITY CAR SHOW

**May 23 from 9a.m. – 3p.m.,
128 Evergreen Hill Rd.**
Contact information for registration: Clark Chernak 519-410-2711.

TILLSONBURG HORTICULTURAL SOCIETY ANNUAL GARDEN AUCTION AND PLANT SALE

Tuesday, May 20.
Live Plant Auction. Draw prize tables. Tillsonburg Community Complex. Doors open at 5:00. Free admission

MULTICULTURAL FOOD FESTIVAL

**Saturday, June 7th, 11am - 3pm
Delhi Tobacco Museum & Heritage Centre - 200 Talbot Rd., Delhi**
FeaturingL Korean, Fillipino, Jamaican, Mexican, Indian, Hungarian, Ukranian, German food & European desserts. \$5 admission, children 12 & under free. Debit & cash payment, take-out & dine-in.

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Fire

What comes down but never goes up?
Rain

What can fill a room but takes up no space?
Light

I can be long or short; I can be grown or bought; I can be painted or left bare; I can be round or square. What am I?
Fingernail

I don't have a mouth, but I always answer when spoken to. What am I?
Echo

What invention lets you look right through a wall?
Window

What gets broken if you say its name?
Silence

SUDOKU

by PeterS 2025

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

Solutions on page 31 Basic (10)

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WORD SEARCH
WEATHER

C	G	P	P	U	G	W	D	O	W	N	P	O	U	R	E	K	F	D	S
S	C	P	M	H	U	M	I	D	I	T	Y	T	M	Q	Z	J	Q	W	T
G	H	E	D	F	O	R	E	C	A	S	T	L	I	W	M	R	K	W	C
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- Thunder
- Lightning
- Rainbow
- Drizzle
- Hurricane
- Forecast
- Cloudy
- Breezy
- Sunshine
- Snowstorm
- Downpour
- Humidity
- Tornado
- Overcast
- Barometer

CLASSIFIEDS

THANK YOU

The family of the Late Carolyn Lamers wish to extend our sincere thanks and appreciation to all our relatives and friends for their kindness, tributes, cards, phone calls, memorial donations and heartfelt condolences.

Thank you to all of the attentive and dedicated personnel at Ostrander's Funeral Home, Marcel and Laurie of Carriage Hall for their friendship and attention to detail in providing a beautiful Celebration of Life – Thank you – Thank you

The family of Carolyn Lamers

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
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from 12 noon to 2 p.m.,
in the Lions Den at the
Tillsonburg Community Centre,
45 Hardy Ave., Tillsonburg,
Ontario.

OBITUARY

RICE J. RONALD "RON" (MARCH 10, 1944 – APRIL 26, 2025)



Passed away, suddenly, but peacefully, at the Woodstock General Hospital, on Saturday, April 26th, 2025, Ron Rice, a longtime resident of Springford, at the age of 81. Born in Tillsonburg, son of the late Earl Rice and former Cela (nee Almost) Rice. Above all else, Ron was a caring family man. He was also a dedicated welder and fabricator, assembling and erecting grain elevators throughout Ontario with the former Tripp-Voigt-Trottier Ltd., Tillsonburg, for many years. Much loved husband for over sixty years of Gayle (nee Hulme) Rice. Loved father and father-in-law of: Dan (Judie), of Eden and grandfather of their children; Kyle, Taylor and step-granddaughter Kayla; Todd Rice, of Lyons; and Shawn (Patty), of Springford. Survived by two loving sisters: Aldene (Lance Bull), of Tillsonburg and Joanne (Dave Long), of Brownsville and nieces, nephews, cousins and many friends. Predeceased by his siblings Bill Dwayne, Keith, Beryle and his sister Marlene.

Ron served honourably with the Royal Canadian Navy (1964-1966). Ron loved participating in community events- he enjoyed being around others and engaging in meaningful and helpful ways to stay busy. Ron was a former Boy Scouts Leader in Springford for many years. He loved the outdoors, spending as much as time as possible hunting and fishing up North with his brothers, sisters and friends. Ron was very active with the Tillsonburg/Woodstock Harvard Association and Courtland Flying Club, where he enjoyed helping to maintain the Harvards. He was also previously a member of the Otter Valley Riders Club and the District Area Ham Radio Operators. Ron was a member of the Royal Canadian Legion Branch #153, Tillsonburg, where he enjoyed playing euchre and cribbage. He was active in the Tillsonburg Broomball Group. Ron played Tillsonburg Old Timer's Hockey and he loved being around others and staying busy in his younger years, Ron played baseball with the Springford Bengals Slo-Pitch team and loved to play golf.

In keeping with Ron's expressed wishes, cremation has taken place. Friends, Springford neighbours and relatives may leave letters of condolences, share favourite memories and photos for Gayle and the family, or contribute memorial donations to Simcoe and District Humane Society via Ron's online tribute page at www.verhoevefuneralhomes.com or by contacting the Maurice J. Verhoeve Funeral Homes, Tillsonburg, which has been entrusted with all cremation arrangements.

info@tillsonburgpost.com

OBITUARY

RUGIENIS HELEN ANN (NOVEMBER 5, 1927 – MAY 4, 2025)



It is with deep sadness, that we the family of Helen Ann (Augustine) Rugienis wish to announce her peaceful passing, after a courageous struggle with Alzheimer's, on Sunday, May 4th, 2025, at Tillsonburg District Memorial Hospital, at the age of 97. Helen was born in Weston, Ontario to Stanley Augustine Sr. and the late former Rosalynn Zilvitis. For many years, Helen farmed tobacco in the Tillsonburg area with her much-loved husband of 48 years, Geddy Rugienis (1997). Together they raised their daughters Lorraine Davis and Dianne Rugienis, both of Tillsonburg. Always a loving grandmother to Angela (husband Mark Newson) and Matthew Davis (wife Miranda). Proud great-grandmother to Carter, Elijah and Leyton Newson; Elysse and Everett Davis. Also survived by nieces, nephews and cousins. Helen is predeceased by her siblings Albert Augustine, Stan Augustine Jr., and Stella Zellen and by her guardian angel granddaughter Christine Davis (1981).

Helen was a resident of Tillsonburg, since 1958, until recent years while residing at Caressant Care Courtland. The family is grateful for the wonderful care that she received from the Nurses, PSWs and staff at Caressant Care Courtland. Special thanks to Dr. Daniel Dockx for his attentive care and compassion. Helen was a member of the former St. Casmir's Lithuanian Church, Delhi and St. Mary's Church, Tillsonburg. Helen will be remembered by her family and friends for many reasons: her enjoyment when hosting family events, her wonderful napoleon cakes and cooking ("the aroma's wafting from her home were memorable!"), her warm smile, great character and for her loving of gardening and caring for her flower beds. Helen was the gracious recipient of awards from the Lioness Club Garden Tour and from the Tillsonburg Horticultural Society for her gardens. Helen will be dearly missed and while her time on earth has come to an end, she will be watching carefully over her family and friends from Heaven.

In keeping with Helen's expressed wishes, cremation has taken place. Friends, neighbours and relatives are invited to attend a Celebration of Life Gathering for Helen at North Broadway Baptist Church (6 North Street E, Tillsonburg), on Saturday, May 24th, with visitation between 10:30 a.m. and 12:00 p.m., followed by a memorial service at 12:15 p.m., by Pastor Alan Silvester. Private family inurnment will be held in Tillsonburg Cemetery, at a later date. As an expression of sympathy, memorial donations to the London Regional Cancer Program or the Tillsonburg District Memorial Hospital or to any charity of your choice would be gratefully acknowledged by Helen's family and can be made via Helen's online tribute page at www.verhoevefuneralhomes.com or by contacting the Maurice J. Verhoeve Funeral Homes- Burial and Cremation Services Inc., 262 Broadway, Tillsonburg (519)842-4238, which has been entrusted with all funeral arrangements, with confidence.

"Special thank you to the Doctors, Nurses and Staff at Tillsonburg Hospital during mom's last days. A very special thank you to the angels of the south end at Caressant Care. We will be forever grateful. Blessings."

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CLASSIFIEDS

OBITUARY

JANCSURAK PEARL (KOHAJDA) (FEB. 8, 1939 – MAY 12, 2025)



It is with great sadness, that we the family of Pearl Jancsurak, wish to announce the peaceful passing of our much-loved wife, mother, grandmother, great-grandmother, aunt and friend to many, at Tillsonburg District Memorial Hospital, on May 12th, 2025, at the age of 86. Pearl was born in Nixon, Ontario to Andrew and Verona (nee Boszoki) Kohajda. Pearl was a resident of RR2 Tillsonburg, where she farmed with her much-loved and loving husband of 65 years, Louis Jancsurak. Together they raised a beautiful family and created many lifelong memories. Pearl was a member of the former St. Ladislaus R.C. Church, Courtland and more recently member of St. Mary's Church, Tillsonburg. Pearl was a member of Tillsonburg Horticultural Society and for many years was a dedicated volunteer and shareholder of the Delhi District Hungarian Hall. In her spare time, she could often be found sewing beautiful patterns or tending to her gardens. More than anything else, she was a very dedicated wife, caring mother, and very proud grandmother. Special great-grandmother and Guardian Angel to Madelynn and Everly Mudford. Lovingly remembered by her children Joanne Lynn (Stephen Smith), of Tillsonburg and their children Sara (Joel Mudford) & Shelby Smith (Blake); Teresa Verona Jancsurak (John Allen), of Acton and their children Darian Kavaner (Stephen) & Carter Kavaner (Tyra); Nancy Louise Jancsurak (late Leonardo Cianfroga, 2024), of Mississauga. Also survived by nieces, nephews, cousins and by her dear tomcat 'Sir Thomas'.

In keeping with Pearl's expressed wishes cremation has taken place. Friends, neighbours and relatives are invited to gather with the family for public visitation on Tuesday, May 20th, 2025, between 10:30 a.m. and 12:30 p.m., in the Maurice J. Verhoeve Funeral Homes Chapel, 262 Broadway, Tillsonburg. A Memorial Service to Honour Pearl's Life and Faith will follow on Tuesday, at 1:00 p.m. in the funeral home chapel, by Rev. Fr. Patrick Martin. Reception to follow at St. John's Anglican Church, 46 Ridout St. West, Tillsonburg. Interment in St. Ladislaus R.C. Cemetery, Courtland at a later date. Everyone who knew Pearl is invited to share favourite memories, photos, express personal condolences or contribute memorial donations to the "Tillsonburg District Memorial Hospital Foundation" or to "St. Mary's Parish" via Pearl's online tribute page at www.verhoevefuneralhomes.com or by contacting the Maurice J. Verhoeve Funeral Homes-Burial and Cremation Services Inc., (519)842-4238, entrusted with all funeral arrangements, with confidence.

"The Jancsurak family would like to offer their sincere gratitude to the Doctors, Nurses and Staff at Tillsonburg Hospital for the wonderful care and comfort provided to Pearl. Your thoughtfulness will always be remembered."

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