

# Woodstock Ingersoll Echo

VOLUME 3 • ISSUE 26

MAY 22, 2026

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## Oxford County council purchasing Woodstock YMCA for homeless shelter

LEE GRIFFI

Editor

Oxford County council has approved the purchase of the former Woodstock YMCA property on Dundas Street, with plans to convert the site into a homeless shelter and support centre.

The sale closes on May 29 for \$4.55 million. According to realtor.ca, the property was listed for \$5.69 million. It is expected to open in early 2028 following extensive renovations, the cost of which is not known. While all discussions and the approval of the purchase were made behind closed doors, the county held an emergency meeting on Tuesday afternoon after the story broke late last week, making the purchase public. Woodstock Mayor Jerry Acchione read a motion following a lengthy in-camera session.

“Moved by myself and seconded by Deputy warden Martin, that the verbal report of the warden be received and that staff be directed to implement the previously planned communication regarding the homelessness support centre and further, that the warden be authorized, at his discretion, to speak on matters containing closed session reports as it relates to the acquisition of the homelessness support centre property.”

Acchione added he supported the move to allow Warden Marcus Ryan to clear the air.

“I appreciate what’s going on right now on social media. There’s been a lot of accusations thrown around, and I appreciate the warden being able to speak to this if council so decides, as he sees fit.”

Woodstock city and Oxford County Coun. Bernia

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(ROSS FAROUHAR PHOTO)

### STORMY SKIES

Woodstock and Oxford county were hit with a dangerous weather event on the evening of Tuesday, May 19. This photo shows an ominous sky as thunderstorms, which resulted in several tornado warnings, approached the city.

## Local reaction to Dundas Street homeless shelter mixed

LEE GRIFFI

Editor

Some Woodstock residents have responded positively to the announcement of a future homeless shelter on Dundas Street in the city, but the opposition has been just as loud.

For the owners of Mostly Flowers across the street from the former YMCA, who just purchased the business last August, it raises some flags. Jessica Patterson and Renee Farmer said they had no idea about the plan to purchase the building. Farmer added many homeless people she has met have

hearts of gold, but those with addiction and mental health issues do pose a safety risk.

“I used to work at a flower shop that was across the street from a men’s shelter in London, and it was dangerous. Some of them would come in and yell at the flowers and the plants. What are our hours going to be? Who’s going to be hanging around our parking lot? We don’t know what’s going on, and we can’t trust that they are all going to be nice.”

The pair are also concerned about the shop being negatively impacted from a sales standpoint, along with the safety of their staff, who are all women.

CONTINUED TO PAGE 3



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## GRIFFI'S GRIPES

## EDITORIAL

# The confusion around Oxford County's purchase of the Woodstock YMCA



LEE GRIFFI

Editor

I wish I could tell everyone the exact truth, but when conversations happen behind closed doors, there is no way to find out what the truth is.

What is fact is that Oxford County has entered into an agreement to purchase the former Woodstock YMCA to house a homelessness support centre. Do we need one? Absolutely. Is it the best location? Many people say no. Was it done in open council? Absolutely not.

The vast majority of our readers and county residents don't understand the difference between Woodstock City Council jurisdiction and Oxford County Council jurisdiction. When it comes to homelessness, the county is in charge. The city has a say through its three representatives on county council. They are Woodstock Mayor Jerry Acchione and city/council Councillors Deb Tait and Bernia Martin.

Even if the three Woodstock members vote no on an issue affecting the city, they can be outnumbered easily in a 10-member council. That is what a two-tier government is. Like any democracy, the majority rules. Those in charge of Tillsonburg, Ingersoll, Norwich, South-West Oxford, Zorra, Blenheim and East Zorra-Tavistock all have a vote at the table as well.

The City of Stratford just entered into a non-binding agreement to purchase a former Scotiabank corporate building for a new police station to replace the one it has

outgrown. I am a Stratford native. The people I know agree the move is necessary. The report was presented in open council and voted on by elected officials. To me, that is democracy. Stratford has been spanked recently for holding too many meetings behind closed doors that shouldn't have been. They have learned their lesson, apparently.

"This decision comes after Andre Morin, the city's top administrator, presented a report to council that showed both the current and future needs of police, and the limitations of the current downtown location," said a story in the Stratford Beacon Herald.

The renovations will cost over \$20 million, but the report and motion to approve were done in open council. Why wasn't that the case here?

Was the purchase of the YMCA legal? The county's integrity commissioner said yes. I am not the judge and jury on this one; my job is to present both sides of a story, which hasn't been easy. You, the public, can make your own judgement. What I do know is this mess would have never happened if the move had been made in open council. It would have been presented, debated, and we would have all seen how each member of council voted and what they had to say.

County Council's deliberations have been behind closed doors on this one. Members of council are not allowed to talk about it in public, although, as you will see in this week's paper, the warden was approved to talk publicly at his discretion, as approved by members of county council during an in-camera meeting on Tuesday afternoon.

My job isn't to be the judge and jury. Ask my closest friends. I am a curious creature by nature. I always have been. That's why I am a journalist, and my job is to get to the truth. Do I have opinions? Of course, and in my mind, this should have been done in open council. Woodstock council should also have

more say on such important issues, but that's not the democracy we live in at the moment.

I welcome all sides of any story. I always have throughout my career as a journalist and a communications professional. Would I have advised county council to keep this behind closed doors? Hell no. This is the number one issue in Woodstock. Any conversations about a shelter should have been conducted in the public eye. There is too much at stake and too many people affected, including those unhoused with mental health and addiction issues.

In my mind, doing this behind closed doors only worsens the stigma surrounding the homeless who battle many issues. For too long, we have dealt with this in silos without open and honest dialogue. I hope those elected in the fall will work together to make this shelter work.

I have lived through struggles, both with myself and family members. I have suggested to those in power to have some sort of summit in the city with all levels of government to work on a transparent solution. That has not happened, and it won't any time soon since the municipal election is looming in the fall. They should be helped to the best of our abilities.

We don't know much. The property was for sale at \$5.69 million. A similar YMCA sold in London for \$2 million for Indwell to turn into affordable housing, etc. No report has been released here, and there is no estimate for the cost of renovations or operating costs going forward. That worries me as an Oxford and Woodstock taxpayer. I am certain more details will come out in the near future, but for now, we are in the dark.

We need to get these folks off the streets. I know not all of them are interested in the help, but God knows we have to try. To me, this just isn't the right way to go about it. We are doing them no favours by creating a shelter this way.

# Some residents concerned about location

CONTINUED FROM FRONT

“They obviously aren’t considering the impact on the people living and running a business in this area,” said Patterson. “Downtown Woodstock has a bad reputation already, and there are some stores that are hurting because of it.”

The pair explained one of the main reasons they purchased Mostly Flowers was the location and are concerned more homeless people will come to Woodstock to take advantage of the new shelter. They added they have already had problems behind the store with drug use and vandalism.

“We found crack pipes and needles, and we’ve had to put a lock on our cooler switch because they would turn it off,” said Farmer. “We have had to ask some to leave the property and have also had to call the police,” she added.

The pair support the shelter in principle but feel it should be located away from homes and businesses. They also would have liked to have been consulted by the county.

Oxford County Warden Marcus Ryan said he understands the concerns of the people living and doing business near the future site, just like those in the area of the two current shelters.

“The real answer to this is let’s not have homeless people. Let’s not have people with addiction and mental health issues. When I first ran for council in 2014, there were probably a handful of people in the county experiencing this. The real issue isn’t where you put this, its we shouldn’t have this problem.”

Ryan added no matter where the county puts the facility, there’s a problem.

“And they’re not wrong. Somebody’s going to live next door to it and say I don’t want it here. And they’re not wrong. I totally get that. Yet, we still have the problem. Some people contact (us) about the current locations and complain. At any new proposed location, the same thing would happen. To some extent, as a council, we are stuck with the fact we are going to make someone unhappy.”

He defended the location of the former YMCA, saying that if it were located on the outskirts of the community, homeless people would not use the resource.

“You have to find a location that is adjacent to downtown areas where the homeless population typically resides. Additionally, we are going to own this property. The other two, we don’t, so we are limited in how we can control them in terms of access, security and property maintenance. We can control how it’s used.”

Ryan added ownership of the property would also allow for the possibility of installing fencing, hedges, or other screening measures to help control access and improve security.

“It’s going to be a county-owned building and if people complain that it’s messy or unsightly, then phone the county, your county councillor or the warden to complain, and we will fix it up. Right now, we can’t do that.”

“For me, this issue comes down to compassion and public health. Homelessness is not just a political debate — these are real

people, real families, and often people struggling with trauma, mental illness, addiction, poverty, or impossible housing costs,” said Tracey Sherman, a Woodstock resident with a son who struggles with homelessness and the issues that come with it.

“A shelter means safer nights, access to support services, connection to healthcare, stability, and a chance for people to begin rebuilding their lives. It also benefits the broader community by connecting vulnerable people with proper supports instead of leaving them to struggle alone in parks, doorways, libraries, emergency rooms, or downtown spaces,” she added.

Sherman said she’s thankful leaders are willing to make difficult decisions with compassion and humanity at the centre of them.

“These decisions are never easy, and I respect that they understood the reality that if every shelter proposal became a prolonged public battle, nothing would ever get built. We cannot keep saying we want to help people while rejecting every possible solution.”

She added that, at some point, communities have to decide whether to prioritize discomfort and property concerns or prioritize the people suffering the most.

“I believe a compassionate community is one that steps up for vulnerable people, even when it’s difficult, and I’m proud to see leadership willing to do that.”

A homeowner close to the site, who did not want to be identified, said he had several concerns about the announcement.

“I worry about the back parking lot. I work with people who have disabilities, and I feel for people who don’t have homes and are struggling. But every time I drive home, I see people by the church high on fentanyl, and I don’t want my daughter to see that. I moved from London and I love this place. I invested my entire life savings into this home.”

He added he is also concerned about the value of his home decreasing as a result of living close to a homeless operation. What he hopes is that the renovation plan will include security fencing for the back parking lot.

“What would be a win-win for both sides in terms of safety would be a gated back fence and a fenced-in gated entry for staff only. If it is gated, there aren’t going to be people walking in and around the back. All the clients would be funnelled to the front entrance.”

He added the county should have consulted with property owners and businesses before deciding on the purchase.

“Absolutely, but that right was taken from us, and that was not cool. At the same time, I am trying to look at it from council’s perspective. There is a huge problem, and there is a huge building that has been sitting empty. But it is obviously going to damage people here financially.”

Ryan said residents with ideas on how to proceed with the renovation of the site should contact the county or a county councillor.

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# Ryan retiring from politics

LEE GRIFFI

Editor

Marcus Ryan's name will not be on the 2026 Zorra Township election ballot, as Oxford County's Warden has decided to step away from municipal politics.

"Nobody does anything forever. We all change. Politics was never a career choice for me. I backed my way into it because I wanted to keep my kids' school (A.J. Baker in 2012) open, and one thing led to another over the years," explained Ryan. "I always wanted to just try and get stuff done, and I think I've got stuff done. Now, I want to do other things in life."

Ryan said the role of mayor and warden has changed over the years and has become more intense in different ways, including spending time lobbying the provincial government.

"I was at Queen's Park for a day last week, talking to ministers and trying to get stuff done. Now I go to the cabin, and I'm taking phone calls from people. I can't go on a two-week vacation, so to some extent, I want to just have more personal time."

He would like to spend more time kayaking and hiking but did hint at remaining active in politics – just on the other side of the table.

"I've thought a little bit about maybe offering some council training, public speaking and maybe some consulting, but we'll see. I don't know if people would be interested in hearing from me on that stuff or not."

Ryan said he feels good about a new school being built in the village of Thamesford, as well as a new policy direction that will proactively protect farmland.

"Those intensification targets that we put forward are, in my opinion, historic for Oxford, and I'm proud of that. The Maple Leaf redevelopment in Thamesford of that land is going to reap rewards for the community for generations."

No one would deny housing and homelessness has become a paramount issue for the county. Ryan said whether you don't want someone living in a tent or you don't want someone living in a tent behind your house, either way, that's an issue.

"And I think I'm proud of the investments that council made in staffing and in policies and in dollars to make that happen. We had an announcement last week about an affordable housing project opening in Oxford. Sometimes those things are disconnected for people, but without those difficult budgets that we passed,

then we can't have those days where we make an announcement about affordable housing."

Ryan explained he isn't the kind of person who lives with regrets for decisions made or not made in the past, but there is one issue that has stuck with him throughout his political career.

"It was during my first term on council that there was a proposal to move the Embro library to the rec center out of the town hall. I was brand new, and there was a lot of public opposition to it, and I sort of went with that. In hindsight, I think it was probably not the best choice. We probably should have moved it to create a sort of community hub of all kinds of services there."

Ryan added he hopes his replacement can move his priorities forward, although, as of press time, no one has put their name forward to run for mayor of Zorra.

"I want someone to come along and do a better job than me because either way, I honestly want you to print that because I am still going to be a resident of Zorra. I'm still going to be a resident of Oxford. I'm still going to use these services. My neighbours, my friends and my family are going to use these services and pay these taxes. And I really hope somebody

comes along and says I found a better way than Marcus did."

He also hopes voters are satisfied with the work he did.

"We had some challenging budgets. We had challenging times. Managing through COVID and the immense budget turmoil that came with that before and after. Then, reacting to the housing and homelessness issue, I think that we've been doing the right things. And I think the reality of government is sometimes you pass the policies while you're in the chair and then the benefits of those policies come years later."

Ryan said he'll be very happy if some future warden gets the credit for some of the work that he did while in the chair. He also hopes more people begin paying attention to municipal politics.

"I wish more people followed their local councils and knew what was going on. I wish more people knew what was going on with climate change. I wish more people knew what was going on with the economy, with all kinds of things. But I think having done this for sort of 12 years, and I don't mean this in a fatalistic way, but people are engaged to the level they're engaged with, and it's very hard to convince them to be more engaged than that."

## LETTER TO THE EDITOR

SEND YOURS TO [INFO@THEECHO.CA](mailto:INFO@THEECHO.CA)

### Open Letter to MPP Ernie Hardeman

From the Ontario Party – Oxford Riding Association

Dear Mr. Hardeman,

Across Ontario, there has been a noticeable shift in how decisions are made. Authority that has traditionally rested with municipalities is increasingly being directed at

the provincial level—particularly in land-use planning, housing policy, and the role of conservation authorities.

Taken together, these changes point to a broader trend: decisions once shaped locally are now more heavily influenced from Queen's Park.

In a community like Oxford County, that shift carries real implications. Local councils are responsible for balancing growth, protecting farmland, and managing infrastructure—decisions that rely on local knowledge and accountability.

Given your background in municipal and agricultural leadership, you understand the importance of decisions being informed by the communities they affect. That is why many residents are asking how that local perspective is being represented as provincial involvement increases.

We recognize that provincial leadership plays an important role. At the same time, effective governance depends on maintaining meaningful space for municipal

input—especially in regions where the impacts are immediate and lasting.

With that in mind, we respectfully ask:

- What is your position on the increasing centralization of decision-making authority in Ontario?
- How have you advocated for Oxford's municipalities as these changes have developed?
- What steps will you take to ensure that local voices continue to play a meaningful role in decisions affecting this region?

Oxford residents value practical, accountable leadership. Ensuring that balance remains intact is in the interest of the entire community.

We welcome your response and clarity on these matters.

Sincerely,

Peter Wright, President, Ontario Party Oxford

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Funded by the Government of Canada  
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# Condemned Season 2 premiere

EMILY STEWART

*Echo Correspondent*

*Condemned Woodstock's* second season premiered at the Market Centre Theatre on May 8. The private event for cast and crew showed five new episodes highlighting true crime in Woodstock. Just like its first season, its second season is hosted by Sangita Patel and features insights from Oxford County archivist Liz Dommasch.

Season Two began with the tale of Timothy Topping, who murdered his wife and four children before attempting suicide. There were episodes dedicated to Robert Topping's conviction for murder and attempted murder in the 1970s after a heated card game, and Mark Well's killing spree in the late 1980s.

The final two episodes of *Condemned Woodstock* focused on Elizabeth Wettlaufer, a former registered nurse who killed eight of her patients on duty at Oxford County nursing homes between the years 2007 and 2016. Wettlaufer is currently serving a life sentence with no

chance of parole for 25 years. The crimes sparked public outrage across Canada, and a two-year public inquiry was run by Ontario's Ministry of Health to determine how to prevent similar crimes from occurring again in long-term care homes.

"It seems like it was yesterday," producer Farah Foster-Manning said about the Wettlaufer case. "A lot of the big profile situations seem like it was just yesterday."

*Condemned* wrapped up production in Woodstock, but Foster-Manning plans for more seasons in other municipalities.

"We do have a few in mind, and I mean a lot of true crimes exist across Canada, so it doesn't stop here; It just started here," she said.

Foster-Manning wants to feature local history and true crime stories in Oxford County and beyond.

"I feel like a lot of people don't realize that there is a lot of history that has happened in different cities and towns across Ontario and true crime, once again, is a huge genre amongst a lot of people so to dig deep in a community where I live and I'm involved. It's amazing, regardless of



the stories. Sometimes you just have to bring the history back."

*Condemned Season Two* can be viewed on Channel 1 on Bell Fibe TV.

# DART Strangulation Prevention Campaign raising awareness on danger and health risks

EMILY STEWART

*Echo Correspondent*

After seeing an increase in strangulation events, the Domestic Abuse Resource Team (DART) launched a campaign addressing the associated dangers and health risks.

DART's strangulation prevention campaign was launched in May to raise awareness throughout Oxford County. The campaign came together after DART met with community partners such as women's shelters, hospitals, police, and the Children's Aid Society of Oxford County.

"Throughout the last year or so, we, as community agencies coming together, have seen a rise in strangulation, and it has been really worrying and concerning," said DART coordinator Sophie Foster.

Strangulation is one of the strongest indicators of future violence causing death, but it is often overlooked and minimized. Awareness materials like posters are displayed in bars and restaurants such as Woodstock's Charles Dickens Pub and Good Times, washrooms, and other public places. Foster said DART is aiming to reach the 18-to-25-year-old age group in particular.

"We are seeing a rise just in youth in general, whether they're seeing TikTok challenges online, or maybe they're seeing it like in pornography as well, and so it's not necessarily seen in these abusive relationships," she said. "They could be in what we call consenting relationships as well, where people don't understand how dangerous it is to be strangled or to strangle."

Strangulation happens when external neck pressure restricts blood flow to the brain and can lead to physical risks such as loss of control of bladder or bowels or an anoxic seizure in less than a minute. It only takes between six and nine seconds to become unconscious and minutes to develop brain damage. Internal damage can happen without any physical marks.

"You might feel fine right after, but three days can go by, and you can still have a stroke," said Foster.

DART held an event on May 4 at the Market Square Theatre, where frontline professionals across Oxford County gathered and discussed responses to strangulation during gender-based violence cases.

DART also has two Can We Talk About That? Podcast episodes on strangulation awareness and prevention with a nurse from St. Joseph's Health Care's Regional Sexual Assault and Domestic Violence Treatment Cen-

tre in London, Ont. The organization is also posting as much as possible on social media throughout the month of May.

"We know that tons of people are online, and so we're hoping that's an accessible way to get it out as well," Foster said.

To learn more about the campaign online, visit <https://dartoxford.ca/strangulation>.

[theecho.ca](http://theecho.ca)

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# ITOPA presents The Drowsy Chaperone – first musical in a long time for theatre

EMILY STEWART

Echo Correspondent

The Ingersoll Theatre of Performing Arts (ITOPA) will be presenting its first musical in years.

ITOPA's production of The Drowsy Chaperone, a five-time Tony Award-winning musical, will run from May 29 to June 7. As a man in a chair listens to his favourite record, a cast recording of a 1928 musical, dynamic characters like an intoxicated chaperone, two gangsters masquerading as pastry chefs, a hostess who isn't the sharpest tool in the shed, two lovers on the eve of their wedding night, and a bumbling best man create an eccentric evening.

"It's a funny comedy. I think generally anyone, whether you're a fan of musicals or not, you'll still enjoy the story and the laughter," said director Joey Larmour.

The Drowsy Chaperone is the first musical presented by ITOPA in several years. Larmour told the board he was interested in directing a musical and that it would be worth running for the community involvement. The production team has familiar faces in the Oxford County theatre scene, including Lara Larmour as choreographer, Andrew Russo as musical director, Kim Di Lello as stage manager, and Adam Tanton as producer.

The show's sponsor, PB's French Fries, is sponsoring ITOPA for the first time.

"That's just a nice little way of expanding the community a little bit, making sure that people know that there is a theatre here," Larmour said.

In 2025, Larmour directed the successful Theatre Woodstock production of Cabaret. He enjoys the passion from the dedicated volunteers in all aspects of community theatre, whether that's on-stage, behind-the-scenes, or as a board member.

"Everyone has the sole goal of putting on a good show and entertaining people for a couple of hours and the people who are involved with that are typically very good people," he said.

Details

The Drowsy Chaperone  
Music & Lyrics by Lisa Lambert & Greg Morrison  
Book by Bob Martin & Don McKellar

Original Broadway production of The Drowsy Chaperone produced by Kevin McCollum, Roy Miller, Bob Boyett, Stephanie McClelland, Barbara Freitag and Jill Furman

THE DROWSY CHAPERONE is presented through special arrangement with Music Theatre International (MTI).

All authorized performance materials



(EMILY STEWART PHOTO)

ITOPA's first musical in several years, Tony-award-winning The Drowsy Chaperone, will take the stage from May 29 to June 7. Pictured from left to right: Becky Tanton, Mike Crabbe, Alison Enns, Briar Tanton, James Callaghan, Roderick Spence, Adrienne Enns, Glen McCann, Tanya Thompson, David Cueller, Tracey Price, Dana Fobert and Jacob Larmour.

are also supplied by MTI.

Evening performances begin at 7:30 p.m. and matinee performances at 2 p.m., with doors opening half an hour prior. Tickets for The Drowsy Chaper-

one are \$26 for adults, \$24 for seniors, \$22 for students 12 years old and older and \$10 for students under 12 years old and can be purchased by calling 519-485-3070 or online at [www.itopa.ca](http://www.itopa.ca).

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Retired Workers Chapter  
Chairperson  
DS/cmcope343

Susan Veenstra  
Unifor Local 636  
Retired Workers Chapter  
Recording Secretary

GRANT  
HAVEN  
MEDIA

St. Marys Independent The Wilmot-Tavistock Gazette STRATFORDTIMES  
Woodstock Ingersoll Echo Exeter Examiner NEWSPAPER Goderich Sun  
Tillsonburg POST SIMCOE ADVOCATE The Paris Independent

#### PUBLICATION DATES:

PARIS INDEPENDENT: JUNE 3 | ST MARYS INDEPENDENT: JUNE 4  
TILLSONBURG POST: JUNE 4 | WILMOT-TAVISTOCK GAZETTE: JUNE 4  
SIMCOE ADVOCATE: JUNE 4 | EXETER EXAMINER: JUNE 4  
STRATFORD TIMES: JUNE 5 | WOODSTOCK INGERSOLL ECHO: JUNE 5  
GODERICH SUN: JUNE 11

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Ontario

# Closed-door decision defended by warden

CONTINUED FROM FRONT

Martin seconded the motion and spoke to it. "I enthusiastically support this motion and look forward to the communication that comes forward from it."

That communication came in the form of a press release from county CAO Ben Addley and an additional statement from Ryan on Tuesday evening.

"This is good news for our community and a fundamental step toward getting more people the support they need to get off the streets," said Addley.

"Working with our community partners, the building will offer emergency shelter services along with onsite supports that help people move safely inside, become stabilized and connect to the right form of housing. It will also be tied to the new HART Hub and Wellness Centre in Woodstock, a provincially funded facility that provides mental health and addictions support, along with other services."

Grant Haven Media interviewed the warden on Wednesday morning, during which he said the closed-doors process had been approved by the county's integrity commissioner (IC).

"It is absolutely normal municipal practice throughout Ontario, explicitly made legal in the Municipal Act, and we checked twice with our IC throughout this process to ensure we were doing it properly," Ryan said.

He added taxpayers saved at least \$580,000 by keeping the purchase confidential.

"That's why we do that, to protect taxpayers' dollars. If we are going to purchase a property, we are going to do that in the most efficient way that we can. Municipalities go into closed session to say to their staff they



(LEE GRIFFI PHOTO)

**Oxford County is purchasing the former Woodstock YMCA property for \$4.55 million, with plans to convert the site into a homeless shelter and support centre. It is expected to open in early 2008.**

would like to purchase a property, and here is the maximum number we would like to go to. Staff then have the ability to negotiate a purchase price."

Ryan understands the property's neighbours have legitimate concerns, but since the county will own it, they will be better equipped to manage the issues that go along with a homeless shelter.

"Homelessness, addiction and mental health issues are arguably the most important issues this term of council has had to deal with. If we don't find a better way to deal with it, it's going to get worse for everybody. The only option, other than this, is worse."

The warden, who is not seeking re-election

in Zorra Township, said homelessness wasn't an issue he ever expected would be a part of his time as an elected official.

"But here we are. Without a doubt, the vast majority of Oxford and Woodstock residents will be better off with this homeless service centre."

In his own statement, Ryan said a member of county council recently questioned the actions over the process involved in purchasing the building.

"The councillor stated that they were very concerned as an elected official. I couldn't agree more; voting one way and saying the opposite is very concerning. On April 28, this member of council voted in public, in open session, to go into closed session to

consider purchasing the former YMCA property for use as the homelessness support centre."

While not naming her directly, Ryan was referring to Woodstock city and county Coun. Deb Tait who attempted to pass a notice of motion to implement public consultation before the sale of the building was finalized.

"Then, on the same day, the councillor voted, again in public in open session, to adopt the recommendations in report HS (CS) 2026-02 to purchase the former YMCA property for use as the (shelter). Council is here to make the tough decisions on the tough issues and be accountable. I have great respect for this councillor and every single member of council, and I believe without doubt that all of us are working to serve in this way."

Tait also released a brief statement on Wednesday.

"We were all elected by the public. I firmly believe that the public's business should be done in a public forum with public discourse. A motion that states the recommendations in closed are adopted. That gives the public no chance to have their say. It also does not allow a councillor to speak to it as it is confidential information discussed in closed."

She added when dealing with millions of dollars of taxpayer money as an elected official, they should err on the side of caution and be as transparent as possible.

"My motion for the public meeting, even though seven councillors voted to defer, served its purpose to bring the issue to the public."

# Acchione seeking re-election as Friendly City mayor

LEE GRIFFI

Editor

"I am seeking re-election as Mayor of Woodstock because I believe our city is moving in the right direction, but there is still important work ahead."

Current city mayor Jerry Acchione is hoping people will mark an X beside his name in the upcoming municipal election to again represent Woodstock.

"My commitment to Woodstock did not begin when I became mayor — it has been built through decades of volunteering, community involvement, advocacy, and public service. I care deeply about this community and want to continue providing stable, experienced leadership as Woodstock grows and faces new opportunities and challenges," he explained.

Acchione said Woodstock has seen significant growth and investment in recent years, and his focus has been on building a city that remains affordable, safe, welcoming, and financially responsible.

"I believe in collaborative leadership, listening to residents, and making decisions that balance immediate needs with long-term sustainability for future generations."

Looking forward into the fall and next year, he said housing affordability and homelessness remain among the biggest

issues facing the community.

"Many residents are struggling with the rising cost of living, and affordable housing continues to be a challenge for families, seniors, and young people alike. These issues impact not only individuals directly affected but also our workforce, healthcare system, local economy, and overall quality of life. Through partnerships with community organizations, Oxford County, and other levels of government, we must continue working toward practical solutions that support both immediate needs and long-term housing growth."

Acchione stated economic stability is another major priority. While the city has been fortunate to attract significant investment and maintain a strong manufacturing base, uncertainty in the broader economy continues to affect communities everywhere.

"Supporting local businesses, protecting jobs, and positioning Woodstock for future investment opportunities will remain essential. We have worked hard to build strong relationships with industry leaders and government partners, and those efforts are helping create opportunity and confidence in our city."

He added infrastructure is also critical as Woodstock continues to grow. Residents expect reliable roads, recreation facilities, water capacity, emergency ser-

vices, and community spaces.

"We must continue investing responsibly while ensuring taxpayers receive value and strong financial management. Growth needs to be planned carefully so we maintain the quality of life residents expect and deserve."

Acchione added he is proud of the work accomplished through the Mayor's Social Well-Being Task Force, which focuses on housing and homelessness, food insecurity, and youth well-being.

"Bringing community partners together to address these complex issues has helped strengthen collaboration and create more coordinated local responses. We have accomplished so much in a short time that I share everyone's pride in delivering a new Food Rescue Hub, City Encampment Team, new Youth Hub, as well as fully supporting the creation of the HART Hub. City council also contributed financially and continued advocacy for a new Homelessness Support Centre here in Woodstock through Oxford County."

He said when residents look at his track record of eight years as a city councillor and over the last three-plus years as Mayor, he hopes they see his leadership has been accessible, collaborative, and focused on results.

"Our city has continued to see residential, commercial, and industrial growth

while advancing important community initiatives and investments. We have strengthened relationships with businesses, community organizations, and other levels of government while continuing to advocate strongly for Woodstock."

He also believes experience matters.

"Municipal governments are facing increasingly complex challenges, and having leadership that understands how to navigate growth, advocate for funding, manage infrastructure needs, and build partnerships from day one is extremely important. My focus has always been on practical solutions, responsible decision-making, and ensuring residents feel heard."

Acchione said, most importantly, he cares deeply about the community.

"Woodstock is a city built on hard work, volunteerism, compassion, and pride. I remain committed to protecting those values while helping position our community for continued success in the years ahead. I would also like to thank the many residents, volunteers, businesses, community groups, and city staff who work every day to make Woodstock such a great place to live. The progress we have achieved reflects a community working together, and I remain excited about what we can continue accomplishing together in the future."

# Thamesford celebrates Calithumpian

The village of Thamesford concluded its 107th Calithumpian Weekend on Monday, May 18, following four days of Tropi Cali themed festivities that drew strong attendance from residents and visitors across Oxford County.

Running May 15 to 18, the event showcased the community's long standing tradition of volunteerism, family friendly programming, and local pride. Friday's opening day set the tone with a charity BBQ hosted by McFarlan Rowlands in support of the Thamesford Eco Market. The Thamesford Area Minor Hockey Association launched its multi day ball hockey tournament at the arena, while

families enjoyed a Moana Watch Party in the Beaty Room. Evening activities included a men's slo pitch game at North Park, karaoke at the Tropi Cali Beer Tent, and late night entertainment at Brunny's Bar and Grill.

Saturday delivered the busiest schedule of the weekend. Streets filled early as residents participated in the community wide yard sales, complemented by additional sales at St. John's Anglican Church, Westminster United Church, the Thamesford Library, and the arena hall. Sporting events continued with ball hockey and the adult co ed Beach Volleyball Tournament, while the Thamesford Lions Club hosted children's races north

of the Recreation Centre. The Minor Ball Association operated a fundraising BBQ, and the North Park welcomed shoppers to the Tropi Cali Outdoor Market. The Royalty Run attracted runners and walkers for a 5KM fundraiser benefiting Easter Seals Canada. Brunny's Bar & Grill offered a full day of programming, including family activities, live wrestling, and an evening Tropic Like It's Hot Party. The day concluded with the Island Vibes Video Dance Party at the arena, a 19+ event featuring all request music and themed contests.

The Calithumpian Weekend continued its legacy as one of Thamesford's most cher-

ished traditions. Created more than a century ago to attract visitors during the August Civic Holiday, the event has grown through the efforts of locals, service clubs, volunteers, and community partners. Its history includes parades, canoe races, beard growing contests, street dances, and fireworks—many of which remain part of the celebration today. Organizers expressed appreciation for the volunteers, sponsors, and community groups whose contributions made the 2026 Tropi Cali edition possible. Planning for the 108th Calithumpian Weekend is already underway, with the committee inviting continued support from residents and local businesses.

(RON YUZARK PHOTOS)



Jane and Heather welcomed early morning visitors to their community wide yard sales.



The arena was filled with fast paced action as teams competed in the ball hockey tournaments.



Hungry crowds kept the Thamesford Minor Baseball BBQ volunteers on their toes as they served hot dogs and hamburgers.

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## Weekend Quiz

By Jake Grant

1. What corporation is Canada's largest uranium supplier?
2. What major man-made waterway is in Egypt?
3. What is Drake's latest album (2026) called?
4. What does DEFCON stand for?
5. Who is Disney's tiny fairy introduced in 1953?
6. What type of dish is a Minestrone?
7. Billiard cloth on a pool table is commonly referred to as \_\_\_\_?
8. What celebrity launched a perfume called glow?
9. What are you to do if you happen to catch on fire?
10. What is the most dangerous level of Tornado?

This week's answers are found on pg. 31

# Ingersoll "Potter's Field Project" honoured with Provincial Heritage Award

KYRAH SMITH

*Echo Correspondent*

On December 6, 2025, the Ingersoll Unmarked Grave "Potter's Field Project" was awarded the Russell K. Cooper Award by the Ontario Historical Society (OHS), recognizing the project's outstanding contribution to the preservation and interpretation of local history.

The three-year initiative was a collaborative effort involving countless contributors, including the Ingersoll Rural Cemetery Board, the Town of Ingersoll, the Township of Zorra, and the Oxford County Library, among others.

Earlier this year, I had the opportunity to speak with project team members Dr. Cody Groat, Debbie Johnston, and Isaac Bender about the work behind the recognition. Groat and Johnston are both Ingersoll locals, while Bender hails from the neighbouring community of Woodstock.

"It all started in my role at Western University as a professor of History and Indigenous Studies," begins Groat, head of the Potter's Field Project. He explains that Western offers summer research internships and, in 2022, two student volunteers, Rebecca Small and Emily Kirk, were hired to assist with the initial work.

"We engaged in archival research using the Ingersoll Rural Cemetery records," Groat says. "Potter's Field is a large, unmarked section of the cemetery, and we knew it was used for community members, mostly those of lower socio-economic status who were experiencing poverty."

Groat explains that the project began with a simple question - how many people are here, and what are their names? From there, the research quickly grew into something much larger than a single summer internship.

Johnston, who has served as chair of the cemetery board since 2022, says she was "on board with Cody from the very beginning."

She fondly recalls visiting the Ingersoll Rural Cemetery as a child with her grandmother, who would often point out Potter's Field. "I always knew it existed," Johnston says. "Even though there was little to no indication aside from a few stones piled up, that anyone was ever buried there."

In 2023, Bender was a graduate stu-

dent at Western University in the Department of Anthropology. He learned about the project through his supervisor, Lisa Hodgetts.

"Large, unmarked graves, unknown positions, there were a lot of unknowns that we had to assess and see what we could learn," Bender explains.

With the consent of the Town of Ingersoll, Bender and his team joined the project to conduct archaeological work, surveying the area and identifying burial locations within Potter's Field using entirely non-invasive methods.

The team emphasized the importance of dispelling misconceptions about unmarked grave research. "I think what was quite exciting through Isaac's contribution is that people could speak with him directly and ask questions," Groat notes. "It helped show that the work is non-invasive and really does not harm the dignity of anyone buried there."

The project culminated in a public ceremony held on June 7, 2025, at 2 p.m. at the Ingersoll Rural Cemetery, where a monument was unveiled to honour nearly 400 individuals buried in unmarked graves. The burials represent a diverse group of men, women, and children from the Ingersoll area who, due to financial hardship or circumstance, were unable to afford a marked grave.

"As much as this is an Ingersoll and Zorra Township project, it really spoke to a lot of much bigger national stories," Groat adds.

While deeply rooted in these areas, the project resonated far beyond municipal boundaries. The unveiling drew attendees from across the region and beyond.

"We had some family members come from Chicago in the U.S.," Groat explains. "We also had a woman named Robin Moore who came and spoke on behalf of the families buried in Potter's Field."

The team also expressed their gratitude to the Town of Ingersoll and the Township of Zorra, who together contributed \$25,000 toward the monument.

The Russell K. Cooper Award highlights the significance of community-led heritage initiatives and their role in preserving overlooked histories. For those behind the Potter's Field Project, the recognition serves as a meaningful reminder that remembering those once forgotten is an essential part of honouring a community's past.



(KYRAH SMITH PHOTO)

Potter's Field Project Team, (from left to right) Isaac Bender (Woodstock), John Ecker (Ontario Heritage Trust, Chair), Dr. Cody Groat (Ingersoll Resident, Western University, Project Lead), Debbie Johnston (Ingersoll, Ingersoll Rural Cemetery Board of Directors, Final Chair), Rebecca Small (London), Emily Kirk (London) accepting the Lieutenant Governor's Ontario Heritage Award for Excellence in Conservation.



(KYRAH SMITH PHOTO)

(From left to right) John Ecker (Ontario Heritage Trust, Chair), Dr. Cody Groat (Ingersoll Resident, Western University, Project Lead), Honourable Edith Dumont (Lieutenant Governor of Ontario) at the formal ceremony in Queen's Park on April 17th, 2026.

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# Oxford OPP takes part in Canada Road Safety Week

LEE GRIFFI

Editor

“Driving is a personal choice. How you drive is not.”

That is the theme for this year’s Canada Road Safety Week. Speeding, alcohol/drug impairment, driver inattention and lack of occupant restraint were linked to a significant number of last year’s 344 fatalities on OPP-patrolled roads.

“While the number of road deaths varies from year to year, these leading causes and contributing factors do not. Every year, the death toll comes down to the same threat posed by the motoring public: how drivers and passengers choose to travel on our roadways,” said an OPP news release.

Randi Crawford is the media relations constable for the Oxford detachment of the Ontario Provincial Police and said the root causes of collisions haven’t changed over the years.

“We have our top four. Drug and alcohol impairment, distracted driving, aggressive driving and driving without a seatbelt.”

She added motorists or pedestrians call-

ing police is something police encourage to enforce the rules of the road.

“Absolutely. If you suspect someone is impaired, it could be that they are even having a medical episode, so your call could not only save that person’s life but also save the lives of other people if something were to happen.”

Crawford, who does the majority of press releases involving arrests by the officers in Oxford, explained she makes a point to mention when a citizen has tipped off police.

“I try to capture that so people see those phone calls they are making on traffic complaints are making a difference.”

Ontario’s auditor general released a special report on Tuesday, which said Ontario is not effectively monitoring commercial truck driver training and licensing regimes, leading to many unqualified drivers on the roads. Crawford said there appear to be more transport truck-related collisions in Oxford.

“I have seen an increase since I have been doing media over the last three years. I don’t know if that is because there are more vehicles on the road, which leads to

more collisions in general, but I do hope the transport companies will make sure drivers are properly trained.”

She added driver training courses are a good idea for anyone who gets behind the wheel and asked people to self-reflect on their driving habits.

“We can always improve on things. Am I doing my circle check before I head out on the road? It’s also important to have your tires retorqued. Sometimes people don’t, and they end up losing a tire this time of year after getting their snow tires off. Make sure you are keeping an eye on the condition of your vehicle.”

Crawford would also like to see more people utilize the cruise control option in their vehicles to ensure they are driving at an appropriate speed.

“Make sure you are giving yourself extra time to get to where you are going. Don’t leave it until the last minute during your daily commute. You will feel more relaxed and see things coming, making it easier to react.”

The release said, as we head into the Victoria Day long weekend, one of the busiest weekends on our roads, as a driver,

please remember that every person travelling with or near you stands to pay the price when you choose to take risks behind the wheel.

“So do their families. If you are a passenger, don’t let your family pay the price because you chose not to buckle up,” it added.

During the annual Canada Road Safety Week campaign, the OPP, alongside Canadian policing partners, will conduct robust, targeted enforcement and education to address these pervasive road behaviours and any other risks they observe drivers engaging in. As we head into the warmer months, motorists are also reminded to watch out for increased pedestrian and cyclist traffic.

The OPP remains committed to saving lives on more than 130,000 kilometres of roadway throughout the province. Drivers are reminded of their vital role in keeping roads safe and that some of the most consequential decisions of their lives are made behind the wheel.

Canada Road Safety Week is led by the Canadian Association of Chiefs of Police and ran from May 12 to 18.

# SWPH asking the public to protect themselves from ticks

LEE GRIFFI

Editor

With warmer weather comes an increase in tick activity. As a result, Southwestern Public Health (SWPH) is reminding residents of simple steps they can take to reduce the risk of tick bites and tick-borne illnesses, like Lyme Disease.

“We are seeing more ticks in our communities and more reports of tick bites, often right at home,” says Kitty Chan, Manager of Environmental Health. “As our climate continues to warm, ticks are active for longer periods each year, which means people need to think about tick protection any time they are outdoors.”

Blacklegged ticks can cause infections such as Lyme disease, as well as other illnesses, including anaplasmosis and babesiosis. SWPH reported 32 Lyme disease cases in 2023, 36 in 2024, and 45 cases in 2025, a sharp increase compared with four reported in 2020.

“One of the biggest misconceptions is that ticks are only a concern in deep woods,” says Chan. “For nearly half of the Lyme disease cases we saw in 2025, the suspected exposure happened in their own backyard. That’s why daily prevention and tick checks are so important.”

Ticks are most often found in shady, damp, and grassy areas such as wooded spaces, tall grasses, shrubs, and leaf litter. Blacklegged ticks are continuing to move into new areas across Ontario and within the SWPH region. In 2025, Pinafore Park in St. Thomas was newly identified as a blacklegged tick risk area.



(CONTRIBUTED PHOTO)

**With tick activity on the rise across the area, public health officials are reminding residents to check for ticks after spending time outdoors and to take precautions to prevent Lyme disease and other tick-borne illnesses**

“Preventing tick bites starts before you even step outside,” says Chan. “Wear long sleeves, long pants, closed-toe shoes, and tuck your pants into socks to help keep ticks off your skin. Use insect repellent with DEET and choose light-coloured clothing when going outdoors.”

The health unit said tick activity and human impacts have been increasing locally, often close to people’s homes.

SWPH tracks several types of data related to ticks and tick-borne illness, and 32 Lyme disease cases were reported in 2023, 36 in 2024, and 45 cases in 2025, a sharp increase compared with just four reported cases in 2020.

The health unit also tracks reported tick bites and encounters, exposure locations (e.g., backyard vs. other environments),

and identification of tick risk areas within the region such as newly identified sites like Pinafore Park in St. Thomas last year.

“Lyme disease is a bacterial infection that can be transmitted through the bite of an infected blacklegged tick. While it is typically treatable with antibiotics, early detection is important to prevent more serious complications,” explained Chan.

“In its early stages, it may cause flu-like symptoms such as fever, fatigue, headache, and muscle or joint aches, and sometimes a bull’s-eye rash. If not identified and treated, the infection can progress and affect other parts of the body, including the joints, nervous system, and heart,” she added.

Southwestern Public Health said their focus is on prevention, early recognition,

and timely follow-up. Residents are encouraged to monitor for symptoms after any potential tick exposure and to act early.

“Watch for symptoms. Keep an eye out for fever, chills, headache, fatigue, or a rash in the days or weeks following a tick bite. Not everyone develops a rash, so it’s important to pay attention to any unusual symptoms,” said Chan, who added if symptoms develop or there are concerns about a tick bite, people should reach out to a health care provider promptly for assessment and advice.

“In Ontario, primary care providers and pharmacists may prescribe preventive antibiotics in certain higher-risk situations.”

SWPH also encourages residents to check their bodies for ticks every time they come indoors, especially around the neck, ears, underarms, and groin. Showering and towel drying after outdoor activities can help remove ticks before they attach.

“If you do find a tick, remove it promptly and safely with a tick removal device, while making sure to also remove its head,” says Chan. “The online tool, [www.eTick.ca](http://www.eTick.ca), can help identify the tick species to determine whether medical follow-up is needed.”

SWPH is also reminding residents to monitor symptoms and seek medical advice if they feel unwell after a potential tick exposure. Find more information about ticks, Lyme disease, and prevention tips at [southwesternpublichealth.ca/ticks](http://southwesternpublichealth.ca/ticks).

Visit us online at [theecho.ca](http://theecho.ca)

# Ingersoll welcomes new downtown shop

KYRAH SMITH

*Echo Correspondent*

On May 8, the town of Ingersoll gave a very warm welcome to its newest downtown addition, Stiletto & Sawdust.

Located at 109 Thames St. S, the store is a boutique featuring gorgeous home décor, gifts, and handcrafted items. The shop houses products from 30 local vendors, as well as owner Kelsey Kuchma's own engraved goods.

When asked how launch day went, Kuchma said the response was overwhelming. "It's been great. Like, exceeded expectations," she shared. "I knew coming into it that the community here would be huge, but even other businesses popped in to take a look."

The Ingersoll shop is a sister location to Kuchma's Stratford storefront, which has



(KYRAH SMITH PHOTO)

**Owner of Ingersoll's recently launched Stiletto & Sawdust, Kelsey Kuchma.**

been operating for six years. Originally from Woodstock, Kuchma explained that while she loves Stratford, she was looking for a second location that felt a little more personal and community focused.

"Stratford is lovely and tourist-wise, it's great. But it definitely doesn't have the community that we have here," she said.

Although Stiletto & Sawdust has already held its soft launch, the boutique has yet to host an official grand opening. "I'm thinking probably sometime in June," Kuchma said.

The boutique will also be participating in Ingersoll Shopping Nights on May 21 and June 18, where downtown businesses stay open later for the community to shop and explore.

For more information, you can visit the store's website at [www.stilettoandsawdust.ca](http://www.stilettoandsawdust.ca).



(KYRAH SMITH PHOTO)

**The town of Ingersoll gives a warm welcome to the newest downtown boutique, Stiletto & Sawdust.**

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# First open mic at Blue Ink Bookstore and Café opens the door to creative possibilities

EMILY STEWART

*Echo Correspondent*

Musical and poetic talents were shared inside the blue walls of a new independent bookstore in Woodstock as the crowd attentively listened and enjoyed sandwiches, beverages, and baked goods.

Blue Ink Bookstore and Café held its first-ever Poetry Night and Open Mic on April 23 to an engaged audience listening to poetry, original music, and cover songs, some on guitar and some on flute.

"It was really awesome to see a wide variety of different performances, musical and reading, so all in all I think it went pretty well," said Mitch Langdon, open mic host and one of the performers.

Shahla Bahadori, owner of the Blue Ink Bookstore and Café, was thrilled to see the positive response from the community that filled the space during the event, especially since the business has only been part of Downtown Woodstock for a short time.

"As a new business, I understand it takes time for the local community to know us, to know the vision, what we are going to do

and trust us," she said. "After just one and a half months, it's lovely seeing this support from the local community in Woodstock, and I'm really grateful for that."

Langdon said most of the people who used to attend the open mics held at the downtown Early Bird Coffee location came to the event at Blue Ink Bookstore and Café.

"We went in with zero expectations but Shahla was really open to the idea and we haven't really had an open mic on this side of town for a little while," he said.

Bahadori is hoping for more events like open mics in the future. Part of her vision is to have a creative space that goes beyond a brick-and-mortar retail store.

"What I want is somewhere where people can have their creativity, they can have some events, workshops, so we are open to any new ideas. This event actually showed us proof that we can do something like this to show in the future and new bright ideas," said Bahadori.

The event was held just two days before Canadian Independent Bookstore Day, which took place on April 25.



(EMILY STEWART PHOTO)

Local author Cat Crouch reads a poem from her book *Sky House*.

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Find the four differences between the two pictures.



Answers: 1. Person sitting in back room 2. Cat on table 3. Missing plant above woman 4. Woman has more hair



HISTORY

2023

Canada bans social media platform TikTok from all government-issued devices.



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sharp-edged tool for digging or cutting earth

Nature FACT:

This garden is the largest in the world, boasting more than 60 million flowers and taking advantage of the warm local climate.

Answer: Dubai Miracle Garden



- English: Crop
- Spanish: Cultivo
- Italian: Coltivazione
- French: Culture
- German: Ernte



The earliest gardens were strictly practical and used to grow food and medicinal herbs. Decorative gardens appeared in Egypt in 1500 B.C.



Can you guess what the bigger picture is?

Answer: Garden shovel

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## CASS Knights girls fastball team in familiar position, unfamiliar territory

JEFF TRIBE

*Echo Correspondent*

The Woodstock College Avenue Knights girls' fastball team finds itself in both a familiar position and unfamiliar territory as the Thames Valley Regional Athletics (TVRA) Southeast regular season unfolds.

The Knights' 10-0 shutout win over Lord Dorchester on Monday, May 11, at Woodstock's Southside Park placed the defending Ontario Federation of School Athletic Associations champions atop the standings with a perfect 4-0 record. But as coach Ryan Stafford pointed out, that unblemished mark has come with more of a battle this season.

"The competition has definitely increased, this year especially," he said. "We're taking nothing for granted, we know it's going to be a battle this year, right to the end."

Monday's game was an exception, CASS's Hannah Ryksen walking off Dorchester from third, pushed across the plate with a bases-loaded base on balls.

"Literally a walk-off," she smiled. "I literally walked in."

The Knights' tenth run kicked in a mercy-rule victory, despite Stafford's hopes for another defensive inning.

"He was like, 'Don't take a passed ball, I want you to pitch again,'" Ryksen explained.

The Grade 10 Ryksen, along with sisters Morgan and McKenzie Howard, and Payton Jones, the little sister of 'Miss Softball' Chloe Jones, currently playing at the University of Windsor, give the Knights formidable depth in pitching, the key to softball success.

Typically, each team's strongest players also play with club teams, Ryksen with the U17 Waterloo Ghosts program, Morgan Howard with the U19 Brampton Blazers. But they also enjoy suiting up with the high school teams and competing in a comparatively short, yet intense spring season.

"It's fun to play with your friends from school," said Ryksen.

"A lot of fun," agreed Morgan Howard, as well as arguably, less pressure.

"Enjoy this year because it is my last one. Not taking it for granted."

The Ingersoll DCI Blue Bombers un-



(JEFF TRIBE PHOTO)

College Avenue's Emma Perryman pulls into third base safely during a 10-0 win over Lord Dorchester.

derscored her last point, pushing CASS to the limit in their Monday, May 4 season-opener. Howard, who also struck out 11 in six innings of pitching, drove in the game-winning run in a tight 3-2 victory with a single to right field on an 0-2 count in the bottom of the seventh, said Stafford.

"They're a great team, well-coached," he credited. "Becky Elliott has them dialled in."

Blue Bombers pitcher Erin Plaquet also takes the mound for the Lucan-Ilderton U17 team, says Stafford, striking out nine during the game and adding a home run.

"She pitched an absolute gem against us."

Later that day, the Knights took the back end of a doubleheader by a 4-2 margin over an equally competitive

Woodstock CI Red Devils squad, led by Lily Wenberg, who pitches for Mitchell as well.

"She carved us up pretty well," said Stafford. "It could have gone either way."

As defending champions, the Knights tend to get opponents' best games, Stafford continued, putting CASS on notice that it will also have to bring an A effort. "We don't take anybody lightly. Every game is 0-0 to us, every inning is 0-0."

College Avenue's seasonal goal remains the same, says Howard. "To go undefeated."

"Continue the path we've taken," added Ryksen.

"Take it one pitch at a time," Howard continued.

"And work together," Ryksen concluded.

TVRA SOUTHEAST GIRLS FASTBALL	
<b>WEDNESDAY, MAY 13</b>	
IDCI	10
LONDON ST. THOMAS AQUINAS	0
LONDON SAUNDERS	9
WOODSTOCK HURON PARK	8
CASS	10
STRATHROY DCI	0
<b>MONDAY, MAY 11</b>	
CASS	10
DORCHESTER	0
HURON PARK	12
LONDON OAKRIDGE	7
WCI	11
ST. THOMAS AQUINAS	3
INGERSOLL	9
STRATHROY	8
<b>WEDNESDAY, MAY 6</b>	
CASS	11
ST. THOMAS AQUINAS	1
HURON PARK	12
ST. THOMAS CENTRAL ELGIN	5
INGERSOLL	11
DORCHESTER	1
WCI	7
STRATHROY	4
<b>MONDAY, MAY 4</b>	
CASS	3
IDCI	2
AYLMER EAST ELGIN	17
HURON PARK	7
CASS	4
WCI	2
WCI	8
INGERSOLL	1

# Dezeeuw golden goal sets up Red Devils/Warriors TVRA Southeast final

JEFF TRIBE

Echo Correspondent

It wasn't just a golden goal. It was a Western Ontario Secondary Schools Athletic Association AA qualifier golden goal that also achieved the Woodstock CI Red Devils soccer team's shared goal of getting to the regional playdowns.

WCI's Elisha Dezeeuw broke a 1-1 Thames Valley Regional Athletics Southeast semi-final overtime tie against St. Thomas St. Joe's early in the second 10-minute extra period Thursday, May 14 at Woodstock's Cowan Park, capitalizing on an Oscar Berkeley through ball.

"I ran onto it and deked the goalie," said Dezeeuw. "He was probably out 25 (metres)."

"After we scored, we just 'parked the bus,'" added Red Devils keeper Brayden Freeman, keeping the ball low against a considerable wind, while focusing on defence first.

"Everything out of the back, everything out," Dezeeuw explained. "If in doubt, kick it out."

St. Joe's had opened scoring in the first 20 minutes, a marker countered near the end of the first half by Berkeley, on a through ball. The second half and first overtime period played out goalless, with Dezeeuw's game-winner setting up a tense final few minutes before the referee's trio of whistles.

The game was a physical one, said Berkeley, which he felt played to WCI's advantage.

"We knew it was going to be a war. We had to be dogs, had to get it done, use our physicality."

Assistant coaches Ben Ojeerally and Colin Maltby presided over the victory. Jason Poole, on the DL (disabled list) and bedridden with a back injury, was linked in via Instagram live stream, remote coaching, a new wrinkle in a world introduced to remote learning and virtual reality.

"We got the win for him," said Ojeerally. "He started this program from scratch."

"And now we're in the WOSSAA AA final," added Maltby.

The defending Ontario Federation of School Athletic Associations AA champion Woodstock St. Mary's Warriors punched their WOSSAA ticket with a 3-0 TVRA Southeast semi-final shutout win over St. Thomas Parkside, following the WCI/St. Joe's game.

The Warriors were strong from the get-go, Kingston McPherson opening scoring on a nifty solo move down the wing and adding a second marker. Elijah Allard headed home a cross from brother Caleb to round St. Mary's scoring, with keeper Dominic Cabral pick-



WCI defender Oscar Berkeley (left) clears the ball from danger amidst the confluence of a St. Thomas St. Joe's attacker (centre) and Red Devils goalie Brayden Freeman (right).

(JEFF TRIBE PHOTO)

ing up the shutout.

"We had our best game of the season," said Warriors coach Vanessa Pye. "The boys came out and showed us their full potential."

The Warriors and Red Devils were scheduled to meet Tuesday, May 19th in the TVRA final, a game deciding both seeding and bragging rights heading into WOSSAA, hosted this year in Huron-Perth.

"It will be a great battle against WCI, and it is always exciting to be going to WOSSAA," Pye concluded.

Woodstock College Avenue Knights 3, Tillsonburg Glendale 1

Knights' striker Kaleb Krupp locked up a 3-1 TVRA Southeast Tier II semi-final victory with a back-post header, later in the second half.

"Just saw the corner coming in, got my head to it, enough of a connection, and I got it in the back of the net."

Faiad Alezzi had opened the scoring

for the Knights, a goal countered by Tillsonburg's Marhsal Delaere roughly 20 minutes into the second half. Nathan Ugar restored College Avenue's lead with a comparatively quick counter-punch, however, burying a rebound after Glendale goalie Ethan Gazley made a diving save.

CASS had controlled the balance of play and had a distinct advantage in second-half scoring chances, Krupp's marker making the final semi-official. Santiago Marroquin picked up the assist on the corner, a Grade 12 student whose family left Garzon, Colombia (Huila Province) four years ago in search of a better life in Canada.

"Jumping into the void is never comfortable," he said of leaving family, friends and all he'd known to arrive, originally, in St. Catharines. Soccer, by far the most popular sport in his native country, helped the transition, giving him a peer community and environment

to learn English. Formerly playing club in Colombia, Marroquin 'plays for fun' with CASS, providing experience and skill as a centre back who also takes corners from the right side.

'Looking for the tall guy,' he spotted Krupp and took advantage of a strong northerly breeze.

"The wind was in our favour," Marroquin said. "So, lots of curve."

With the win, the Knights earned the right to play Woodstock Huron Park Tuesday, May 19, in the TVRA Southeast Tier II final.

"They're solid," Krupp concluded. "But we definitely have the ability to beat them. We're going to give it our best."

TVRA SOUTHEAST BOYS SOCCER	
<b>TUESDAY, MAY 14 SEMI-FINALS</b>	
WOODSTOCK CI	2
ST. JOE'S	1
ST. MARY'S	3
PARKSIDE	0
<b>TIER II</b>	
COLLEGE AVENUE	3
TILLSONBURG	1
<b>QUARTER FINALS TUESDAY, MAY 12</b>	
WCI	3
LORD DORCHESTER	0
PARKSIDE	1
INGERSOLL DCI	0
<b>REGULAR SEASON MONDAY, MAY 11</b>	
HURON PARK	3
COLLEGE AVENUE	3
<b>FRIDAY, MAY 8</b>	
COLLEGE AVENUE	5
DORCHESTER	1
<b>THURSDAY, MAY 7</b>	
ST. MARY'S	2
IDCI	1
GLENDALE	3
HURON PARK	2
<b>TUESDAY, MAY 5</b>	
COLLEGE AVENUE	5
GLENDALE	1
HURON PARK	2
DORCHESTER	0
ST. JOE'S	4
IDCI	3

Visit us online at [theecho.ca](http://theecho.ca)

# WCI's baseball 'boys of chilly, wet spring' heat up for first TVRA victory

JEFF TRIBE

Echo Correspondent

Zack Molinaro had both the short memory and intestinal fortitude required to walk back onto the pitcher's mound two hours after being walked off it.

"I mean, we had the lead," the Woodstock CI Red Devils shortstop/relief pitcher responded after closing out a 7-2 Thames Valley Regional Athletics Southeast baseball victory over the Woodstock College Avenue (CASS) Knights Tuesday, May 5 at Woodstock's Tip O'Neill Field. "I just had to hold it."

Downplay it as he might, Molinaro wasn't heading into an easy situation. Roughly two hours earlier, he'd left a bottom of the seventh changeup down the middle of the plate. Woodstock Huron Park's D. Roth turned it into a two-out, game-winning RBI single, plating M. Bowes to break a 3-3 tie in dramatic fashion.

The Red Devils had built a far more comfortable five-run cushion heading into the final inning of the second game of an all-Woodstock doubleheader. Reliever Xeng Ngo-Simmons was looking to close out WCI's first regular season victory on a chilly, grey day against the backdrop of gentle drizzle turning into more determined rainfall, far from ideal from a pitcher's grip on the ball perspective.

He would walk the first two batters he faced, both on full counts, and after going 2-0 on CASS second baseman Cole Elliott, Molinaro got the call from the bullpen. Following an opening strike, he finished out the walk, loading the bases with none out.

Before facing, as legendary catcher Yogi Berra is reported to have said, 'Deja Vu all over again', Molinaro bore down, greeting Knights first baseman Zack Walker with a first pitch strike. Finding his groove, Molinaro would go on to strike out the side with just nine additional pitches, an 0-2 ball on CASS pinch hitter Wyatt Box, the lone blemish on a heavily modified, delayed 'immaculate inning.'

"Once I got the reset, I could just flow," Molinaro smiled.



(JEFF TRIBE PHOTO)

Woodstock CI catcher Tyler LaFleur (right) heads toward College Avenue Knights first baseman Zack Walker (left), attempting to score from third on a sac fly to left. The two came together at home plate, Walker scoring ahead of LaFleur's diving tag, which adding injury to insult, also resulted in an unintentional, painful and ultimately bloody facial collision with Walker's left knee.

WCI had taken a 2-1 lead through four complete, Walker leading off the top of the fifth with a single down the third baseline. With the ball bobbled in left, he kept going to second, adding another 90 feet to third base on an errant throw. Walker would score on a sac fly to left, Red Devils starting catcher Tyler LaFleur forced to go to his right to gather in an offline throw, diving back to the plate in a bang-bang play and subsequent collision that both added to the backstop's facial scars and would force his removal.

"I was going pretty quick," said Walker, feeling bad that a purely unintentional collision had bloodied his Woodstock Wranglers U18 teammate. "He dove right into my knee."

The Red Devils would regain and add to their lead in the home half of the fifth, Molinaro, Owen Gower and Preston Hilderley loading the bases with a pair of walks and an error, respectively. Sully MacDougall delivered a two-RBI base hit, going to second on the throw home. A third walk, Duncan Murphy's base hit and a wild pitch accounted for three additional Red Devils runs, building a 7-2 advantage, living through the game's time-limited conclusion.

"It's a game of momentum," said Molinaro. "You start one thing and it keeps going."

"You want to keep getting more," agreed MacDougall.

Although arguably disappointed with the result, Knights shortstop Easton Freeman was pleased with the overall effort.

"Hit better than we usually do. We're getting better." "We battled," added CASS coach Sean Latimer. "We've done a good job this year of not quitting. We always play hard until the game is over."

As a young team, the Knights have put two wins into the standings while continuing to improve through the season's ups and downs.

"So, there's a lot of learning going on," Latimer concluded.

Having been close previously, Molinaro was happy to see the Red Devils record their first victory, looking for ongoing improvement both in the standings and weather, allowing every baseball team to be the 'boys of summer' rather than 'wet, chilly spring.'

"Hopefully, need to be heating up right now."

TVRA SOUTHEAST BASEBALL	
<b>WEDNESDAY, MAY 13</b>	
AYLMER EAST ELGIN	13
WOODSTOCK ST. MARY'S	3
<b>TUESDAY, MAY 12</b>	
TILLSONBURG GLENDALE	3
WOODSTOCK HURON PARK	1
LORD DORCHESTER	11
WOODSTOCK CI	4
<b>MONDAY, MAY 11</b>	
WOODSTOCK HURON PARK	7
ST. THOMAS ST. JOE'S	3
WOODSTOCK COLLEGE AVENUE	5
LORD DORCHESTER	4
<b>THURSDAY, MAY 7</b>	
INGERSOLL DCI	7
ST. THOMAS PARKSIDE	6
WOODSTOCK ST. MARY'S	10
ST. THOMAS ARTHUR VOADEN	0
ST. THOMAS ST. JOE'S	18
IDCI	8
<b>WEDNESDAY, MAY 6</b>	
WOODSTOCK HURON PARK	4
LORD DORCHESTER	2
<b>TUESDAY, MAY 5</b>	
WCI	7
CASS	2
HURON PARK	4
WCI	3
<b>MONDAY, MAY 4</b>	
TILLSONBURG	11
CASS	1



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# Red Devil rugby girls score ‘victory’ through defeat at Glendale

JEFF TRIBE

Echo Correspondent

‘Victory’ can be described as narrowly or broadly as one chooses.

The classic definition would be having a bigger number on the scoreboard than the other individual or team at the conclusion of play.

By that standard, the Woodstock CI Red Devils girls’ rugby side suffered a 32-5 Thames Valley Regional Athletics (TVRA) Veronica Harrigan Division defeat to the homefield Glendale Gemini Tuesday, May 5, in Tillsonburg.

Alternatively, a full-time effort, culminating in Georgia Kudzia gutting WCI’s try home on the game’s final play, told the story of resilience and determination.

“Glendale gave us a great game,” said Red Devils coach Candice Folkema. “They didn’t let up, and that challenged our team to come together even more.”

A young, outnumbered team, with four substitutes compared to 18 for the Gemini, continuing to hold their collective heads high and give 100 per cent regardless of that final score.

Kudzia expressed pride in ‘being the same,’ putting the effort out regardless of the official outcome.

“We don’t give up on each other, we’re a team,” said Red Devil Semara Murray.

The bare numbers don’t tell the whole story. By its nature, rugby is a physical game, demanding as well as built on free-flowing contact. The Red Devils had ample opportunity to wear down both mentally and physically as the score mounted.

But led by Folkema, her own vocal intensity palpable as she followed play up and down the sidelines, the Red Devils continued to mirror the old adage about the ‘size of the fight in the dog being more important than the size of the dog in the fight.’

“We always try and show up as much as we can,” said Presley LaFleur. “She puts in a lot of time with our team and is very passionate.”

“A lotta lotta time,” echoed Leona McMahon. “She cares deeply about our team.”

Folkema describes herself as being ‘in awe’ of this year’s Red Devils rugby side.

“The community and family they have built is incredible to watch.”

The team is smaller in numbers, a deficit made up for in heart and determination, continued Folkema.

“That’s what coaching girls’ rugby is about. It’s young women lifting each other up, no matter what.”

“This year’s team of girls has figured that out.”



(JEFF TRIBE PHOTO)

Red Devil Semara Murray (right) gets low for a tackle, with support including WCI teammates Adelle Pepper, Presley LaFleur and Emily Dix.

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# Census numbers help shape the future of farming

MARK REUSSER

Director, Ontario Federation of Agriculture

For Ontario farmers, the arrival of the Census of Agriculture questionnaire this month comes during one of the busiest seasons of the year.

Spring planting is slowly getting underway, weather windows are tight, and there never seem to be enough hours in the day this time of year. Like many farmers, when I opened my census package, I certainly understood why some people might be tempted to put it aside for later.

But despite the busy timing, the Census of Agriculture is something farmers should take seriously because the information it collects plays an important role in shaping the future of our industry.

Governments have always needed reliable information about land, food production, and the people working the land. Versions of censuses date back about 6000 years to ancient Babylonia; in Canada the first census was conducted in 1666 in what was then New France.

Today, the census remains an important tool because it provides a snapshot of Canadian agriculture at a specific moment in time. It helps show what farming looks like today — how farms operate, what we produce, who is farming, and how agriculture is changing.

But perhaps even more importantly, it helps reveal long-term trends.

Those trends matter because they help governments, farm organizations, researchers, policymakers and others understand where agriculture is headed and where support or action may be needed.

For example, at the Ontario Federation of Agriculture, where I serve as a member of the board of directors, we often use the statistic that Ontario is losing an average of 319 acres of farmland every day.

This number is derived from Census data looking at the amount of farmland in production at the time of the Census and comparing that to previous Census periods. While the number itself is important, what really matters is the trend behind it. The Census helps confirm whether farmland loss is accelerating, slowing down, or changing in different regions.

Census data also helps track changes in farm size, demographics, production methods, technology adoption, and the growing role off-farm income plays for many farm families. It helps show that farmers are getting older, that younger farmers are approaching agriculture differently, and that farming continues to evolve rapidly.

The census helps demonstrate the importance of agriculture to local communities, the provincial economy, and the country as a whole.

It also helps governments design programs and policies that better reflect the realities farmers are facing on the ground.

When the OFA advocates for farmers, whether we are discussing agriculture's contribution to the provincial economy, rural infrastructure needs, business risk management programs, labour challenges, food security, or farmland protection, reliable data strengthens our voice.

That is why it is so important for farmers to complete the census thoughtfully and accurately.

Farming is full of competing priorities this time of year, and paperwork rarely rises to the top of the list.

The Census of Agriculture is scheduled to align with the Census of Population, and coordinating the two allows Statistics Canada to streamline information collection and processing, saving taxpayers millions.

And it's one of the few opportunities farmers have to collectively contribute to a national picture of Canadian agriculture — a picture that influences decisions for years to come.

Based on previous feedback from farmers, Statistics Canada has also made efforts to simplify the process this year by streamlining the questionnaire and reducing the number of questions. The questionnaire is available online or paper copies can be requested, and farmers can



(CONTRIBUTED PHOTO)

Spring planting is underway for many farmers across Ontario as they work to get this year's crop in the ground.

review the questions in advance to prepare the information they may need.

The Census of Agriculture must be completed by July 31, and results will start being released in May 2027.

My advice to fellow farmers is simple: take the time to complete it properly and provide information that will genuinely help support your industry. The stronger and more accurate the information is, the stronger the case becomes for agriculture when governments and organizations are making decisions that affect all of us.

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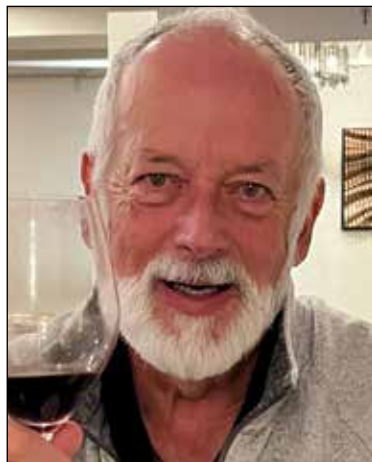
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## OH, THE PLACES WE'LL GO!

## TRAVEL

## It's not only about the onions



PAUL KNOWLES

Echo Contributor

You could easily get the impression that, in Tropea, it's all about the onions. Well, that's not the whole story – but the onions do play a big role in this lovely Italian sea-side town.

We were in the southern tip of Italy – Calabria – on a Senior Discovery Tours visit. It was a great trip – so good, that we have arranged to repeat the tour next year, with a group of friends! So obviously, there were more attractions than just onions.

However, the Tropea onions are actually world-famous among foodies. We first learned about them in the Calabria episode of Stanley Tucci's television series about food in Italy. He visits Tropea, which is on the western, Terranean Sea coast of Calabria (his ancestral home), and among other taste delights, he eats a

sweet, red, Tropea onion like an apple, and claims to enjoy it.

If that makes Tropea sound like a slightly quirky destination, so be it. But I would not have missed it for the world.

Let's leave the onion fields for a moment, and take in some other, also quirky, features of the town. The cathedral, for example.

I know: I can hear some of you jaded travellers moaning, "Not another cathedral!" And we all know the sentiment.

But the Cathedral of Saint Mary of Romania has at least one feature that I will admit, I have never encountered elsewhere. Mounted inside the main doors, one on each side, are unexploded World War II bombs. The fact that they landed near the cathedral, but did no damage, is credited as a miracle to the Madonna, and celebrated by the prominent presence of these devices (now disarmed, thank goodness) inside the cathedral.

The cathedral is genuinely ancient; it was built in 1160, and is dedicated to the Virgin of Romania, patron saint of Tropea. The church design shows Arab and Byzantine influence, and pride of place, behind the altar, is given to a 13th century Byzantine icon of the Virgin of Romania. Not only is the Madonna credited with the miracle of the unexploded bombs, she also is deemed responsible for saving Tropea from earthquakes, plagues, and other natural disasters.

The shops of Tropea have an ambience all their own. Several feature very large displays of miniature figures and buildings, showing life from ancient times, and illustrating crafts that have been lost to history. These displays fill the entire wall space in some shops, and there is no charge to see them – although donation boxes may be in evidence.

Almost every store has a display, for sale this time, of bug-eyed, large-nosed ceramic faces guaranteed to ward off the evil eye. I don't know if they work; I do know they are guaranteed to make you smile. They're hilarious.

The town itself has its own unique beauty – narrow alleyways hung with flower baskets, ancient archways and doors, shops with their displays spilling out onto the street. In one such store, the shopkeeper spoke not a word of English – and I have no Italian past "vino" – but he still managed to sell me a jar of bruschetta spread, and another of a "mousse" made from – you guessed it – Tropea onions.

Better yet, as an inveterate collector of wildly coloured and patterned socks, I was thrilled to find a red-dish-purple pair illustrated with – yep – onions. I wear them with pride.

Tropea is right on the sea, and the town offers some spectacular views of the Mediterranean (The Terranean Sea is just one section of that larger ocean). The view includes the sight of the active volcanic island, Stromboli, which rises as a nearly perfect triangle out of the sea.

Our day trip included an additional stop at Pizzo, another seaside town half an hour north of Tropea. There, while there is a castle with an intriguing history, and more beautiful views, the highlights were two culinary experiences.



(PAUL KNOWLES PHOTO)

Unexploded bombs hang near a statue of the Madonna in the Tropea Cathedral, making a miracle of deliverance from harm.

First, we went to a pizzeria for a plethora of genuine Calabrian pizza. The servers just kept bringing pizzas to the table, one kind after another – a delicious, simple Margherita pizza, then ham and mushroom, followed by a veggie version with zucchini, eggplant and more. But the two signature choices were an 'nduja pizza ('nduja is a spicy, spreadable pork and chili pepper sausage unique to Calabria), and a tuna and Tropea onion pizza.

They were amazing. We were stuffed to the gills. And then they took us for tartuffo – two kinds of gelato moulded around a chocolate centre, covered with cocoa and nuts. Turned out, we weren't all that full, after all.

Tropea and Pizzo, like Calabria in general, is a very unspoiled part of

Italy. Local customs, legends, and culinary traditions have survived here, largely intact.

But these are seafaring communities, with lovely beaches, and our guide admitted that "In summer, Tropea is very, very crowded." But in the shoulder seasons – the long Spring and Fall of southern Italy – the tourists are largely absent, but the wonderful features remain, and are readily available to delight visitors like us.

And as I mentioned, we are going back.

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



(PAUL KNOWLES PHOTO)

The 13th century icon of the Virgin of Romania hangs over the altar.



Tropea stores often have displays of miniature characters enacting historic crafts.

(PAUL KNOWLES PHOTO)

# Hot summer-like weather for The Friendly City's Victoria Day celebrations

Woodstock residents embraced the spirit of summer as the city hosted its annual Victoria Day Weekend festivities from May 14 to 18. This year's celebration blended long standing traditions with exciting new programming, culminating in a vibrant community gathering that filled Southside Park and the downtown core.

World's Finest Shows kicked off the weekend on Thursday with its colourful Midway, offering rides, games and carnival treats that drew families back to the park day after day. The Midway's presence created a festive atmosphere that carried through the entire long weekend, with visitors enjoying everything from classic Ferris wheel views to family friendly

attractions.

Victoria Day Monday began with the 78th annual Victoria Day Parade, a Woodstock tradition that once again brought the community together. Crowds lined Dundas Street early in the morning to secure viewing spots as marching bands, local organizations, decorated floats, entertainers and specialty vehicles made their way from the Woodstock Fairgrounds to the parade's finish at Henry and Finkle Street. Volunteers collected non perishable food donations along the route, helping support local families and reinforcing the community minded spirit of the event.

After the parade, residents flocked to Southside Park for the

debut of Victoria Day Rewind, a new addition to the city's 125th anniversary celebrations. The retro inspired afternoon offered a wide range of activities designed to spark nostalgia and encourage all ages participation. Attendees explored a classic car show, enjoyed a lively band tattoo, watched Medieval knight demonstrations, and took part in team games, lawn games and beach volleyball. Children delighted in the Teddy Bear Picnic, while roaming stilt walkers and a crowd pleasing magic show added to the festival atmosphere.

Limited edition Woodstock 125 merchandise and commemorative coins were available onsite, giving visitors a chance to mark the city's milestone year with keepsakes.

(RON YUZARK PHOTOS)



The crowd responded with enthusiastic applause as the colorful juggler showcased a burst of color and talent.



The Ingersoll Pipe Band's stirring pipes and drums marked a bold and memorable start to the parade.



The Burlington Teen Tour Pipe Band upheld their yearly tradition, much to the delight of spectators who look forward to their performance.



Tetchie, Joy and Jovy drew attention to the details as Sarah and Mayor Jerry Acchione modelled the latest looks for Woodstock's 125 year milestone.



It was a lively outing as Sarah, Loonie, Judy, Alan and Dio enjoyed their adventure at the bustling Midway.

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# Multi-million-dollar food processing plant coming to Woodstock

LEE GRIFFI

Editor

The provincial government has announced an investment of over \$100 million from Sunrise Farms, a family-owned Canadian poultry business, to build a new state-of-the-art processing facility in Woodstock.

“The expansion builds on the company’s strong foundation in the Canadian poultry industry, while strengthening the resilience, competitiveness and self-reliance of the province’s agri-food supply chain by creating 100 new, good-paying jobs in Woodstock and supporting 248 existing positions across Ontario,” said a press release.

“Ontario’s world-class agri-food sector serves as a cornerstone of our economy, which is why our government is fostering its long-term competitiveness and resilience,” said Vic Fedeli, Minister of Economic Development, Job Creation and Trade. “As demand for Ontario-made products rises, Sunrise Farms’ investment will add critical processing capacity to our domestic supply chain, creating new opportunities for Ontario workers, farmers and suppliers.”

Sunrise Farms said it will develop one of the most technologically advanced poultry processing facilities in Canada, while maintaining high food-safety and environ-

mental standards. Once operational, the new, 155,000-square-foot facility will enhance the company’s processing capacity, increase procurement from Ontario farms and support economic growth across rural communities.

“Ontario’s agri-food sector is an economic powerhouse, generating \$52 billion in GDP and employing one in nine people across the province,” said Trevor Jones, Minister of Agriculture, Food and Agribusiness. “This significant investment by Sunrise Farms to expand their processing capacity will help ensure our province remains a global leader in food production while creating jobs and strengthening Ontario’s food independence.”

Upon receiving its federal license from the Canadian Food Inspection Agency, the company will also be positioned to expand the distribution of its Sargent Farms branded products across provincial and territorial borders, unlocking new market opportunities for Ontario-made goods across Canada. In support of this investment, Ontario is providing up to \$4 million in funding through the Invest Ontario Fund.

“We are pleased to continue our growth by expanding our operations within Ontario,” said David Shoore, CEO, Sunrise Farms. “This project represents the largest greenfield investment in Sunrise’s history. Upon completion, the new facility will en-



(CONTRIBUTED PHOTO)

Ontario’s Minister of Economic Development, Job Creation and Trade, Vic Fedeli, was in Woodstock on Wednesday to announce plans for a new \$100 million poultry processing plant.

able Sunrise to respond effectively to increasing demand for Sargent Farms branded halal-certified products throughout Ontario and nationwide. This development is expected to deliver substantial economic benefits to the region and reinforce Ontario's food system.”

Founded in 1983, Sunrise Farms is a family-owned and operated Canadian business employing approximately 3,600 workers across Ontario, Manitoba, Alberta and British Columbia.

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# Kayson Stewart, Mason Morris bring home YBC Junior Doubles national banner

JEFF TRIBE

Echo Correspondent

Last year in Edmonton, Alberta, Ingersoll's Kayson Stewart and Mason Morris took measure of the Youth Bowling Canada (YBC) Fivepin junior boys doubles national championship competition.

And before this year's event, they committed to the work required to rise above it.

"We put in a lot more time, a lot more practice, three or four times a week," said coach Brandon Morris following the Ingersoll pair's dominant 2026 Gold Medal victory May 4-6 in Winnipeg, Manitoba. "They were nervous but handled the pressure a lot better this year."

This was Mason's second nationals, Kayson's third, including competing in the 2022 Bantam (up to 10) singles event, where he finished one pin shy of a bronze medal.

"It helped a lot," said Kayson of that previous and shared experience. Mason noted not one of the competitors they faced this year had been at nationals the year before.

"It really did help us mentally," Mason said. "We knew a lot more about what was going to come."

YBC nationals are contested across three days of intense bowling, 21 games in total, six, nine and six respectively. Eight teams from Ontario (Southern and Northern), Manitoba, Alberta, British Columbia, Newfoundland, Quebec and Saskatchewan play each other three times. Doubles compete simultaneously in match play against another two-bowler team for a total of three points, one each for individuals head-to-head, and a third for combined score versus combined score. Out of a total of 63 available points (three per 21 games), Stewart and Morris took 50.5. By comparison, silver medallists Alex Brandt and Magnan Hull from the host province finished with 36 points and bronze medallists Kole Pasko and Jaxson Lam from Alberta, 34.5.

Stewart and Morris' impressive team totals were built on equally impressive individual stats. In 21 games, Kayson averaged 232 with a high of 308. Mason rolled a high of 294 and averaged 234.

By day, their experience began with a comparatively rough start, taking one of three points in their first outing at Dakota Bowling Lanes before settling in and finishing off with 13 of a possible 18.

"It was a bit frustrating," said Mason. "Then we got the hang of it. Just getting the nerves out of the way."

Day two moved to Rossmere Lanes, where the Ingersoll duo rolled strongly toward gold, a five-match sweep in games eight through 12 and overall, 24.5 out of 27 points.

"Day two was like moving day," said coach Morris of zero matches lost and a substantial lead built. "I think we were up by nine."

Mathematically, the gold medal was not wrapped up at day two's conclusion.

"But we pretty much kind of did," said Brandon.

That detail was taken care of on day three at the Polo Park Bowling Centre against then second-place Zayden Ficke and Axl Rachwalksi from British Columbia, a three-point win locking



(CONTRIBUTED PHOTO)

Mason Morris, Brandon Morris and Kayson Stewart celebrate their 2026 Youth Bowling Canada (YBC) Fivepin junior boys doubles national championship victory.

up the title.

"That's really when we sealed it," said Mason.

"Me and Brandon both did really well," added Kayson of his 'favourite part' of the experience. "There was a lot of pressure in that game, but we've bowled enough to know it wouldn't bother us."

"Experience definitely played a factor," agreed Brandon.

The victory there gave Mason and Kayson three games to enjoy and 'take it all in,' said their coach. Mason and Kayson were focused on bowling rather than sightseeing; most of their time was spent at the lanes, eating or sleeping. But they both did very much enjoy the overall experience beyond their gold medal victory.

"It was amazing, met a lot of new people, good people," said Mason.

"It was really cool to represent South Ontario and meet people from all across Canada," added Kayson.

Heading into this year, Kayson and Mason had the goal of not only returning to nationals but finishing in the medals.

"It was top three," said Brandon, "but again, we knew we could do better."

When they won their nationals qualifier this year, an accomplishment in itself, the team did not celebrate, said the coach.

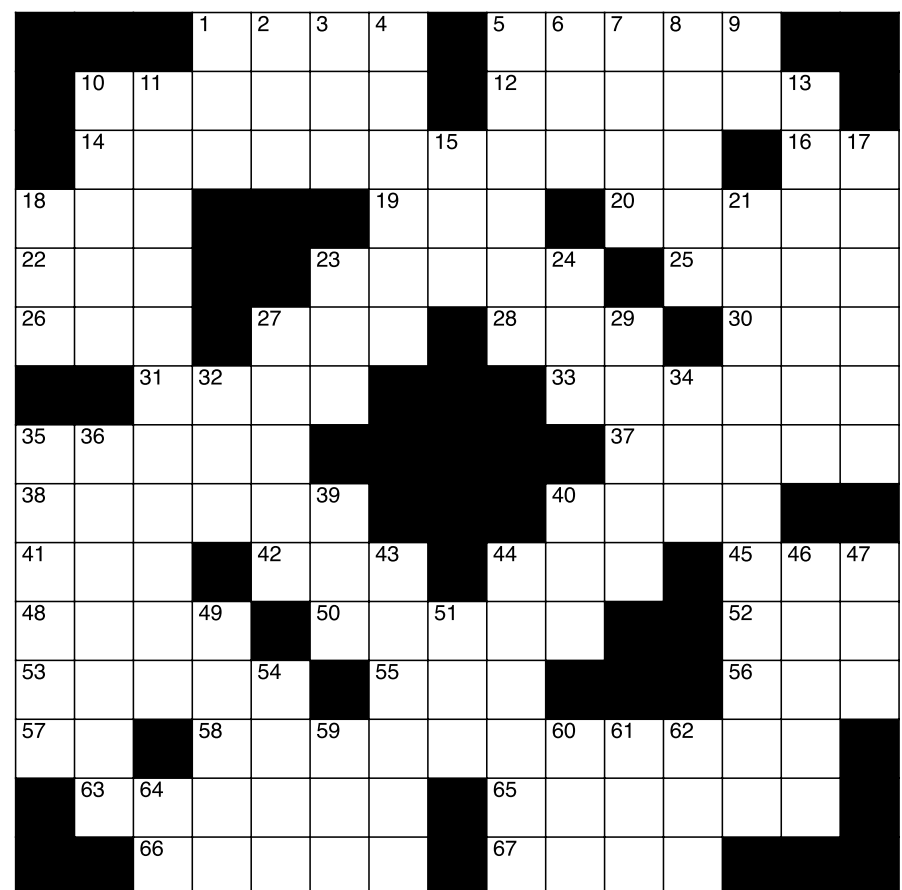
"It was like we're after the big one. That was the goal, big as it was, and it was right there."

Both look to continue bowling next year, when they will move from Junior (11 to 14) up to the Senior (15-19) level. Their junior gold medal victory was celebrated in Winnipeg, but it was laid down in 11 years of experience for each of the 14-year-olds at Ingersoll Lanes, where their national banner, the first earned for the community, will proudly hang.

"This is not just a victory for us," said Brandon. "It's for Ingersoll Lanes and everyone who supported these kids, the businesses and families."

"Just a huge win," he concluded of a satisfying victory many years in the making. "Banners are forever."

## CROSSWORD



### CLUES ACROSS

1. Streetcar
5. Take \_\_\_ of it!
10. SW Asia peninsula
12. Beating wings to escape from a perch
14. One who revitalizes
16. Indicates position
18. Dishonorable man
19. Singer King Cole
20. Short-tailed marten
22. One point east (clockwise) of due north
23. The god of the underworld in ancient mythology
25. Dirt
26. Superconducting super collider
27. Not good
28. A way to sink
30. Unwell
31. Follow orders
33. Deep ravine

35. Perfumery practice
37. Indian film director Sultan
38. Member of U.S. Navy
40. Wing-like
41. Very fast airplane
42. Slang for cigarette
44. Most cars still need it
45. Political war chest
48. Cools down
50. Diminish toward one end
52. Indigenous person of Thailand
53. Combined
55. Container
56. Expression of satisfaction
57. Thou
58. Return a favor
63. Go over once more
65. Removed
66. "Silence of the \_\_\_"
67. Comedian Rogen

### CLUES DOWN

1. Children's game
2. Relative biological effectiveness (abbr.)
3. Own (Scottish)
4. Female follower of Bacchus
5. Subsides
6. Protects from weather
7. Spanish municipality
8. Supermarket chain
9. Domain name
10. Semitic peoples
11. Designs anew
13. City associated with Jesus
15. Cool!
17. Bank employee
18. Central nervous system
21. Standardized piece of text
23. A type of fever
24. Baglike structure in a plant or animal
27. Threaten persistently
29. Aspirations
32. Baby's eating accessory
34. Actress Thurman
35. Turn into bone
36. One who saves you
39. Consume
40. Swiss river
43. A part of a river where the current is very fast
44. Categories
46. Expressed amazement
47. It's important in respiration (abbr.)
49. Greek war dance
51. Bland, semi-liquid food
54. Regard in a specified way
59. Taxi
60. Naturally occurring solid material
61. Feline
62. Post-burning residue
64. Elevated railroad

Solution found on page 28

# Oxford County woman elected the ACWW Canada area president

LAURA GREEN

*Echo Contributor*

The Associated Country Women of the World's (ACWW) 31st Triennial World Conference (TWC) was held in Ottawa from April 26 to May 1.

The TWC is a global gathering of ACWW members who meet every three years to discuss key policy documents and resolutions of ACWW. Delegates also learn about projects undertaken by the 226 active member societies in 53 countries. The theme for the past three years was "Sustainable Growth for the Future."

Among the 350 attendees, there were four New Dundee Women's Institute (WI), five Oxford District WI, four Elgin District WI and two Middlesex WI members.

Progress reports were also presented on the projects that received funding from the Rural Women in Action Fund over the past three years. The ACWW website will be posting videos of the conference through which those who watch them can meet the new board members and learn

more about the work of ACWW.

Women Walk the World Tours gave the city of Ottawa the opportunity to showcase Canada and their city. Tours included a maple farm, textile museum, the Canadian Agriculture & Food Museum, the RCMP Musical Ride Stables, a winery, a blueberry farm, the Just Food Farm Forest and a city tour. It was a mid-session event and a break from the intense business meetings. Choosing a tour was difficult for first-time visitors to Canada or Ottawa because they wanted to visit all sites offered that day.

ACWW member societies are divided into nine areas and the Canada area has 17 member societies. The newly elected president for Canada area for a three-year term is Anne Innes from Embro in Oxford County. At the ACWW level, she was lead for knowledge sharing and local activities for the board working group, 2023-2026.

Innes was nominated by the Federated Women's Institute of Ontario (FWIO) and at the grass-roots level, she is member of the Lakeside Women's Institute branch and Southern Ontario Support Society.



(LAURA GREEN PHOTO)

The newly elected Canada area president, Anne Innes (left) of Embro, congratulates the newly elected ACWW world president, Marie Kenny, from the Federated Women's Institute of Prince Edward Island. Canada area members during the conference secretly wrote remarks in Kenny's keepsake book. Kenny was Canada area president for the past three years and Innes has "large footsteps to follow."

She has taken on many leadership roles in community organizations to develop her knowledge and skills in leadership.

She wants to keep ACWW Canada area a strong organization to continue the work of ACWW.

## Red Dress Day in Woodstock

A powerful and emotional gathering took place Tuesday, May 5, in Museum Square as Woodstock residents came together to honour Missing and Murdered Indigenous Women, Girls, and Two-Spirit people (MMIWG2S+).

The two-hour event, held from 5:30 p.m. to 7:30 p.m., transformed the downtown square into a space of remembrance, cultural expression, and collective advocacy. Red dresses—symbols of the thousands of Indigenous women, girls, and Two-Spirit people who have been taken—were displayed throughout the square, creating a visual re-

minder of the national crisis that continues to impact Indigenous families and communities.

Attendees were encouraged to wear red, and the crowd responded, creating a sea of colour that underscored the unity and support present throughout the evening. The program began with traditional drumming, grounding the gathering in Indigenous culture and honouring the spirits of those lost.

Community speakers then took to the microphone, sharing stories, statistics, and personal reflections that highlighted both the

human impact of this ongoing tragedy and the urgent need for systemic change. Their messages called for justice, accountability, and sustained public awareness.

A Red Dress craft table invited participants to create symbolic dress ornaments, offering a hands-on way to engage with the day's meaning. Many attendees chose to leave their creations at the memorial site. As the sun set, the event shifted into a candlelight vigil. The crowd stood together in silence, candles illuminating the square as names were spoken and moments of reflection were shared.

Organizers emphasized that Red Dress Day is not only a memorial but a call to action. They encouraged attendees to continue learning, supporting Indigenous-led initiatives, and advocating for meaningful change in policies, services, and public awareness. The event closed with a collective affirmation of commitment: to say their names, to honour their lives, and to ensure that the violence faced by Indigenous women, girls, and Two-Spirit people is never ignored or forgotten.

(RON YUZARK PHOTOS)



The vigil served as a poignant reminder of the lives lost and the strength of the community standing together in grief and solidarity.



Drumming opened the evening, echoing through Museum Square as the community prepared to honour the missing and murdered.

# Riddles

Where does today come before yesterday?

*The dictionary.*

What gets bigger when more is taken away?

*A hole.*

The more of this there is, the less you see. What is it?

*Darkness.*

People make me, keep me, change me, and raise me, even though I can be very dirty. What am I?

*Money.*

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

*Day and night.*

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

*A piano.*

What goes through cities and towns, but never moves?

*A road.*

What can you hold in your left hand but not in your right?

*Your right elbow.*

## Featured Pet



### LUNA

Luna is ten years old, very friendly, bubbly and intelligent! She visits Tillsonburg and likes to go around!



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# Word Search

## NIGHT SKY

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

- STARS
- CONSTELLATION
- PLANET
- COMET
- METEOR
- GALAXY
- TELESCOPE
- AURORA
- MOONLIGHT
- SATURN
- NEBULA
- ECLIPSE
- COSMOS
- ASTEROID
- MILKY WAY

# Sudoku

by PeterS 2026

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

Solution found on page 31

Simple

# Western Ontario Warden's Caucus and Great Lakes and St. Lawrence Cities Initiative Formalize Partnership

## STAFF

Woodstock Ingersoll Echo

The Western Ontario Warden's Caucus (WOWC) and the Great Lakes and St. Lawrence Cities Initiative (GLSLCI) have formalized a new partnership through a Memorandum of Understanding to address shared regional challenges such as water quality and climate change, while advancing economic growth across the Great Lakes and St. Lawrence region.

This agreement establishes a framework for advancing shared priorities, including environmental protection, infrastructure planning, and cross-border (Canada-U.S.) cooperation on trade, transportation networks and emergency preparedness. It also supports coordinated efforts to strengthen regional economic development and advance opportunities tied to the Fresh Coast Economic Corridor.

"This partnership reflects the importance of working together across jurisdictions to address shared challenges and create new opportunities for our communities," said WOWC Chair and Oxford County Warden, Marcus Ryan. "By strengthening collaboration with the Great Lakes and St. Lawrence Cities Initiative, we are reinforcing Western Ontario's role in supporting economic growth, protecting freshwater resources, and building strong communities for the future."

"The Great Lakes Region is home to an extraordinary network of communities bound by shared waters and shared ambitions. Through this partnership with the Western Ontario Wardens' Caucus, we are building the kind of collaboration that turns those shared ambitions into real outcomes — from protecting our freshwater resources to unlocking the full potential of the Fresh Coast Economic Corridor. We look forward to helping elevate Western Ontario's voice throughout our region through this partnership," said Mayor Mat Siscoe, Co-Chair of the Great Lakes and St. Lawrence Cities Initiative.

The WOWC represents 15 upper and single-tier municipalities across Western Ontario, serving approximately 300 communities and more than 20 per cent of Ontario's population. The GLSLCI is a multinational coalition representing over 400 communities committed to protecting freshwater resources and supporting economic prosperity throughout the Great Lakes and St. Lawrence River region. Oxford County is a WOWC member.

Through this partnership, WOWC said it will bring a Western Ontario perspective to broader regional discussions, helping to ensure local priorities are reflected in cross-border collaboration.



(CONTRIBUTED PHOTO)

WOWC Chair Marcus Ryan (Oxford County), MPP Ernie Hardeman, MPP Laura Smith, Vice Chair WOWC Kevin Marriott (Lambton County), and Minister Todd McCarthy pose for a photo during recent meetings at Queens Park.

The agreement also includes a commitment to ongoing coordination between both organizations, with a focus on sharing knowledge, aligning priorities, and supporting informed decision-making across member communities.

### WOWC engages provincial leaders at Queen's Park on key regional priorities

The caucus recently met with provincial leaders at Queen's Park to advance its 2026 advocacy priorities, with a focus on the infrastructure needed to support housing growth, strengthen homelessness response, and advance regional transit solutions for rural and small urban communities across Western Ontario.

Throughout the day, WOWC members met with key members of the Ontario government, including Rob Flack, Minister of Municipal Affairs and Housing; Lisa Thompson, Minister of Rural Affairs; Todd McCarthy, Acting Minister of Infrastructure; and Sam Oosterhoff, Associate Minister of Energy-Intensive

Industries.

These meetings provided an opportunity for constructive, solutions-oriented dialogue with provincial partners on how best to advance these priorities across Western Ontario.

The discussions were anchored in WOWC's three focused advocacy priorities for 2026:

- Canada-Ontario Partnership to Build (COBP) to ensure infrastructure funding supports growth in rural and small urban communities
- Homelessness Prevention Program (HPP) to better align funding with rural service delivery realities and support sustainable community-based services.
- Regional Transit, including the exploration of a Regional Rural Transit Authority, to enable coordinated, equitable transit and improve access to jobs, healthcare, and education across Western Ontario.

"Western Ontario communities are ready to support growth, but we need the right tools in place to do it," said Ryan. "Our

focus is on practical, targeted solutions that will help deliver housing, strengthen essential services, and ensure people can move throughout the region to access jobs and opportunities."

In addition to these priorities, discussions also touched on the alignment of infrastructure planning, energy needs, and broadband expansion, recognizing their role in enabling economic development and supporting sustainable community growth across the region.

WOWC emphasized its role as a constructive partner to the province and highlighted the importance of ensuring rural and small urban communities are fully considered in the design and delivery of provincial programs.

"Today's conversations were productive and forward-looking," added Ryan. "We are committed to continuing this work with the Province to ensure policies and investments reflect the realities of rural and small urban communities, and support long-term, sustainable growth across Western Ontario."

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**theecho.ca**

ROUTE TO THE PAST

HISTORY

# New Lawson

SCOTT GILLIES

*Echo Contributor*

In honour of the South-West Oxford Township Fare event in Mount Elgin, and their recent call for stories and memories of some of the “lost” communities in the township, here is a look at New Lawson.

In the winter of 1900, two cheese-makers named Austin LaChapelle and William Edgar purchased a one-acre lot at the corner of Lot 1, Concession 1 of Dereham Township. Here they erected a cheese factory which came to be known as the new Lawson factory. Previously, the original Lawson factory had been built in 1866 on Lot 3, Concession 2 along what is now the Salford Road. In 1877, the Holbrook factory closed so milk was hauled westward, up Tackle’s Hill to the Lawson site. This proved to be too much for the local farmers. There was too great a risk of spilling their cans of milk on this hillside, so the Lawson factory was moved further east and part way down the hill. This compromise worked until the factory burned down in 1899. It was that following year when LaChapelle and Edgar tried their hand at cheesemaking at the New Lawson site.

Charles Harrison purchased the factory in 1907 and operated it successfully for many years. In 1925, it was judged the 3rd best equipped cheese factory in Ontario by the “Farmers Advocate and Home Journal” magazine, and the same publication awarded it a special First Prize for its neat, clean and attractive appearance.

In 1933, Charlie Harrison sold the business to his son Fred who expanded the buttermaking operations while continuing to make award winning cheese – including the coveted British Empire Gold Medal.

For a number of years, Charlie and his wife Lettie lived upstairs in the adjacent building which also served as the factory’s curing room. Their son Fred built an apartment on the main floor of the same building. There was also an apartment

for other labourers built into the attic of the factory itself. In time, a flat-roofed brick house was erected next door, and the senior Harrisons moved across the road to a small home on the corner.

In that year, 1952, the factory was sold to a Toronto-based consortium of fluid milk distributors and named Canada Dairies, but the New Lawson moniker stuck.

Do you remember the days when the milk man would come delivering products door to door? Those were the days when milk came in glass bottles, and cream did too. Now imagine a multi-use dairy product that comes in one container – milk, coffee cream, heavy cream -- all in one carton. That was Multi Milk.

Introduced to the Canadian consumer in the late 1950s, this special milk was manufactured in the former New Lawson Cheese Factory.

For those of you who do not remember, or never knew, Multi Milk was a liquid evaporated milk, similar in concept to Carnation Evaporated Milk, but more palatable in that the former could be reconstituted for drinking. And, unlike powdered milk, it was not chalky.

Refrigerated tank trucks picked up raw milk from scads of modern milking parlours around Oxford and delivered it to the plant. Upon arrival, the milk was re-cooled and standardized for uniformity of butter fat. Then the first stage of pasteurization took place. This was immediately followed by concentration, where two-thirds of the water was removed. After concentration, the milk was again pasteurized to assure maximum safety, and then it was homogenized. Immediately following this stage, it was cooled and pumped to the carton filler.

Wax-coated paper cartons were printed at the Sumerville Industries plant on Crumlin Side Road near London Airport. Most Multi Milk was sold in a short two-tone coloured carton that held a net weight of 32 ounces of concentrated milk. The container had many advantages. It was used only once, therefore there



New Lawson factory.

(CONTRIBUTED PHOTO)

were no bottles to wash and return. The one small carton held the equivalent of 3 quarts, so it took up less space in the typical refrigerators of the day, and it was unbreakable if dropped. Twelve of these cartons were packed into corrugated cardboard boxes for shipment from the dairy’s cold room onto refrigerated trucks for distribution across Ontario and beyond.

The furthest the product ever went was the North Pole – not for use by Santa and his elves, but by members of Canada’s Armed Forces at their base in Alert, Ellesmere Island!

The unique make-up of Multi Milk with its reduced volume and extended shelf life meant that it could be easily flown to the high Arctic from the Trenton Air Base. There was no fear of damage to the product if it froze while in transit. Indeed, many housewives in

southern Ontario would often freeze the milk for later use too.

Multi Milk only needed to be mixed with two parts water to reconstitute it to normal whole milk consistency for drinking. A specially marked glass bottle was also available for mixing; pour Multi Milk up to the line and then fill with water and shake. For cereals or drinking use as directed; for coffee, just pour straight out of the carton. The first version of this dairy product was as 3.5% whole milk; later variants came out as 2%, Skim Milk and Chocolate.

The Canada Dairies plant at New Lawson continued to make other innovative dairy products until economics forced it to close in the late 1970s. To this day, people who grew up in the neighbourhood still refer to this corner as New Lawson.

[Route2thepast@gmail.com](mailto:Route2thepast@gmail.com)

## Local News Lives Here

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Marketing Media Specialist  
lisa@granthaven.com | 416.455.4687



# COMING EVENTS

**MAY 23 / 10 AM - 4 PM**  
**THE LONDON ORCHID SOCIETY WILL BE HOLDING AN ORCHID PLANT SALE**  
 Siloam United Church, 1240 Fanshawe Park Rd. E., London  
 Admission is \$5.00. Contact Daryl 519-666-2927 or www.londonorchidsociety.com.

**MAY 19 - 25**  
**SPRING ONLINE AUCTION**  
 Old St Paul's Church, 723 Dundas St., Woodstock  
 FEWER ITEMS, HIGHER QUALITY than other online auctions. Also includes delicious home baking! Visit www.oldstpauls.com May 19 to 25, 2026. Two convenient pickup times at Old St Paul's Church, 723 Dundas St. Woodstock.

**MURDER AT THE DEAD HORSE SALOON MURDER MYSTERY**  
**JUNE 13 / DOORS OPEN WITH HORS D'OEUVRES AT 5:45 PM**  
 Old St Paul's Church, 723 Dundas St., Woodstock  
 Chow down on a delicious TexMex Dinner while you unravel the baffling Murder Mystery. Tickets are \$60.00. Cash bar. Get tickets online at www.oldstpauls.com or by calling (519) 537-3912. Don't delay, seats are limited.

**JUNE 28 / 9 AM - 3 PM**  
**OXFORD COUNTY ANNUAL COIN SHOW**  
**Woodstock Coin Club and the Ingersoll Coin Club**  
 Woodstock Agricultural Society Fairgrounds, 875 Nellis Street, Woodstock, ON, N4S 4C6  
 Admission: \$4.00. Buy, Sell, Trade & Evaluate!  
 Kid's Table | Free Parking | Food Booth is open!  
 Contact: John Tryhub, (519) 608-8446  
 john@woodstockgoldnsilver.ca

## MAY

**MAY 22 | STARTS 4 PM**  
**SPECIAL OLYMPICS INGERSOLL BBQ**  
 Giant Tiger parking lot, Ingersoll  
 Live music by the Plank Liners.

**MAY 25 | 4:30 - 7:30 PM**  
**FOOD TRUCKS AT GRACE UNITED CHURCH TAVISTOCK**  
 116 Woodstock St. S. Tavistock  
 El Milagro, Wild Boar, Fo Cheezy, Beavertails  
 Donations to Grace United Church

## CROSSWORD SOLUTION

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**MAY 26 | 7 PM**  
**PLATTSVILLE & DISTRICT HERITAGE SOCIETY**  
 GROWING STRONGER TOGETHER in celebration of Plattsville's 175 at Peace United, 20 Samuel Street, Plattsville. Liz Dommasch from Oxford County Archives will share stories of Plattsville and the surrounding area. Free. Refreshments.

**MAY 27 | 6:30 PM**  
**OXFORD HISTORICAL SOCIETY**  
**GROWING STRONGER TOGETHER**  
 Chartwell Oxford Gardens, 423 Devonshire Ave. Woodstock  
 "A Celebration of Oxford County's Past". Guest speaker Liz Dommasch, Oxford County Archivist. Free Admission, Donations Welcome! For more information, please email us at info@oxhs.ca

**MAY 30 | 10 AM - 2 PM**  
**FRIENDS OF THE WOODSTOCK PUBLIC LIBRARY BOOK SALE**  
 Woodstock Public Library  
 Email: fotwpl@gmail.com. Website: https://www.instagram.com/friendswoodstocklibrary/?hl=en

**MAY 31 | 1 - 3 PM**  
**WOODSTOCK WALK FOR DOG GUIDES**  
 Jakeman's Maple Farm, 454414 Trillium Line, Beachville, ON  
 Join a powerful movement to provide life-changing dog guides. For more information, contact Lion Jennifer at jharrington743@gmail.com

## JUNE

**JUNE 1 | 4:30 - 7:30 PM**  
**FOOD TRUCKS AT GRACE UNITED CHURCH TAVISTOCK**  
 116 Woodstock St. S. Tavistock  
 Ish n Chips, SWAT, Sigg's, Pablos Street of India  
 Donations to Tavistock Health Clinic

**JUNE 6 | 9 AM**  
**INGERSOLL DISTRICT NATURE CLUB**  
**LAWSON NATURE RESERVE CLEAN-UP DAY**  
 Meet at the Reserve on McBeth Rd south of Ingersoll to help with trail maintenance, removal of invasive species and painting. This property is solely managed by volunteer hours so helping hands are always appreciated. For more information contact Meg at 519 485 4220 or www.ingersollnatureclub.com

**JUNE 6 | REGISTRATION: 10 AM, WALK STARTS 11 AM**  
**WALK FOR LUPUS**  
 Southside Park in Woodstock  
 Raffle prizes, 50/50 draws and refreshments! We are walking to raise awareness about Lupus and to raise funds for research and to find a cure for Lupus. Donations also help to provide resources for those living with Lupus.

**JUNE 7 | 8 AM - 1 PM**  
**KIDS DU**  
 Southside Park, Woodstock  
 KidS Du is back for its 9th season. This event is a non-competitive run-bike-run for kids aged 3 to 13 with a focus on participation and having FUN! All courses are geared to the various age groups as set by Triathlon Ontario. KidS Du is held in Southside Park, Woodstock. Register before May 19 to guarantee a tshirt. For information and online registration visit woodstocktriathlonclub.ca

**JUNE 6 - SEPT 19 | SATURDAYS | 10 AM - 4 PM**  
**PLATTSVILLE & DISTRICT HERITAGE SOCIETY**  
 THAT BRING US TOGETHER at the Archive & Museum at Chesterfield, 816661 Oxford Rd 22, Bright (June 20 - visit us at Plattsville 175). Donations accepted. Refreshments. For private viewing email plattsvilledistrictheritage@gmail.com or call 519.535.1417.

**JUNE 8 | 4:30 - 7:30 PM**  
**FOOD TRUCKS AT GRACE UNITED CHURCH TAVISTOCK**  
 116 Woodstock St. S. Tavistock  
 Berlin 95, Los Rolling Tacos, Born2Eat, Fo Cheezy  
 Donations to Camp Bimini

**JUNE 9 & 23 | 1 PM**  
**SACRED HEART PARISH EUCHRE**  
 Henderson Hall, 133 John Street Ingersoll  
 We invite everyone to join us for a Euchre afternoon. Refreshments provided.

**JUNE 15 | 4:30 - 7:30 PM**  
**FOOD TRUCKS AT GRACE UNITED CHURCH TAVISTOCK**  
 116 Woodstock St. S. Tavistock  
 Wild Boar, El Milagro, Pablas Street of India, Beavertails  
 Donations to Grace United Church

**JUNE 20 | SATURDAYS | 10 AM - 10 PM**  
**PLATTSVILLE'S 175 ANNIVERSARY CELEBRATION**  
 Plattsville Park and Arena  
 10 am Firefighter Breakfast, Heritage Displays 10-4, Portraits of Honour, 12 noon Parade, 1pm Opening Ceremony, 1-4 Car & Tractor Show, 2 thru 10 pm Live Music & Entertainment, Kids Activities, Vendor Market, Lions BBQ and the grand finale, an 18 minute Drone Show at 9:45 pm. Free admission. Fun for all ages. Thanks to our Platinum Sponsors - Canadian Heritage and North Blenheim Mutual Insurance celebrating 165 years. www.plattsvilledistrictheritagesociety.com

**JUNE 22 | 4:30 - 7:30 PM**  
**FOOD TRUCKS AT GRACE UNITED CHURCH TAVISTOCK**  
 116 Woodstock St. S. Tavistock  
 Berlin 95, Born2Eat, El Milagro, Ish n Chips  
 Donations to TAP, Tavistock Assistance Program

**JUNE 27 | 9 AM - 3 PM**  
**THIRD ANNUAL VILLAGES OF SALLY CREEK CHARITY CAR SHOW**  
 Community Center -330 Lakeview Rd, Woodstock  
 Door prizes, Touch A Truck, Todd's Dogs, DJ. All proceeds to Domestic Abuse Services Oxford (DASO). Spectator admission: free, Vehicle admission: \$10 Info: (519) 290-1173, email: larry.e.oliver@gmail.com

**JUNE 29 | 4:30 - 7:30 PM**  
**FOOD TRUCKS AT GRACE UNITED CHURCH TAVISTOCK**  
 116 Woodstock St. S. Tavistock  
 Pablas Street of India, Swat, Fo Cheezy  
 Donations to TAP, Tavistock Assistance Program

## JULY

**JULY 6 | 4:30 - 7:30 PM**  
**FOOD TRUCKS AT GRACE UNITED CHURCH TAVISTOCK**  
 116 Woodstock St. S. Tavistock  
 Sigg's, Los Rolling Tacos, Berlin 95  
 Donations to Camp Bimini

**JULY 6-10 | 9 AM - 12:30 PM**  
**BASKETBALL POWER CAMP**  
 Huron Park Baptist Church, 199 Berwick St, Woodstock, ON N4S 7L6  
 Ages 5 to 14. Please call 519-421-4722 for more information.

**JULY 13 | 4:30 - 7:30 PM**  
**FOOD TRUCKS AT GRACE UNITED CHURCH TAVISTOCK**  
 116 Woodstock St. S. Tavistock  
 SWAT, Pablas Street of India, Beavertails  
 Donations to Grace United Church

## ONGOING CLASSES, CLUBS & ORGANIZATIONS

**EVERY OTHER FRIDAY | 1 - 4 PM**  
**SPRING INTO THE INGERSOLL COUNTRY MUSIC JAMBOREE**  
 Masonic Hall, 190 Thames St. S. Ingersoll  
 Join us, walk ins welcome. Qualifications - love 50-70's country music. Perform, listen, dance & enjoy! May 15 & 29, June 5 & 19.

**3<sup>RD</sup> TUE. OF MONTH | 6:30 - 8:30 PM**  
**CAREGIVER CONNECTION**  
 Revel Realty Woodstock, 111 Huron Street (Virtual/hybrid options available)  
 Are you worried about your child or youth? Parents and Caregivers for Mental Health (PCMH) is here to listen, support, and walk alongside you on this journey. Our free Caregiver Connection peer support groups offer parents and caregivers a community of support. Can't make it in person? Join one of our virtual or hybrid groups! Visit family.cmho.org or email oxfordcounty@pcmh.ca for more information.

# COMING EVENTS

**EVERY FRIDAY | 1 PM**

## **TILLSONBURG DUPLICATE BRIDGE CLUB**

Tillsonbur Senior Centre, 45 Hardy Ave, Tillsonburg  
Don't have a partner? Come anyway and we will match you up with someone. For more information, visit their Facebook page: TburgBridge.

**2<sup>ND</sup> TUES. OF MONTH (SEPT. TO MAY) | 2 - 4 PM**

**4<sup>TH</sup> TUES. OF MONTH (SEPT. TO MAY) | 7 - 9 PM**

## **OXFORD PHILATELIC SOCIETY**

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

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

**LAST TUESDAY OF EVERY MONTH | 10 AM - 12 PM**

## **MONTHLY VON BLOOD PRESSURE CLINIC**

Ingersoll Pharmasave, 19 King St. E., Ingersoll  
Last Tuesday of every Month.

**3<sup>RD</sup> WED. OF MONTH**

## **COLOURING THROUGH GRIEF**

Caring Hearts Support Network: St. David's United Church, 190 Springbank Ave., Woodstock ON

One time fee of \$15. Registration is required.  
Call 519-536-3370. Check out website  
[www.caringheartssupportnetwork.com](http://www.caringheartssupportnetwork.com)

**3<sup>RD</sup> WED. OF MONTH | 6:30 - 8:30 PM**

## **PEER SUPPORT GROUP FOR PARENTS & CAREGIVERS**

21 Wellington St., Woodstock  
(Virtual options available)

PCMH is a peer support program providing support to parents and caregivers across Ontario with lived experience raising children and youth with mental health challenges. For more information, please visit [family.cmho.org](http://family.cmho.org) or [oxfordcounty@pcmh.ca](mailto:oxfordcounty@pcmh.ca). We are also on Facebook: Parents for Children's Mental Health ~ Oxford County

## **VON OXFORD SUPPORTIVE CARE PROGRAMS**

Navigating any form of grief can feel overwhelming; however, with the right support, guidance, and education, individuals can discover a pathway to healing.

VON Oxford Supportive Care Programs offer assistance for grief stemming from various circumstances, such as the death of someone, caregiving, serious illness diagnoses, and life transitions. Through education, connection, and compassion, our programs create a safe space for individuals to explore their emotions and learn effective coping mechanisms during the grieving process

Contact us today to learn more about VON Oxford Supportive Care Programs. Email: [oxford.griefsupport@von.ca](mailto:oxford.griefsupport@von.ca), Phone: 1-888-866-7518. All Programs are Free-of-charge.

**4<sup>TH</sup> WED. OF MONTH | 1 - 2:30 PM**

## **GRIEF SUPPORT FOR MAID RELATED LOSS**

Thamesford Library, 165 Dundas St., Thamesford

This monthly in-person grief support group for loss related to Medical Assistance in Dying (MAiD) offers a compassionate, safe space to explore this unique loss. The group will meet the **4th Wednesday of the month from 1 - 2:30 p.m.** at the Thamesford Library, 165 Dundas St., Thamesford. The group is free of charge and pre-registration is requested. To register or inquire about an evening group, contact Deb McKay at 519-866-3016 or email [faye@compassionategriefsupport.ca](mailto:faye@compassionategriefsupport.ca).

## **OXFORD COUNTY DIABETES EDUCATION PROGRAM**

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

## **THE OPTIMIST CLUB OF OXFORD COUNTY**

The Optimists bring out the best in Youth, Community, and Themselves. If anyone is interested in coming out to meet us and learn more about us please email [brenda7621@outlook.com](mailto:brenda7621@outlook.com)

## **THE LIONS CLUB OF WOODSTOCK**

The Lions Club of Woodstock has been serving the community

and Oxford County with kindness and generosity since 1931. The Lions always place the needs of neighbours and communities first. Through the dedication and hard work of our volunteer members, we are serving those in need together. If you are interested in becoming a member or simply wish to learn more by attending one of our monthly meetings, please email Steve Iorio at [steveiorio4@gmail.com](mailto:steveiorio4@gmail.com) for more information.

## **OXFORD COUNTY BRANCH OF ONTARIO ANCESTORS**

Are you looking to start a summer pastime? Are you interested in your family history? Oxford Branch has an extensive collection of family history and genealogical resources that can help you.

**Come visit our Resource Centre at 82 Light Street, Courthouse Square, Woodstock. We are open Tuesdays to Thursdays 10:00 am to 4:00 pm**

Volunteers are ready to help you get started or help you research for missing information. You can also connect with us on the web at <https://oxford.ogs.on.ca>. We are dedicated to supporting and promoting genealogical research in Oxford County. Hope to see you through the summer!

## **BEACHVILLE LEGION EVENTS: 434852 ZorraLine, Beachville**

**WEDNESDAYS | 7-8 PM  
GENTLE CHAIR YOGA**

**WEDNESDAYS | 7:30 PM  
HUMP DAY DARTS**

**THURSDAYS | 7 PM  
EUCHRE**

**THURSDAYS | 7 - 8 PM  
LINE DANCING**

Intro to West Coast Swing Dancing 8:15-9:15 pm. No partner required.

**FRIDAYS | 8 PM (CLOSED MAY 15)  
DARTS**

**MAY 8 | 5:30 PM  
ROAST BEEF DINNER**

**MAY 9 | 1 - 4 PM  
THAMES VALLEY BLUEGRASS AND OLD TIME COUNTRY PICKERS**

Open Mic (acoustic only). Come enjoy the music!

**MAY 10 | 9:30 AM - 12:30 PM  
MOTHERS DAY BRUNCH**

**MAY 13 | 4:40 - 6 PM  
OX ON THE RUN MOBILE LIBRARY**

**MAY 22 | 5:30 PM  
ROAST PORK DINNER**

## **ROYAL CANADIAN LEGION BRANCH 55 EVENTS: 642 Dundas St, Woodstock, ON**

### **COME PAINT WITH US!**

Our Legion is Celebrating 100 years of Service to our Veterans community and the City of Woodstock. Help us honour them with a community mural project. Anyone interested in participating is welcome.

Youth taking part in our community mural project, will be credited with community hours. We are also looking for donations to off-set the of cost to the necessary supplies and equipment required for this community project! For details contact: [rcbranch55@rogers.com](mailto:rcbranch55@rogers.com)

**MONDAYS  
CADETS**

**THURSDAYS | 1:30 PM  
SHUFFLEBOARD**

**WEDNESDAYS  
DARTS & EUCHRE**

For more info please call Dave Lapierre 226-888-7246

**MAY 22 | 1 - 4 PM**

**FREE HEARING TEST AT THE LEGION PUT ON BY CONNECT HEARING**

**MAY 24 | 5 - 6 PM  
FISH N CHIP DINNER**

Dessert extra. Pre-order and pay by May 19th. please call the Legion 519-537-3112/519-539-3401 or email [rcbranch55@rogers.com](mailto:rcbranch55@rogers.com) to order.

**SATURDAYS | 7 - 11 PM  
EVENING ENTERTAINMENT:**

**MAY 23<sup>RD</sup> - DAVE STARR  
MAY 30<sup>TH</sup> - 50-60 BROS**



# LAWN BOWLING

## TRY IT! YOU WILL LOVE IT!

325 Finkle St. Corner Parkinson & Finkle

## OPEN HOUSES

May 23<sup>rd</sup>: 10 a.m. - 4 p.m. • May 24<sup>th</sup>: 1 - 4 p.m.

### Learn to Bowl

Starting May 26 for 3 weeks  
Tuesday & Thursday nights  
Cost \$50.00

Woodstock Lawn Bowling Club  
Social Bowling Nights  
Tuesday & Thursday 7 p.m.  
[www.woodstocklawnbowling.ca](http://www.woodstocklawnbowling.ca)  
or 519-463-5447



### Lawn Bowling

1. Social sport is as casual or competitive as you like
2. Sport for all ages (12 yrs. to 80 yrs.)



## NOTICE OF STUDY COMPLETION

# Oxford Road 119 (Harris Street) and Clarke Road intersection improvements in Ingersoll

Municipal Class Environmental Assessment Study

### About the study

Oxford County has completed a Harmonized Environmental Assessment (Class EA) Study for the Oxford Road 119 (Harris Street) and Clarke Road intersection, as well as the widening of Oxford Road 119 from Clarke Road to Highway 401, in the Town of Ingersoll (refer to the study area map).

The purpose of this study was to:

- Identify and evaluate alternative solutions for improving the intersection and widening Oxford Road 119.
- Select a preferred solution for transportation improvements.
- Evaluate and recommend a preferred design concept for the preferred solution.

The Oxford County Transportation Master Plan study (2024) previously recommended upgrades and improvements to the intersection to accommodate anticipated traffic growth over the next 25 years.

### Study process

The Class EA Study was completed in accordance with the planning and design process for Schedule C projects as outlined in the Municipal Engineers Association Municipal Class Environmental Assessment Document (2024), which is an approved process under Ontario's *Environmental Assessment Act*.

Alternatives were presented at Public Consultation Centre #1 (PCC) on September 25, 2025, and the recommended alternative was presented at PCC #2 on November 27, 2025. Following input received from the PCCs and consultation with stakeholders, the preferred alternative solution and design concept was determined:

- Construction of a single-lane roundabout with a right-turn exit lane.
- Widening of Oxford Road 119.

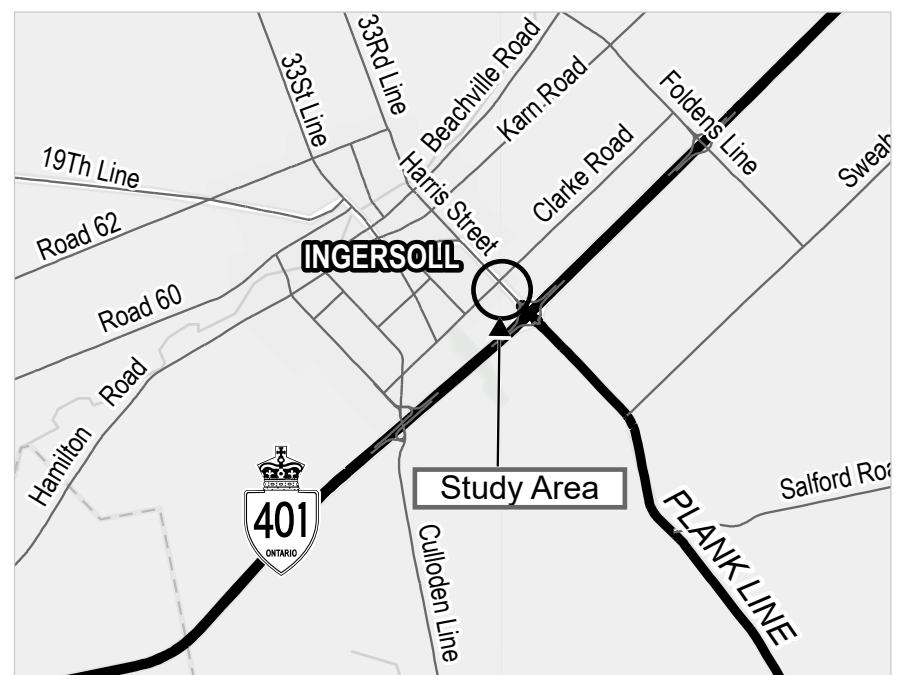
### Public review period

An Environmental Study Report (ESR) summarizing the Class EA Study process and findings is available online for a 30-day comment period between May 12 and June 11, 2026. The ESR and appendices are available on the Oxford County website and on *Speak Up, Oxford!* at [www.speakup.oxfordcounty.ca/or119-clarke-ea](http://www.speakup.oxfordcounty.ca/or119-clarke-ea)

Interested persons may provide written comments by mail or email regarding the ESR to:

Noah Brister, P.Eng.,  
Project Engineer, Oxford County  
[nbrister@oxfordcounty.ca](mailto:nbrister@oxfordcounty.ca)  
1-800-755-0394, ext. 3107

In the event that there are outstanding concerns, a request may be made to the Ministry of the Environment, Conservation and Parks (MECP) under Section 16 of the *Environmental Assessment Act* requiring a higher level of study (i.e., requiring an individual/comprehensive EA approval



before being able to proceed), or that conditions be imposed (e.g., require further studies), only on the grounds that the requested order may prevent, mitigate, or remedy adverse impacts on constitutionally protected Aboriginal and treaty rights.

Requests on other grounds will not be considered. Requests should include the requester contact information and full name for the Ministry. The request should be sent in writing by mail or email to:

Minister of the Environment, Conservation and Parks  
Ministry of Environment, Conservation and Parks  
777 Bay Street, 5th Floor, Toronto ON M7A 2J3  
[minister.mecp@ontario.ca](mailto:minister.mecp@ontario.ca)

and:

Director, Environmental Assessment Branch  
Ministry of Environment, Conservation and Parks  
135 St. Clair Ave. W, 1st Floor, Toronto ON, M4V 1P5  
[EABDirector@ontario.ca](mailto:EABDirector@ontario.ca)

Additional information can be found online at [www.ontario.ca/page/class-environmental-assessments-section-16-order](http://www.ontario.ca/page/class-environmental-assessments-section-16-order)

*Information will be collected in accordance with the Municipal Freedom of Information and Protection of Privacy Act. With the exception of personal information, all comments will become part of the public record.*

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## QUIZ ANSWERS

1. Cameco
2. The Suez Canal
3. Iceman
4. Defense Readiness Conditions
5. Tinker Bell
6. A soup
7. Baize or felt
8. Jennifer Lopez
9. Stop, drop, and roll
10. EF5

## SUDOKU SOLUTION

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

# CLASSIFIEDS

## TREES

For Sale: Shade Trees; Maples, Oaks, Birch, Beech, Honey Locusts, Elms, Magnolia, Hydrangea Tree, Tulip Tree, Crab apples, Ivory Silk Lilac, Chanticleer Pear, Golden Weeping Willows and more. Apples, Pears, Peaches, Plums, Apricots, Nectarine, Blueberry, Haskap etc. Lots of healthy strong Spruce, Cedars and White Pine for your privacy hedges and windbreaks. Hundred of flowering shrubs.  
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- 2014 Forrest River Chaparral 5th wheel trailer Model 266SAB, \$16,000. Or best offer.
- 2015 Ram Truck with Denco Hijacker 5th wheel hitch with auto slide and air lift load 5000. 4 wheel drive \$15,000. Or best offer. Please call 519-469-3760 between 5 and 7 pm

## YARD SALE

**June 6, 2026**  
**YARD SALE AT GRACE UNITED CHURCH TAVISTOCK**  
**116 Woodstock St. S. Tavistock**  
Dishes, books, jewelry, games, toys, knick-knacks, silverware, craft supplies, lamps, materials, china, decorations, small furniture, vintage and collectible table, electrical appliances, plants, and garden décor items

## GARAGE SALE

**June 6 & 7, 8 am - 2 pm**  
**518 John St. Hickson**  
**Signs will be up, street is west side of school.**  
Huge Garage Sale: Purging - Downsizing : Patio umbrellas, stands, table, smaller furniture(old wood teacher's chairs),household items, antiques puzzles, tools & garden tools & many more items.

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[www.oxfordcounty.ca/careers](http://www.oxfordcounty.ca/careers)



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