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Heavy frost sets back asparagus harvest

JEFF HELSDON

Editor

The local asparagus crop took a hit after the frost last weekend.

Ashly Koteles of Koteles Farms on New Road said the season got off to a strong start with the first cut on April 29.

“We had a record-breaking first cut by a long shot,” she said. “However, over the weekend, we lost almost everything to the frost.”

“It was the sub-zero frost on Sunday morning that was the most significant hit in the past 10 years,” said Mike Chromczak, a Tillsonburg-area grower and chair of the Asparagus Farmers of Ontario.

He said some growers “lost every single spear,”

while others lost about half and a few escaped any damage.

Koteles said she lost two nights cutting to the frost.

“The asparagus root it just shoots, shooting up more asparagus,” she said. “You’ll lose what’s above the ground.”

For Koteles, it could be said this season is trial by fire. It’s her first season behind the family operation after her father Joe passed away unexpectedly last year. She hadn’t been working on the farm, but had spent a lot of time with her father.

“I knew more than I thought I did. It’s been easier than I thought it would be,” she reflected.

Koteles gave full credit to her father for the strong start of the crop before the frost.

CONTINUED TO PAGE 2

Nate Haller headlining Turtlefest entertainment

JEFF HELSDON

Editor

Tillsonburg Turtlefest is the first stop on Canadian country singer Nate Haller’s summer tour.

The Kitchener-area singer started his first headliner tour earlier this year, hitting venues across the country. He is following it up with a summer tour schedule that kicks off on the Turtlefest stage with a 9 p.m. show, the finale of a full day of entertainment.

Haller played in The Reklaws band for three years before striking out on a solo career in 2021. He was twice nominated for Canadian Country Music Association (CCMA) awards – in 2022 for the Rising Star Award and in 2023 for Breakthrough Artist of the Year. He hit number three on the Billboard Canada country music charts with the single “Backfire”, a duet with Tenille Townes. His current single, “Thought About You,” was sitting at #12 on the charts this week.

CONTINUED TO PAGE 2



(JEFF HELSDON PHOTO)

BIKE RODEO

Tillsonburg municipal bylaw enforcement officer Cooper Desroches demonstrates hand signals to participants in the town’s annual bike rodeo. Held at the Tillsonburg Community Centre on Saturday, the event attracted 40 participants interested in learning more about bicycle safety. See more photos on Page 8.



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Explore our current listings!

SCAN



Turtlefest first stop on Nate Haller's summer tour

CONTINUED FROM FRONT

Haller has quickly become one of Canada's most exciting country voices. Known for his high-energy performances, powerful vocals and radio-ready sound, Haller has built a loyal national following through his charting singles, cross-country touring, and standout festival appearances. His blend of contemporary country, pop-leaning hooks, and authentic storytelling has earned him recognition as one of the genre's rising stars.

Kim Sage, Turtlefest organizing committee entertainment coordinator, said Haller is one of the largest names – if not the biggest – to hit the event's stage. She pointed to the song, "Lightning in a Bottle", saying, "Even if you're not a country fan, I'm sure you've heard that song."

She is hopeful that with a big name, concert goers will come from outside of town, which will help the downtown merchants.

"We're thrilled to welcome Nate Haller as our 2026 headliner," Sage said. "He brings

the kind of energy, talent, and excitement that makes him a perfect festival closer."

Coty Robinson, who has played at the Copper Mug several times, will be opening for Haller. He has played at fairs and festivals, gaining a reputation for energetic, engaging performances.

"Coty brings a genuine, crowd-pleasing country sound that fits TurtleFest perfectly," said Sage. "His growing list of releases shows real artistic depth. We are excited for festival goers to experience his music live."

Turtlefest committee member Vanessa Fortner said Haller differs from last year's headliner Texas Kings.

"Texas King is more country rock," she said. "This year we're sticking with just country because Tillsonburg likes the country concerts."

In the past, Turtlefest partnered with Rogers on the entertainment. Last year, with the transition in the radio station ownership,

there wasn't a partnership, but this year Country 107.3 is a partner.

"They gave us recommendations of what is popular, and Nate Haller was one of those recommendations," Fortner said.

The mainstage entertainment begins at noon with O Canada performed by Sonbeam Daycare, accompanied by the Glendale High School band. A strong roster of local artists, including Chase Beres, Amelia Forsyth, Ian BW, Daniel Hamm, Ghost Town Citizen, a line dancing performance, and Kickin Country, will follow. Between the musical acts, Tim Burr brings his lumberjack-themed show featuring humour and busker-style entertainment, which includes juggling chainsaws, in front of the stage for three shows at 2 p.m., 4 p.m., and 7 p.m. Crowd favourite, The Fire Guy, returns to TurtleFest at 8:15 p.m. with his signature high-energy show, before Nate Haller's headline performance.

"It's celebrating the entertainment that is local and keeping it community-oriented," Sage said. "All of the people during the day aren't big stars to the outside world, but to Tillsonburg they are."

TurtleFest's musical entertainment begins Friday evening, June 19, at 8:00 p.m. at the Copper Mug with a TurtleFest kickoff concert by Chuck Jackson and Tyler Yarema, former members of the Downchild Blues Band. Jackson was the lead singer and harmonica player for 35 years, and Yarema the keyboard player for the multi-award-winning band.

A taste of camping

This year Brock St. will be Happy Camp Avenue, sponsored by Campmart in Ingersoll. Fortner explained there will be activities to "give kids a taste of what camping is."

Young Entrepreneur Alley is also returning this year.

Growers hopeful crop will rebound this week

CONTINUED FROM FRONT

"My father was really big on looking after the crop, and ensuring there are lots of nutrients in the soil like potassium and nitrogen," she said. "My dad was a real farmer, and I hope to step into those shoes."

Chromczak said frost in May is typical, but usually it's followed by some warm weather that lets the crop recover quickly. The frost doesn't kill the plant, but only the spears that are above the ground.

Asked about the impact on this year's yield, Chromczak answered, "Today's the eighth – most farmers are below their historical yield at this point."

If the weather turns around, he is hopeful the crop can bounce back.

"Mother Nature can balance things out," he said. "If we have a normal weather pattern, we can get a normal crop off. We've just lost a few days at the beginning of May."

He said a worse situation would have been warm temperatures, hitting 25°C for example, at the end of April, which would superactivate the crop, then frost hit. That would shock the crown and have a

larger impact.

Since most growers weren't in full production, he is hopeful the impact will be minimized.



(JEFF HELSDON PHOTO)

Ilona Csikos, an 18-year employee with Koteles Farms, works on bundling some of the asparagus that escaped the frost. The farming operation on New Road is one of few local asparagus growers with farmgate sales. Asparagus is available Monday to Saturday, 9 a.m. to 5 p.m., and Sunday 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. Check kotelesfarms.ca for updates on product availability.



(JEFF HELSDON PHOTO)

WHICH DUCK IS THE FASTEST?

The Rotary Club of Tillsonburg's annual book sale doubled as an opportunity for the club to sell tickets for the annual duck race, which is May 23. Tickets are \$20 each. Member Marg McCrimmon had ticket sales duties during the first day of the event.

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EDITORIAL

Letter to the Editor

Open letter to MPP
Ernie Hardeman

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.

Peter Wright, President, Ontario Party Oxford.

Have something to say? Submit your Letter to the Editor here: info@tillsonburgpost.com



The Canada tulip.

(JEFF HELSDON PHOTO)

The guillotine is mightier than the magic marker



WRITER'S
CORNER

NORMA COLLIS

Tillsonburg Post Columnist

Early in my teaching career, I team taught with another young woman, in a large kindergarten area.

We each had a class of 30 young ones which made for a very busy classroom when everyone was intently engaged in their academic pursuits.

Ironically, the other teacher was also named Norma, which often led to some confusion. The principal would walk in and say "Norma" and we would both reply in stereo "Yes?"

"This is far too complicated," said the principal. "I'm going to call one of you by your middle name. What are your middle names?"

"Jean" we replied in unison.

"What? You're both named Norma Jean?" he exclaimed.

"Yes, sir," came our replies in unison.

"Okay," he said, as he pointed at me, "I will call you Norma."

Then he pointed at my teaching partner, "And you will be Norma Jean."

Norma Jean still lived at home with her parents, and she went home at the end of each day, to a beautifully prepared meal and clean laundry, ironed and carefully put away in readiness for her use.

I went home to a modest house that was under constant DIY renovation, stacks of waiting laundry and faced with that age old question of "What should I cook for dinner tonight?"

Every lunch hour, Norma Jean opened a beautifully packed lunch filled with tasty surprises and little humorous notes from her hard-working mother. The contents of my lunch bag contained neither surprise gourmet delights nor notes that caused me to chuckle.

The one time my husband did attempt to include a note in my lunch, he wrote the message in blue Magic Marker on the shell of a hard-boiled egg. It was a lovely idea, but who could have guessed that

the marker would bleed through onto the white of the egg itself rendering the item inedible.

Norma Jean appeared at school each morning, beautifully dressed and impeccably groomed. If her outfit was black and white, each fingernail would be painted with black and white designs. She even had identical dress shoes, one pair in black and the other pair in white. Her left foot would sport a black shoe and her right foot a white shoe. Our four- and five-year-olds were enchanted by the ever evolving fashion show.

Early one school day she appeared wearing a new outfit that was completed by a long flowing silk scarf which probably cost as much as our monthly house mortgage payment.

We were both busily preparing art projects before our small charges arrived for the day. Every classroom in our school had its own large paper cutter ominously known as a "guillotine." The large cutting blade was lethal, and we kept the item hidden away in a walk in supply closet as we worried about small fingers coming any where close to this dangerous thing. It was used only when the classroom was empty of children.

I was busy setting up the finger-painting center as Norma Jean disappeared into the supply room to cut up strips of construction paper for another center. I heard the familiar swoosh and cutting sound from the closet which was immediately followed by a blood-curdling scream.

Grabbing up several paint splattered kid sized painting shirts to use as a tourniquet, I raced to the closet expecting to find a gory scene involving the loss of several fingers.

There stood Norma Jean, holding the ragged ends of her new and now considerably less long flowing silk scarf. She had obviously leaned forward, intent on her cutting job and had somehow managed to cut off both ends of her designer scarf.

Other staff members who had also come running expecting to find a worse case scenario, erupted into gales of laughter. Norma Jean failed to see the humour. My fashion perfect teaching partner was slightly less impeccably groomed that day.

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

The rest of the story of Dr. Sylvanus Joy and family



**THE
STAGE
IS THE
WORLD**

LAUREL A. BEECHEY

Tillsonburg Post Columnist

Dr. Sylvanus Joy is now alone. Daughter Frances is married and in Minnesota. He'd disowned Ida, who is in Pittsburgh, and just exiled his wife, Miriam, from Tillsonburg.

Remember, Miriam was away for eight years and returned home ill, diagnosed with Locomotor Ataxia. The most common way to get Locomotor Ataxia, is from syphilis. The most common way to get infected is through sex, and Sylvanus did not have the disease.

Perhaps this why her husband and son-in-law would not care for her? This was not only a horrible disease to endure, but with no antibiotics, she was going to suffer and die. Infidelity in this time period was a most reprehensible act. It was also a grievous sin to betray your wedding vows. Divorce was expensive, public, and required an Act of Parliament that would destroy individual and family reputations. But the family would not be besmirched if she died elsewhere. Sylvanus was principled enough to disown his daughter; might he have been principled enough to refuse to divorce his wife? No decree has been found.

Ida was in Pittsburgh, raising her four children, and took in her bedridden mother. She was still painting, although often using the name Marie Aida Didier. At the Minneapolis Industrial Exposition in 1888, she sold a portrait for \$1,200. Another was exhibited in the 1893 Columbian Exposition in Chicago.

Two years later, her world fell apart with Nicholas' death of typhus in December 1895. Nicholas owned some of the patents used in his work, and he and his brother were well educated, leading-family descendants, so one would believe that Ida was

not destitute. Yet, the wealthy owner of the Pittsburgh Smelting Co. Ida married, was buried in an unmarked grave in St. Philomena Cemetery, Pittsburgh.

After Nicholas' death, Ida, the children and her mother moved to New Brighton, a town some 40 miles away from Pittsburgh. Gradually, Miriam lost the use of her own body and on July 12, 1897, Miriam died. The obituary in the Tillsonburg Observer noted: "Miriam's body was brought to Waterford on Tuesday morning, July 13, and placed in the Collver family plot in Greenwood cemetery." Dated documents have not yet been found, but I suspect the children immigrated to Canada at the same time. Ida moved to Minneapolis to live with her sister.

Sylvanus, now 64 years, used to living on his own and active in business, somehow managed for a year-and-a-half, then he got the perfect solution, he would marry again.

On Jan 25th, 1899, Sylvanus was married at Niagara Falls, NY to his second wife, a nurse, who was his junior by 31 years. Julia Alice L'Allemand, was born Sept. 6, 1864, in Bayham Township, and was of Swiss heritage. Julia was about 30 years old when she entered into nurses training at Toronto General Hospital, graduating in June of 1898 at 33 years-old. She spent the next two months touring Oregon and California, returned on Jan 19, 1899, married a week later in Niagara Falls, gave up a career she worked hard to achieve, married a much older man she doesn't really know and cared for four children she also

didn't know.

In 1908, Dr. Joy suffered a severe illness but he recovered. By 1911, the children were living in Minnesota with their mother and sister Frances. Dr. Sylvanus Joy's demise came on Oct. 31, 1919, after having been ill for a few days.

"Dr. Sylvanus Joy became a legend in Tillsonburg. His carriage, with its Negro coachman, swaying under the doctor's vast bulk, was a very familiar sight in town and countryside," it was noted in Tillsonburg: A History 1825-1982 by J.J. Cooper and John Armstrong.

The legacy of Dr. Sylvanus Joy continues today with two scholarships. At Queen's University, Kingston, the Sylvanus Joy Scholarship in Pharmacology and London's theological Huron College, in Western University. He is remembered in Tillsonburg by the grand sepulcher in the cemetery. It covers approximately six plots, has massive granite block walls, a roof, and four granite columns, displaying only S. Joy MD. The doors are heavy bronze, patinaed with age, with patterned glass, which allows us a glimpse inside. Dr. Joy, wife Julie and her L'Allemand family are encased in the marble crypts, we think.

Dr. Joy's most unusual legacy was leaving a representation of his head - he had a beautiful bust of his own head and shoulders carved by John McFarlane in 1904. Today, he greets guests to the second floor of Annandale National Historic Site.



(ALIYAH HELSDON PHOTO)

50TH ANNIVERSARY ANNANDALE PLANT SALE

Annandale School's annual plant sale, which started on May 7, continues until this Saturday. The greenhouse is open until 5:30 p.m. week days, and from 9 a.m. to 2 p.m. on Saturday. Now grown by Grade 8 students, the plant sale started 50 years ago when Annandale was a secondary school.

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8. Newspapers should be locally-owned and operated

Ribfest planned for Tillsonburg

JEFF HELSDON
Editor

Ribfest is returning to Tillsonburg. Previously, the Tillsonburg Thunder organized Tillsonburg Ribfest for several years until 2023. The hockey club didn't continue with the event, but Jorge Gonzalez is bringing it back to the Tillsonburg Fairgrounds May 22-24. Gonzalez, owner of Gonzalez BBQ, is organizing Tillsonburg Ribfest 2026. He is promising four different rib vendors will be at the event, plus other vendors from the community. The event will feature live music and a bar. A local band is lined up as is Black River Remedy from Windsor area. "I'm trying to bring communities together from every nationality that we can," he

said. Gonzalez's intention is to make Ribfest a family event. He plans on having bouncy castles, cornhole, and will have a lemonade truck. A booth to promote the ride for suicide awareness will also be on site. "It's a nice weekend family event," he said. Gonzalez is also looking for judges for the competition between the rib booths. He described the qualifications as judges "have to be able to eat ribs and figure out which are the best ribs". Judging is done on tenderness and flavour, as well as the sauces. There is also a people's choice award in the competition. Hours of the event will be Friday 11 a.m. to 11 p.m., Saturday 11 a.m. to 11 p.m., and Sunday 11 a.m. to 6 p.m.

Oxford County water conservation program started May 1

Oxford County residents are reminded that outdoor watering restrictions are in effect from May 1 to September 30.

Under the county's water conservation by-law, residents may use sprinklers or hose to water their lawns and gardens every other day depending on house address number.

- Residences with an odd-numbered house address may water on odd days of the month (1, 3, 5, etc.) between the hours of 6 a.m. and 9 a.m., or between 6 p.m. and 9 p.m.
- Residences with an even-numbered house address may water on even days of the month (2, 4, 6, etc.) between the hours of 6 a.m. and 9 a.m., or between 6 p.m. and 9 p.m.

Businesses and commercial properties follow the same schedule for odd and even day watering, but between the hours of 8 to 10 a.m. or 3 to 5 p.m.

Residents who would like to request an exemption to the schedule, for instance to fill a swimming pool or for recently installed landscaping, can contact Oxford County for more information at 519-539-9800 or water@oxfordcounty.ca.

Lawn watering is one of the biggest users of municipal water in our communities. Last year in Oxford County, water consumption increased by as much as 51 per cent in the summer months.

Oxford County's water conservation program helps conserve the county's groundwater supply during summer months, when water use is high. The county's water supply relies entirely on groundwater, which takes longer to replenish and is more vulnerable to over-use than municipal water from other sources, like lakes. Conserving outdoor

water use, including how often we water our lawns and gardens, helps care for this valuable resource.

Non-compliance with the by-law may result in reduced water pressure to the home for repeat offences, with a fine to restore water pressure to normal after a 24-hour waiting period.

The water conservation program is in effect for all Oxford County residents serviced by municipal water: Beachville, Bright, Brownsville, Dereham Centre, Drumbo, Princeton, Embro, Hickson, Ingersoll, Innerkip, Lakeside, Mount Elgin, Norwich, Otterville, Springfield, Sweaburg, Plattsville, Tavistock, Thamesford, Tillsonburg and Woodstock.

For more information about the water conservation program visit www.oxfordcounty.ca/waterconservation

Smart watering tips

- Overwatering your lawn can be harmful to its health. A thorough watering once a week will prevent excessive moisture and encourage deep, healthy roots. A layer of mulch also helps keep moisture in your garden soil and around tree roots.
- Hand-watering from a rain barrel is an environmentally friendly way to water grass and gardens using natural rainwater. Rain barrels should be screened to prevent mosquitoes from breeding. You can purchase a rain barrel from Oxford County by calling 519-539-9800 or toll-free at 1-866-537-7778.
- Avoid watering during the midday sun and wind. Watering early in the morning is best for your lawn and gardens and will limit evaporation.

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Two Tillsonburg businesses receive county tourism funds



(JEFF HELSDON PHOTO)

Taking part in a presentation to celebrate the Tourism Innovation Grant were, left to right: Crystal Van Roekel, Economic Development Officer Rural Oxford EDC.; Sarah Senior, Co-Founder GoodPud; Polly Senior, Co-Founder GoodPud and Erica Orleni, tourism officer with Tourism Oxford.

JEFF HELSDON

Editor

Two Tillsonburg businesses will be adding a little more taste to their operations thanks to Tourism Innovation Grants from Tourism Oxford, Community Futures Oxford, and Rural Oxford Economic Development Corporation.

The two local businesses – Good Pud and Makkink's Flower Farm and Bakery Café - were among five businesses and two non-profits who will receive the grant. Each recipient receives a \$3,000 grant to help develop and complete a new tourism project in 2026. Applications were reviewed based on several criteria, including creativity, ability to develop marketing skills, DEI, financial and community impact and market demand.

Sisters Sarah and Polly Senior, founders of Good Pud, plan to deliver a series of hands-on dessert demonstration experiences that celebrate seasonal, locally sourced ingredients that encourage multi-stop visits to Oxford County.

"We're over the moon to receive the \$3,000 funding, it makes a huge difference to a small business like

ours," Sarah said. "Building on the success of last year's Big Cheese Days dessert demonstrations, we will use the grant money to roll out a series of monthly dessert demonstrations throughout the year, focusing on locally sourced ingredients and produce."

The money will help purchase new equipment and fund marketing.

She explained that this year's Big Cheese Days dessert demonstrations will be held at Good Pud's North Street location and will demonstrate how to make a Millionaire's Cheesecake that combines Crowdie cheese from Woodstock's Golspie Dairy with their own salted caramel sauce, topped with dark chocolate Good Pud. Participants make two desserts, consume one in class, and take one home to share. They also make Rhubarb Fool, a unique dessert without a Good Pud connection.

"The sessions are joyous - full of laughter and delicious sweet treats," Sarah said. "Attendees last year traveled from as far as Huntsville and Windsor."

Once Big Cheese Days are over in May, the dessert sessions will switch to Seasonal and Local, with an emphasis on local food that is in season.

"They are focusing on what is in season and what's at



(CHRIS ABBOTT PHOTO)

Behind the bakery café counter at Makkink's Flower Farm are from left Bev Van Straten, Hilde Makkink and Ayla Sawchuk. Edible flowers will be a new emphasis on the menu this year at the farm.

its peak. We are surrounded by the most amazing food that is grown in the fields around us," Sarah said.

She said the sessions help people connect more with their food.

"For us it's very much about celebrating connections, and food and desserts and bringing people together," she said.

Edible flowers

Hilde Makkink of Makkink's Flower Farm and Bakery Café in Tillsonburg will use the grant to fund her new project, Bloom to Table. Visitors will discover how flowers can be used in food and drinks as they explore the flower farm through an interactive scavenger hunt.

Makkink gave examples of edible flowers, including marigolds, lavender, and bee balm.

With a bakery as part of the operation, and plenty of flowers, the concept of edible flowers is a natural one. She said plans are for a specialty drink with a flower in it and a sandwich with a buttery flavour made from flowers.

"The café and flower farm become one," she said. "For me, it's the biggest thing people aren't aware how good certain flowers are."

She promised a "special and unique experience".

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The surprising story of RCAF airmen and the Halifax bomber

JEFF HELSDON

Editor

What was supposed to be “punishment” for Canadian airmen during the Second World War turned into a blessing.

Karl Kjarsgaard of the Bomber Command Museum in Nanton, Alberta, was the guest speaker for the Canadian Harvard Aircraft Association’s annual fundraising dinner. He explained the misconception that the Lancaster was the most common plane used by Royal Canadian Air Force crews during the Second World War. In fact, in the three-year period 1942-1944, 71 per cent of missions were flown on Halifax bombers.

Kjarsgaard explained Prime Minister Mackenzie King wanted Canadians to fly in their own squadrons. As a result, British Air Vice Marshall Harris of the Royal Air Force, who oversaw all bombing missions, thought he was “punishing” the Canadians by sticking them with the Halifax bombers.

The Halifax was slower than the Lancaster, and as a result, losses were higher. However, the situation changed in 1943

when the Halifax bomber received an engine upgrade – and a significant one that added 800 more horsepower. With the upgrade came higher speed, greater efficiency, and a lower loss rate.

“This is the reason Canadians ended up number one for efficiency in 1943,” Kjarsgaard said.

Unlike the Lancaster, surviving intact Halifax bombers are almost impossible to find. Kjarsgaard said hundreds of RCAF Halifaxes were left behind in Britain.

“There were Halifaxes with 70, 80 missions painted on the noses and we left them behind for the British to cut up for pots and pans,” he explained.

The Halifax on display at Canadian Forces Base Trenton is the only completely restored complete Halifax in the world. It was raised from a lake in Norway in 1995. The Bomber Command Museum doesn’t have a complete Halifax, but they are working on it. An airframe was found in Malta. Propeller blades were found in a crate in England, a turret was found in Halifax, and the restoration is continuing.

Kjarsgaard said the group is also work-



(JEFF HELSDON PHOTO)

Karl Kjarsgaard of Bomber Command Museum in Nanton, Alberta, was the guest speaker at the Canadian Harvard Aircraft Association’s annual fundraising dinner. He provided an overview of the aircraft and his group’s efforts to rebuild and restore one.

ing on restoring a Harvard, and there will be a combined effort between the Canadian Harvard Aircraft Association and his group on this project.

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BICYCLE RODEO

Tillsonburg's annual bike rodeo taught participants about many aspects of bike safety, from hand signals to stop signs and skills



(JEFF HELSDON PHOTO)

Lexi Deknibber taught the importance of washing bikes to event participants, along with a hands-on opportunity to shine up bikes. Washing bikes is important to prevent rust.



(JEFF HELSDON PHOTO)

Constable Lee Young-Rowe delved into the importance of proper helmet sizing and fit, as well as bicycle size checks.

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TOWNSHIP OF NORWICH NEWS



New Buy Ontario policies could put added financial pressure on municipalities

LUKE EDWARDS

Post Contributor

When municipalities buy new vehicles, they'll now have to give special consideration to Ontario and Canada-made products, and soon that will expand to include capital infrastructure projects.

The Buy Ontario Act, which was passed at Queen's Park last year, is now coming into effect. Starting in April municipalities had to demonstrate efforts to secure light duty vehicles that were made in Ontario or Canada or included parts made in Ontario or Canada, and in mid-May they'll have to do the same for the construction and renovation projects of assets like roads, bridges, and municipally owned buildings.

Giving an update to council at the April 28 meeting, Norwich CAO Matt Smith said the vehicle portion of the act won't impact them too much, though the capital infrastructure piece could.

However, with only a few weeks before the rules come into effect, there remains a healthy amount of uncertainty.

"In true provincial style, they haven't really given us a good explanation of how that comes into effect on May 15 or the instructions we need in order to do it," he said.

"But in essence there's going to need to be a new section to our procurement documents where bidders will have to fill in the information about their supply chain and all of their subcontractors' supply chains."

The rules force municipalities to give preferential treatment to bids that demonstrate a higher percentage of Canada-based procurement as long as it's within 10 per cent of the lowest bid.

Not only does this have the potential to add financial strain, but Smith said there's potential it will dissuade contractors from even bidding.

"My biggest concern is that some of our local bidders may not wish to, or find it too hard, to complete the supply chain documentation that we're going to have to ask them to complete," he said.

Some projects, like much of the road work, won't likely be affected since the local bids are naturally lower. But Smith said there could be challenges with some

larger building projects.

The vehicle portion of the rules came into effect in mid-April, and uses a tier-based procurement system. Preferred vehicles are fully Canadian. However, since Canadian production lines don't offer everything a municipality could need, a second tier prioritizes vehicles that have Canadian parts.

"If we're not purchasing something from either tier 1 or tier 2 in vehicles, we'll have to be able to demonstrate why we couldn't do that," Smith said, adding none of the vehicles classified in tier 1 meets the township's needs.

Councillors expressed worry about the financial impacts.

"Are they (the province) looking at any subsidies for municipalities? This really puts a stranglehold on a lot of lower municipalities that just don't have the funding or resources," said Coun. Shawn Gear.

Smith said that topic has been brought up in just about every meeting he's been a part of.

"And the answer is no, there is no funding associated with this from the provincial government," he said.

Bigger, better Port Burwell Writer's Festival planned

JEFF HELSDON

Editor

A bigger and expanded Port Burwell Writer's Festival is planned for the Victoria Day weekend.

And although the event is in Port Burwell, there are at least two connections to Tillsonburg. Event organizer and founder Kim Epple lived in Tillsonburg from the age of eight until she graduated from Glendale High School. Now living in St. Catharines, she returned to Port Burwell for the public school reunion three years ago and was staying at Jim Hevernor's bed and breakfast when they were discussing how many writers were from Port Burwell.

"I mentioned I write as a hobby, and met two other girls from Bayham who write. He mentioned all these other writers," Epple recounted as the genesis of the idea.

Epple writes for Merriton Matters, a local newspaper in St. Catharines, and has been published in Canadian Nurse twice, as well as a few other newspapers. She also wrote a book, "Go North" by Kae C. Wiebe, her pen name, which is for sale on Amazon.

The initial event last year had 13 writers, and that number has increased to 16, who will either be presenting or selling their items at the event.

Presentations start on the Friday with Martha Morrison making a presentation on how to make time for the writing life at the Straffordville Public Library at 11 a.m. Tillsonburg Post writer Jeff Tribe, who recently published

his first novel, will be speaking on Saturday at 1 p.m. at Port Burwell's Periscope Playhouse on how to get published. Kelly Young will round out the writer's presentations with a talk on "Origins and Write What You Know." Debra Honour will also be speaking at the Straffordville Library, but her presentation will be on United Empire Loyalists and how to apply for UEL status.

The festival was held mainly in the Trinity Anglican Church parish hall last year. This year, it has expanded and is also at Periscope Playhouse. There is also much more involved than just writers.

The writers will have their books for sale at the playhouse, and a history book on Trinity Anglican Church will be available in the parish hall as the church celebrates its 190th birthday. Save the Lighthouse T-shirts will be for sale, as will information and books from the Bayham Historical Society. The Photographers of Otter Valley will be selling their postcards of local scenes.

Nate McIntyre of the Rip Current Information Project will be returning. Epple is glad to see that Port Burwell Provincial Park has a lifejacket loaner program, something McIntyre had been advocating for.

"We've got a mix this year of writers selling their books and vendors," Epple said.

Trinity Anglican Church is also holding a fundraising luncheon from 11:30 a.m. to 2:30 p.m. on Saturday. Proceeds will go to the food bank. On Sunday, Port Burwell firefighters will be hosting a pancake breakfast from 8 a.m. to noon. The marine museum, HMCS Ojibwa, and

Edison Museum will be open for tours on the weekend.

One interesting addition this year is the opportunity to meet Bayham athletes at Driftwood Care on Monday.

"We have national and international athletes in Bayham, and I think we need to celebrate that," Epple said.

There are also three different informational hikes scheduled throughout the weekend.

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Horticulture society plant auction planned for May 19

JEFF HELSDON

Editor

The Tillsonburg Horticultural Society's annual Garden Auction and Sale is much more than a plant auction.

The annual event, planned for May 19 this year, will again be at the Lion's Auditorium in the Tillsonburg Community Centre. The event features a bake sale with pies, tarts, cookies, and sandwiches made by members, plus the auction and plant sale.

Society president Christine Nagy said the event always attracts a good crowd, estimating attendance at 400 to 500.

Asked why it's popular, she answered,

"The whole package combined. We have a number of people who come through the doors, buy their plants at the plant sale table, and leave. Others stay for the auction, and some men come in, go straight to the bake table, and then leave."

Nagy believes the auction is one of the big attractions, though. More than 200 items will be auctioned off by auctioneers Bev Burrill and his daughter, Shelley Miller. The auction is not just plants; there are also décor items donated by local businesses, auctioned off.

"There's no more live auctions anymore, they're all online," she said. "It's kind of fun to go to a live auction again."

The interesting thing is that no one

knows what the donations will be from the 100 local businesses that contribute to the event, or from the members.

"Every year is a different thing," Nagy said of what garners the most attention in the auction. "We're always surprised by what the donations can be from the membership. One year, a couple came in with dead roots from a bush that is used for décor, and they went for an amazing price."

The plant sale features 300 to 400 plants donated by members, plus vegetables from local growers.

The Garden Auction and Sale is the society's largest annual fundraiser of the year. It funds plants that society members use to beautify town gardens and planters on Broadway. They donated more than 1,200 hours combined for park beautification.

While there are regulars who attend, Nagy encouraged those who haven't been to come.

"Anyone who comes the first time is agog at how much is happening and how well organized it is," she said.

WEEKEND QUIZ

by Jake Grant

1. An educated guess made at the start of an experiment is called what?
2. What does VHS stand for?
3. Which celebrity has fulfilled the most Make-A-Wish requests?
4. The Dead Sea is located between which two countries?
5. An orca can also be called a what?
6. What archeologist discovered King Tut's tomb?
7. How many time zones are there in Canada?
8. What year did Leonardo DiCaprio finally win his first Oscar?
9. Before Tokyo became the capital city of Japan, where was the capital located?
10. How many syllables are in the word Mississippi?

This week's answers are found on pg. 26



(FILE PHOTO)

Auctioneer Shelley Miller was busy auctioning off plants at last year's Garden Auction and Sale. This year's event is planned for May 19.



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Gemini girls' rugby strength extends in numbers off the field

JEFF TRIBE

Post Correspondent

A team can only put 15 rugby players on a field at one time.

But Tillsonburg Gemini girls coach Shelby Coldock was thrilled to have another 18 on the sidelines for Tuesday, May 5th's Thames Valley Regional Athletics 32-5 Veronica Harrigan Division victory over the visiting Woodstock CI Red Devils.

TVRA VERONICA HARRINGTON DIVISION GIRLS RUGBY	
TUESDAY, MAY 5	
PARKSIDE	27
GEMINI	10

TVRA SOUTHEAST BOYS BASEBALL	
MONDAY, MAY 4	
GEMINI	11
WOODSTOCK COLLEGE AVENUE	1

TVRA SOUTHEAST BOYS SOCCER	
TUESDAY, MAY 5	
COLLEGE AVENUE	4
GEMINI	1
THURSDAY, MAY 7	
GEMINI	3
HURON PARK	2

TVRA SOUTHEAST GIRLS SOCCER	
TUESDAY, MAY 5	
GEMINI	3
COLLEGE AVENUE	0
THURSDAY, MAY 7	
HURON PARK	3
GEMINI	0

"When we started, we only had 13," said Coldock. "To have 33 on our roster, playable, is wildly different."

"Numbers" could be considered a team strength, backing up athletic ability, practice and execution. Assistant coach Tony Hietkamp, a passionate supporter of the game and energetic sideline voice, attributes some of the sport's popularity to the elevated profile of the Canadian women's teams, including a remarkable performance at last year's world championships.

"They placed second in the world."

The fact 24 of the 33 Tillsonburg roster members are in either Grade 9 or 10 adds to the coaching staff's excitement, in that along with an undefeated 3-0 regular season record to date, the Gemini have a promising future.

"I hope to keep growing," said Coldock.

The visiting Red Devils also fielded a young side, which to its credit, never gave up as the score and fatigue due to having only four subs mounted.

"We've been there," said Coldock, praising the visitors' efforts along with their sportsmanship.

She was happy with her own team's results as well, getting every player onto the field during a contest which the Gemini controlled territorially. Alex Jones led Tillsonburg's offence with a pair of five-point tries, Asha David added one and also kicked a two-point conversion. Keona Cornish, Sophia Silliker and Sienna Waterhouse each added a single try.

"It's been great," said the latter, both of the team's performance and its strength in numbers. "It gives us lots of opportunity to support each other, more eyes to see what's going on on the field and lots of breathers."

"We obviously have more energy to play," added Allie Deroo, who like her coach, gave props to the losing side's effort, credited with a Georgia Kudzia try on the last play of the game. "They played very good, absolutely."

In order, Tillsonburg has opened the season with victories over the London Clarke Road Trojans, Woodstock Huron Park Huskies and Red Devils.

"We have a good group of girls," said Silliker. "It's nice to have fun and play well."



(JEFF TRIBE PHOTO)

Surrounded by WCI tacklers, Gemini Asha David (centre) prepares to move the ball. David had a try and a two-point convert in a 32-5 TVRA victory.

The season has unfolded as hoped, with one significant caveat. Having gone to 3-0 at home, a Thursday road trip to St. Thomas Parkside to take on the equally undefeated Stampede's loomed even larger than normal.

"This needs to be the year," said Cornish, a graduating Grade 12 student who also plays club rugby.

Technically speaking, Thursday's game with Parkside was as much about bragging rights and homefield advantage as positioning. Regardless of outcome, Coldock believes the teams will finish one/two and meet again in the first round of the playoffs.

Having said that, she wouldn't object to that meeting coming on the heels of a victory.

"That would be nice... that would be a first."



(JEFF TRIBE PHOTO)

Gemini Adianna Van Leeuwen (left) is in hot pursuit of WCI's Semara Murray (right).

MONSIGNOR O'NEIL TRACK AND FIELD DAY



(CHRIS ABBOTT PHOTO)

Dillon Yarmie, St. Joseph's Catholic Elementary School, competes in the 9-year-old girls ball throw event Wednesday at Monsignor JH O'Neil in Tillsonburg.



(CHRIS ABBOTT PHOTO)

Emerson Adam won his Monsignor J.H. O'Neil Catholic School high jump event Wednesday clearing the bar at 1.17m.



(CHRIS ABBOTT PHOTO)

Nevaeh Peters, Olivia Mooney, Kyla Preiss and Sophie Myny race to the 50m finish line at Monsignor JH O'Neil School.

Pickleball club celebrates new courts at AGM

JEFF HELSDON

Editor

The Tillsonburg Pickleball Court celebrated the in-progress construction of three new courts during its annual general meeting on May 4.

President Diane Peacock gave credit to council, most of whom were in attendance at the event, for recognizing three courts is not enough for the growth in the community. She said the addition of three more courts is a significant milestone.

"I truly believe we are the envy of so many communities and cities around us," Peacock said of the town having six courts.

Mayor Deb Gilvesy said the new courts are funded 90 per cent by development charges, which are generated each time a builder takes out a building permit. Only 10 per cent of the cost is being funded from the tax levy.



(JEFF HELSDON PHOTO)

Three additional pickleball courts are under construction next to the existing courts. Use of the existing courts continued during some phases of the construction, but will be shut down for short periods.

Weather pending, she said the plan is to open the courts June 2.

"We're the first community to get new courts this year," the mayor explained, adding the tender was done last fall to allow this early in the season.

The additional three courts will allow tournaments to

be hosted in Tillsonburg.

Adam Kannawin, manager of parks and facilities, told those at the meeting that the existing courts will be shut down for short periods until the new ones open to allow melding the two court surfaces together. This will create a seamless look between the new and old courts.

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SPECIAL OLYMPICS



(JEFF HELSDON PHOTO)

Participants in Tillsonburg Special Olympics were recognized at the annual awards banquet. Left to right are: (front row) Corey Mulholland, most improved golf; Kara Jones, most improved cornhole; (back row) Jarett Chanyi, MVP basketball; Adelaide Jackson, most improved basketball; Dustin Neufeld, MVP basketball and Connor Gunkel, sportsmanship basketball. Absent were: Charlotte Van Lingen, most improved golf; Rose Robins, sportsmanship basketball and Cameron Tilford, most improved basketball.



(JEFF HELSDON PHOTO)

Two volunteers were presented with long service awards at the Special Olympics annual banquet. Doug Mulholland, left, was recognized for 10 years of volunteering and Tanya Bowman for five years.



(JEFF HELSDON PHOTO)

Doug Cooper, centre, was presented with the Special Olympics Tillsonburg Spirit and Community Support Award, in memory of Dorothy Otto by Pat Benoit, left, and Laverne Sinden. Cooper has been volunteering for Special Olympics for 30 years, is the current chair of Community Living Tillsonburg and started People First in Tillsonburg.



(JEFF HELSDON PHOTO)

The volunteers who make Special Olympics Tillsonburg a success were recognized during the 30th anniversary awards banquet on May 1 at the Tillsonburg Community Centre.

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Theatre Tillsonburg practicing for new production

VICTORIA COWARD

Post Contributor

Rehearsals at Theatre Tillsonburg are underway as the cast and crew prepares for the opening of *Having Hope at Home*.

With director Mark “The Original” Smith and stage manager Tabatha Buckle at the helm, this production will be sure to delight and entertain audiences.

Having Hope at Home is a heartwarming, Canadian comedy by David S. Craig about a young pregnant woman trying to reconcile with her estranged parents during a chaotic dinner at an old farmhouse. It is a light-hearted, yet emotional production about family dynamics, midwifery and, of course, hope.

When asked about the tone of this production, Smith cited three words: teamwork, integrity and community. He remarked that the most challenging and rewarding part of the show combines two aspects: people and place. It was a challenge with casting three generations and providing the cast with three distinct and separate locations on stage to thrive in, all the while keeping the scenes as real and natural as possible.

his came to fruition with the brilliant vision of Buckle, who is playing “triple duty” as stage manager, set designer and décor. She was joined by many Theatre Tillsonburg members and volunteers for set building and décor, and is well supported by her assistant stage manager Craig Covey.

Audiences will be thrilled with the set and those three distinct locations on stage:

each space exemplified by the fabulous lighting design created by Joe Sheik. Pair this with Greg Weiler’s amazing sound design and the experience and ambience of an old farmhouse is complete. And to dress the fabulously gifted actors? Suzanne Buehner returns to costume design with her usual talent and creative style.

This play features a cast of five local performers, ranging from Theatre Tillsonburg veterans to talented newcomers to the Tillsonburg stage. New to Theatre Tillsonburg is Emily Hind, who wonderfully portrays the main character of Carolyn, a determined young, pregnant woman. The endearing Braeden Fitzpatrick is back on the stage playing Carolyn’s partner, French Canadian Michel, the other impending parent!

Carolyn’s mother, Jane, is played elegantly with the right amount of “funny” by Kelly Verhoeve; her condescending counterpart, Carolyn’s father Bill, is played by Stuart Crew. He portrays this role with hilarious comedic flair. Brad Carson brings Carolyn’s grandfather Russell to life with likeability, and great delivery of punchlines.

And last but certainly not least, the extremely talented Angela Carvelho portrays Jane Bingham, Carolyn’s midwife.

Producers Victoria Coward and Mark “The Other” Smith are overjoyed to note that several members of this talented cast and crew have been nominated by the Western Ontario Drama League (WODL) for the November 2025 production *’Twas the Night Before Christmas*: Fitzpatrick for outstanding major role, Angela Carvelho for out-



(CONTRIBUTED PHOTO)

The cast of *Having Hope at Home* rehearse for the upcoming production, which opens on May 28 at Theatre Tillsonburg. Tickets are available online at theatretillsonburg.com

standing supporting performance, Joe Sheik for outstanding sound design and execution, Greg Weiler for a special award for design use of projection and Kelly Verhoeve for outstanding lighting and execution. In total there were nine nominations from WODL for Theatre Tillsonburg. Others include Tori Bremner for most promising newcomer, Rendal Lackenbauer for choreography and original music, and Mike and Jennifer Jull for outstanding directors. Congratulations to all who were involved with this show.

What an amazing achievement!

Smith stated the support for “*Having Hope at Home*” and Theatre Tillsonburg from the community and local businesses have been outstanding.

So, shake off the winter blues and embrace Spring by coming out to the theatre! Don’t miss this delightful entertaining comedy.

Having Hope at Home runs May 28, 29, 30*, 31* & June 4, 5, 6, 7*, 2026. Evening productions are at 7:30 p.m., and *matinees at 2 p.m.

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Annandale may be the Wilde-st house in Canada

ROBIN KRAFFT

Post Contributor

The popular Lunch and Learn program at Annandale NHS on April 24 featured a lecture on how philosophy and art history informed and influenced the decor and design of one of the finest houses in Canada.

The program started in 2000 as a millennium project and is offered on the last Thursday and Friday of the month. Every Lunch and Learn is an opportunity to delve into and discover a piece of Tillsonburg's compelling history.

"Keeping Tillsonburg's history alive is at the heart of this program," curator Kate Bakos said. "History is a living thing, and I'm grateful for the opportunity to help steward and champion it in our community."

Guests enjoyed a lunch catered by Beres before the lecture was delivered by Bakos, who leaned into her extensive study and research into the period that informed the Aesthetic Movement, which influenced the interiors of Annandale House.

Bakos traced the origins of the movement, beginning in 1712. She unpacked the British philosophical and political idea of politeness, Joseph Addison's essays on the arts and The Aesthetic Triad, and how later thinkers and theorists expanded and transformed his ideas. It was thought that the uniquely human experience of Beauty was an integral aspect of progress and an essential element of our lives.

Notions of Beauty in the 18th century were also influenced by gardening. While nature was deemed the highest form of Beauty, it was often 'improved' by deliberate arrangement and refinement by the human hand in an unobtrusive way. Rejecting the



(ROBIN KRAFFT PHOTO)

Annandale House curator Kate Bakos spoke about the Aesthetic Movement and its influence on the decor in Annandale House during the recent Lunch and Learn series. The series continues with a presentation on Annandale Farm presented by Patti Phelps on May 28 and 29.

perfect symmetry of French formal gardens, the English landscape garden appeared natural.

"The English landscape garden was not just an aesthetic object," Bakos said. "It was an ideological one. When British colonists settled in Upper Canada, in Australia, and India, they brought their aesthetic sensibilities with them, not as a neutral cultural preference, but as a marker of identity and 'civilization' ... to assert cultural continuity."

Throughout her discourse, Bakos made it clear that these were not notions reserved for an aristocratic class, but were meant for everyone. She

explained aesthetics as the philosophical study of how and why we experience Beauty.

"Not just what we find beautiful, but why Beauty matters, what it does to us, what it means that human beings are the kind of creatures who stop in front of a painting or a frescoed ceiling or a garden and feel something," Bakos said.

In the late 1800s, the Aesthetic Movement grew. Art for art's sake, incorporating nature and natural forms, was an entirely democratic principle which advocated for beauty for everyone. The philosopher behind the movement was Walter Pater.

"Pater argued that the purpose of life was the intense cultivation of beautiful experience, to burn with a hard, gem-like flame in pursuit of beauty, was the highest human calling," Bakos said. "One of his students was Oscar Wilde."

Wilde was an Irish author, poet and playwright, and he didn't just popularize these ideas, he took it one step further.

"He lectured about wallpaper, fireplace surrounds, tiled hearths, and the colour of your dining room walls," Bakos said. "He took the aesthetic argument inside the home, and in doing so made it available to anyone with a house, not just anyone with an estate. Every household a small argument, in fabric and colour and ornament, about what kind of civilization this was."

The Aesthetic Movement was brought to North America and popularized by Wilde, who became the most famous aesthete in the English-speaking world. In January of 1882, he sailed for New York. Over the next 10 months, he gave lectures in 100 cities, including Woodstock, ON.

Bakos also described the extensive criticism and ridicule that the Aesthetic Movement faced, heavily satirized both in the media and on the stage. Preceding Wilde's tour, a Gilbert and Sullivan comic opera (that mocked the movement's sensibilities) shaped public ideas, but even costumed hecklers failed to rattle Wilde, who said, "Caricature is the tribute that mediocrity pays to genius."

The lampooning and mockery proved the genuine cultural power of the Aesthetic Movement and did nothing to affect its popularity. E. D. and Mary Ann Tillson's home was nearing completion when Wilde lectured at the city hall auditorium in Woodstock.

There is no definitive proof the Tillsons attended the lecture, but they were connected to the organization that sponsored his visit, and according to a local paper, "the Who's Who of Oxford County"

attended. When E. D. Tillson launched his new steam-powered boat onto Lake Joseph four months later, it was painted with Oscar Wilde's signature sunflowers and carried his name. It was also around this time that the decoration of Annandale House began.

In 1883, fresco painter James Walthew arrived from Detroit and spent four years working with Mary Ann Tillson on the interior of the house. Visitors will be able to recognize the local flora and fauna that are featured throughout the house, in accordance with Wilde's ideals.

A Toronto firm supplied the fireplaces, a focal point of each room. Bakos explained that the decorative tiles and tiered overmantels were typical of the Aesthetic Movement. The parquet floors feature five distinct types of wood. Most striking, however, are the elaborately hand-painted ceilings.

There were several owners of the house after the Tillsons passed, but credit must be given to Dr. Charles Van Dyke Corless. An antique and art collector, his updates and repairs deliberately spared the interior features. His daughter inherited the house, and after her death in 1980, demolition was being considered.

"A committee of concerned citizens formed in 1983," Bakos said. "They borrowed \$145,000 from the town to purchase the property ... and the restoration work began."

As repairs were made and layers were removed, the splendor of the original ceiling paintings was gradually revealed. Heritage Canada was notified and grant dollars, fundraising, private donations, curator and artist expertise and volunteer hours spanning 15 years brought this historically significant house back to the outstanding and beautiful piece of art that it once was.

In 1998, Annandale House received federal designation as a National Historic Site of Canada.

"It is a philosophical argument made tangible in plaster and paint and carved wood and parquet floors," Bakos said. "Every surface is a canvas, as Wilde said it should be. Every canvas makes the same claim: beauty is a democratic right. It belongs to anyone who chooses it. A mill owner in a small Ontario town chose it. A painter from Detroit spent four years realizing it. A generation of curators and Tillsonburgers spent their lives recovering it. And we get to enjoy it, celebrate it and take up the mantle of stewardship for our beautiful house."

With this conclusion, there was applause and several questions from the audience, followed by a flurry of conversation. Enthusiastic supporter and lifetime museum member Bonnie Sitts recalled the numerous fundraisers.

"There were people doing demonstrations during the fundraisers," Sitts said. "I came as a demonstrator doing chair caning. I remember a fundraiser before they put the wallpaper up, and you could sign your name on the wall. Did you know there are scrapbooks at the entrance? All of the renovation photos are there, a lot of them taken by Bill Pratt."

Local author and historian Dr. Jason Pankratz will be giving a lecture at the Lunch and Learn at Woodstock Museum on May 26, focusing on Oscar Wilde's visit to Woodstock and that space in 1882, also connecting with the Aesthetics Movement and Annandale House.

"Kate did a wonderful presentation that really connected the origins of the Aesthetic Movement - the visual but also theoretical," Pongracz said. "It was fascinating to hear how it directly related to the decoration of Annandale House."

Before everyone departed, and reflecting the collective emotion of the room, one guest concluded "We're blessed to still have it."

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The Kinette's Ladies Night Out is for 'girls who just wanna have fun'

ROBIN KRAFFT

Post Contributor

You can still get your tickets for the Tillsonburg Kinettes 80s Ladies Night Out, taking place on May 23 at the Tillsonburg Minor Soccer Club.

The Mom Prom was a popular event, but it was time for something new.

"We were thinking we needed to change it up, provide a different dynamic and are very excited to see everyone's idea of 80s attire," Kinette president Carrie Lewis said. "The theme was agreed upon at our first committee meeting as a fun decade that has a variety of music, fashion and trends. The 80s were fun, and we want to see everyone out having a good time in Tillsonburg. Life is too serious... girls just wanna have fun,"

The Kinette committee works together

to plan and divide tasks for their events, with many hands making for light work. Lewis added that the community is supportive of their events, donating raffle items and decorations so that the Kinettes can raise funds to redistribute back into the community. There are some surprises in store for attendees.

"We have some amazing raffle prizes that night, a yummy mac and cheese bar, complimentary champagne upon entry, a candy bar, and some good tunes with be pumping," Lewis said. "There will also be a prize for the best dressed. We are looking forward to everyone bust to movin' and enjoying themselves."

Get your tickets by using the link on the Tillsonburg Kinettes FB page (throwback price \$40) or by contacting the Kinettes: tillsonburgkinettesevents@gmail.com.



ROTARY BOOK SALE

(JEFF HELSDON PHOTO)

The semi-annual Rotary Book Sale took place the first week in May in the Tillsonburg Town Centre. There were thousands of used books for sale during the event as a Rotary fundraiser. The next fundraiser is in October.

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THE
PLACES
WE'LL
GO!**

PAUL KNOWLES

Tillsonburg Post Columnist

We couldn't help noticing a collection of large boulders scattered around the park in front of the Steveston Tram museum. My friend Rod called me over, and pointed to an inscription on the first of the boulders.

"Steveston Nikkei Memorial," it read, in large letters. "Nikkei" refers to people of Japanese descent who are living outside Japan.

Steveston is the community at the extreme south end of Richmond, British Columbia, which in turn is just south of Vancouver. We were in Steveston as part of a tour of the area, during the 2026 Travel Media Association of Canada annual conference, which was hosted by Richmond.

The Nikkei Memorial was set up in 2019, and the first inscription explains, "This Nikkei Memorial marks the 75th anniversary of the forced removal of Steveston's Japanese Canadian community in 1942, during World War II."

This is something those of us who live in southwestern Ontario don't hear a lot about. In fact, this is only one of many stories of racism and cruelty that are glossed over or ignored in our comfortable communities. Think about the treatment of Black people escaping slavery via the "Underground Railway", who were not, in fact, well received in Ontario. Or the shiplod of German Jews who were barred from landing in Canada, and who Prime Minister Mackenzie King sent back to Germany to die in concentration camps. Or First Nations people who continue to bear the scars of systemic maltreatment by the Canadian government.

I have come to believe that travelling

should involve significant doses of both entertainment and education. And sometimes, that education involves rather shocking revelations. I learned a lot during my brief visit to Steveston. The first lessons came from the stone monuments in that Nikkei Memorial.

During World War II, those in power decided that people of Japanese descent were a potential threat, since Canada was officially at war with Japan. In Richmond, alone, more than 2,000 Nikkei residents were relocated to internment camps in the interior of British Columbia, or to farms in Alberta, Manitoba and Ontario. Even more astonishing, some Canadian-born Nikkei people were deported to Japan, a country where they had never lived.

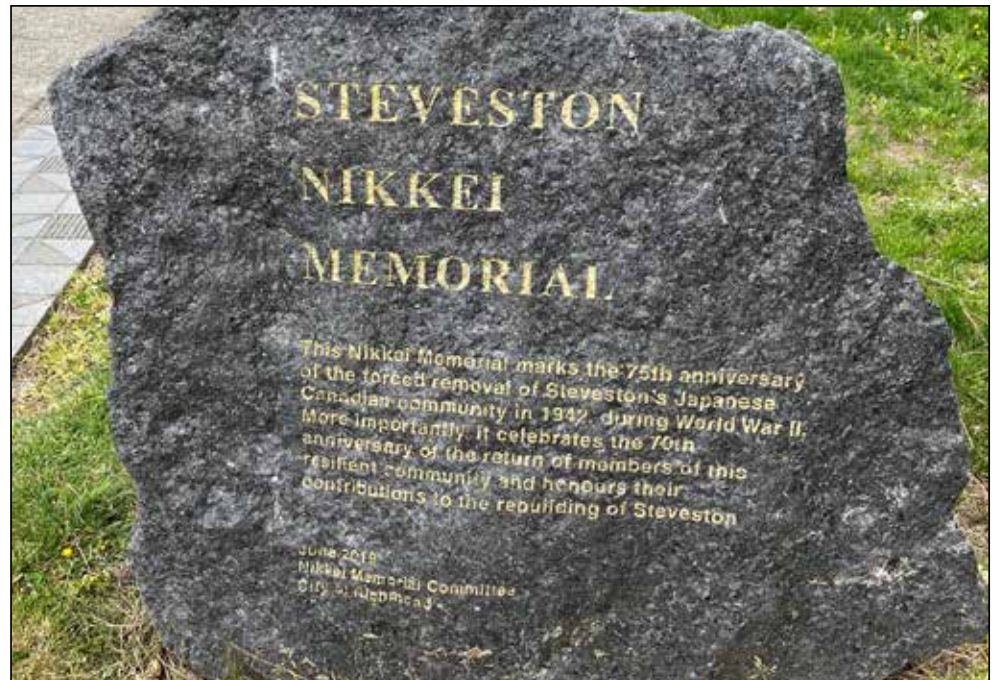
It gets worse. World War II ended in 1945, but it took four more years before the Nikkei were permitted to return to the B.C. coast. Surprisingly, some did!

Evidence of this officially-sanctioned atrocity is everywhere in Steveston. We visited the Britannia Shipyards National Historic Site, and the Gulf of Georgia Cannery. A poignant poster about BC Packers explains, "At the height of the canning industry there were European, First Nations, Chinese, Japanese and Indian workers all working on the site.... A surprising number of women worked here, some keeping their babies with them during the work day."

But... "rigid racial separation was considered normal." And, come 1942, all of the Nikkei people were gone. There had been 250 families living on the Steveston waterfront. Then there were none.

At the Britannia Shipyards, we visited the small wooden home of Otokichi and Asayo Murakami and their ten children. Otokichi was a prominent shipbuilder and fisher; Asayo worked on the canning lines, and was a devoted gardener. Their family moved into the home in 1929, and they thrived... until 1942, when they were sent into internment.

As noted, some of the Nikkei actually returned to their communities when that was allowed, in 1949 – some years later than this happened in the United States. But they came back to nothing – their homes and their fishing boats had been seized by the government



(PAUL KNOWLES PHOTO)

The boulders in the Nikkei Memorial, which commemorate the internment from 1942-1949, come from Québec – the farthest point in Canada where Nikkei internees were unwillingly sent.

and sold, mainly to white buyers. The money raised was brazenly allocated by the Canadian government to pay for the cost of the Nikkei's internment.

There was evidence of this dark period in Canada's history all over Steveston, which is otherwise a delightful small community. But the good news is... there is that evidence. The story of the Nikkei is being told, in these historic sites. And finally, since 2022, it has been included in the history curriculum in British Columbia schools. Better very late than never, I suppose.

And it turns out, the Nikkei story is not the only account of blatant prejudice that visitors discover at these meaningful historic sites. We also learned about the Chinese head tax, which had its greatest impact in British Columbia. Today, the City of Richmond's population is 70% of Asian origin.

Chinese workers were welcomed during construction of the railway, especially the Canadian Pacific Railway which linked western Canada to the east. But when the railway was

completed, white Canadians no longer wanted to share "their country" with Chinese immigrants. The head tax was implemented by the Canadian government. At first, any person of Chinese origin immigrating to Canada had to pay \$50. By 1900, it was \$100. Three years later, it climbed to \$500 (more than a year's salary). Yet hopeful Chinese people paid (about 81,000 people up to 1923), often borrowing the money from employers. Imagine what happened to those people when the shipbuilding and cannery businesses shut down.

I had heard about Japanese internment, and vaguely knew of a "head tax", whatever that meant. But my day as a tourist in Steveston was an eye-opening one, an experience I highly recommend to any traveller. Not a lot of laughter, but a very healthy dose of learning.

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.



The one-time home of the shipbuilding Murakami family.



(PAUL KNOWLES PHOTO)

Murakami House

From 1929 until their internment during World War II in 1942, Otokichi and Asayo Murakami lived in this home with their ten children as part of a community of 250 Japanese families on the Steveston Waterfront.

It was a busy life by the water! Otokichi was a trained boat builder and fisherman. He built the boatworks building directly beside their home where he produced two gillnetters a year. Asayo worked on the canning lines and picked produce while caring for their ten children. She also cultivated a flower garden at the side of the house which has been carefully restored.

Explore what home life looked like for the Murakami family.

OTOKICHI AND ASAYO MURAKAMI
WEDDING PORTRAIT

A panel explains some of the history of the Murakami family, including the couple's wedding photo.

Stella Jurgen's art the feature of Station Arts Centre exhibit



(JEFF HELSDON PHOTO)

Tillsonburg artist Stella Jurgen carries two of her paintings that will be part of her display in the Station Arts Centre into the gallery. The exhibit will run from May 8 to June 12.

JEFF HELSDON

Editor

The title of Stella Jurgen's exhibit at the Station Arts Centre brings with it some surprising revelations.

Titled "Discovery", the exhibit is her sixth solo exhibition, with the other six being in the GTA. It opened May 8 and runs until June 12.

Asked about the significance of the title, Jurgen explained, "Discovery of me coming into Tillsonburg, discovery of things I didn't do before, like landscapes. The beautiful landscape here inspired me."

Of the 25 paintings in the exhibit, 13 are from Tillsonburg. There is a variety of subject matter of the local paintings, including one of a Harvard piloted by Sean Voskamp taking off over a field. Jurgen said if the painting sells, she will donate a portion of the sales to the Canadian Harvard Aircraft Association. Another is of Lake Lisgar in the fall, and was chosen to hang in Queen's Park. Landscapes, a painting of a local house, and an aerial view of Tillsonburg are also among the local scenes brought to life.

Describing her art as "mostly self-taught", Jurgen attended fine art college for a few months before her family moved to Canada. She started working as a graphic artist in the GTA, and

founded 17 Designs. She and Norm moved to Tillsonburg a few years ago, where she 'discovered' a new aspect of her art. Over the years, her art has won many awards.

Many local residents who know of Jurgen's paintings will discover that her talent is multifaceted. She is also a fashion designer, following in her mother's footsteps. She learned by watching her mother work. Jurgen took part in three fashion shows in the GTA for charity fundraisers, has gowns for sale in the local bridal shop, and her clothes are for sale in Station Arts Centre. She also makes jewelry and handbags that are for sale.

She describes her clothing as full of lots of colour, reflecting her multicultural background. She was born in Argentina to an Italian mother and Portuguese father, grew up in Portugal, and married a German.

"All of this has become my colour palette," she said.

Although many artists would be more excited to be displaying in the GTA, Jurgen is excited for this exhibit in Tillsonburg.

"Before I moved here, I came here to an opening, met three artists, saw the space and fell in love with the space," she said of the gallery.

Jurgen will also be hosting a sip and paint workshop at the Station Arts Centre on May 22 at 6 p.m.

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Dutch punk veterans Antillectual ready to shake Tillsonburg



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Tillsonburg Post Columnist

Dutch melodic hardcore veterans Antillectual are bringing their politically-charged punk rock music offerings to The Copper Mug on May 20, which marks the band's long-awaited return to Canada after more than a decade away.

The Nijmegen-based band was formed in the year 2000 in the ninth largest city in the Netherlands. Since then, Antillectual has spent the past 26 years building a reputation as one of Europe's hardest working punk bands. Blending melodic hardcore with socially conscious lyrics, the group has toured relentlessly across

North America, Europe, Brazil, Japan and beyond, sharing stages with punk heavyweights like NOFX, Bad Religion, Propagandhi and Rise Against.

The current lineup features Willem Heijmans on vocals and guitar, Riekus van Montfort on drums and vocals and Ben Joosten on bass and vocals.

Over the years, Antillectual has evolved with a few lineup changes into the internationally touring three-piece fans know today. Their first full-length album titled *Silencing Civilization* was released in 2005, and their most recent album titled *"Antillectueel"* dropping in November of 2025.

For frontman Willem Heijmans, one of the most rewarding aspects of touring has been discovering the sense of community that exists within punk scenes worldwide.

"Every country and even region has a different culture of course but punk rock scenes worldwide have a similar vibe in a good way," Heijmans explains. "This means that you can play on the other side of the world and still feel welcome and at home. That is a big advantage of a tight community like the punk scene and

makes it possible for bands like us to play other continents, meet new people and make new friends."

While Antillectual's music is known for its fast-paced energy and catchy melodic hooks, the band's lyrics often tackle difficult political and social issues

"The world is on fire so there is still plenty to write about," Heijmans said. "After 25 years in a socially-conscious band, recent developments really feel like a low point, like we hit rock bottom."

Like many veteran touring bands, Antillectual has its share of unforgettable stories from the road, including driving to Italy for four winter shows in "icy squats" and embarking on a month-long United States tour in a bus powered by vegetable oil.

"When we survived those crazy adventures, we realized we loved touring and we wanted to do it as much as possible," Heijmans reflects. He also reflected on the contrast between opening for Rise Against in front of 8,000 fans, and playing alongside Against Me! on their first European tour for a crowd of just 30 people in a local squat. "They sounded amaz-

ing and we knew immediately they'd be going places."

Antillectual is looking forward to reconnecting with Canadians again, including making their first-ever stop in Tillsonburg.

"In all honesty we love all shows and communities, small and big, villages and cities. But sometimes the nicest and warmest welcomes come from smaller towns that get skipped by most tours," Heijmans says. "We have never been to Tillsonburg, but we did hear some great stories from friends who have visited and actually recommended going there. We cannot wait to visit and make new friends."

Come make new friends Wednesday, May 20 at The Copper Mug when Antillectual comes to town with the Czech Republic's Krang, and Tillsonburg locals The McBains. Doors open at 7 p.m. with a \$10 cover charge. This concert is presented by Faster and Louder Records. More information on Antillectual, including music and tour dates can be found on their official website at www.antillectual.com

UPCOMING SHOWS

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MAY 16 - KARAOKE
The Copper Mug
Free Entry - 8:30 p.m.

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

MAY 23 - SUGAR KINGS
The Copper Mug
Free Entry - 8:30 p.m.

MAY 24 - ELVIS TRIBUTE W/ DOUG MACKENZIE
The Copper Mug
Free Entry - 5 p.m.

MAY 27 - LUICIDAL, BLACKPOT AND POT OF GREED
Paddy's Underground
\$25 - 8 p.m. - All Ages/Licensed

MAY 31 - KARAOKE WITH GEORGE THE TURTLE
The Copper Mug
Free Entry - 1 p.m.

MAY 31 - TRIVIA NIGHT
The Copper Mug
Free Entry - 5:30 p.m.

AUGUST 7-9 - BUDDIES FEST
The Mill, Paddy's Underground & The Copper Mug
3 p.m. - All Ages/Licensed - www.buddiesfest.com

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

• Live Entertainment • Karaoke • NTN Trivia
• Fundraisers • Birthdays • Anniversaries
• Meetings • & More
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519-842-6227

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

THE FIRST FIVE DAYS AFTER THE WEEKEND ARE ALWAYS THE HARDEST

WHO STICKS TO THEIR BUDGET WHEN IT COMES TO BUYING PLANTS?

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

RIDDLES

You live in a one-story house made of redwood. What color are the stairs?
There aren't any stairs. It's a one-story house!

What kind of band doesn't play music?
A rubber band.

I'm not psychic, but I can always predict the score of any baseball game before it starts. How do I do this?
The score is always zero to zero before the game starts!

I'm a six-letter word. My first three letters refer to an automobile and my last three letters refer to a household animal. My first four letters are the name of a fish, but I'm found in your house. What am I?
Carpet.

What can you hold without ever touching it?
Your breath.

I won't cry if you cut me, but you will! What am I?
An onion.

What 2 things can you never eat for breakfast?
Lunch and dinner.

There's a power outage and the lights go out. It's pitch black, but you have one match on you. Do you light the candle, the oil lamp or the fire first?
You light the match first.

SUDOKU

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

Level: Beginner

Solutions on Page 26

PET OF THE WEEK



ROLO

SPONSORED BY:

Your
**Family
Pet Centre**

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

519-688-2672

HOURS:

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

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

WORD SEARCH

VINTAGE MUSIC

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

- VINYL
- CASSETTE
- RADIO
- TURNTABLE
- HEADPHONES
- MIXTAPE
- STEREO
- RECORDS
- ALBUM
- SONG
- JUKEBOX
- AMPLIFIER
- CONCERT
- PLAYLIST
- MICROPHONE

COMING EVENTS

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MAY

**MAY 19 | DOORS OPEN 5 PM, LIVE AUCTION
STARTS 6 PM**
**TILLSONBURG HORTICULTURAL
SOCIETY'S ANNUAL GARDEN
AUCTION & SALE**
 Lion's Auditorium, TCC, 45 Hardy Ave.,
Tillsonburg

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

MAY 21
PENTECOST SUNDAY SERVICE
 St. John's Anglican Church 46 Ridout St.
 (519) 842-5573

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

MAY 23 | 8 AM - NOON
PLANT & BAKE SALE
 Delhi Tobacco Museum & Heritage Centre
 Delhi & District Horticultural Society is having its annual Plant & Bake Sale. Great selection of perennials and home-baked goodies.

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

MAY 30 | 9 AM - 12 PM
**BAKE, PLANTS, PURSES,
JEWELLERY, AND ACCESSORIES
EVENT**
 St John's Anglican Church, 46 Ridout ST W

JUNE

JUNE 6 | 9 AM - 5 PM
**CELEBRATING COMMUNITY AT
EDISONFEST**
 Vienna Memorial Park, 6226 Plank Rd.,
Vienna

Local Vendors, Bouncy Castles, Food Trucks, Blacksmith demonstrations, and featuring World Champion Arm Wrestler Mike Gould! Registration begins at 10 am for the arm wrestling competition! Email: bayhamhistoricalsociety@hotmail.com for further information!

JUNE 6 | 11 AM - 12 PM
BBQ FOR DASO (WOMAN'S SHELTER)
 Home Hardware parking lot
 Cowards, Home Hardware, and the Tillsonburg Lions Club are hosting a fund-raising BBQ for DASO. Cheeseburgs(\$6), Hamburgs(\$5), Hot Dogs(\$4) and Cold Drinks(\$1) will be offered with all proceeds going to the shelter. Come join us, bring friends and support this worthy cause.

JUNE 6 | 9 AM - 1 PM
TASTE OF SUMMER
 Memorial Park, 46 Sanders St, Tillsonburg, ON

Presented by: 3E. Food trucks, vendor village, children's shows & activities! Entrance by donation to the TDMH Foundation.

JUNE 10 | 10 AM - 3 PM
**THE BROWNSVILLE ANNUAL SCHOOL
REUNION**

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

JUNE 20 | 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

JULY

JULY 10, 11 & 12
**SUPER AIR BOUNCE RENTALS AT
RIBFEST**

Tillsonburg Memorial Park, 45 Hardy Ave.
 Join Super Air Bounce Rentals at Ribfest Bouncy castles & inflatable games available all 3 days. Wristbands: \$12 sold at our concession stand. www.sabr.event

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

ONGOING CLASSES, CLUBS & ORGANIZATIONS

3RD TUE. OF MONTH | 6:30 - 8:30 PM
CAREGIVER CONNECTION
 Revel Realty Woodstock, 111 Huron Street
 (Virtual/hybrid options available)

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

**OXFORD COUNTY DIABETES
EDUCATION PROGRAM**
 Appointments are available at Alexandra Hospital Ingersoll and Tillsonburg District Memorial Hospital and by phone

Are you looking for support with your Diabetes?

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

MONDAYS | 7 - 9 PM
MODERN SQUARE DANCING IS FOR YOU!

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

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

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

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

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

3RD WED. OF MONTH | 10 AM - NOON
LYNN RIVER PROBUS CLUB
 Army, Navy & Air Force Club, Simcoe, ON.
 Corner of Water St. and Culver St. Simcoe.
 Enter via Culver St.

Our retired and semi-retired members enjoy diverse interest groups, friendship and fellowship. We have interesting speakers at our monthly meetings as well as time to socialise. Current and prospective members are welcome to join us at the Army, Navy & Air Force Club, Simcoe, which is on the corner of Water St. and Culver St. Simcoe. Enter via Culver St. For more information, please visit our website at: lynnriverprobus239.com or email lynnriverprobus239@gmail.com

TUESDAYS & THURSDAYS | 7 - 9 PM
SATURDAYS | 10 AM - 12 PM
LEARN BRAZILIAN JIU-JITSU (BJJ)
 North Broadway Baptist Church

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

northbroadwaymfa/ Inquires can be made at:
nbmfa@northbroadwaychurch.ca

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

FRIDAYS | 1 PM
**INTERESTED IN BRIDGE?
JOIN US AT THE TILLSONBURG
DUPLICATE BRIDGE CLUB**
 Tillsonburg Senior Centre - 45 Hardy Ave,
 Tillsonburg
 Don't have a partner? Come anyway and we will match you up with someone. For more information, visit their Facebook page: TburgBridge.

SATURDAYS, JUNE 6 - SEPT. 19 | 10 AM - 4 PM
**PLATTSVILLE & DISTRICT HERITAGE
SOCIETY**
**2026 EXHIBIT - HOLIDAYS &
CELEBRATIONS THAT BRING US
TOGETHER**
 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.

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

1ST WED. OF MONTH | 7 PM
**WAGNER MEMORIAL TEETERVILLE
LEGION BRANCH 526 - MEMBERS
GENERAL MEETING**
 The Wagner Memorial Teeterville Legion
 Branch 526 - 3890 Teeterville Road,
 Teeterville, ON
 Not a member? Contact us to join. For More Information Call, the Legion 519-443-5588. www.teetervillelegionbranch526.ca

**WOULD YOU LIKE TO VOLUNTEER TO
HELP AT ONE OF OUR EVENTS? WE
WELCOME YOU!**
 The Wagner Memorial, Teeterville Legion
 Branch 526 - 3890 Teeterville Road,
 Teeterville, ON
 You do not need to be a member to Volunteer. Just contact the legion and leave your name and number and purpose of your call. Someone will get back to you as to where you might be needed. Students and Adults welcome. **Open hours. Wed.-Fri. 3 pm-10 pm, Sat.1 pm-10 pm, Sun.1 pm-6 pm.** For More Information call, the Legion at 519-443-5588 or teetervillelegionbranch526.ca

**VON OXFORD GRIEF CARE:
FREE MONTHLY GRIEF SUPPORT
GROUP**
 Register at: oxford.griefsupport@von.ca or 519-539-1231 Ext 6299 or 6296

CLASSIFIEDS

YARD SALE

MAY 15 (10 AM - 2 PM) & MAY 16 (8 AM - 12 PM) - 6 GLENDALE DRIVE, TILLSONBURG
Rain date will be on May 18 starting at 7:30am until noon.
Lots of jewelry and books plus much more.

TREES

For Sale: Shade Trees; Maples, Oaks, Birch, Beech, Honey Locusts, Elms, Magnolia, Hydrangea Tree, Tulip Tree, Crab apples, Ivory Silk Lilac, Chanticleer Pear, Golden Weeping Willows and more. Apples, Pears, Peaches, Plums, Apricots, Nectarine, Blueberry, Haskap etc. Lots of healthy strong Spruce, Cedars and White Pine for your privacy hedges and windbreaks. Hundred of flowering shrubs.

Reg Hours 7am- 6pm Mon-Sat at Martins Nursery c/o Emanuel Martin. 42661 Orangehill Rd., Wroxeter, ON

OBITUARY

JEAN VIOLET MILLER (DAIR)

(OCTOBER 13, 1932 – MAY 8, 2026)



Mama Jean Miller passed away peacefully after a long and well-lived life on Friday, May 8, 2026, at the age of 93 surrounded with love. Jean was a life time resident of Tillsonburg, and over the past few years a resident of Maple Manor, Tillsonburg.

Jean was the daughter of the late Joseph & Irene (Crossett) Dair. She was the loving wife to Harold Miller (2007) and a caring Mom to Ron Miller

& his wife Cathy, Bonnie Miller (2023), Brian Miller (1957), Kevin Miller & the late Karen (2012) and partner Lorelei, Joe Miller & the late Sara (2002) and his partner April, Terry Miller & his wife Tammy, Jake Miller (1997), & Tammy Miller.

Proud Grandma to Sarah (2023) (Stan), Jeremy (Laura), Andrew, Ryan (Crystal), Stephanie (Kyle), Randy (Lyndsay), Kayla, Dustin (2012), & Brandon. Dear Great Grandma to Lydia, Landon, J.J., Luca & Talon. Survived by many nieces, nephews, cousins, and her family at Maple Manor.

Jean will be remembered for her beautiful singing, dedication to God and family, her lovely smile that lit up the room, her love of flowers, word find and scratch tickets. You were always welcome in Harold and Jean's home and there was always room around the table.

She was most proud of her close-knit family and would take every chance to speak about them and their accomplishments. The love she shared and the memories made will live on in our hearts forever. Mama Jean no longer suffers and has been reunited with her loved ones who have gone on before.

The family would like to take a moment to thank the compassionate team at Maple Manor for their care and kindness with Jean. Cremation has taken place. A Celebration of Life will take place a later date. Donations in memory of Jean may be made to Brain Canada Foundation and can be done online or via cheque payable to the charity by contacting Ostrander's Funeral Home (519) 842-5221.

JAMES REMY DONALDSON

(MARCH 22, 1946 – MAY 7, 2026)



With heavy hearts, but in faith, we announce the death, at Woodingford – Tillsonburg, of James "Jim" Remy Donaldson at the age of 80. Jim was born in Brussels, Belgium to the late Robert Muir Donaldson and the late Nellie Vandenberg. Much loved husband of Katherine (nee Nettleton); father of Carolyn (Pat Lush) of Bradford, Thomas (Marjorie Feuerstein) of London, and Remy (Katharine) of Long Beach, New York. Papa to Cody, Amber, Devon, Kyrra, Jeremy,

Katelyn, Drake, and Reid. Brother to the late Douglas of Hamilton and uncle to Rori-Jane and Robbie.

After graduating from Waterloo Lutheran University (now Wilfrid Laurier), Jim accepted a teaching position at Annandale High School in Tillsonburg teaching geography, history, law, and physical education. Thirty years later he moved to Glendale High School and retired as head of History after five years. One of his passions was teaching. Students were warned not to sit in the front row without an umbrella! Jim especially loved basketball, golf, and tennis. He played basketball for Waterloo Lutheran and for the duration of his career coached basketball, tennis and track and field (discus, javelin, and shot put). A highlight was winning the boys "A" OFSSA basketball championship in 1976. He developed a high school tennis program second to none and 5 of his athletes went to the United States on tennis scholarships. Taking this passion out of school, he was president of a very active Tillsonburg tennis club that peaked at 600 members. Jim himself continued to play golf and tennis right into his 70's, competing for the Holiday Park, North Port Florida club.

We arrived in Tillsonburg in 1968, fell in love with it, and stayed.

Initially reluctant to travel, but prodded by his wife, he caught the travel bug and was especially excited about visiting two Rotary exchange students and families: Laszlo Gal in Hungary, and Lieve Ramaekers in Belgium. He served as Rotary President, and his focus was the student exchange program, the book fair, and the grade 3 dictionary program. For a number of years, Florida became our winter destination creating wonderful memories and more new friends who quickly became old friends.

Of special note is the group of 10 friends that have stayed together for over 70 years. Camping trips, New Years get-togethers were annual musts. As the children grew older, this turned into a non-negotiable guys weekend plus at Andy's cottage in Muskoka. Great food, golf, fishing, cards.

Jim recently celebrated his 80th birthday at Woodingford. A joyous occasion with 17 family and close friends with good food, more sharing of memories. He did inquire about gifts!! And was pleased with the short bread, maple syrup and chocolate.

Our family is indebted to the lovingly efficient care Jim received at Victoria Hospital under the watch of Dr. Michelle McLean, at Elgin Manor and, majorly, the last 7 months at Woodingford under Mary Alice Barr and staff. Special thanks to Dr. Barry Roth. Many took extra time to walk with Jim though this journey. A special thanks to Ches Sulkowski and Andy Mulzer who said Jim was the brother he never had.

Friends, neighbours, and relatives are invited to attend a public visitation on Friday, May 22nd, in the Maurice J. Verhoeve Funeral Homes Chapel, 262 Broadway, Tillsonburg, from 3pm-5pm, followed by the funeral service led by Rayburn Lansdell from 5pm-6pm. Celebration of Life to be held at Tillsonburg Baldwin Place Recreation Centre, 142 Weston Drive from 6pm to 9pm. Everyone who knew Jim is invited to share favourite memories, photos, and express personal condolences.

Memorial contributions to "Woodingford Lodge" (cheques to "Oxford County" for the Tillsonburg resident activities fund) or the "Rotary Club of Tillsonburg" or to "World Vision" or the "Canadian Cancer Society" (for research) or the "Alzheimer Society Southwest Partners" would be appreciated by the family and can be made via Jim's online tribute page at www.verhoevefuneralhomes.com or by contacting the Maurice J. Verhoeve Funeral Homes (519)842-4238.



ROBERT GREENHEAD

(JUNE 10, 1953 – MAY 9, 2026)



After a long illness, on Saturday, May 9, 2026, Robert "BOB" Maxwell Greenhead of Tillsonburg passed away surrounded by his loving family at the age of 72 years. Best friend for 46 years and married for 41 years to Marlene (nee Magashazi). Bob was a strong mentor to his boys Colin and his wife Crystal Goodlett; Kevin and his girlfriend Brittany Salverda. He was a very proud grandfather to Ruby and Colt. Brother to Vickie Greenhead, Darcy Steen and the late Sandy

Simmons. Brother-in-law to Betty Wrigglesworth and her husband Ron; and Marlene Magashazi. Bob was a loving uncle to many nieces and nephews. He was predeceased by his father Vernon, mother Edna (nee Fleeting), brothers-in-law Frank Magashazi, Bud Simmons and Glen Steen.

Bob was a skilled carpenter, a gentle and selfless man, and someone whose hands and heart were equally dependable to those who knew him best. In recent years Bob's interest in coin collecting, became a great passion.

Bob lived a life marked by quiet strength, steady kindness, and a remarkable ability to turn ideas into reality. He was the kind of person others naturally turned to when something needed building, repairing, or figuring out. If something was broken, Bob could fix it. If something needed to be made, Bob could build it. His practical skill was matched by a patient spirit, and he approached every task with care, pride, and a deep sense of responsibility. Those who had the privilege of knowing him understood that his talents were not just useful, but extraordinary.

Throughout his life, Bob found great joy in working with his hands and sharing what he knew with others. One of his greatest pleasures was teaching his boys the skills he had spent a lifetime mastering. He believed in passing along knowledge through example, encouragement, and time spent side by side. In this way, Bob's influence extended far beyond the projects he completed. He built more than structures and repairs. He helped build confidence, character, and lasting memories. The lessons he shared with his sons were rooted in patience, craftsmanship, and love, and they will remain a lasting part of his legacy.

Bob was also a man who appreciated the simple joys of life. He loved watching sports and followed them with enthusiasm and interest. In his younger years, he enjoyed playing baseball, and that love of the game stayed with him throughout his life. Sports gave him both enjoyment and connection, offering moments of excitement, reflection, and shared conversation. Whether he was cheering from a seat, recalling games from years past, or remembering his own time on the field, Bob carried with him the spirit of a true fan and former player.

Those who knew Bob will remember him as handy, gentle, and selfless. He had a way of helping without seeking attention and giving without expecting anything in return. His kindness was steady and sincere, and his presence brought comfort to many. He was the sort of person whose actions spoke clearly about his character. He showed up, he worked hard, and he cared deeply. In a world that often moves too quickly, Bob remained grounded in the values of service, humility, and love for others.

Bob's life stands as a lasting example of what it means to live with purpose and generosity. He leaves behind a legacy of craftsmanship, devotion, and quiet strength that will be remembered by all who were fortunate enough to know him. His family, friends, and all whose lives he touched will remember not only what he could do, but who he was. He was a man who made life better through his skills, his guidance, and his gentle nature.

Though his presence will be deeply missed, Bob's memory will live on in the lessons he taught, the things he built, and the many lives he touched along the way. His legacy is one of love expressed through action, and his example will continue to inspire those who carry his memory forward.

The Greenhead family welcomes friends and family to Ostrander's Funeral Home, 43 Bidwell Street, Tillsonburg, ON N4G 3T6 (519) 842-5221 on Thursday, May 14, 2026 from 1:00pm until 3:00pm. Funeral Service for Bob will be held in the Funeral Home Chapel immediately following the visitation at 3:00pm. Cremation will be held following the funeral service. A private family interment will be held at the Tillsonburg Cemetery at a later date. Memorial donations to the Canadian Cancer Society or the Heart and Stroke Foundation may be made directly with the charity or payable by cheque to the charity by contacting Ostrander's Funeral Home. Personal condolences and favourite memories can be shared at www.ostrandersonline.com

Tillsonburg
POST

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

BUSINESS DIRECTORY

AUTO REPAIR

GEORGE'S AUTO REPAIR INC.
 Tire Services | Oil Changes
 Maintenance & Repairs
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5	4	8	6	3	9	1	7	2
1	6	2	4	7	5	9	3	8
7	3	9	1	2	8	6	5	4
4	7	5	2	8	6	3	9	1
9	8	1	5	4	3	2	6	7
3	2	6	9	1	7	4	8	5
8	5	4	3	9	2	7	1	6
6	1	3	7	5	4	8	2	9
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