

SIMCOE ADVOCATE

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'Expect accountability but demand decency'

Norfolk County's outgoing mayor reflects on term

LUKE EDWARDS

Grant Haven Media

As she wrapped up her final meeting as Norfolk's mayor, it wasn't just the major votes, budget decisions and debates that went through Amy Martin's mind.

It was also the faces of farmers, community members, and volunteers who spoke at council or invited her to events as councillor, then mayor.

"When I think about the eight years, I don't just think about about budgets and bylaws. I think about people, the residents who care deeply about Norfolk," Martin said just before the Oct. 14 meeting was adjourned.

After eight years on council, four as a councillor and four as mayor, Martin is not seeking re-election. She called the experience as a municipal politician a mix of incredibly remarkable and incredibly difficult days.

"When I was first elected in 2018, I definitely didn't fully understand what public service would ask of me or how much it would give me in return," she said.

Martin offered up the words on the same day coun-

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(CHRIS ABBOTT PHOTO)

The week-long Norfolk County Fair and Horse Show wrapped up on Monday, Oct. 12 with perfect weather, long lines for the World's Finest Shows rides and dozens of food vendors, the last horse show of the week, and demolition derby championship.

Taxes, water rates dominate debate

J.P. ANTONACCI

Local Journalism Initiative Reporter

High taxes. Even higher water rates. Depleted reserves.

And a \$33-million hole in the capital budget over the next decade.

Whoever becomes the next mayor of Norfolk County - and the field seems wide open as the Oct. 26 vote

nears - will inherit a mess of problems.

Port Dover councillor Adam Veri - one of six mayoral hopefuls on the debate stage - said the rural municipality has taken great strides to solve those problems over the past four years.

"Norfolk County is on the brink of a new era of prosperity and growth

through economic development," Veri told a standing-room crowd of more than 500 people at the Tuesday, Oct. 13 mayoral debate in Port Dover.

Veri said, as mayor, he would continue directing budget surpluses into reserve funds used to repair and replace roads, bridges and other criti-

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Taxes, water rates dominate crowded mayoral debate

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cal infrastructure.

That approach adds 2.5 per cent to annual property taxes, but Veri said not replenishing reserves would mean taking on debt to make repairs in future years at an even higher cost.

“And that’s exactly what got us into the mess we’re in today,” he said. “My goal is to stop that cycle of passing on today’s costs to tomorrow’s residents.”

Veri pledged to review municipal services to find inefficiencies and cut services residents no longer want, while funding those they do.

Ken Hewitt, the former mayor of Haldimand County now running to lead Norfolk, pledged to keep property tax increases at or below the rate of inflation.

He said Norfolk can get there by “taking a hard look” at government spending and delaying or cancelling some lower-priority infrastructure projects.

“I’m confident we can bring the budget back in line, get it a little tighter, and pull back some of the stuff the current council has put together,” Hewitt said.

Hewitt agreed with the importance of rebuilding Norfolk’s reserve funds.

“However, this is a time when people are struggling, and I don’t believe we should be emptying your piggy bank to fill ours,” he said.

Hewitt cited his 12 years at the helm in Haldimand as an asset.

“I’m ready to get to work on day one. No learning on the job,” he said.

Keith Milner, a retired police officer and first-time political candidate, did not rule out dipping into Norfolk’s reserves “to give the community a break for a little while.”

“We can’t continue to put this on the backs of everybody and expect the (tax) burden to be carried,” he said. “It’s not sustainable.”

Milner said he would lower taxes by auditing municipal spending, “eliminating the inefficiencies and focusing on essential services,” while lowering Norfolk’s reliance on consultants.

But he also advocated for keeping small community halls open as village gathering places for seniors, which municipal staff have said would involve spending significant tax dollars to renovate and modernize the facilities.

Milner is running on a platform of more accountability from council and staff. He would create “local advisory committees” for residents to bring concerns and feedback to councillors.

Doug Brunton, a Simcoe councillor and former public works director, blasted cost overruns on recent upgrades to Norfolk’s water treatment plants.

Norfolk residents should not be paying among the highest water rates in the province, said Brunton, who committed to “spend your tax dollars wisely.”

To lower taxes, Brunton said the next council should review and rethink elements of Norfolk’s 10-year capital plan.

“I think we’re trying to do too much with too little,” he said. “Maybe we’ve got to look at the assets and get rid of some. That’s the start.”

Former Port Rowan councillor Noel Haydt said house-



(J.P. ANTONACCI PHOTO)

Six of Norfolk County’s seven mayoral candidates took part in a debate in Port Dover on Tuesday. Making their case to more than 500 residents packed into the community centre were, from left, Keith Milner, Ken Hewitt, Doug Brunton, Adam Veri, Noel Haydt and David Finch.

hold incomes are lagging in Norfolk while residents cope with “staggering” increases to their water bills and property taxes. Haydt said he has a plan to attract jobs and investment that includes boosting manufacturing and food processing. To entice new businesses and encourage existing companies to expand, Haydt said the county needs serviced industrial land, “reliable” infrastructure and “reasonable” development charges.

“We need to control our spending (and) establish realistic capital budgets rather than continually adding projects that we can’t do,” he said.

David Finch, a former Grimsby town councillor and retired paramedic, called for “better customer service” for residents.

“We could at least get the planning and building departments to issue permits and not feel like you’re bothering them when you go in for help,” Finch said, calling for council to be “open and transparent” about how taxpayer dollars are allocated.

“It’s our money. We should know where it’s being spent,” he said.

Veri challenged Finch on his research skills.

“I feel like I’m taking crazy pills up here,” Veri said. “All of our financial (history), taxes, it’s all out there. So to say it’s not available is bananas.”

Finch later clarified that Norfolk’s financial information was indeed online but “hard to find.”

PLANNING DEPARTMENT

Several candidates said the county’s planning department needs an attitude adjustment in order to accelerate housing development.

Brunton said developers complain to him about excessive “red tape” before being allowed to build.

That hampers Norfolk’s ability to increase the tax base, Milner added.

“It can take a year to two years to get a permit. So people are turning away,” he said.

Veri was the only candidate to explicitly rule out using

strong-mayor powers if elected, saying the veto power weakens council as a whole.

Milner said he would only use the powers as a last resort, while Finch said he would seek to build consensus but “would not hesitate” to use his expanded mayoral authority to fire an older adult manager “that stands in the way of council.”

Haydt said he would use strong-mayor powers to shape the budget, and Brunton and Hewitt said they would use their veto power to nix another double-digit water-rate increase.

Mayoral candidate Ken Gilpin, who ran federally for the People’s Party of Canada in 2021, was a no-show in Port Dover and has yet to make any public appearances during the campaign.

An informal Spectator poll of debate attendees revealed no clear front-runner for mayor.

Online voting in Norfolk started on Oct. 9 and runs until Oct. 23, with election day set for Oct. 26.

J.P. Antonacci is a Local Journalism Initiative Reporter based at the Hamilton Spectator. The initiative is funded by the Government of Canada.

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Norfolk's outgoing mayor reflects on term

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cillors honoured colleague Michael Columbus, who was taking part in his final meeting as a councillor after four decades in politics. Columbus had previously announced his intention to retire, though the meeting offered another chance for colleagues to wax poetic.

"Serving your community for that length of time takes courage. It takes tenacity, and a deep, deep, commitment to serving," said Coun. Alan Duthie as he took his turn to honour Columbus.

And while Martin's tenure lasted less than a quarter of Columbus', she said the changes brought on by social media in her time have still been stark.

"The job has changed," she said.

Though social media and technology have allowed for new access to the democratic process, Martin said it's also normalized negative attacks that make being a politician - or a friend or family member of a politician, for that matter - difficult.

"A good community should be able to disagree without destroying people in the process," she said, adding residents should "expect accountability but demand decency." Still, she said she remained proud of the work they did and the community of Norfolk. She said important decisions about infrastructure, growth, finances and community services were made not just with the present day in mind.

"Through it all I've tried to always come back to one question, and that is: 'What is the right thing to do for Norfolk, not just today, but for the Norfolk that comes after us,'" she said.

"You plant trees whose shades you may never sit underneath and I'm proud we've planted some pretty important trees."

Martin also offered up her thanks to county staff, who she said play a huge role but often don't get the recognition they deserve.

Since returning to work after giving



(FILE PHOTO)

Norfolk County's outgoing Mayor Amy Martin and Councillor Mike Columbus at a 2024 Remembrance Day service in Teeterville.

birth, Martin said she can't help but think about her son and the Norfolk County she wants him to grow up in.

"I want him to grow up in a Norfolk that's

ambitious without losing its character. A Norfolk where agriculture can remain part of our identity, but we don't fear change and newcomers. Where our towns and villages

will thrive and people can build lives here and infrastructure keeps pace with growth. But all of that remains in a community that still supports one another," she said.



Bobbi Ann Brady

MPP, HALDIMAND-NORFOLK

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EDITORIAL

Municipal Election: positivity, big issues, drama

Haldimand-Norfolk

**MPP
Bobbi Ann
Brady**



Advance polls are open for the October 26th municipal election. I'm looking forward to putting the election behind us and getting back to moving our communities forward.

Like any election, this one includes drama. I have seen cringe-worthy behaviour. But I would be first to admit my own political career has had its critics. I have been accused of bad behaviour myself, and fair enough. The definition of bad behaviour sometimes depends where you stand on an issue.

Politics has a funny way of doing that. What one person considers standing on principle, another may consider being difficult. What one sees as holding someone accountable, another views as picking a fight. The truth lies somewhere in between.

But there is a line between having strong opinions and forgetting there is a human being on the other side of the disagreement.

Something I find most troubling is the number of good people leaving the political arena, or deciding never to enter in the first place, due to toxic online behaviour. While the trolls seem loud, I believe their number is small. Still, a small group can cause damage. Their objective is not to debate an issue, it's to wear people down. To make those of us who question accelerated development, raise concerns about decisions affecting our communities, or speak out

on issues we believe matter, eventually decide the personal cost is too high. Recently, a Haldimand candidate withdrew for that reason. That should give us pause.

I have just participated in two major fairs - the Caledonia Fair and the Norfolk County Fair - and the engagement at Norfolk was at times overwhelming in a wonderful way.

Two questions abounded. The first was, "Bobbi Ann, who do I vote for?" The second was, "How do we stop a city of 40,000 at Nanticoke?"

The second question is easier. Some told me they had heard candidates say the proposed city was a done deal. Let me be clear: a proposal is not a final decision. Until the province makes its final decision, the opportunity to push back remains. People should not be led to believe the future is decided when it is not.

With a new council dawning in Norfolk County, my question to candidates is: If elected, will you raise Norfolk County's concerns with Haldimand County and the provincial government with respect to the Nanticoke development? It's a straightforward question, and I believe voters deserve a straightforward answer.

For four years, Norfolk County Council has done nothing to ensure its voice is heard on this controversial proposal. That is unacceptable. Norfolk residents deserve to know their elected representatives will speak up for them, particularly about this proposal.

Regarding the first question I was asked at the fair: "Bobbi Ann, who do I vote for?"

I couldn't make that decision. But I offered advice. My advice was simple: look at a candidate's track record. Look at what they've said and done, and how they act under pressure. Promises are easy to make during elections. A person's record speaks louder. You have to determine if that matters to you.

Ask questions. Who is advising and helping run their campaign? What interests and priorities might those people bring to the table? You do not have to agree with everyone a candidate knows, but it's reasonable to consider the company they keep and the influences that may shape

their decisions.

There is something I have found curious during this election. In Norfolk, I have seen people from the far reaches of Haldimand County involved in Norfolk campaigns, along with online commentary from outside our counties.

People beyond our boundaries are entitled to their opinions, and there is nothing wrong with helping a friend or supporting a candidate elsewhere. But when outside involvement becomes noticeable, I think it is fair to ask questions.

There's a lot to consider in this municipal election. When you cast your ballot, make sure you are voting based on what you believe is best for your community.

On October 26, the ballots will be counted. The signs will eventually come down, the campaign pages will go quiet, and the candidates will either take their seats at the council table or return to their everyday lives. But the rest of us will still be here.

Don't create tomorrow's controversy today

At the time of writing this column, I am almost halfway through the Norfolk County Fair, on the heels of the Caledonia Fair. I have several petitions laid out at my booth for constituents to sign, but there is one that people continually stop to ask about: the petition to Say No to the MZO at Nanticoke.

I have yet to intercept a fairgoer who believes that putting upwards of 40,000 people in an industrial park is a good idea.

During Young Canada Day at the Norfolk County Fair, I had a number of high school students come to my booth to express their concerns about the proposal. I was thrilled to see that kind of civic engagement from our young people, but I was also saddened by it. These are young people who should be thinking about hockey games, friends, school

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**GRANT
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Norfolk, are you ready to vote?

The 2026 Municipal Election happening this October will use a hybrid voting system, combining online and in-person voting.



Online voting: NEW for 2026

Online voting will run from Friday, October 9, 2026 to Friday, October 23, 2026, at 8:00 p.m.

Online voting offers a modern, efficient, and accessible way for electors to participate in the election. Online voting enables electors to cast their ballots from a computer or mobile device anywhere over the internet during the designated advanced voting period. Online voting can also speed up the tabulation of election results.

In-person Online Voting Assistance Centres will be set up to assist with online voting. There will also be an

opportunity at these locations to vote using paper ballots as an advance voting option.

Eligible voters will receive a Voter Information Letter by mail with their unique Voter PIN, full name and address. This letter will provide a link to the online voting portal, and instructions on how to begin online voting.

If you have not received a Voter Information Letter in the mail by October 9, 2026, contact the Office of the County Clerk by phone at 519-426-5870 or 226-NORFOLK, extension 6269, or email elections@norfolkcounty.ca.

In-person Online Voting Assistance Centres	Date	Time
Langton Community Centre: 28 Albert Street, Langton	Tuesday, October 13	12:00 p.m. to 6:00 p.m.
Port Dover Community Centre: 801 St George Street, Port Dover	Thursday, October 15	12:00 p.m. to 6:00 p.m.
Simcoe Public Library: 46 Colborne Street South, Simcoe	Saturday, October 17	12:00 p.m. to 4:00 p.m.
Delhi Community Centre Arena: 144 Western Avenue, Delhi	Tuesday, October 20	12:00 p.m. to 6:00 p.m.
Waterford Legion: 223 Nichol Street, Waterford	Thursday, October 22	12:00 p.m. to 6:00 p.m.

In-person voting on Election Day

In-person voting will happen on Monday, October 26, 2026, from 10:00 a.m. to 8:00 p.m.

In-person voting requires voters to visit a polling station on election day. Polling stations will be available in each Ward. At the polling station, voters complete a paper ballot, which is processed on-site through a vote tabulator.

Identification is required when you vote. You will need to show ID that contains your name and address. You may

have to show two pieces of ID to accomplish this. Please bring an original or certified/notarized copy. Review the list of acceptable identification before you vote at norfolkcounty.ca/Vote.

Voters requiring accommodations can email elections@norfolkcounty.ca or call 519-426-5870 or 226-NORFOLK, extension 6269.

Find your Ward at norfolkcounty.ca/Ward.

Ward	Poll Location	Date	Time
Ward 1	Port Rowan Community Centre: 14 College Avenue, Port Rowan	Monday, October 26	10:00 a.m. to 8:00 p.m.
Ward 2	Langton Community Centre: 28 Albert Street, Langton		
Ward 3	Delhi District Secondary School: 393 James Street, Delhi		
Ward 4	Vittoria Community Centre: 35 Oakes Boulevard, Vittoria		
Ward 5	Jr Farmers Building, Fairgrounds: 172 South Drive, Simcoe Emmanuel Bible Church: 24 Churchill Circle, Simcoe		
Ward 6	Port Dover Community Centre: 801 St George Street, Port Dover		
Ward 7	Waterford Legion: 223 Nichol Street W, Waterford		



Scan the QR code or visit norfolkcounty.ca/Vote, or contact the elections team at 519-426-5870 or 226-NORFOLK, extension 6269, or elections@norfolkcounty.ca.



Norfolk Votes
2026 Municipal Election

Halloween events coming up in Simcoe, Delhi

CHRIS ABBOTT

Editor

Treats in the Streets is back in Simcoe this weekend.

On Saturday, Oct. 24, the Downtown Simcoe Business Improvement Area (BIA) is hosting its annual Halloween event, Treats in the Streets, from 11 a.m. to 2 p.m. Enjoy family time downtown – in costumes – collecting candy from participating businesses, and having some Halloween fun.

“It’s amazing. Some of the places had like 700 candies to hand out (last year) and they were done by about 1 o’clock. It’s a lot of fun,” said Les Anderson, Downtown Simcoe BIA coordinator Les Anderson, expecting a huge turnout, rain or shine.

DELHI

The Delhi District Secondary School Drama Club is presenting another night of ‘horror and terror’ at The Haunted Sawmill on Friday, Oct. 23, 7:20-9 p.m.

The Quance sawmill in Delhi has a dark side. Explore the interior of the museum’s sawmill and come ‘face to face with the shadowy energy that built up over a hundred years of accidents and injury?’ Small groups tours will be guided through mill at

designated times.

Recommended age for the annual Haunted Sawmill is 12 and up. Parental guidance is suggested. Admission is \$10 per person. Pre-registration required. Tickets are available at the museum or Eventbrite.

The first tour at 7:20 is currently sold out, and as of last weekend, there were limited spots remaining for other time slots.

Delhi Firefighters Association is presenting its 9th annual Halloween Open House on Saturday, Oct. 24, 11 a.m. to 2 p.m. at the Delhi fire sta-

tion (Norfolk Station 5), 104 Argyle Avenue, Delhi. Bring the kids – Halloween costumes optional - for the pumpkin carving, spooky games and mini-obstacle course, face painting, fire truck tours, fire safety education, and barbecue.

Delhi BIA’s 11th annual Walk of Treats is Saturday, Oct. 31, 10 a.m. to 1 p.m. in downtown Delhi. Find the map on the Delhi Business Improvement Area’s Facebook page.



(FILE PHOTOS)

Halloween is a time for costumes and candy. Simcoe BIA (Oct. 24) and Delhi BIA (Oct. 31) are once again hosting special Halloween family events.



Lights, Camera, Action!

Norfolk County youth invited to take on 24-Hour Film Challenge

The Norfolk County Public Library (NCPL) is inviting high school-aged youth across the county to put their creativity and filmmaking skills to the test at the second annual Youth Film Challenge and Festival.

The 24-hour challenge begins Thursday, Nov. 19 at 6:30 p.m. at the Simcoe Branch, where young filmmakers will receive three unique prompts, a registration package and tips and tricks from industry professionals. From there, participants will have just 24 hours to dream up an idea, write, film and edit a five-minute movie.

The completed films must be submitted by 7 p.m. on Friday, Nov. 20, at the Simcoe Branch. The deadline falls on a PA day, giving participants a full day to work on their films without missing school.

The excitement continues on Monday, Nov. 23 at 7 p.m. with a red-carpet premiere at the Strand Theatre in Simcoe. All submitted films will be screened on the big screen, giving young filmmakers the chance to share their work with family, friends and the community. The audience will also have the opportunity to vote for their favourite film, with the winning filmmaker or team receiving the Live Audience Choice Award.

“We’re excited to give youth the opportunity to collaborate and be creative!” said Belinda Smith, Youth Film Challenge & Festival Coordinator. “Sup-

porting young people in our community means giving them opportunities to develop new skills and imagine what’s possible for their future. Today’s participants could be tomorrow’s filmmakers, entrepreneurs or local business owners, and we’re thrilled to help create a space where those possibilities can begin.

“We’re also incredibly grateful to the Strand Theatre for supporting this initiative and hosting our red-carpet event! It elevates the occasion for everyone involved by giving these young filmmakers the opportunity to experience the excitement of seeing their work on the big screen in their own community.”

Youth are encouraged to form a crew, bring their ideas and cameras, and get ready to make a movie in just 24 hours. Both the Challenge and Festival are free to participate in and attend. Theatre concessions will be available for purchase during the Festival.

Youth Film Challenge and Festival

Film Challenge Launch: Thursday, Nov. 19 at 6:30 p.m. (Simcoe Branch, 46 Colborne Street South, Simcoe)

Film Challenge Media Drop: Friday, Nov. 20 at 7 p.m. (Simcoe Branch, 46 Colborne Street South, Simcoe)

Youth Film Festival: Monday, Nov. 23 at 7 p.m. (Strand Theatre, 55 Robinson Street, Simcoe)

For more information and event details, visit <https://bit.ly/NCPLYouthFilm>.

Premier: Don’t create tomorrow’s controversy today

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 4

dances and what they want to do after graduation. Instead, they are already thinking about whether a plan of this magnitude could fundamentally change the communities they call home.

And that is precisely why this conversation matters.

The decision to rubber-stamp the creation of what could effectively become a city at Nanticoke now sits on the desk of the Minister of Municipal Affairs and Housing. But people across Haldimand-Norfolk are frustrated by two things.

First, four Haldimand County councillors have signalled to the province that Haldimand County is a willing host for this development.

Second, constituents in Norfolk are equally frustrated that Norfolk County Council has not taken a clear position on a proposal with very obvious implications for its neighbour.

Yes, Haldimand County would benefit from the tax base. But municipal boundaries do not stop traffic, ambulances, hospital patients or infrastructure pressures.

What happens in Nanticoke will not stay in Nanticoke. One of the most obvious concerns is access to Norfolk General Hospital.

Anyone who has spent time at our hospital knows that it is already stretched on many days. What happens when tens of thousands more people are living and working just down the road? Where do those people go when they need emergency care? And who is paying for the additional pressure placed on services that are already working hard to keep up?

These are not anti-development questions. They are responsible-development questions.

So perhaps it was more than a coincidence that I woke up Thursday morning to a Toronto Star article questioning why the RCMP has yet to deliver its finding into the Ford government’s Greenbelt scandal.

Media reported former Ontario solicitor general Bob Runciman had urged the police to update the public on the probe’s status. My former colleague Bob rightfully argued that transparency is essential, amid the controversy over development plans on sensitive land. Although the RCMP maintained the investigation is thorough and ongoing, I agree the prolonged three-year silence harms those affected. I will continue calling on lawmakers to push for clarity on who remains under investigation and where the probe stands.

You might be wondering what the Nanticoke MZO has to do with the Greenbelt scandal. I would argue there is a very important connection -- public trust. The Ford government would be very unwise to approve a development of this magnitude while the RCMP’s Greenbelt investigation remains ongoing. We do not yet know what that investigation will uncover, but history has taught us that decisions involving land use and government intervention can become far more controversial with the passage of time. Before the government makes a decision that could fundamentally reshape Nanticoke and have consequences well beyond Haldimand County, perhaps the prudent thing to do is pause, listen to the people who live here, and make sure we are not creating tomorrow’s controversy today.

Agriculture focus of mayor candidate night

CHRIS ABBOTT

Editor

The Norfolk Federation of Agriculture hosted a mayoral candidate night at the Delhi District German Home on Sept. 30.

Norfolk Federation of Agriculture (NFA) represents 1,140 farmers in Norfolk County, said Jennifer Schooley, NFA president.

"We are rooted in agricultural expertise, a legacy of community support, and a forward-thinking commitment to sustainable farming in Norfolk County," said Schooley. "We blend innovation with tradition, empowering farmers and championing the next generation in one of the region's most vital and thriving industries."

Agriculture matters, said Schooley, and it deserves a front-row seat in municipal politics in Norfolk County.

"We care about the decisions made at council tables and we care about the land we live on, and the farms, some of us for generations."

Twelve mostly agriculture-related questions were posed for the six Norfolk mayoral candidates who participated in the NFA event. The following is an abbreviated report from their introductions.

KEITH MILNER

"For over 39 years, I had the privilege of serving our country as an officer with the RCMP and the CSIS. That nearly four decade career taught me the absolute necessity of mature leadership and accountability and integrity.

It taught me that real leadership means listening before acting, analyzing the facts, and always putting the well-being of the community first."

Milner recalled the days he worked on his father-in-law's farm, sweating through haying season and "more hours than I can count" on a Case IH tractor.

KEN HEWITT

Farming carries financial risk, he Ken Hewitt, former 12-year mayor of Haldimand County, and "that's why municipal government has a responsibility to respect

the people who feed our communities, employ our neighbours, and invest their own money back into Norfolk County. Agriculture is not simply another sector of Norfolk's economy, it is one of the foundations of our economy and its identity.

"My experience in local government has helped me to understand that agriculture needs a municipal government that listens, understands the realities of operating a farm and gets out of the way when government is creating unnecessary barriers."

NOEL HAYDT

"I live on a farm my grandparents bought in the mid-1940s, so agriculture isn't just an issue for me, it's my home. My tan isn't from the beach, it's from the fields," said Haydt, who served four years (councillor) on a past Norfolk council. "I've had to work through budgets, infrastructure decisions, and policies that affect people on the ground.

"That experience taught me something, something important. That government needs to listen to the people that are affected by its decisions.

Leadership isn't just asking the right questions though, it's about knowing what to do with the answers... Farming isn't getting any easier. Fuel and fertilizer are expensive. Equipment isn't getting any cheaper. A lot of these things are beyond the control of Norfolk County, but that doesn't give government an excuse to make the things we do harder. That's where leadership matters."

DAVID FINCH

Finch, who grew up in Woodhouse Township and Port Dover, served three terms on the Grimsby council.

"I understand farming. I grew up with a whole whack of farm kids. I've got my hands dirty on a tobacco field and my parents had a small general farm... so I share your concerns, I understand your concerns. I understand what's going on and how the world is impacting you guys."

ADAM VERI

Farming begins and ends with the business they do on the land, said Veri, a Norfolk councillor, and between there are issues with governance, issues with permits, building, development, market, and new products on the farm.

"That's where I think I can be the most help to you. My commitment to Norfolk farmers is simply that I will do everything I can, in my role, to help you grow your business, to help you plan for the future, to help you transition, to help you do whatever it is that the government can actually do. I'm also aware that the last thing farmers want is another politician meddling in the business.

"I think that I'm a good representative for your business, for your growth, for your community."

DOUG BRUNTON

"My background is in civil engineering," said Doug Brunton, also a Norfolk councillor. "Agriculture is on the floor tonight – it is the No. 1 economic driver in the county."

Brunton highlighted

crops grown on his 'small acreage' and remembered days years ago when he primed tobacco with 'horse and boat.' "I am very familiar with hard work and what's involved.

"Norfolk County has over 400,000 acres under cultivation, and is one of the top producers, not only in Ontario but in all of Canada. Combined cash receipts are in the millions of dollars. Conclusion... farming is big business in Norfolk County. Other important issues for Norfolk are raising taxes, skyrocketing water bills and infrastructure. I have a wealth of background concerning these issues."

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Weekend Quiz

By Jake Grant

1. What is the only U.S. state that can be typed in using only one row of a standard keyboard?
2. In human anatomy, what does the "hallux" refer to?
3. What is the only planet in our solar system to rotate clockwise on its axis?
4. Which freezes faster: hot or cold water?
5. What is James Bond's code name?
6. Weighing around eight pounds, this is the human body's largest organ?
7. What do you call a group of flamingos?
8. What is the distance from earth to the sun?
9. Which country is the largest in the world?
10. According to Guinness World Records, what's the best-selling book of all time?

This week's answers are found on pg. 27

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'With This Ring' offers snippets of local history

Step back in time at Lynnwood Arts' play, set in 1902

LISA TIMPF

Advocate Contributor

If you've ever wanted to go back in time to see what life was like a few decades ago, Lynnwood Arts has you covered.

Lynnwood may not have a time machine, but they have the next best thing: an immersive 90-minute play that will spirit attendees back to 1902. Titled 'With this Ring,' the play was written by Jan Rainey and Melissa Collver, with Rainey also serving as the play's director.

With This Ring centres on the wedding of Duncan Frederick Campbell, grandson of Duncan Campbell. Duncan Campbell served as Simcoe's first Postmaster, and had Lynnwood built in 1850-1851 as his home.

Attendees at the play will travel from room to room at Lynnwood, getting a sense of what was going on at the house at the time of the wedding. Actors will portray action and conversation featuring the aunts on both sides of the wedding, gentlemen from the immediate family, the wedding party, the wedding itself, and the servants' kitchen.

Guides will escort each group attending the event through the house, letting them know when it's time to move on to the next location.

It's the third year that Lynnwood has put on a play of this nature, with parts one and two of The Governor's Visit having taken place in prior years. Like The Governor's Visit, With This Ring is based on actual events.

Actors will wear costumes authentic for the time period, with some of the attire borrowed from Lighthouse Festival and

Simcoe Little Theatre, and some available from materials Lynnwood has on hand. Rainey, who is gallery assistant and volunteer coordinator at Lynnwood, expressed Lynnwood's gratitude for the loan of costumes.

In all, 55 performers will be involved. Most hail from Norfolk County, though some of the roles will be portrayed by actors from Brant and Haldimand.

Writing the play involved extensive research into archival materials as well as referencing books written about Norfolk County. Rainey noted that co-playwright Melissa Collver's extensive knowledge of local history made an important contribution to the project.

With This Ring will be performed November 12, 13, 14, and 15 at Lynnwood Arts. Showtimes for each night of the performance are at 6:30 p.m., 7 p.m., and 7:30 p.m.

Though the entire event spans 90 minutes for any given group, the fact that the experience involves moving from room to room makes it possible for new groups to start the event at half-hour intervals.

Each start time will be limited to 23 people. Rainey notes that the 7:30 time slots on each night will be accessible, with an elevator available so those with mobility issues can get to the building's upper floor.

"Anyone who enjoyed The Governor's Visit should enjoy this play," says Rainey, adding that With This Ring is the year's major fundraiser for the art gallery.

The play will include "music, comedy, and nostalgia," says Rainey. Two small choirs, one adult choir and one children's choir, will perform. The children's choir will perform at the start of the play, with



(CONTRIBUTED PHOTO)

From Nov. 12-15, Lynnwood Arts will be staging the original production *With This Ring*. Like last year's *The Governor's Visit*, *With This Ring* will feature performers in period costume. This photo from *The Governor's Visit* shows Patti Townsend, left, and Kelly McGivern.

the adult choir being part of the wedding.

Ticket cost is \$40 plus tax per person. Tickets must be pre-ordered, and will not be available at the door.

Some sittings of the play were sold out last year, and sales for this year's event have already begun, so Rainey advises those interested to get their tickets early.

Lynnwood's website advises attendees to park in the Riversyde 83 parking lot

(83 Sydenham St., Simcoe), and to arrive 15 minutes prior to their seating time. The Lynnwood Arts building (21 Lynnwood Ave.) can be entered by heading up the driveway directly north of the building and going into the carriage house at the end of the driveway, where the play will begin.

More information about ticket ordering and about the event itself are available at www.lynnwoodarts.ca.

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Agricultural Awareness & Education Centre



Aurora and Huxley Walsh try out the cow-milking exhibit in the Agricultural Awareness & Education Centre at the Norfolk County Fair & Horse Show.



Henrietta Heeg of Springdale demonstrates how cows are manually milked at farms. Heeg's farm, however, uses robots for milking.



A white Leghorn, exhibited by James Tilt at the Norfolk County Fair.



'Farmer Brad' demonstrated how to shear sheep at the Norfolk County Fair – shown here are the before and after.

South Drive access included in 68-unit approval

LUKE EDWARDS

Grant Haven Media

Construction crews will be asked to use an access through South Drive that will later be turned into a public road as they build a 68-unit development in southwest Simcoe.

Councillors at the Oct. 14 meeting supported a staff recommendation to approve a zoning bylaw amendment for 16 Fernwood Drive that paves the way for 14 semi-detached units and 54 group townhouse units on the property.

Coun. Chris Van Paassen brought up concerns about wording in the report that seemed to suggest a South Drive access would remain as a possibility and not a sure thing.

"I don't think that should be an option. There should just be one, a connection," he said.

But Acting Director of Planning and Realty Services Alisha Cull said the plan is to require the access, both for the construction phase and as a road afterwards.

"It is included as a condition of condominium approval," she said.

"There was a bit of a disagreement with the applicant but the County is of the opinion that the connection is required."

That was one of the major concerns brought up during a public meeting on the application earlier this year. The report also outlined several conditions meant to address concerns over stormwater management for the development.

And with the County's new waste management system in place, the condo could potentially be eligible for municipal collection, if the geometry meets technical guidelines that allow for manoeuvrability of the waste collection vehicles. General Manager of Public Works Andrew Grice said they don't have those specifics yet.

If they are not eligible, the condo will have to secure a private contract, and if they are eligible for municipal pickup they will have to apply.

"They do need to request it, fill out the form and be approved," Grice said.



(CHRIS ABBOTT PHOTOS)

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Christison recognized by Vittoria WI

CHRIS ABBOTT

Editor

Vittoria Women's Institute recently presented an Honorary Membership to James Christison 'in recognition of his many helpful, informative, and valuable contributions to the branch.'

Christison, curator of the Waterford Heritage and Agricultural Museum, made a 35-plus minute presentation – Women in War – at Vittoria WI's Oct. 14th meeting, sharing a project that has been worked on for a number of years "trying to accurately research and capture the history of women's involvement during war-time" on the home front and overseas.

Norfolk's military history goes back to the founding of the county in the 1790s, he said, and it includes the War of 1812, First World War, Second World War.

"But the often untold story that we are trying to capture, is the women's involvement in wartime, and also after the war - when the troops came home, there needed to be incredible support for them.

"We have folks like the Nursing Sisters that were vital during the First World War, for that conflict that was so different than anything the world had ever seen before."

Christison noted the efforts of Nursing Sister Alice Trusdale, recognized on a Veterans Banner in Waterford. Born and raised in Waterford, Trusdale was one of about 400 nurses from southwestern Ontario that served during the Great War (1914-1918).

While she was training in advanced nursing in New York, the First World War started and she immediately return to Ontario to join military service in London as a Nursing Sister.

"She did some further training... then went overseas to England," said Christison, "and there are some fabulous records, letters, that have captured her story.

"When the war was over, she continued on in the military, and she actually became Head Matron of the Freeport Military Hospital in Guelph."

Trusdale (1892-1919) is Norfolk County's only female to have died in wartime, said Christison, and her name is on the Carillon Tower (Norfolk War Memorial) in



(CHRIS ABBOTT PHOTO)

James Christison, curator of the Waterford Heritage and Agricultural Museum, is presented an Honorary Membership by the Vittoria Women's Institute.

Simcoe.

"I could go on and on about Alice, she is just a wonderful snapshot of our social history and military history, and for a long time did not get credit.

"One of the reasons that we continue to try to capture this social history is because a lot of the First World War stories have been lost."

In 1944, Christison said there were 22,000 Canadian women in the active army corps, 17,000 in the air force, and just over 10,000 Nursing Sisters in service.

"A huge part of the population, in uniform, but then all the rest were supporting those people in uniform.

The Women's Institute and church groups were doing fundraising, quilts... the Bundles for Britain, the Jam for Britain... unbelievable contributions that were being made right here in Norfolk County.

"Norfolk County did some absolutely amazing things to help win the war."

Bundles for Britain was "anything that

could be made at home' to be sent overseas to Great Britain to support troops.

"Norfolk County was right there. They sent literal tonnage over... just about everything," said Christison, also noting the importance of The Farmerettes in Norfolk.

Christison highlighted three Norfolk women that served during the Second World War – Dorothy Backus, who joined the women's branch of the Royal Canadian Air Force, training pilots and flying transports; Peggy Brown, a wireless operator stationed on the East Coast of Canada listening for U-boats. Brown was credited with locating a U-boat, which was captured by Canadian naval forces, along with an Enigma machine; and war correspondent Margaret Ecker, who was the only female in the room when Germany officially surrendered – her story is what told North America that the war in Europe was over.

"It's great that these kinds of stories are coming forth," said Christison.

"Excellent," said Vittoria WI president

Donna Kendall, commenting on Christison's presentation.

"I think it was very important, to feel that 'making a contribution,'" said Marilyn Davis, past-president and treasurer, noting the importance of the WI contributions.

Vittoria, part of the Hamilton WI district, compiles its local history in books – many, many books. There are also Norfolk district history books, which in part were used as a source for Christison's presentation.

"We have all of the Tweedsmuir histories of our branch, and there are lists of all the things that were made and sent to the war effort within those history books," said Davis. "And those books are now being digitized, so that they will be available to anyone to research."

Originally formed in 1938, the Vittoria Women's Institute branch currently has 18 members and two honorary life members, along with four men – including Christison - who for their significant contributions were designated honorary WI members.



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Norfolk Federation of Agriculture hosted an agriculture-theme mayoral candidate night in Delhi. Six of seven candidates attended (Ken Gilpin was absent). Simcoe and District Chamber of Commerce, and partners, hosted a mayoral candidate night in Port Dover, and a Ward 5 candidate night in Simcoe. See the Simcoe Chamber YouTube page to watch those two events.

Celebrating green thumbs, crafty creations at the Fair

LISA TIMPF

Advocate Contributor

How tall can a corn stalk grow? How big can a pumpkin get?

Answers to these and other questions were available for viewing at the agricultural displays under the grandstand during the Norfolk County Fair and Horse Show, Oct. 6-12.

One of the stars of the show, as usual, were the giant pumpkins and squashes. This year's champion giant pumpkin, entered by John Butler, weighed in at 1,485 pounds. Butler's top pumpkin edged out the second-place entrant, a 1,483-pound behemoth grown by Dave McQuay. McQuay's pumpkin was the contest's largest pumpkin grown in Norfolk County.

Butler also won the largest squash competition, with his winning entry tipping the scales at 1,084 pounds.

Arthur Johnston had the second-biggest squash, but took first place in the tallest sunflower category. His winning entry was 20-feet nine-inches tall. Butler had the tallest corn stalk at 19-feet one-inch.

The agricultural product displays under the grandstand featured other competitions as well, including some judging the appearance of squash, potatoes, tomatoes, and other vegetables, as well as field crops like hay and corn. Collections of garden vegetables, cut and potted flowers, decorated pumpkins, and other items were also on display.

Crafts and creative arts, both traditional and more modern, were the focus of the displays in the Homecrafts building at the north end of the fairgrounds. Woodworking, Christmas tree ornaments, scrapbooking, jewellery, rock painting, stained glass, handmade toys, needlecrafts, and visual art are just a sample of the items entered in the various categories.

In the culinary arts competitions, banana loaf, zucchini relish, decorated cookies, breads, jams, and even nutritious treats for dogs were among the items entered.

Displays set up by 4-H groups provided background on everything from 4-H canning and homesteading clubs to 4-H Lego clubs. Several local Senior's and Retirement homes like Dover Cliffs, Cedarwood Village, and Maple Lodge Retirement Home entered displays as well.

Just as the giant pumpkins were one of the main attractions in the agricultural competitions, the quilts drew a lot of interest in the homecrafts section. Some of the winning quilts were arrayed along the north wall, with additional entries hanging in various locations throughout the top floor of the Homecrafts building.

The Grand Champion Machine Quilted quilt was entered by Sheila Stewart, while the Reserve Grand Champion Machine Quilted entry came from Teri Lynn Blizman.

Joan Malcolm's entry got the nod for the

CONTINUED ON PAGE 17



(GINETTE PIEPER PHOTOS)

Megan Burns' entry won first in the "It's Your Birthday" class in the Professional Designers Florists Competition.



This year's largest pumpkin by weight at the Norfolk County Fair, entered by John Butler, tipped the scales at 1,485 pounds.



Keli-Lynn Armstrong's painting earned first place in the Art: Amateur "Acrylic, Animal or Bird" category at the Norfolk Fair.



In the Homecrafts building, quilts were arrayed on the north wall and hung from the ceiling.

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44th Waterford Lions Pumpkinfest



The Pumpkin Pyramids lit up at Pumpkinfest.



The Treeline, a six-piece Norfolk folk rock band, entertains on the main stage at Pumpkinfest Sunday. Also playing Sunday were Amber & Nolan, and Lower Ground.



Rob Pinnoy of Tillsonburg brought his 1958 Mercury Voyager hardtop station wagon to the Waterford Pumpkinfest car show, one of 1,150-1,175 vehicles in Sunday's show.



Makinley Payne loves the Pumpkin Pyramids at Pumpkinfest.



Gary Silverthorn's 1962 Acadian, one of only 1,600 of that Canadian-made model, at the Waterford Lions Pumpkinfest car and truck show. Silverthorn, from Delhi, is the vehicle's third owner – it was originally sold at a Port Dover dealership.

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(BRENDA MOSER PHOTOS)

The Pumpkin Pyramid takes shape in Waterford for the Oct. 15-18 Pumpkinfest.

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Norfolk County Fair

(CHRIS ABBOTT PHOTOS)

World's Finest Shows concluded their 2026 season at the Norfolk County Fair and Horse Show, bringing their popular games and rides to the fairgrounds in Simcoe, including the Cannon Ball, Pharoah's Fury, bumper cars, Scrambler, Music Express and Ferris wheel.



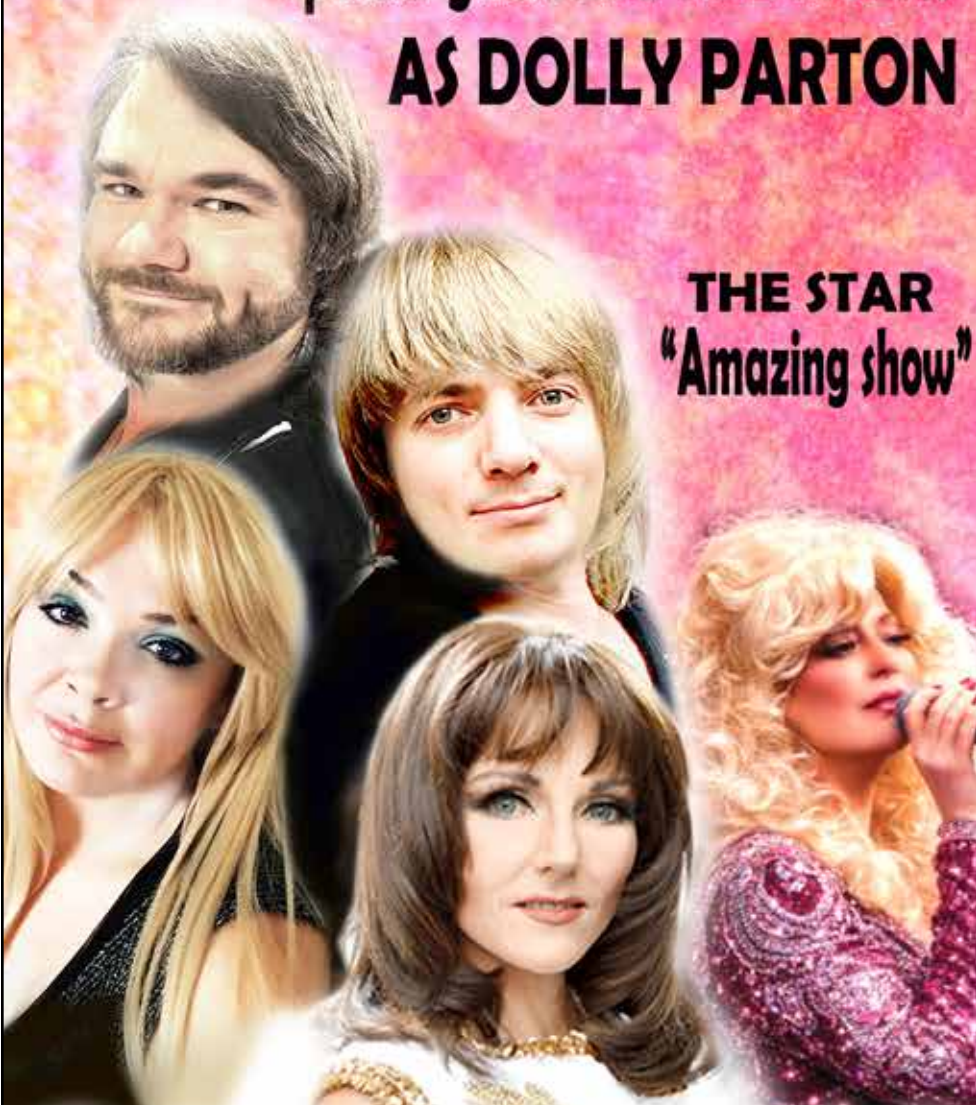
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CONTINUED FROM PAGE 13

best Heritage Quilt, while Marilyn Armstrong earned top prize in the My Favourite Quilt category.

Theresa Holmes, one of the volunteer judges, was on hand to answer questions on Wednesday during the fair. She estimates that around 70 quilts were entered in this year's event.

Holmes notes that entries in the needlework and quilting divisions slowed down after Covid, but are picking back up. She estimates that around 90 per cent of the quilt entries come from members of one of the local quilting guilds, though some entrants are not affiliated with a quilting guild.

Those who, after wandering through this year's displays, are inspired to try their hand at quilting an entry for next year have a number of avenues for learning more about the craft.

Holmes suggests that would-be quilters check out quilting classes, which are sometimes offered by quilting stores, or join one of the local quilting guilds. The Twilight Quilter's Guild of Norfolk County, she says, met online during Covid and has stayed online since. The online format allows them to host professional quilters from other locales online.

The Norfolk County Quilter's Guild meets on the first Tuesday of every month at the Vittoria Community Centre, and charges a small fee for those who wish to attend meetings as a guest.

The Norfolk County Fair and Horse Show, Holmes adds, is one of the most progressive in terms of number of categories offered, with over 20 classes in the quilting competitions.

Over in the Junior Farmers' Building, entries in the photography competitions were on display. Categories included farming and agriculture, nature, people, water-scapes, open, and creative categories, with both black and white and colour photographs entered.

The Harold I. Pond Award for Best Colour or Black and White Print went to Mark Ridpath, for "Arthur's Seat." The title of Best Colour Print was awarded to Annette Jewell, for her photo "Hidden Face."

Deirdre Tyrrell's "Streetlight Ghosts" won Best Black and White Print, as well as being named Best in Show.



Catherine Baird's painting won Norfolk County Fair's first place ribbon in the Art: Semi-professional "Acrylic Painting, Any Subject" category.



(GINETTE PIEPER PHOTOS)

Sarah Judd's entry won the "Garden Products: Small Collection of Vegetables" category at the 2026 Norfolk County Fair and Horse Show.



Dave McQuay won second place in the largest pumpkin by weight category at the Norfolk Fair. McQuay's pumpkin, which weighed 1,483 pounds, was the largest pumpkin grown in Norfolk County.



Keli-Lynn Armstrong's painting earned first place in the Art: Amateur "Acrylic, Animal or Bird" category at the Norfolk Fair.

Knights of Columbus 4502 donates to hospice

CHRIS ABBOTT

Editor

The Knight of Columbus, Simcoe Waterford Council 4502, recently made a \$25,000 donation to the Norfolk Haldimand Community Hospice, which included \$14,000 raised at their annual golf tournament.

"The \$25,000 was partially raised through the (Knights of Columbus) golf tournament," said Knight Jim Vynckier, co-chair of the golf tournament, noting the August 16th fundraising tournament at Springview Farm Golf Course, Waterford, raised \$14,000. "The Simcoe Waterford Council 4502 bumped that up by \$11,000.

"We would like to thank our sponsors and golfers that participated – we had 72 golfers and over 100 sponsors," said Vynckier. "And not just this year's sponsors, we would like to also thank those who sponsored us in the past. That's what got us to our success over time."

Last year, Simcoe Waterford Council 4502 donated \$20,000 to the Norfolk Haldimand Community Hospice, and the year before \$8,000, bringing its three-year donations to the hospice to \$53,000.

"We are so thankful," said Beth Ellis, NHCH board member.

"This was our fourth tournament," noted Patrick McElhone, co-chair of the golf

tournament. "The original golf part of it, last year we celebrated the 50th year, this was the 51st this year. That was consecutive years until Covid showed up. There was a three-year hiatus."

"The hospice became our charity of choice when they (NHCH) said, 'we're going to start doing this,'" said Vynckier. "It's voted on."

"This is something that I look forward to as Grand Knight," said Brian Baker, Council 4502 Grand Knight. "I joined the Council 16 years ago... and I'm proud to see the work that everybody's done."

"In terms of Knights of Columbus, we have four pillars for our Council," said Baker. "And charity is No. 1."

"From a personal perspective, I have nothing but good to say about what I experienced at the hospice in Sarnia – my sister was there 12 days," said Vynckier. "I've been to Sakura House (Woodstock) and we have the Stedman House (Brantford). They're all going to be the same in terms of compassion and support – there will be no difference – but this will be closer to home."

Norfolk Haldimand Community Hospice recently held a ground-breaking ceremony at the site of its new hospice facility, near Jarvis, which is expected to be completed in 2028.

NHCH's annual fundraising events in-



(CHRIS ABBOTT PHOTO)

The Knight of Columbus, Simcoe Waterford Council 4502, recently made a \$25,000 donation to the Norfolk Haldimand Community Hospice, which included \$14,000 raised during their annual golf tournament. From left are Beth Ellis, NHCH board member; Patrick McElhone, co-chair of the Knights' golf tournament; Brian Baker, Council 4502 Grand Knight; Jim Vynckier, co-chair of the golf tournament; and Mary Ellen Ball, NHCH board member.

clude a Hike for Hospice in June, and holiday Light up the Tree fundraiser in De-

cember. A fundraising golf tournament will likely be added in future years.



Tens of thousands of people attended the Norfolk County Fair & Horse Show, which wrapped up on Oct. 12.

Norfolk County Fair



Melinda Teixeira samples a fair burger.



Hunter Meyers, left, enjoyed strawberry funnel cake, with Cody Neepin, trying some chips.



Gator BBQ at the Norfolk County Fair.



Brian Teixeira tries some fries at the Norfolk County Fair.

(CHRIS ABBOTT PHOTOS)

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Sat. Nov. 21, 2026
10:00 AM till 3:00 PM
Free Admission

Chicken & Cabbage Roll Dinner
Fri. Nov. 20th, 2026 - By Reservation & Payment - Dinner Serving 5 to 6:30 P.M.

- Chicken & Cabbage Rolls
- Mashed Potatoes & Gravy - Coleslaw
- Dinner Roll - Coffee, Tea & Dessert

- Adults \$30.00
- \$15.00 Children 6 to 12
- 5 and under Free

Bulk Orders

Saturday November 7th, 2026

- Breaded Chicken - \$30.00 for 10 pcs.
- Cabbage Rolls - \$28.00 per. doz.
- Breaded Pork Schnitzel - \$6.00
- Perogies - \$15.00 per. package
- ColeSlaw - \$6.00 per container

Don't wait for the last minute to order





Goalie Sophia Howes defends the HERicanes' net with teammate Alyssa Jess at her side. (CHRIS ABBOTT PHOTO)

Norfolk HERicanes U15s edged in season opener

CHRIS ABBOTT
Editor

Norfolk HERicanes U15 girls house hockey team started its GHGHL season ‘on fire’ – Karaline Mallett scored just five minutes into Sunday’s season opener at the Talbot Arena in Simcoe, slamming home a rebound off a shot from Tennley Dumoulin.

“We looked so much faster than them in that first period,” said HERicanes coach Gerry Dumoulin. “So every period, the reminder was, ‘We’re a fast team - we’re a fast team, just show them how fast you are...’”

The HERicanes carried the one-goal lead into a back-and-forth third period when the Port Colborne Wave equalized short-handed at 10:45. The Wave scored the 2-1 game-winner with 6:36 left to play.

“We had them on the ropes and we just couldn’t put those goals away, unfortunately,” said Dumoulin. “We had a lot of opportunities, it’s just that goalie played a great game.”

Dumoulin, who coached last year’s U13 team, this year has a combined U13-U15 house league team in the 16-team U15 Greater Hamilton Girls Hockey League.

“For a lot of these girls, it was their first game as a HERicane... or their first hockey game. Hazel (Stackhouse) had her first game of hockey, ever. She got to carry the puck, she got a shot, and she made a pass. It was a great game for her.”

HERicanes goalie Sophia Howe had to be sharp in the third, keeping it a one-goal game. The home team had some chances in the final six minutes, nearly batting the puck across the line from the crease with less than a minute to play.

“There were some close ones, we were right there,” Dumoulin said. “It was a lot of fun.”

Spirits were good after game, he added.

“The important part in the room is that it didn’t feel like a loss after the game, the girls were in great spirits. They had a good time. I think that’s kind of the best part about it – they just having a great time. Every single game, that’s the goal. We start every practice with fun, then we work from there.”





Norfolk HERicanes' Addy Mansley chases a puck in the neutral zone Sunday.



HERicanes' Tennley Dumoulin avoids the stick of a back-checking Port Colborne player to take a shot.

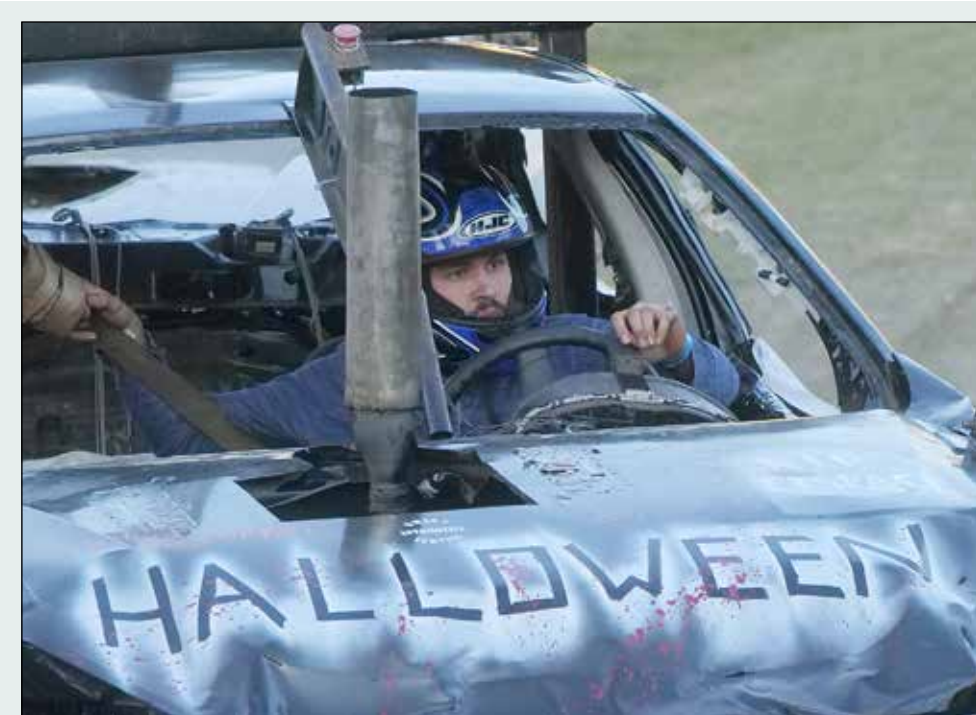


Hazel Stackhouse played her first hockey game Sunday at Talbot Gardens.



(CHRIS ABBOTT PHOTOS)

Karlaine Mallett, taking a faceoff, scored Norfolk's goal Sunday in a 2-1 loss to Port Colborne.



Continuing a family tradition, Dillin Webster competed in the Norfolk County Fair demolition derby championships' best design/decorated car on Monday, Oct. 12 at the fairgrounds in Simcoe.



(CHRIS ABBOTT PHOTOS)

COMMUNITY CALENDAR

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FRIDAY, OCTOBER 23

RYERSE JAZZ SINGERS ARE TAKING THE CAFE STAGE
7:00 to 8:30 p.m
Free event... Everyone is invited to come and enjoy the talent of this amazing local vocal ladies jazz chorus!

Riversyde 83, 83 Sydenham St., Simcoe, Ont.

SATURDAY, OCTOBER 24

BOO BASH HALLOWEEN BREAKFAST
Event runs from 9:00 to 11:00 a.m
Come out and enjoy a spooktacular family-friendly Halloween breakfast at the Waterford Legion Branch 123! Adults \$15 | Children \$10 | Under 5 years FREE Advance tickets only. Contact Renee at 226-567-1026, Linda at 416-270-9885 or Trish at 548-722-0163.

Waterford Legion Branch 123

SUNDAY, OCTOBER 25

LONDON KIDS COMMUNITY GOSPEL CHOIR
6:00 p.m
The London Kids Community Gospel Choir is being hosted by Norfolk’s own Seasonal International Farm Staff Gospel Band “Fields of Praise” at Waterford United Church, 135 Main Street, on Sunday, October 25 at 6 p.m. The choir consists of 35 children, a full band and a whole lotta of energy and praise. Tickets are adults \$20, under 18 \$10 by calling 519-277-1102.

Waterford United Church | 135 Main Street

FRIDAY, OCTOBER 30

WINGS & KARAOKE
Ticket sales start @ 4:45 p.m | Serving at 5:00 p.m
Wings per lb.: \$15.00 Onion Rings: \$6.00
Fries: \$5.00. Cash only. Karaoke to follow in club room

Waterford Legion | 223 Nichol Street in Waterford
“PEACE & REMEMBRANCE” CONCERT
7:30 p.m
The Lynn Valley Voices, a 40-voice mixed choir, perform a serene “Peace & Remembrance” concert featuring arrangements of Abide With Me, What A Wonderful World, Imagine, In Flanders Fields, and many more. Admission by Donation

Waterford United Church, 135 Main St. S.

TIA MCGRAFF WITH TOMMY PARHAM ARE TAKING THE CAFÉ STAGE!
7:00 p.m
Free event! Come out and enjoy an acoustic concert featuring award-winning singer, songwriter and performer Tia McGraff with Tommy Parham. Everyone is welcome!

Riversyde 83, 83 Sydenham St., Simcoe, Ont.

WEDNESDAY, NOVEMBER 4

WEDNESDAY NIGHT DINNER
Tickets 5:00 p.m | Serving at 5:30 p.m
Roast Beef, dessert included. Cost: \$14.00. Cash Only

Waterford Legion 223 | Nichol Street

FRIDAY, NOVEMBER 6

FISH & CHIPS
Ticket sales start at 4:15 p.m
One piece of fish: \$15 Two pieces of fish \$20
Cash only

Waterford Legion 223 | Nichol Street

SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 7

ANNUAL MARKETIQUE
10:00 a.m to 2:00 p.m
Vendors offerings include Christmas Décor at your Door and for your Home. Also, we have Norwex, Avon, Diamond Art, Quilting and sewing ,Children’s clothing ,soaps, candles, greeting cards , a chocolatier , cinnamon buns and more. Come on out for the shopping.

St. Bernard of Clairvaux Church | 165 Thompson Rd., Waterford.

SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 14

FROSTY FAIR
8:30 to 12:00
Surprise packages, penny table, baked goods, jewellery, knitting and more. Come and support the ladies of the church.

James United Church | 150 Colborne St. S. Simcoe

EVERY MONDAY & THURSDAY

SIT & FIT
Starting at 12:00 p.m (45 minutes in duration)
A FREE light exercise program. Organized & run by the Alzheimer Society. Come on up to the and join in the fun!

Waterford Legion | 223 Nichol Street in Waterford

EVERY MONDAY

NORFOLK’S OWN NEEDLE ARTS GUILD
10:00 a.m - 3:30 p.m
Norfolk’s Own Needle Arts Guild meets every Monday from 10 a.m. to 3:30 pm at the Waterford United Church. We also meet on the second Wednesday of the month from 1:30 to 3:30 pm also at the church. If you are interested in learning needlework techniques, come join us for a day of embroidery. For information please call Lee at (519) 428-8008 or Libby at 519-426-8693.

Waterford United Church

THIRD WEDNESDAY OF THE MONTH

LYNN RIVER PROBUS CLUB
10:00 a.m - 12:00 p.m
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.

SECOND SUNDAY OF EVERY MONTH

COURTLAND COUNTRY OPEN MIC JAM
Music starts at 1:00 p.m | Dinner at 5:00 p.m
All welcome!
Courtland Community Centre | 272 Main St., Courtland, ON

THURSDAYS

CORNHOLE
7:00 p.m.
Join in this free activity. Thursdays (except the 4th Thursday)

Waterford Legion 223 Nichol St.

LAST SATURDAY OF THE MONTH

OPEN JAM
Starting at 5:00 p.m (Until Sold Out)
Everyone is welcome to bring an instrument or just come out and listen to the music. Free event For More Information call the Legion at 519-443-5588 or www.teetervillelegionbranch526.ca

The Wagner Memorial, Teeterville Legion Branch 526. 3890 Teeterville Road, Teeterville, Ontario

EVERY OTHER FRIDAY

INGERSOLL COUNTRY MUSIC JAMBO-

REE**1:00 p.m - 4:00 p.m**

Every other Friday, 1-4pm be fall-ish and come to the Ingersoll Country Music Jamboree at Masonic Hall, 190 Thames St. S. Ingersoll. Join us, walk ins welcome. Qualifications - love 50-70's country music. Perform, listen, dance & enjoy! September 4 & 18, October 2, 16 & 30, November 6 & 20, and December 4.

Masonic Hall | 190 Thames St. S. Ingersoll

ROTARY CLUB OF SIMCOE

Join a 100-year-old, community-focused club dedicated to supporting Norfolk youth, scholarships, the arts, and local and

international initiatives. Mondays | 11:45 a.m.-1:00 p.m. Bi-weekly in July & August. Enjoy lunch, interesting speakers and great fellowship! Email: simcoe.rotary.club@gmail.com
Come see what Rotary is all about!

Simcoe Legion | 200 West St. Simcoe

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January 4, 18, Feb 1 & 15 & March 1, 15, 29, 2027*

Doors open at 5:00/Early bird 6:30/Main Games begin at 7:00. Concession goodies sold & provided by Simcoe & District Humane Society. Come support your local non-profits. Thank you

Simcoe Legion, 200 West Street, Simcoe, ON

Giving to others for Thanksgiving

BRENDA MOSER

Advocate Contributor

There are some people who enjoy giving more than receiving and Waterford's Lana Plank is definitely a giver! I introduced you to Plank last Christmas when she was preparing a turkey dinner, with all of the trimmings, free to Norfolk residents who may not have otherwise been able to enjoy one.

I saw, first hand, just what an undertaking it was but Plank seemed in her element. Well, she was at it again for Thanksgiving 2026.



Lana Plank packaging meals for her free Thanksgiving dinner.

I met up with Plank right in her element – the Waterford United Church kitchen – doing what she does best... prepping a traditional Thanksgiving meal to once again give to those who may not have had one were it not for Plank. Add a crew of volunteers chipping in wherever needed and the day was a success. Delivery was provided by volunteer drivers to those without transportation, with many of the meals going to Simcoe.

Plank stated that there were 827 registered and she ended up feeding 857... YES, 857! Those numbers included about 400 in total to the unhoused.

"I could have served more," added Plank and I am sure she would have done so – if necessary – without a single complaint. Volunteer drivers made 74 deliveries and many diners picked up their meals at the church. While it sounds like a huge undertaking and one that not many of us would tackle, Plank did not seem phased... she simply did what needed to be done to share with those in need.

The meal included coleslaw, turkey, dressing, mashed potatoes, veggies, gravy, buns, dessert – the whole 'shebang'! Our family had celebrated our Thanksgiving the day before so Plank insisted that I take two meals home for myself and my hus-



Volunteers prepping for Thanksgiving pick-up and delivery orders. (BRENDA MOSER PHOTOS)

band and I can confirm that it was most definitely delicious!

Plank definitely knows her way around a kitchen and cooking for a crowd and you get the feeling that she loves what she does

and the people that she helps. People like Plank reassure us that there are still a lot of good people in the world doing good things for those in need. Thank you Lana, from the bottom of our hearts!

Long-term growth plan proposed in Courtland

LUKE EDWARDS

Grant Haven Media

There will be several more harvests on a 45-hectare piece of farmland in Courtland, though at some point it could be the focal point of residential development in the community.

The owners of 256 Main Street are hoping councillors will approve an urban boundary expansion for the parcel, to pave the way for a long-term development vision. That development would coincide with nearby industrial land development, though consultants pointed out nothing is on the immediate horizon.

"This is not a development that's going to

happen overnight. This is a 10, 15, 20-year plan in the future but planning requires you to do that planning 10, 15, 20 years ahead of time," said Stewart Findlater, a consultant speaking on behalf of property owners Mike and Sandy Kloepper.

The land in question is located in the southwest corner of Courtland, south of the train tracks and east of Hwy 59.

Findlater said Norfolk council has already supported the expansion, though the Province deferred a decision and asked for more planning justification. The consultant said that added justification has now been provided and that the proposal has the least amount of impact on agricultural land while providing a place for Courtland to

grow in the future.

"The proposed development directs growth to an established settlement area, restores the required residential land inventory and supports a complete community," Findlater said.

"The proposal, combined with the already approved industrial lands is a long-term plan that will create jobs and bring growth to the county."

While no decision was made at the public hearing committee meeting, such meetings are meant to introduce proposals and solicit council and the public's feedback, councillors seemed receptive to the plan. Linda Vandendriessche suggested it might help get hydro infrastructure upgrades built

for Courtland.

"Will this help stimulate something with Hydro One to be able to bring stronger hydro into the area?" she asked.

For the industrial and future residential lands to develop, Findlater said there will need to be such upgrades.

"And that certainly, I think, would benefit the rest of the area," he said.

Life-long resident and business owner Brian Shepherd offered his support, saying the applicants are doing their due diligence and approaching things in the right way.

"As a lifetime resident, I've seen Courtland grow, and I think it's got some room to grow some more," he said.

VISIT WWW.GRANTHAVEN.COM

Controversial attraction re-opened in Baden



OH, THE PLACES WE'LL GO

By Paul Knowles

One of the most controversial visitor destinations in Canada is located about 10 minutes from my front door. It's the Prime Ministers Path, an installation of statues of Canadian Prime Ministers in Baden, Ontario. It has generated a ton of debate, which at one point resulted in the dismantling of the whole thing – the Prime Ministers were relegated to an unidentified storage unit. Then, this September, came the reestablishment of the installation.

The Prime Ministers Path was conceived in 2013, a plan that would eventually see sculptures of all Canadian Prime Ministers (currently numbering 24) exhibited in an outdoor setting.

The launch of the project took place in 2016. It's understandable that the first statue put in place was of Canada's first Prime Minister – Sir John A. Macdonald. But it's also understandable that this installation proved to be the



(PAUL KNOWLES PHOTOS)

The newest addition to the Prime Ministers Path in Baden – Nathan Scott's "The Unfortunate Four". Four Canadian Prime Ministers who served briefly in office – from left, Sir MacKenzie Bowell, Sir John Abbott, Sir Charles Tupper, Sir John Thompson.

most controversial, because of Macdonald's undeniably horrendous policies concerning Native Canadians.

Three more statues were added in 2017 – Robert Borden, William Lyon MacKenzie King and Lester B. Pearson – and Canada's first and only female Prime Minister, Kim Campbell, was added the next year.

But controversy was brewing, and as the nation became more aware of the horrors of Residential Schools and other national policies that had caused incredible harm to Native Canadians,

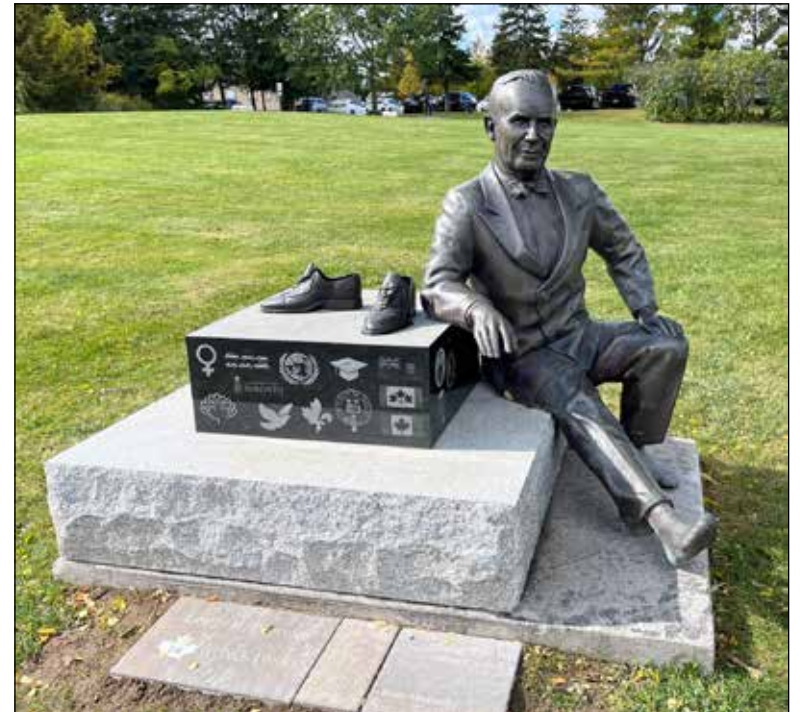
protests erupted across the country, including in Baden. The statue of Macdonald attracted the most push-back, as protesters coated the sculpture in red paint.

By 2020, the local municipal council voted to remove all five statues and place them in storage in a secret location. But that action, too, prompted push-back from the community.

The most recent development has involved turning the project over to the original sponsor, Createscape Waterloo Region, which led the re-installation of the statues, plus a new work featuring four more Prime Ministers. The Path was re-launched in September of this year. As before, it sits beside Castle Kilbride, the National Historic Site which adjoins the Wilmot Township Municipal Office. But where once, Macdonald's statue stood at the front of the property, facing Snyder's Road, now, the orientation has been shifted 180%, with the Prime Ministers Path sign and Macdonald's sculpture facing north, onto Wagler Avenue.

So, is this all a good idea? Opinions about this will always be strong, and varied.

The Prime Ministers Path website openly admits that history is challenging. It contends that "History is complex," and adds "Understanding our history also means understanding how it has affected Canadians and how those Canadians perceive Canada's his-



Lester Pearson (sculpted by Ruth Abernethy) was the much-honoured winner of the Nobel Peace Prize.

tory."

I was never comfortable with the decision to dismantle the Path. In doing so, the very positive stories of Lester Pearson (who won the Nobel Peace Prize) and Kim Campbell (who broke the gender barrier) were shoved into dusty storage. But I am also not comfortable with glorifying Canadian politicians who have made horrible decisions, chief among them Macdonald and King.

Createscape says that they have worked with Indigenous groups in re-introducing the Path, and that the full, complex stories of these leaders will be told. That is crucial.

I think it highly appropriate that the statues of Macdonald and King were designed by their artists (local sculptor Ruth Abernethy for Macdonald and Morgan MacKenzie for King) to include seats for visitors. I know these will be treated as selfie spots for many, but I also hope that folks will sit and ask themselves (and the spirits of the late PMs) the tough questions. "Why did Macdonald decide to strip Indigenous people of their heritage?" "Why did King think it okay to send a shipload of Jewish refugees back to Germany, where most died in concentration camps?"

These are the reality of the history of these Canadian leaders – but as historians will tell you, the story is more complex, and we need to grapple with all of this. We recently did a walking tour in Kingston, Ontario, where our guide acknowledged the evils of Macdonald's tenure, but also insisted, "Without John A. Macdonald, there would be no Canada."

And that is also, I suspect, the truth.

So, properly considered, the Prime Ministers Path presents a unique opportunity for visitors to consider – in fact, to confront – the complicated history of this country. Perhaps even to realize that the evils of the past created problems and challenges still calling for solutions, today. I hope that visitors will leave the Path with their heads fully out of the sand, and full of thoughts about the realities of Canadian history.

And – that this is an issue largely overlooked in the controversy – they will also have the opportunity to appreciate some very fine works of art. Ruth Abernethy, a Wilmot resident, (Macdonald and Pearson) has been made a Member of the Order of Canada for her work. Other artists represented here include MacKenzie (King) Nathan Scott (Borden), and Darren Byers and Fred Harrison (Campbell). As well, when the Path was re-opened, a terrific new piece was added – Nathan Scott's "The Unfortunate Four", four PMs who had short terms and lesser impacts on our history.

The plan is for the Path to continue to grow over the next four decades. I hope there will be thousands of meaningful conversations and personal reflections, sparked by this controversial but important installation.

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.



Morgan MacKenzie created the statue of William Lyon Mackenzie King, the Waterloo Region native who was Canada's longest-serving Prime Minister.

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Jokes

What happens when frog park illegally?
They get toad

--

I got fired from the calendar factory.
All I did was take a day off

--

A man was injured yesterday playing peek-a-boo.
He's currently in the ICU.

--

Where do dads store their jokes?
In the dad-a-base

--

What's Forrest Gump's password?
1forrest1

PET OF THE WEEK

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SOKAR

Meet our Pet of the Week:

Meet Sokar, a handsome grey tabby looking for his forever home! Once unsure of humans, this sweet boy now loves attention, pets, and the company of other cats. Sokar is ready to leave shelter life behind and find a loving family of his own. Could you be his happily ever after? Apply online to meet him!

www.petfinder.com



Word Search

SILLY HALLOWEEN COSTUMES

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- HOT DOG
- BANANA
- PICKLE
- CLOWN
- ALIEN
- MUMMY
- GOBLIN
- PIRATE
- CHICKEN
- ROBOT
- DINOSAUR
- TACO
- POTATO
- UNICORN
- COWBOY
- GHOST
- ZOMBIE
- PUMPKIN
- DRAGON
- CLOWNFISH

QUOTE OF THE WEEK

“There is a harmony in autumn, and a lustre in its sky, which through the summer is not heard or seen, as if it could not be, as if it had not been!”

—Percy Bysshe Shelley

Sudoku

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





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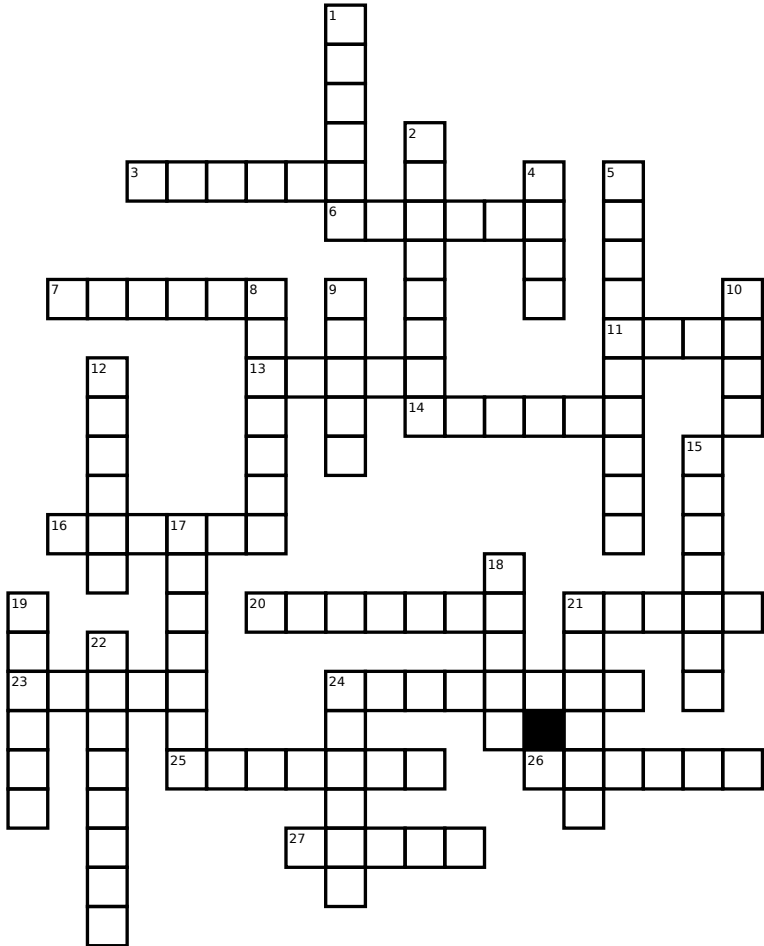
Weekly Crossword

THE PRODUCE PUZZLE – SOUP SEASON

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DOWN

1. Orange vegetable often found in soup

2. Tasty addition to chicken soup

4. What soup is served in

5. Italian vegetable soup

8. Thick creamy soup

9. Spicy hearty bowl

10. Thick hearty dish similar to soup

12. Green garnish for soup

15. Fresh green soup garnish

17. Popular fall soup ingredient

18. Liquid base for many soups

19. Smooth creamy soup

21. Protein-rich soup ingredient

22. Soup base often sold in cubes

24. Classic soup vegetable

ACROSS

3. Hearty soup ingredient

6. Classic soup flavour

7. Flavourful soup ingredient

11. Essential soup seasoning

13. Savoury soup staple

14. Zesty root used in some soups

16. Adds a little heat

20. Cheese that makes a tasty soup topping

21. Kitchen tool used to serve soup

23. Flavourful liquid used as a soup base

24. Crunchy soup topping

25. Common addition to chicken soup

26. How soup gently cooks

27. Common ingredient in creamy soups

Answers found on page 27

CLASSIFIEDS

Email to inquire: info@simcoeadvocate.com

FOR SALE

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, Has-kap etc.

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THANK YOU

We would like to express our heartfelt thanks for the many expressions of sympathy we received following the passing of Gerard. They have given us support and comfort.

Thank you for your kind words, the many cards, flowers and donations. A special thanks to Verhoeve Funeral Home and Fr. Seejo.

The family of Gerard Demaiter.

SUDOKU ANSWERS

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

ANNOUNCEMENTS

BI-WEEKLY PUBLICATION DATES

NOVEMBER 5 & NOVEMBER 19
DECEMBER 3, 17 & 31

DEADLINE IS THE MONDAY PRIOR AT 3 P.M.



INFO@SIMCOEADVOCATE.COM

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**If you are interested, contact
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heather@granthaven.com**

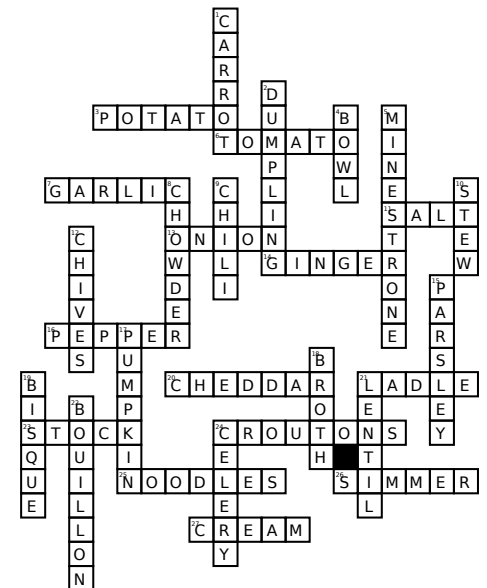
WANTED

I will pay cash for antiques and collectibles. Coca Cola, Pepsi or any pop company. Brewery items - Kuntz, Huether Labatts, etc. Old radios and gramophones, wristwatches, pocket watches, old fruit jars - Beaver Star, Bee Hive etc. Any old oil cans and signs - Red Indian, Supertest etc. Any small furniture. If you are moving or cleaning out stuff please contact me - 519-570-6920.

QUIZ ANSWERS

1. Alaska
2. The big toe
3. Venus
4. Hot water
5. 007
6. The skin
7. A flamboyance
8. 93 million miles
9. Russia
10. The Bible

CROSSWORD ANSWERS



BUSINESS DIRECTORY

Email to inquire: info@simcoeadvocate.com

FUNERAL SERVICES



Herd Dispersal Live Auction Sale of 135 Bred Cows/Heifers Saturday November 21, 11:00am

to be held at 554447 Mono-Amaranth TLine, Mono, ON
Preview on day of sale, or by appointment

Directions: Go west through Orangeville on Hwy 9 to County Rd 16 (Veterans Way at Greenwood Cemetery), turn north 5 miles to farm on East side. OR From Shelburne go east on Hwy 89 for 2 miles to Mono-Amaranth Townline, turn south & go 5 miles to farm on East side. Townline, turn south & go 5 miles to farm on East side.

Cattle: (79) Heifers: (18) Char, (17) Blk Simm, (33) Angus, (11) Red - 1st time calvers, bred Angus & Limo, vacc. (18) X-bred Heifers - bred Black Angus, vacc. (17) Angus Heifers - bred Black Angus. (10) Blk Angus cows - all bred Black Angus, vacc. (8) Charolais Cows - bred Charolais, vacc. (3) Mixed Cows - with calf at side, vacc. All Cows will be preg checked prior to sale.

Lunch Booth **Washroom Available**

Terms & Conditions: Cash or cheque with proper I.D. on day of sale. Owner & Auctioneer will not be responsible for any accidents or loss on day of sale. All announcements on day of sale will take precedence over printed ads.

Auctioneers: Kevin McArthur (519) 942-0264 Scott Bessey (519) 843-5083

Email: mcarthurbessey@gmail.com

www.theauctionadvertiser.com/KMcArthur - full listing & photos

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