

Tillsonburg POST

AUGUST 27, 2026

VOLUME 2 • ISSUE 47

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Full slate running for councillor, mayor

JEFF HELSDON

Editor

With nominations to run for Tillsonburg council closing last Friday, voters will have many choices in the upcoming election.

The official closing time for potential candidates to file their papers was 2 p.m. on Friday, August 21. Later that day, the town's clerk – who oversees the election – released the final list.

The candidates, listed as they appear on the website, are incumbent Deb Gilvesy and first-time councillor Kelly Spencer for mayor. Twelve people, also listed in the order papers were filed, are vying for six positions on Tillsonburg council: Dave Beres, Lindsey Ambrus Mejaski, Ron Gasperatto, Chrissy Rosehart, Deanna Tosto, Katherine Englander, Clayton Curtis, Chris Parker, Felix Nonso Nzemeka, Kim Sage, Stephen Molnar and John Gilvesy.

Council members choose Tillsonburg's deputy mayor after the election. Beres, an eight-term councillor who served as interim mayor for six months after a past mayor stepped down, was chosen for the last term.

Parker and Rosehart are the other incumbents hoping to regain their seats. Rosehart has been a council member for 28 years, and Parker has served two terms. With Bob Parsons and Pete Luciani not running again, and Spencer running for mayor, three new councillors will be elected if all incumbents win their seats again.

University of Western Ontario's Martin Horak, Associate Professor and Director at the school's Center for Urban Policy and Local Governance, told Grant Haven Media's Lee Griffi many smaller municipalities in Ontario and Quebec see incumbents re-elected on a regular basis, and they are often acclaimed as no one runs against them. He added anyone attempting to defeat an incumbent may need to get their chequebook out.

CONTINUED TO PAGE 6



STREETS CLOSED FOR FIRE

(JEFF HELSDON PHOTO)

The intersection of Broadway and Concession Street was closed for several hours on Monday due to a fire in a house on the corner of the two streets. There were no civilian injuries in the blaze, but one firefighter received a minor injury. See Page 6 of today's paper for the story.

Join the fight against cancer on Sept. 20

CHRIS ABBOTT

Grant Haven Media

This year's Terry Fox Run in Tillsonburg on Sunday, Sept. 20, starts at the Tillsonburg Soccer Park, 275 Quarter Town Line.

"We'll be posting the routes, closer to the date, on our Facebook page so everyone can 'take a look,'" said Tillsonburg coordinator Shelley Weiler.

Volunteers have been out in the community promoting the Terry Fox Run, including booths at the Tillsonburg Tri-Coun-

ty Fair and the Tillsonburg Farmers Market. On Saturday, August 22 they held a Tragically Hip 'CBC watch party' at The Copper Mug with donations going to Tillsonburg Terry Fox.

Local Terry Fox Run volunteers will also be at the Farmers Market (Bridge Street West) from 8 a.m. to 12 p.m. on Saturday, August 29th, Sept. 5th, and Sept. 12th. Volunteers will be promoting the event, selling special 2026 Terry Fox Run T-shirts (\$30 each), and accepting donations.

"If anyone wants a committee member to speak to an organization, or at an event, we are happy to do that," said Weiler.

CONTINUED TO PAGE 2



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Tillsonburg's Terry Fox Run starts and finishes Sunday, Sept. 20 at the Tillsonburg Soccer Park

CONTINUED FROM FRONT

On-site registration for the Terry Fox Run on Sept. 20 begins at 9:30 a.m. at the Tillsonburg soccer park pavilion. Opening ceremonies are at 10 a.m., immediately followed by the run. Of course, most participants walk. Some ride bikes, ride in strollers, or have in-line skates. It's your choice.

"We're going to have some of the same activities – STUNT's musical tribute, there will be pizza (for participants), a kids' craft zone, face painting, and last year we added a cake for the anniversary, so we're going to continue that tradition. We will be doing some stretching (warmup) before we head out - we have a physiotherapist from Attain Health. Robyn Michaud is going to do the land acknowledgement this year, which I am really excited about.

"It's been a challenging few years for many people in our community, and we're really aiming for this year's run to feel like a celebration - a chance for families, neighbours, and supporters to come together for something hopeful and uplifting," Weiler said. "The festive atmosphere, live music, kids' activities, and the spirit of Terry's legacy all contribute to a day that feels genuinely positive."

Online registration can be completed at run.terryfox.ca - type Tillsonburg in the search box and you will be taken to a link for the local 2026 run page (run.terryfox.ca/129618).

Last year's Tillsonburg Terry Fox Run raised \$39,500 for the Terry Fox Foundation, which was in the 'Top 20 per capita' in Canada, with nearly 200 participants.

As of Monday morning, \$2,503 has been raised toward their goal of \$20,800. Cailey Coderre, on Monday, was the top fundraiser so far registering \$633.

"Online is the majority – about 90 per cent of our donations are done online now," said Weiler. "We do have some fundraisers, like Joe Kramer, who takes donations at Sobeys for almost an entire month and does it to honour his brother (Jim), who bring in cash."

Fundraising is not a competition, Weiler stressed, but she said some people really like the competitive aspect, especially against other run sites.

The Terry Fox website highlights teams, and many individual donations, recognizing their support.

"The best thing to do is to register online if they can," said Weiler, noting that will help volunteers



(CHRIS ABBOTT PHOTO)

Shelley Weiler, coordinator of the Terry Fox Run in Tillsonburg, was promoting the Sept. 20th event at the Tillsonburg Tri-County Fair. on-site. "If they want to register in advance, we would love it.

"Even just sharing one of our Facebook posts would be amazing. Help us get the word out."

Weiler dedicated to cause

Weiler has been coordinating the Tillsonburg Terry Fox Run for the past seven years.

Over the years she has learned several 'best practices' from the Terry Fox Foundation and other run organizers.

"One thing that I found impressive was to really focus on teams, and to support the team experience. Keeping that in mind, last year we had a goal to create a community team, a business team, and a sports team... to really pull these people in, because the team building you get from a Terry Fox Run is unbelievable. It really promotes community spirit. It's really, really nice when you can have a team and everyone's working together."

Currently four local teams have registered online – Inovata Foods, Hill's Pharmacy, Systemair Community Cares, and Walker-Piette.

Another best practice was designing Terry Fox 'door hangers,' allowing them to reach out to brand new neighbourhoods with a personal touch... without actually knocking door-to-door.

"We wanted to welcome new residents in our town to this event, and that's been really outstanding for us. Hanging an invitation on their doors, that's been really, really nice, and it's allowed us to grow a little bit."

The number of Terry Fox volunteers in Tillsonburg has been consistent in recent years.

"I definitely could not do this without a huge

group of people," said Weiler, who has a core group of about 10 on Tillsonburg's Terry Fox Run organizing committee. "There's no way.

"We'd love to have more," she smiled.

"Anyone interested can reach out directly on our Facebook page (@TillsonburgTerryFoxRun), through email (shelleyimbeault@hotmail.com) or through the Terry Fox web site."

They also have a large group of run-day volunteers – usually between 35-50, depending on the routes.

"It's nice for the high school students – it's one day, it's fun – and all these kids grew up with the Terry Fox Run.

Last year's routes changed a bit due to construction in the area. This year they are back to their 'usual route.'

"My husband (Jason) rode his bike around this year to check. I think this is the first year since I've been organizing that there is no construction, no sidewalk closures... anything."

Participants will have three route options – up to 3-km, 5-km and 10-km. It's rain or shine. Only lightning can cancel the event, for safety reasons.

"If that happens, we'll all hang out together at another time."

The Terry Fox story

Terry Fox chose a path of perseverance and positive action when he was diagnosed with bone cancer, and had his leg amputated three days later, at the age of 18.

His experiences in the hospital, and the children he met there, were a driving force behind his determination to raise money for cancer research. After 18 months of training, Terry embarked on his Marathon of Hope, and 45 years later his legacy continues across Canada and internationally. Over \$1 billion has been raised since the run began.

Terry's dream was a world without cancer, and his remarkable example has inspired millions of people to take up the torch and carry on in his name.

The first Terry Fox Run in Tillsonburg was held in 1989 and it has raised over \$450,000 over the years.

Funds raised at the Terry Fox Run go to the Terry Fox Foundation and the Terry Fox Research Institute (TFRI), which share Terry's vision. Their mandate is to 'fund and pursue innovative research to find new and better ways to detect, diag-



(CHRIS ABBOTT PHOTO)

Tillsonburg Terry Fox Run volunteers Tara Vanwynsberghe, left, and Beverly Pype were promoting the Sept. 20th Terry Fox Run at the Tillsonburg Farmers Market on Saturday. The Terry Fox Run booth will return August 29, Sept. 5 and Sept. 12, providing event information and selling fundraising T-shirts (\$30).

nose, treat, and prevent all cancers.'

From a personal standpoint, Weiler recalls joining a cancer research project to get treatment when she was about 5 years old.

"That was the only way I could get radiation treatments actually. It was brand new."

She was diagnosed with Stage 4 Wilms Tumor (kidney cancer) in February 1980, just months before the first Marathon of Hope.

"I was placed in a study, and it effectively saved my life. I would not be here today without it. The Wilms Tumor treatment plan for children at that time was surgery, two years of chemotherapy, and once radiation was finally approved for children in Canada, then it was another two years of radiation.

"Now, they may or may not have to remove the kidney. They may or may not have to do chemotherapy. And it's usually only two sessions of radiation, for a total of six weeks.

"So that's the difference that research makes over the years."

Terry Fox helped put a 'face on cancer', said Weiler.

"At the time I was diagnosed, I didn't know anyone that had cancer."

This year's Terry Fox Run theme is Finish It, which will continue until the 50th anniversary.

- with files from by Robin Krafft.



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EDITORIAL

Democracy is alive and well in Tillsonburg

When Tillsonburg residents cast their votes in the municipal election in October, they will have many choices of who they want to represent them for the next four years.

To see so many people put their names forward is a great thing and shows democracy is alive and well in Tillsonburg. For both mayor and councillor, there are twice as many candidates as positions available.

Those who put their names forward deserve commendation. If successful, they will be required to attend several meetings a month in their position. Beyond that, they will always be 'on duty' answering calls, e-mails and social media posts about local issues. Sure, there is remuneration for this, but it isn't commensurate with the responsibility being undertaken. All who run will need to put their own time and money into their campaigns.

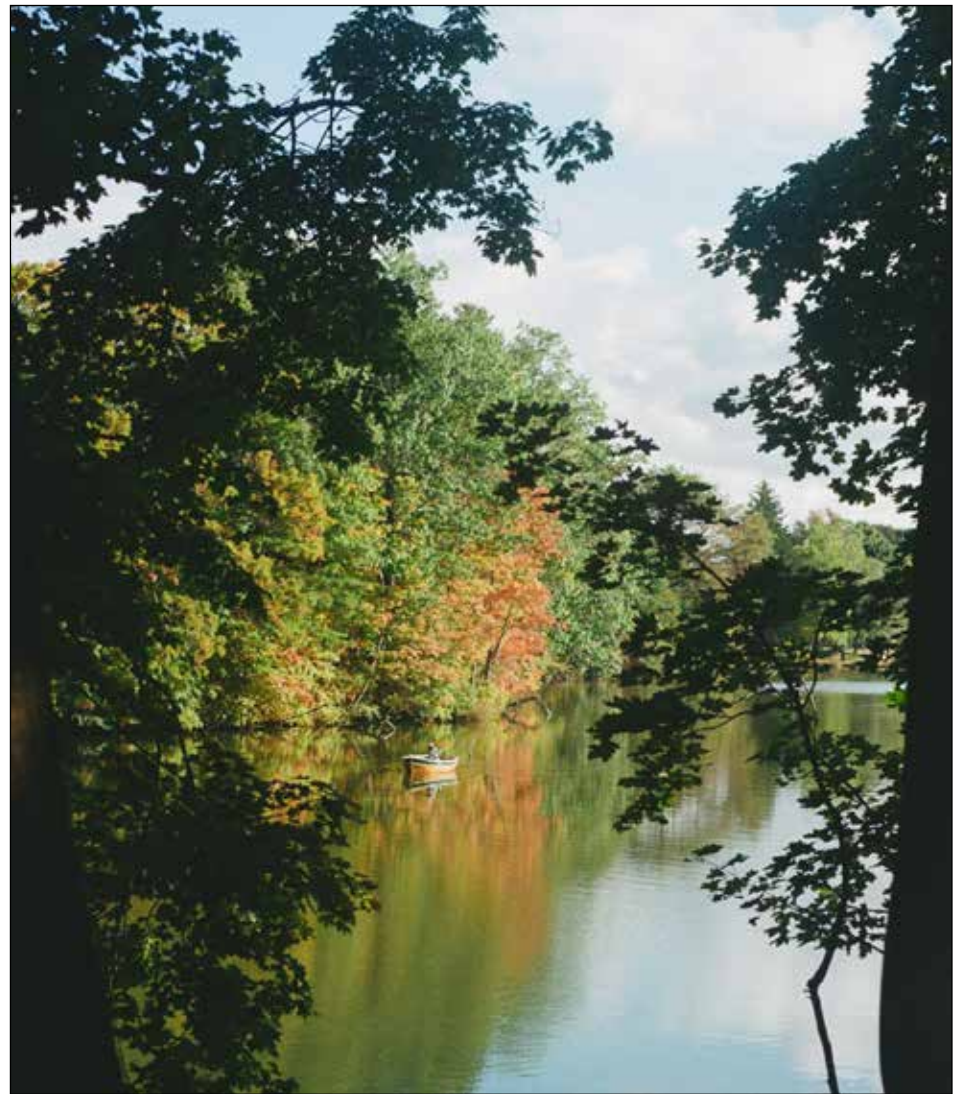
It's not always the case that there is such healthy competition in local elections. Martin Horak, Associate Professor and Director at the University of Western Ontario's Centre for Urban Policy and Local Governance, said many municipal election positions are acclaimed because of the challenge of going against incumbents, the remuneration and the expense of running a campaign.

While we are all growing weary with the nightly news covering the degradation of

political civility at the highest levels, we can hope this doesn't occur at the local level. Some will quickly point out that things are already getting nasty, with posts under fake names in some local Facebook groups. While no one knows the source of these posts or if they come from candidates or their supporters, all candidates should aspire to keep the competition clean and friendly. Voters should ask candidates about their positions, read the information in the Post, or, if online, pay heed only to what the candidates themselves say. Attending the upcoming candidate night on Sept. 29 will be a great way to get information.

In the coming weeks, the Post will go to candidates with some of the issues that matter most in Tillsonburg. Tax increases and homelessness are already topics we'll cover. What other issues in Tillsonburg matter most to citizens, and what would you like to see candidates address? Please send suggestions to jeff@granthaven.com, and stick to issues within the municipal government's control.

The most important thing in the coming election is the right to vote. Please exercise your right to vote. Voting online or by phone is quick and simple, but don't leave it to the last minute to ensure you are on the voter's list. A story in today's paper outlines the procedure.



Lake Lisgar.

(KATIE SCHONBERGER PHOTO)

Quietly answering her calling, Tillsonburg woman makes a difference to those who need it most



ROBIN KRAFFT

Tillsonburg Post Columnist

**EVERYONE
HAS A
STORY
TO TELL**

Tillsonburg is a soft place to settle for many people after years of busy city life, but for some it's also a return to the familiar comfort of the surrounding countryside. Olive Williams grew up in the country in Jamaica, so our town feels a bit like home.

"I came to Canada in 1989, when I was 25 years old, on my own," Williams said. "It was a lifetime opportunity. I was sponsored by two doctors who worked at SickKids hospital, who needed childcare. I was given a work permit, and I became a student at George Brown. I studied social service and community work and graduated with honours."

When she finished school, however, there had been massive cuts to the social service field, so Olive took a job as an administrative assistant. She got married and started a family. Her husband Courtney, who emigrated to Canada from Jamaica with his family as a child,

worked at the airport for decades, while Olive moved into corporate finance.

"All the skills I learned for social work, I was able to translate into counseling people about their finances, money management, and dealing with debt," Williams said. "I went back to night school at U of T and got a Business Process Management certificate."

Olive moved up at the bank, and during the recession in 2008, her compassion and care were particularly valuable. As a financial advisor, she helped people keep their homes, but she also listened to their personal problems. Olive would often offer prayers, as well. People would enter her office broken and burdened, but they would leave smiling.

Faith has always been an integral part of her life. Olive was the sixth of 12 children and took on many responsibilities.

"I saw my mother pray, and I saw those prayers answered. That made an impression on me. I trusted God for my everyday living. I open my fridge, food is there. That wasn't always the case when I was growing up."

Olive and Courtney had three children together, and they now have two grandchildren. They moved to Tillsonburg during the pandemic. They opened Essence of Olives Beauty Spa and Boutique two years ago, but it's much more than a business.

"It's also a ministry," Williams said. "We've always been churchgoers, but here we are allowing ourselves to be accessible. We minister a lot to the migrant workers, and we hold prayer and bible study meetings with a visiting minister from Hamilton."

Olive and Courtney are currently studying for ordination, but their faith and Olive's social service and counselling education and experiences have made a tremendous difference to many people already.

"God has brought a lot of people our way," Williams said. "We let them know that they're important, that they're valuable. For us, it's about connecting with the community. We need to build each other up. We want to let them know that there's someone who cares for you."

Olive stops to speak to and listen to unhoused people, rather than passing them by. Often coming from a long history of traumatic experiences, it isn't always easy to convince someone that they still have value.

"I asked one man if he had a \$20 bill and it fell into a pile of manure, would it be worth less at the store? Even if you have fallen into the gutter of life, you haven't lost your value. The young man pulled his hat down and wept, and we prayed together. I saw him again a few months later, so changed, praying with someone else who was on the ground. This is the miracle I'm seeing."

Olive and Courtney welcome people from all walks of life, including those who are low income or cannot pay, quietly serving those in the community who need it most.

"It's a place where people can come," Williams said. "We want to do whatever we can to help them, to restore them. People need that connection. They're only a prayer away from falling apart. We want to help people understand, open their eyes to their own value, that's my calling. I believe in a God that cares, even about the little things. In this life, we're not just here for ourselves."

Thank you and goodbye VanHoucke Nursery

TILLSONBURG CULTURE AND COMMUNITY

JASON PANKRATZ

Tillsonburg Post Columnist

The VanHoucke Nursery, in Ostrander, has been sold. The original owners of the property, Anne and Roger, are now gone. Anne passed away in December 2017 and Roger, recently in April of this year.

The nursery and VanHouckes were well known and well loved as part of the greater-Tillsonburg community. They ran the landscaping, flower and tree nursery for years. And anyone who dealt with them loved them from the moment that they met.

I grew up hanging out at the farm in my high school years. I am friends of their children - Paul, Vicki, Julie and Marci. Paul is my connection to the farm, but I love his sisters equally. My introduction to his home and sisters was: "Don't try to use the bathroom here - the sisters are always in there." Of course, I'm paraphrasing - but those were accurately prophetic words when visiting the one washroom farmhouse.

The fun of staying an evening or night at the VanHouckes was not just the stories and drinks around the fire, it was visiting with both Anne and Roger. They accepted all friends as friends. And we accepted their friendship and genuine interest in us. We talked about everything from politics and community happenings as well as plants and trees. Roger and I had great conversations about his growing up in Belgium during the war years. After he passed, the family gave me a book about the Belgium and WWII. They sure know me, don't they?

Roger and Anne were also very generous. When I was in between teaching positions and needing work in the summer, they hired me to work at the nursery. I weeded and watered the property, the greenhouses and loaded

and unloaded very heavy trees.

One of my most vivid memories was coming over one night when Paul was home. Paul lived in Ottawa for a number of years. He was home to visit, we were having a fire, and Roger was tending to the sheep after birthing. Paul and I had to wrangle the mother sheep and her lambs to the birthing pen. The lambs were no problem; you just grabbed and carried them to the pen. But mama sheep was another story. She was big, suspicious and fast. I remember her running towards me and Paul yelling, "Grab her, jump on her." And I did. That mama sheep took me for a ride! And we did corral her with her lambs after a few attempts.

I was invited over for another fire, and visit, about a week later. Roger was again tending to the lambs. This time he was castrating and de-tailing them. He looked at me mater-of-factly and asked if I'd like to do it. Without hesitating I agreed. This was traumatizing for both sheep and me. Without going into details (pun intended), I did what had to be done. Roger let me keep the tail and it is in my collection. I do not have the other bits.

When Anne passed away suddenly, it was an incredible shock to family and friends. Nobody saw that coming, and her passing left a hole in many lives. Roger missed her daily. Roger's death was a surprise as well when Paul told me. At 85, Roger lived a full life. He leaves behind four incredible children and several grandchildren. It was a pleasure to have had both Anne and Roger in my life.

As sad as it is to be part of the end of that era, of friendship and the nursery, everything in life and history changes. Memories are full. Stories carry on through those memories. As cliched as it sounds, the people are gone but not forgotten.

My last visit with Roger was last year. He came into the Valentine's brunch at the Legion. I make the pancakes every year, and during some downtime, I went into the hall and saw him sitting by himself eating his breakfast. I sat with him and we had a good talk. We didn't talk about anything important, which is probably the best memory. We were friends and just enjoyed each other's company.

I've used a photo of Roger and the VanHoucke Nursery sign with permission from Paul. It sums who Anne and



(CONTRIBUTED PHOTO)

Roger were; a smile while working on the family farm and nursery, whose identities were intertwined. Thank you, Anne and Roger, for who you were and for the memories we have of you. We will meet again.

Dr. Jason Pankratz is a local historian and published author of several articles and books, including Tillsonburg at 200.

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Funded by the Government of Canada
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Tillsonburg POST

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Theatre Camp sold out for entire summer

JEFF HELSDON
Editor

As the Theatre Tillsonburg summer camp wrapped up last week, it marked the end to the first entirely sold-out session since Covid. Camp director Charlotte Van Roestel said the camp was sold out every week, with 36 participants.

“We were pretty excited about that,” she said. “It has happened, but not since Covid.”

One of many summer camp options in town, the Theatre Tillsonburg camp differs in that it’s all theatre-based. There are daily games and activities, but all have a theatre aspect.

“Everything we do points towards the theatre,” Van Roestel said.

The goal of each weekly camp is to present a play to parents on the Friday. Monday and Tuesday participants start by practicing lines, rehearsing dances, and preparing for the play. Wednesday and Thursday saw lights added, and sound effects are added on Thursday.

“That’s the part that is cool, seeing when the lights are turned on the first time,” Van

Roestel said.

Each week sees a different play, and each age group has different plays. Theatre camp program coordinator Rendall Lackenbauer writes all the plays, with camp assistant director Aliyah Helsdon revising them. She also does all the sound effects and runs the writer camp for 12 to 14-year-olds. The latter group writes their own play with assistance from Lackenbauer and Helsdon. These plays are also presented with sound and lights on the stage at the end of the week.

They also learn about blocking, which is theatre language for where the players stand on the stage and how they move.

“It’s neat when they get the concept of having to face the audience,” Van Roestel said.

The regular camp is open to youth ages four to 12.

Van Roestel and camp organizers hope the writer’s camp will have the next leaders for the camp. Current leaders Anneliese McCarter and Briony Goble are in this category.

Although the camp is held at Theatre Tillsonburg, it is completely self-sustaining, with camp fees paying all the costs.



Crafts and games are part of the theatre camp like any other summer camp, but with a theatrical component.



Participants in a recent Theatre Tillsonburg Summer Camp practice their production on the stage. Every age group presents a play at the end of the week.

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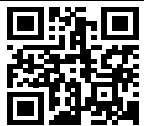
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Tillsonburg has 12 running for councillor, two for mayor

CONTINUED FROM FRONT

“It doesn’t matter if (incumbents) spend money or not; they have the same likelihood of winning again. For non-incumbents, the spending can make a difference. It doesn’t necessarily overcome the incumbency advantage. Still, to win, non-incumbents do have to spend money and mobilize volunteers, whereas those in office can usually coast into re-election,” he said.

In the interview, Horak also said many incumbents are acclaimed in smaller municipalities. That is not the case in Tillsonburg, and with twice as many candidates as seats, there could be stiff competition.

The Post has run profiles of candidates as their names were posted on the town’s website as certified candidates. The three who registered in the last week will be featured in next week’s paper. Watch upcoming editions for more in-depth from the candidates on the issues.

School board

Thames Valley District School Board incumbent Oxford County trustee is being challenged by Benjamin Lampkin for the position. Mary Holmes was acclaimed as the Oxford trustee for London District Catholic School Board.

Tillsonburg residents can vote for either

public or separate school trustees, dependent on which board they are supporting through their taxes.

Voters need to register

Voting for town council and the county’s school board representatives is done online or by telephone. There are no paper ballots, and this practice has been used for the last several elections.

As part of the security protocol, voters must have a PIN to vote. Pins are sent out by mail to those on the voter’s list at the end of September.

Citizens must fill out a form to be added to the voters’ list and vote. The form is on the town’s website under the 2026 Municipal Election heading and the “How do I register to vote” subheading. Citizens can also come into the municipal office to fill out the form.

Although the deadline is Sept. 7 to fill out the form and receive a PIN by mail, Manager of Legislative Affairs/Clerk Trisha McKibbin said registration will be accepted “right up to and including election day.”

To confirm you are on the voter’s list, or to ask questions about the registration process, citizens can email clerks@tillsonburg.ca or call 519-688-3009.

Structure fire results in closed streets, \$100K in damage

JEFF HELSDON

Editor

The intersection of Broadway and Concession Street was closed for several hours on Monday as the result of a house fire.

Firefighters were called at 6:50 a.m. on Aug. 24 following reports of smoke and fire coming from a house at the corner of Broadway Street and Concession Street East. Upon arrival, firefighters encountered smoke and flames originating from the upper level of the building.

Deputy Fire Chief Fred Ten Eyck said fire crews quickly initiated an aggressive fire attack while conducting searches of the structure and taking measures to protect neighbouring properties. The fire was brought under control, preventing further spread and minimizing the risk to surrounding buildings.

Firefighters remained on scene throughout the morning conducting overhaul operations and extinguishing remaining hot spots. The fire has been investigated, and is not consid-

ered suspicious in nature.

Ten Eyck predicted the house wasn’t a total loss, and has a preliminary damage estimate of \$100,000.

One firefighter sustained a minor injury during firefighting operations and was transported to hospital for further assessment. There were no civilian injuries reported as a result of the incident.

Tillsonburg Fire & Rescue Services would like to thank the Ontario Provincial Police (OPP) and Oxford County Emergency Medical Services (EMS) for their assistance and support during this incident.

Tillsonburg Fire & Rescue Services would also like to remind residents of the importance of having working smoke alarms installed on every level of their home and outside all sleeping areas. Working smoke alarms provide early warning in the event of a fire and can make the difference between life and death. Residents are encouraged to test their smoke alarms monthly and ensure they are maintained in accordance with the manufacturer’s recommendations.

TILLSONBURG COUNCIL BRIEFS

Financial results

Cheyne Sarafinchin, Deputy Treasurer/Manager of Finance, told Tillsonburg council the town’s finances were stable at the end of the second quarter. His report to council showed expenses and revenue were both tracking close to budget.

One cautionary note Sarafinchin raised was that an eye should be kept on building activity.

Council accepted the report as information.

No sharing here

A request from Tillsonburg council asking for a share of the tax revenue from the Tillsonburg Airport, which is located in South-West Oxford Township and services the entire county, was denied by council. Tillsonburg’s intention was that if the money was shared, it would be put into airport infrastructure updates.

A letter informing Tillsonburg of the SWOX position was in the Aug. 10 Tillsonburg council package.

Election audit committee

Tillsonburg council confirmed members of the Joint Compliance Audit Committee at its Aug. 10 meeting.

The province mandates such a committee to handle citizen complaints about election finances. Although Tillsonburg has had such a committee since 2010, there have not been complaints in the past.

Appointed this year were: David Morris, Carol Symons, Keith Reibling, Christene

Scrimgeour, David Nusko and Kyle Kruger.

Council updates election signage rules

Updates to the town’s election signage bylaw were endorsed by council.

The updates, which were small items found while preparing for the election, covered things like definitions of private property, size and location limits on private property, and other small items. Election signs weren’t permitted before Aug. 24.

Coun. Chris Rosehart asked if the rules applied to campaign signage on vehicles as well.

Trisha McKibbin, Manager of Legislative Services/Clerk, answered that signs on vehicles are considered campaign advertising and are allowed after a person has filed their nomination papers.

Town to sell former school property

Tillsonburg council directed staff to bring forward a bylaw to sell the former Elliott Fairbairn School property to Edwin McLaughlin Holdings Inc. for \$875,000.

A report to council at the Aug. 10 meeting outlined that an e-mail was sent to 800 town contacts after council gave the go-ahead for the sale last December. Although seven parties expressed interest, the only bid received was from McLaughlin.

Although the initial budget for the sale was \$2.2 million, Development Commis-

sioner Cephas Panschow recommended accepting the bid because of current market conditions, the level of interest shown, and the estimate for the property being set in 2022, when prices were higher.

The current lease with the OPP to use the building will be transferred with the ownership.

Proceeds from the sale will go to the town hall reserve.

New rates and fees

A semi-annual update to the town’s rates and fees bylaw brought in new fees and some housekeeping changes.

The roads department introduced seven new fees for things such as renting signs, sandbags, and barricades. Other fees were introduced or amended for nuisance deployment of the fire department, and application for designation of municipal events, access to hydro poles, and others.

Council had no questions and passed the changes.

BIA payment frequency to change

A change in the frequency of payments to the Downtown Tillsonburg Business Improvement Association (BIA) levy collected by the town was approved by council.

The town collects the levy from businesses in the BIA district and has transferred payments to the association quarterly. The BIA board of management requested changing the payment frequency to create more consistent cash flow.

The change has no impact on the town’s finances.

Council approves increased building density

Council approved a zone change to allow a 16-unit stacked townhouse at 1 Walnut Drive and 1 and 3 Chestnut Drive.

Sycamore Holdings requested a zone change and approval of an official plan amendment to allow the 16-unit, 1.5-story development, where only eight units were previously approved. County planning staff recommended approval of the application.

Mayor Deb Gilvesy, who didn’t support the application, said, “This is doubling the amount that is allowable.”

Coun. Chris Parker also said he wouldn’t be supporting the application.

“I don’t think it fits there. We can fit it on the property but that doesn’t mean it fits in the area,” he said.

This one’s for the birds

The birds – or Canada geese more specifically – will be front and centre when a motion is debated at the next council meeting.

Coun. Kelly Spencer put forward a notice of motion for the problem with the growing goose population to be discussed at the next meeting. Her motion will direct the Recreation, Culture and Parks department to explore humane and effective methods to control Canada geese around Lake Lisgar, including erecting fences along Concession Street to keep the birds from entering Concession Street or neighbours’ property.

Tillsonburg POST



COMMUNITY UPDATE

Notices

Take the 2027 Budget Survey!

Oxford County's 2027 Budget survey is your chance to have a say on which services should be a priority next year.

Answers and comments from the survey let us know how well municipal services are understood and which ones are a priority for residents. **The survey closes on August 31, 2026.**

Visit www.tillsonburg.ca/budgetsurvey for more information.



Bid Opportunities

RFP 2026-011 - Library Lane Covered Walkway Decommissioning And Stormwater Management Improvements
Submission Deadline: Sept 1, 2026 at 2:00 PM

RFT 2026-005 - Asphalt Maintenance
Submission Deadline: Sept 14, 2026 at 2:00 PM

Visit tillsonburg.bidsandtenders.ca.



Sportsfield Project Public Information Centre | Review Concepts and Share Your Feedback

The Town of Tillsonburg invites residents to attend the final Public Information Centre (PIC) for the Sportsfield Project.

Review concept plans for the Annandale Ball Diamonds and Mall Road sites, ask questions, and share your feedback to help inform future planning.

Learn more at www.tillsonburg.ca/SportsfieldProject.

Date: Wednesday, September 9, 2026

Time: 4:30 PM – 6:30 PM

Location: Lion's Den, Tillsonburg Community Centre



Property Tax Due Date Reminder

Property taxes are due August 31, 2026.

The Town of Tillsonburg offers several payment options, including online through e-Connection, pre-authorized payments, through your financial institution, by mail, drop box, or in person at the Customer Service Centre.



Culture Corner

Get Creative with a Macramé Water Bottle Holder Workshop

This beginner-friendly workshop will guide participants through the basics of macramé knotting while creating a handcrafted water bottle holder.

Wednesday, September 9 | 1:30 PM & 6:30 PM
\$25 (taxes included)

Pre-registration is required and includes all supplies, step-by-step instruction, and your completed project. Sign-up online at townoftillsonburg.perfectmind.com or call Annandale NHS at **519-842-2294**.



Woodworking with Brett Schultz

Saturdays, September 12 & 19 | 1:00 p.m.
\$80 (tax included) for both sessions

Discover the art of woodworking with local craftsman Brett Schultz in this hands-on, two-session workshop. Participants will learn basic shaping and carving techniques, create a handcrafted project, and add a personalized painted finish. Registration includes all project materials, a carving knife to keep, an instruction booklet, a Tri-County Woodcarvers membership, insurance coverage, and a 10% discount at Chipping Away in Waterloo.

Pre-registration is required. Register online at townoftillsonburg.perfectmind.com or call Annandale National Historic Site at **519-842-2294**. Don't miss this opportunity to learn a timeless craft and take home your own unique creation!



Active Living & Learning Opportunities

Introducing Backyard Games!

Be among the first to experience the new Backyard Games program at the Summer Send-Off Spectacular before it officially launches at the Tillsonburg Community Centre this fall!

Enjoy an evening of family fun featuring Backyard Games, food trucks, family karaoke, live performances by Chase Beres and Kickin' Kountry, and a spectacular fireworks display.

Activities will begin at 5:00 P.M. on Sunday, September 6, at Memorial Park.

Don't miss out! For more information visit: <https://www.facebook.com/share/1BoEStBVQ6/>



Fall Recreation Guide Now Live!

The Fall Recreation Guide is now available and registration is open for all aquatics and programs.

Browse the guide and sign up early to secure your spot!

www.tillsonburg.ca/guide



SWOX council in lame duck position, Councillor George Way not seeking re-election

DEBBIE KASMAN

Post Contributor

Ward 4 Councillor George Way has confirmed he will not be seeking re-election in October.

Three members of council have now announced they will not be seeking re-election including Mayor David Mayberry and Councillor Jim Pickard.

Therefore, as expected, council will be in a restricted or lame duck position after nomination day on Aug. 21.

A restricted or lame duck position is a temporary status where an outgoing municipal council loses the power to make major financial, property or staffing deci-

sions.

A lame duck position can occur at two points during a municipal election process: after nomination day (on Aug. 21) and after election day (on Oct. 26) if fewer than 75 per cent of the members of the outgoing council are candidates for the new council and/or if fewer than 75 per cent of the members of the outgoing council are elected to the new council.

SWOX council has a seven-member council. Seventy-five percent of a seven-member council is 5.25 members. For the purposes of the Municipal Act, this number is rounded up to six members. If five or fewer members of the outgoing council are either running for or returning

to the new council, council is considered to be in a restricted position.

Council will not be allowed to appoint or remove any officer of the municipality after the nomination period closes on Aug. 21, hire or dismiss any employee of the municipality, dispose of any real or personal property of the municipality which has a value exceeding \$50,000 at the time or disposal, or make any expenditures or incur any other liability which exceeds \$50,000.

Exceptions are allowed if the disposition or liability was included in the most recent budget adopted by council before Aug. 21.

The authority of a municipality for making any decisions associated with these matters can be delegated to a person or

body prior to nomination day.

SWOX council adopted the Delegation of Powers and Duties Policy in May 2026, which provides delegated authority to the chief administrative officer (CAO) to make decisions associated with these provisions should the need arise.

Way has been a councillor for 12 years. First acclaimed in 2014, Way was acclaimed again in 2018 and 2022.

The township approved new ward boundaries last July, which will impact the upcoming election. These boundaries changes will take effect on the day the new council is organized after voting day on Oct. 26.

Running to represent the new Ward 4 are Isaiah Friend and John de Bruyn.

County council supports new larger Mt. Elgin library

DEBBIE KASMAN

Post Contributor

At its meeting on August 12, Oxford County Council authorized the Chief Administrative Officer to execute a Memorandum of Understanding between Oxford County, Oxford County Library Board,

and the Township of South-West Oxford to bring a new larger library to Mount Elgin, which would be located in the proposed new municipal office on Mount Elgin Road west of Highway 19.

The proposed new library would more than double the size of the current branch, which is located in the Mount Elgin Com-

munity Centre on the east side of Highway 19.

The current 676-square-foot branch is well below the 2,500-square-foot minimum standard for village branches, limiting its ability to meet current and future community needs. Also, the current location is not ideal for walkability, as it is on the opposite side of the highway from housing developments in Mount Elgin.

Mount Elgin is experiencing population growth with projections increasing to over 2,100 residents by 2036. The new proposed library would create a modern, integrated space alongside municipal and childcare services, improving community connectivity and access to public services.

It would also improve accessibility through barrier-free design, supporting inclusive service delivery for seniors, individuals with disabilities, and families with young children.

Estimated future lease costs of the library are approximately \$26,000, indexed annually, compared to the current lease of \$4,685.

Additional one-time capital costs are also anticipated for opening day library collections (\$25,000), furniture and shelving (\$120,000), IT technology and net-

working (\$5,000), non-refundable HST (\$2,640), and contingency (\$10,000) totaling \$162,640.

This would be funded through Oxford County's library capital reserves (\$62,490) and development charges (\$100,150).

Final cost figures would be included in the 2027 and 2028 Business Plan and Budget process as appropriate.

Occupancy is estimated for 2028, and will be subject to budget processes and final approvals.

A formal lease agreement will be negotiated and brought forward for future approval by all parties.

The new library is projected to be located on the north end of the lower level of the new municipal building with the daycare on the south end. The municipal office will be located on the second floor. The library would be lower than the daycare to help with grade changes across the site, and would have a higher ceiling so the second story municipal office could be on the same elevation. Council chamber would be located on the north end of the second story.

The concept plans for the new library identify over 2,000 sq. ft. of space for library use and storage.



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Senior of the Month



David Martin

Maple Manor Nursing Home is proud to recognize David Martin as our Senior of the Month! A valued member of the Maple Manor family since May 2024, David has made a lasting impact through his kindness, leadership, and dedication to others. As our outgoing Residents' Council President, he has been a strong advocate for his fellow residents, helping foster open communication and ensuring everyone feels heard and valued. David also warmly welcomes new residents, offering guidance, encouragement, and a friendly face as they settle into their new home. We are grateful for David's compassion and commitment to making Maple Manor a caring and connected community. Congratulations, David!

If you would like to nominate someone for Senior of the Week, contact us at info@tillsonburgpost.com

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TOWNSHIP OF NORWICH NEWS

Norwich councillor seeks info on potential data centre interest in Oxford

LUKE EDWARDS

Post Contributor

With local property owners already being approached about selling their land to someone who wants to build a data centre, one Norwich councillor is asking Oxford County what other interest there may, or may not, be in building the controversial structures in Norwich.

Karl Toews brought forward his notice of motion at the Aug. 11 meeting. It calls for Oxford County to “make public whether any applications, proposals, expressions of interest, site selection activities, or discussions are presently underway or have occurred concerning the establishment of one or more data centres within Oxford County.”

He also suggested working with staff to research what rules the municipality can put in place to regulate data centre construction, following a recent resolution by neighbouring Zorra Township.

And while it was just to let his fellow councillors know of his plans in advance, debate

and a vote will come at a future meeting, his proposal seemed to receive some support from Mayor Jim Bradley, who expressed concerns about the water and electricity usage associated with the centres.

“Water is in short supply and they certainly use a lot of hydro, and hydro’s certainly in short supply,” Bradley said.

Coun. Shawn Gear also thanked Toews for bringing the issue forward.

In addition to raising concerns about water and electricity usage, Toews’ motion also mentioned the possibility of prime farmland being lost to data centre construction. Toews said he has heard from a farmer who received a letter from someone offering to buy their land with the intention of building a data centre.

“I think it’s something that we want to be out in front of and we want to be transparent and accountable with our constituents,” Toews said.

Councillors at Zorra Township recently passed a resolution asking their planner to look at ways to put some guardrails on data centre building in that municipality.

Norwich council remuneration remains middle of the pack

LUKE EDWARDS

Post Contributor

Pay structure for members of the next term of council will likely be no different than current.

A staff review of Norwich council remuneration found figures were in the middle of the pack when it comes to comparator municipalities. As such, staff recommended, and councillors agreed, to keep the current structure in place. That sees the mayor and councillors receive a yearly cost of living increase that matches what the Township’s non-union staff receive.

The review compared Norwich to 14 similar municipalities, and found the mayor position earned just over one per cent more than the comparator average, while deputy mayor earned 3.78 per cent more than the average and councillors earned 5.78 per cent more than average.

“Our feeling is this meets the 50th percentile which is traditionally what

council has aimed for,” CAO Matt Smith said.

Last year, the mayor position in Norwich came with a salary of \$33,539, while the deputy mayor salary was \$24,525 and council salary was \$20,716.

While councillors signaled their support for the overall fee structure, they did approve an addition by Coun. Shawn Gear to have staff take a look at possibly including a technology credit of some kind to offset the cost for councillors using their own smartphone and similar devices.

“Maybe that technology credit looks attractive to those looking to get into this line of work,” he said.

Staff also proposed a minor change to the expense policy, suggesting the Township get rid of a per diem pay option for councillors attending conferences and training. Instead they propose having councillors claim expenses to offer more transparency, with a daily limit for meals of \$100.

Stonebridge presence at Norwich Medical Centre formalized

LUKE EDWARDS

Post Contributor

Deemed to be a program on solid footing, Norwich councillors have voted to make the Township’s partnership with Stonebridge Community Services permanent.

After a successful trial of the non-profit’s foot care clinic offering services in the Norwich Medical Centre on a regular basis, councillors supported a staff recommendation to formalize the setup and begin charging a small fee for Stonebridge to use the space.

“It sounds like they were very, very happy with how everything went,” said AJ Wells,

manager of medical services

Back in February, council approved the trial run. Stonebridge is a Tillsonburg-based organization, but had previously been providing foot care services to Norwich residents on a visiting basis. At the time, they suggested having a drop-in site could allow them to serve even more clients as it would reduce travel time.

With the four-month trial proving successful, the move to a more formal arrangement will include a \$50 per day fee for Stonebridge to use the centre facilities. Wells said it’s less than what they charge to for-profit organizations. Everything else will remain more or less the same.

Norwich surplus to support road construction

The nearly \$500,000 surplus for Norwich Township last year will be used to support roadwork.

Councillors supported a staff recommendation to transfer the surplus to the Road Construction Reserve to help as the township deals with significant future capital needs for road construction. Typically, any surplus would be transferred to the contingency reserve,

however, given the needs in the roads department staff recommended the different approach.

“That reserve, in our opinion, requires the most help for future initiatives,” said Treasurer James Johnson.

All told, the township holds about \$12.2 million in reserves, spread out through three categories: reserves, reserve funds and obligatory reserve funds.

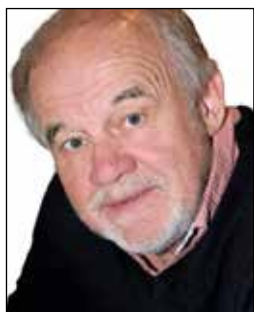


(ROBIN KRAFFT PHOTO)

THE RETURN OF BIG CHEESE DAYS

Big Cheese Days returned for a one-day celebration of Oxford County’s dairy story featuring local makers on Saturday, Aug. 22. Dad’s Ice Cream offered a ‘Big Cheese’ Butter Tart Sundae made with local ingredients. Andie Crane, left, and Merissa Kyle served the decadent sundaes, made with Maple Cream Cookie ice cream, butter tarts, a maple syrup drizzle, nuts, whipped cream and a cube of cheddar cheese. Other locations in town taking part in the event were Station Arts Centre, GoodPud, Coyle’s Country Store, Red Dragon Dairy, New Galma Dairy, and Makkink’s Flower Farm and Bakery Cafe.

Seeing Straight



**LIVING
RETIRED**

GARY CHALK

Non-Pulitzer Prize Winning Columnist

Throughout our marriage Jan and I sometimes don't see things eye to eye. Tuesday morning, we really REALLY did not see things eye to eye! This is what happened...

Jan left to go to a dental appointment. Meanwhile, I was home getting ready to meet friends for lunch. When I began to shave, I realized something terribly wrong, things didn't look right. Everything was fuzzy, way out of focus. I checked my glasses, they were clean. I rubbed my eyes and put the glasses back on. No difference. It

was like I had suffered, oh no, a stroke! I quickly called Jan...

"Hi. You have reached my voicemail. Please leave a message."

"Hi Jan, when you get this message, please call me RIGHT AWAY!"

I looked back in the bathroom mirror. Everything was still blurred! I cleaned the glasses and looked again. No difference. OMG! Was it a stroke?!

I recalled from my healthcare background the five symptoms of a stroke: sudden trouble seeing out of one or both eyes; sudden numbness on one side of the body; sudden confusion or difficulty speaking; sudden dizziness or loss of balance; and sudden severe headache.

Right off the bat I knew I had blurred vision in both my eyes. Yikes!

My iPhone rang. It was Jan. "Gary, is something wrong? I would have called you sooner, but I have a headache, it came on suddenly."

OMG!!! "Jan, did you suddenly become dizzy too? TELL ME!"

"Gary, no I am not dizzy. What is with

you? Why are you shouting at me? Are you confused?"

OMG!!! My vision is blurred; now Jan — who I trust — thinks I am confused. Two symptoms of a stroke!

Silence...

"Gary, you aren't speaking to me."

OMG!! My eyesight is blurred. Jan thinks I am having trouble speaking. AND she has a headache. What are the chances the both of us having a stroke?

"Jan. Where are you? I'll send help right away."

"Gary, what are you nattering about? I am sitting in the waiting room at the dentist's office reading a magazine. Calm down."

Experts say when it comes to a stroke time is important. I swung into action!

"Jan, listen to me. Don't stand up from your chair. Instead, remain seated and flail both your arms to get the attention of the receptionist. Or, are your arms numb? Can you raise them overtop your head?"

"Gary, WHAT IS THE MATTER WITH YOU? Both my arms are fine."

"Okay, if your arms are fine that's a good

sign. How about your face? Is it drooping? One last question Dear, how is your vision?"

Jan's answer scared the daylight out of me. I am sure my heart skipped beat! "Gary, I slipped my glasses on, and the magazine looks fuzzy."

OMG! Both Jan and I ARE having a stroke!

"Jan, I don't know how to tell you this, but I think we are both having a stroke!"

Silence. Then it happened. Jan laughed. WHAT!!! I tell her we are having a stroke and all she can do is laugh?

"Gary. The magazine looks blurred because I realized that I have your glasses. I left mine on the bathroom vanity."

Silence...

I checked. I was wearing Jan's glasses.

By noon hour, Jan had returned home. We are seeing eye to eye again.

Living Retired is written weekly by Gary Chalk and published throughout Canada and USA. Gary is a popular keynote speaker at service clubs, corporate events, and retirement parties. Contact Gchalk@me.com

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NOTICE OF COMPLETE APPLICATION
AND
NOTICE OF PUBLIC MEETING

pursuant to Section 34(12) of the Planning Act, R.S.O. 1990, as amended

APPLICATION FOR ZONE CHANGE
in the
TOWN OF TILLSONBURG

Town of Tillsonburg
10 Lisgar Ave
Tillsonburg, ON N4G 5A5
Telephone: 519-688-3009

FILE: ZN 7-26-07 (Town of Tillsonburg (Parking Provisions))

Purpose and Effect of the Proposed Zone Change

The Town of Tillsonburg has initiated the subject application to amend the Town of Tillsonburg Zoning By-law No. 3295 to increase the number of vehicle parking spaces required for multiple unit dwellings, apartment dwellings, and a residential unit in a portion of a non-residential building from 1.25 spaces per dwelling unit to 1.5 spaces per dwelling unit. In addition, it is proposed that visitor parking requirements be assessed as well as clarifying the existing wording respecting accessible parking requirements.

The application applies to all lands within the Town of Tillsonburg.

Public Meeting

The Council of the Town of Tillsonburg will hold a public meeting to consider the proposed Zone Change on:

Date: Monday, September 14, 2026
Time: 6:00 p.m.
Place: Long Point Region Conservation Authority,
4 Elm Street, Tillsonburg, ON N4G 0C4

If you wish to speak or make a presentation to Town Council regarding this application at the Council meeting of Monday, September 14, 2026, you must advise the clerk of your reasons via email at clerks@tillsonburg.ca, in writing, no later than 2:00 PM on the Friday prior to the meeting. Copies of any presentation must be provided at the time of the request to the Town Clerk.

Other Planning Act Applications: None

Please be advised that Council may approve, modify or refuse the requested application at the meeting. If you do not attend or are not represented at the meeting, the Council may proceed and may not

advise you of any proposed modifications.

If you wish to be notified of the decision of the Town of Tillsonburg on the proposed amendment, you must make a written request to the either the Clerk of the Town of Tillsonburg or to planning@oxfordcounty.ca.

In order to appeal a decision of the Town of Tillsonburg to the Ontario Land Tribunal, eligibility requirements must be met as outlined in the Planning Act, R.S.O. 1990, as amended. If a specified person or public body would otherwise have an ability to appeal the decision of Town of Tillsonburg to the Ontario Land Tribunal but does not make oral submissions at a public meeting or make written submissions to Town of Tillsonburg or the County of Oxford before the amendment is adopted, the specified person or public body is not entitled to appeal the decision. Third party appeals of any decision are not permitted.

If a person or public body does not make oral submissions at a public meeting, or make written submissions to the Town of Tillsonburg or the County of Oxford before the by-law is passed, the person or public body may not be added as a party to the hearing of an appeal before the Ontario Land Tribunal unless, in the opinion of the Tribunal, there are reasonable grounds to do so.

Additional information relating to the proposed amendment is available for review at the County of Oxford Community Planning Office at the address below, Monday – Friday, 8:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m., or by visiting the Community Planning website at www.oxfordcounty.ca/en/services-for-you/land-use-development.aspx. If you have any questions regarding the above-noted application and how to preserve your appeal rights, please contact **Amy Hartley, Development Planner**, Community Planning Office (519 539 9800 ext. 3204). Written comments may be forwarded to the address below or emailed to: planning@oxfordcounty.ca. Please include the applicant's name and our File Number on all correspondence.

Yours truly,

Eric Gilbert, MCIP, RPP
Manager of Development Planning
Community Planning Office
County of Oxford
21 Reeve Street
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Justine Chantale brings country to Tillsonburg



BEN ADDRESS

Tillsonburg Post Columnist

Music has always been a part of Justine Climie's life, and the Stratford singer-songwriter believes it is a lot more than just simply standing on a stage and singing a song.

Justine, who performs under the name Justine Chantale, describes herself as a small-town girl with a big voice, and even bigger heart. She has spent years building a reputation throughout Southwestern Ontario with a sound that blends country, pop and the classic rock influences she grew up with.

Justine's musical journey began at just eight years old when she joined her school choir. It was not until later that she picked up a guitar and began taking music more seriously.

"I started singing when I was eight in the school choir, but I never really got into playing guitar or taking voice lessons until later on," Climie explained. "It was not

until I stumbled upon an open mic that I really realized what I could do."

Growing up music was already a big part of the Climie household. Her mother introduced her to country artists such as Tim McGraw and Faith Hill while her father was a fan of classic rock like CCR and Canadian favourites like Blue Rodeo. That combination has become an important part of Justine's own musical identity.

"I would say having both a country and classic rock background has given me an appreciation of how effectively different genres can bring out different moments in a song," Climie says. "And in addition, an appreciation for different songwriting styles and structures, depending on what the song calls for."

That versatility has helped Justine Chantale establish herself as a performer across the region. Her resume includes performing during Country Music Week at the 2016 Canadian Country Music Association Awards in London as well as appearances at London Music Hall and Trackside Music Festival. She has also opened for artists including Jess Moskaluke, Chad Brownlee, Bobby Wills, The Proud Sons and Lonestar.

In 2020, during the pandemic, Chantale released the song 'Wondering' that she co-wrote with Bothwell, Ontario songwriter Jay Allan. She followed that up with her second EP titled 'Starting Today'. Despite the challenges facing musicians during the pandemic, she continued

to make an impact, winning the Country Artist award at the 2021 Forest City London Music Awards.

"The biggest lesson I have learned is being genuine and connecting with your audience," Climie reflects. "An audience can tell if an artist is putting up a front in seconds. I treat my audience like friends and that is how I want them to feel."

That connection is particularly meaningful when Justine Chantale performs her own original material. One song she is especially looking forward to sharing with audiences is 'Highway 59'.

"Highway 59 is about the journey of moving from my longtime home of Stratford to Tillsonburg. Moving was a struggle for me," Climie explains. "It was because of how I tied my identity to where I was leaving and the fear around the loss of that identity. Many people have identified with that song and I cannot wait to share it with more people."

The song represents an important chapter in Justine's life and one that may resonate with anyone who has ever had to leave behind a familiar place or version of themselves. That vulnerability is ultimately one of the most rewarding parts of performing for her.

"The most amazing thing about performing live, especially my own original music, is the feeling of all figurative walls being dropped and completely exposed in who I am as not only an artist but as a person," Climie says. "My experiences,

my joys, my sorrows and my struggles and thriving in that. It almost sounds like a scary thing to some people but for me it is the most liberating feeling."

It is that openness that she hopes audiences take away from her performances.

"I hope at the very least people walk away understanding how much goes into the songwriting process and how music can heal," Climie says with a smile. "If we can also leave people inspired that would be an added bonus."

Tillsonburg will have a chance to experience that process firsthand next month when Justine joins three other singer-songwriters for a country music night in the round. The unique format will feature four performers on stage at the same time, taking turns performing songs and sharing the stories behind them while bringing a little taste of Nashville's famous songwriter-round tradition to Tillsonburg. Joining Chantale will be Chase Beres of Tillsonburg, Nick Ross of London and Karen Emeny of London.

Tillsonburg's Nashville night is happening Friday, Sept. 18 at Paddy's Underground located at 20 John Pound Road. The evening starts at 8 p.m. with advanced tickets priced at \$10. This event is 19-plus. Tickets are available at The Mill and online at www.eventbrite.ca. For more information, upcoming shows and music you can visit Justine Chantale on her official website at www.justinechantale.com

UPCOMING SHOWS

AUG. 28 - KEN LIGHTHEART & THE NORTSHORE RAMBLERS
Tillsonburg Legion #153
\$7 - 1 p.m.

SEPT. 7 - FOUR T STRINGS
Tillsonburg Legion #153
\$15 - 12 p.m.

SEPT. 18 - JUSTINE CHANTALE, KAREN EMENY, NICK ROSS & CHJASE BERES
Paddy's Underground
\$10 Adv./ \$15 Drs - 8 p.m. - 19-plus

SEPT. 26 - DOGHOUSE ROSE W/ THE LEXINGTON CURE
Paddy's Underground
\$15 - 8 p.m. - 19-plus

OCT. 16 - GHOST TOWN CITIZEN
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OCT. 17 - SIX2S W/ NOTHING SHOCKING & THE HEADCASES
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Firefighters steak barbecue on Sept. 12

JEFF HELSDON

Editor

The smell of steaks cooking will be in the air for the Tillsonburg Firefighters Association annual steak barbecue on Saturday, Sept. 12.

Held in the Tillsonburg Community Centre's Lions Auditorium, the annual event starts with dinner at 4 p.m.. It runs until 8 p.m. Cook-your-own 10-ounce strip loin steaks are the main attraction, along with baked potatoes, mushrooms, and onions. Kids under 12 eat free.

Tickets are still \$30, the same price as for the last sev-

eral years.

"We've held that price again this year due to donations from some of the local farmers around the area who have been generous with their supply," said association spokesperson Tony Hietkamp.

He added more detail, highlighting potato donations from Aaon Crombez, as well as donations from Baz Onions, Ravine Mushroom Farms, drinks from Sobey's, and Sarah's Sausages, which donated buns for the youth hot dogs.

The event also features door prizes, silent auction items and a DJ. Donations are still being accepted for the door

prizes and silent auction.

Proceeds from the event support the association's annual Christmas hamper campaign, as well as Muscular Dystrophy Canada, Helping Hand Food Bank, Camp Bucko, and the Special Olympics.

Proceeds from the event go to the annual Christmas hampers, which help five to seven families in town; some also goes to Muscular Dystrophy Canada, the food bank, Special Olympics, and Camp Bucko.

Tickets are \$30 each and going fast. Tickets are available at the fire hall during the day, from any firefighter, or online through the association's Facebook page.

Shriner's barbecue on Sept. 9

JEFF HELSDON

Editor

The secret barbecue sauce is at the heart of the town's largest annual event with food as the main draw.

The 66th annual Shriner's Barbecue is on Wednesday, Sept. 9 in the Tillsonburg Memorial Arena. With an approximate crowd of 500 last year, the fundraiser for Shriners Hospitals for Children is an annual tradition to kick off fall. The hospital is dedicated to assist children who have received severe burn trauma.

It features corn from Bre's Sweet Corn and wood-smoked pork with the Shiner's signature barbecue sauce.

What's in the sauce is a closely guarded secret. Originally a recipe from Andy Balazs' mother, it has been used since the first barbecue in the late 1950s.

"It is a secret recipe," said sauce master John Danbrook, adding only three Shriners know the ingredients.

The process to make the barbecue sauce takes two to three

days.

"You've got to make it, you've got to tweak it, you've got to cook it," he said.

The sauce is made in a 45-gallon drum.

"You'd never be able to dial it down to just a small amount," said barbecue chairman Cedric Tomico, one of the others trusted with the ingredient list.

Traditionally, the 65 pork shoulders for the event have been pellet smoked. This year, the pork will be wood smoked with a new Bogline Barbecue for Texas-style smoking. The process takes 12 hours.

"Low and slow and juicy," Danbrook said of the end result.

This event is one of the club's largest of the year, with about half of the club's members taking part in pulling it off. Several members are assigned to husk corn and then cook the cobs in a giant kettle over a wood fire. Others help serve and cook the pork.

Tickets are \$30 for the all-you-can-eat event and are available online at tillsonburgshrineclub.com, or at the door.



(FILE PHOTO)

Shriners sauce master John Danbrook stirs the 45-gallon vat containing the secret barbecue sauce used by the group for its annual barbecue since the event's inception.

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Baby show tradition continues at the fair

Sixteen babies competed for prizes and ribbons at the 172nd Tillsonburg Tri-County Fair at 10 a.m. on Saturday, August 15 in the Lions Auditorium at the Tillsonburg Community Centre.

Judges for the event were Anne Hollis and Fran Brown.

Competing in the infants up to six months were: Nash Frank, Cooper Page, Nikolai Kolomaya, and Sebastian Panks-Phipps.

Competing in the seven to 12 month age group were: Wyatt Cluett, Mackenzie Harren, Joseph Lindsay, Faithlyn Roy, August Vezina, twins Georgia and Skylar Voldock and Zayden Williams.

Competing in the 13 to 18 month classes were: Ripley Britton, Jackson Clunas, Lucas Lynn and Leia Kendrick.

Rosette ribbons were won for the Best at Throwing Things, Friendliest, Happiest, Most Curious, Most Active, Most Hair, Prettiest Eyes, Sleepiest, Travelled Furthest to get to our Baby Show, and Youngest.

In the two classes of babies creatively dressed for the fair's 'Teddy Bear Picnic and Family Fun' theme were: Ripley Britton, Jackson Clunas, Nash Frank, Nikolai Kolomaya, Joseph Lindsay, Lucas Lynn, Cooper Page, Sebastian Panks-Phipps, Faithlyn Roy, and August Vezina.

Draws for grocery vouchers were held throughout the event.

Many thanks go to volunteers who decorated, took registrations and made the show possible. They were Ilene

Chesterman, Laura Hawley, Bonnie Edwards, Barb Emms, and Paula Hathaway. Thanks also to our Junior Ambassador Dylan Reid who presented the ribbons to the winners.



(CHRIS ABBOTT PHOTO)

Faith Roy from St. Williams competed in the girls 7-12 month old division at the Tri-County Fair on August 15 – following in the footsteps of her older siblings.



(CHRIS ABBOTT PHOTO)

Mackenzie Harren, from Tillsonburg, competed in the Tri-County Fair baby show with mom Michaela Harren.



(CHRIS ABBOTT PHOTO)

August Vezina, right, from Tillsonburg competed in the 7-12 month old boys' division with his mom Paige Vezina at the Tillsonburg Tri-County Fair on August 15.



(CHRIS ABBOTT PHOTO)

Amanda Voldock with her twins, Skylar and Georgia, from Woodstock, competed in the Tri-County Fair baby show.



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Engines roar at 'truck and tractor' pull

STUART BLOWER

Post Contributor

The Norwich T'N'T Pull was held last week on Friday, August 14 and Saturday, August 15, supported by the Optimist Club of Norwich & District, Great Lakes Premier Pulling Inc., Southwestern Ontario Tractor Pullers Association, and presented by Tirecraft.

All proceeds raised go directly to support the Optimist Club of Norwich & District, a volunteer organization focused on

'bringing out the best in kids.' Every dollar raised at the tractor pull stays in the community supporting programs that benefit local children and youth through projects and meaningful partnerships.

Fans were able to see and hear Super Stock, Modified Trucks, and tractors in all classes from Light Hot Farm to Demo 12500 Super Sport Tractors, more than a dozen both days.

A Kids Zone and a live band in the evening featuring Street Survivors and Bootleg Creedence rounded out the entertainment.



(STUART BLOWER PHOTO)

Smoke belching, the modified engines in the Norwich T'N'T Pull boost horsepower to see who can pull the furthest.



(STUART BLOWER PHOTO)

Sitting in their custom truck 'Field of Thunder' are J. Weber and wife Peggy.



(STUART BLOWER PHOTO)

Arlis Murray in the driver's seat of Ken Austin's Lethal Passion.



(STUART BLOWER PHOTO)

Although horsepower is the objective, there was still room for older-model tractors in the Norwich pull.

Red Sox regular season batting and pitching stats

GRAHAM NICKERSON

Post Contributor

The Red Sox have been practicing hard over the past week in preparation for their OBA “C” playoffs in Port Hope this upcoming weekend. The Sox are liking their chances, especially with some junior call ups added to bolster their roster.

Below is the team’s batting and pitching stats for qualified players over the 22-game season. Iron Ring Rachar was once again the team’s most consistent hitter with a .380 average and leading the team in hits (19), at bats (67) and tied with games played (20).

Pitching wise, young Paxton Bale was the team’s innings eater (37.1) while Fish Verschueren led the staff with strikeouts (33) while appearing in just five games.



(SUBMITTED PHOTO)

Iron Ring Rachar was the leading hitter for the Red Sox for the 2026 season with a .380 average.

PLAYER	G	PA	AB	R	H	2B	3B	HR	RBI	BB	SO	BA	OBP	SLG	OPS
RACHAR	20	67	50	12	19	2	1	0	8	9	6	0.380	0.475	0.460	0.935
VITIAS	20	62	47	9	14	4	1	1	10	4	4	0.298	0.353	0.489	0.842
VERHOEVE	18	52	49	9	18	4	0	0	12	0	10	0.367	0.367	0.449	0.816
MINERS	16	40	29	3	8	1	0	0	2	9	11	0.276	0.447	0.310	0.758
WEST	16	44	36	5	8	2	0	0	2	3	7	0.222	0.282	0.278	0.560
DAVIS	12	34	30	4	9	0	0	0	3	4	6	0.300	0.382	0.300	0.682
MORRIS	12	31	23	1	5	1	0	0	3	5	7	0.217	0.357	0.261	0.618
PROUSE	12	30	23	2	5	2	0	0	3	3	7	0.217	0.308	0.304	0.612
BALE	9	23	13	3	1	0	0	0	1	7	6	0.077	0.400	0.077	0.477
COLLINGS	9	27	23	4	8	2	0	0	2	2	8	0.348	0.400	0.435	0.835
THEISSEN	9	24	21	3	4	1	0	0	0	1	12	0.190	0.227	0.238	0.465
APPLEFORD	8	17	12	2	3	0	0	0	0	4	4	0.250	0.438	0.250	0.688
MCPHERSON	7	20	13	0	1	1	0	0	1	2	2	0.077	0.200	0.154	0.354
OATWAY	7	26	22	4	9	0	0	1	2	0	1	0.409	0.409	0.545	0.955
VERSCHUEREN	7	23	21	5	8	1	0	0	5	0	2	0.381	0.381	0.429	0.810
HEPDITCH	6	14	13	1	2	0	0	0	0	0	2	0.154	0.154	0.154	0.308

PLAYER	W	L	ERA	G	IP	H	R	ER	BB	K	WHIP	H7	BB7	K7
RACHAR	0	6	6.01	9	37.1	59	39	32	18	17	2.064	11.1	3.4	3.2
MINERS	0	0	6.33	8	21	21	24	19	27	24	2.286	7.0	9.0	8.0
VERSCHUEREN	1	2	2.30	5	18.1	5	10	6	5	33	0.546	1.9	1.9	12.6
THEISSEN	1	1	8.48	4	6.3	6	12	8	9	4	2.273	6.4	9.5	4.2
VITIAS	2	1	5.49	4	15.1	17	17	12	16	18	2.157	7.8	7.3	8.2

DEMOLITION DERBY



(STUART BLOWER PHOTO)

The impact sent both of these cars airborne in the fair's demolition derby. This event is always a big draw at the fair.



(STUART BLOWER PHOTO)

Sisters Destiny and Faith come in second and third as their father Landon Curley stands next to them while posing with their trophies from one of the starting divisions in the derby.

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Playoffs under way in local slo-pitch



**EYE
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DAVE WEAVER

Post Columnist

Week number one is in the books as both leagues commenced their post seasons last Sunday. This is the time when everyone plays at their best, and it shows in some of the results from games played this past week.

Ladies' Division

The ladies still had two games left Monday to put a cap on their regular season schedule. Foldens Machine Works easily won over Resting Pitch Face, which had no effect on the final standings. The match between Sunspace/Bill Klyn Carpentry and Simmonds Mortgages decided second place with Simmonds winning by eight

Foldens MachineWorks-20, Resting-PitchFace-8

Foldens-DanielleSwart 4-4; Amber Woolgar 4-4; Mackenzie Brackenbury HR.

Resting-Martina McCallum 3-3; Taylor McLean 3-3.

Game Synopsis-Foldens scored six in their first and final at-bats. Mackenzie Brackenbury had a three-run first-inning homer and scored four runs, Amber Woolgar and Mel Redekop each scored three runs.

Simmonds Mortgages-12, Sunspace/Bill Klyn Carpentry-4

Simmonds-Connie White 4-4; Tena Bueckert 4-4.

Sunspace-Nicole Morgan 4-4; Chani Homewood 3-3.

Game Synopsis-Simmonds struck for 11 over their first four at-bats, Tena Bueckert and Tracey Carruthers each knocked in three runs.

Ladies A Playoffs

Sunspace/Bill Klyn Carpentry got the leg up on Simmonds Mortgages in their semi-final series winning by three in a very low-scoring affair. Cooks Concrete Jays opened their series with an eight-run win over Foldens Machine Works.

Game#1-Semi-Final

Sunspace/Bill Klyn Carpentry-6, Simmonds Mortgages-3

Sunspace-Liz Yuile 2-2; Sabrina Sinden 2-3; Nicole Morgan HR.

Simmonds-Rachel Boyd 3-3; Kim King 2-3.

Game Synopsis-This was a defensive struggle, Sunspace 's right center fielder Gemma Ladosz robbed Simmonds' Jackie Wood Van Santen with an outstretched catch in the fifth. Nicole Morgan 's two-

run homer to deep right field in the third ended up being the decider.

Game#1-Semi-Final

Cooks Concrete Jays-14, Foldens Machine Works-6

Cooks-Maddi Obar 4-4; Candi Obar 4-4; Jess Dyck HR.

Foldens-Mackenzie Brackenbury 4-4; Roxy Dekeyser 4-4.

Game Synopsis-A four-run rally in the third put Foldens up by two, but the lead was short lived as Cooks answered with back-to-back five-run innings. Brandi Cook and Maddi Obar each scored three runs on the night.

Ladies B Playoffs

Wildcats squeaked out an extra inning victory in the lid lifter of their series with Queen Bees.

Game #1-Semi-Final

Wildcats-24, Queen Bees-23

Wildcats-Ling Wong 5-6; Christine Phillips 4-5.

Queen Bees-Deziray Legg 5-5; Tristyn Dahl 5-5.

Game Synopsis-Wildcats broke Queen Bees hearts with a two -un double from Ling Wong in the extra frame. Lead-off batter Ashley Anderson reached and scored four times.

Men's Division One

The playoffs started on Thursday night with three series on the slate. Hit N Run beat a short-handed Sunspace/Bill Klyn Carpentry squad in the opener with a nine-run victory. The second game was closer as Sunspace put up a valiant effort despite playing with nine, and ended up losing by two in a game that lasted 11 innings. Cobra Chickens got the jump on Leeswood Construction Dirty Mitts beating them twice putting them on the brink of elimination. The series between The Mill and the Cubs is knotted at one after Cubs avenged a first game loss with a walk-off win on Friday night.

Game #1

Cobra Chickens-17, Leeswood Construction Dirty Mitts-7

Cobra-Caleb Reimer 4-4; Wyatt Blatz 4-4, 2HR; Ethan Fehr HR; Marcus Peters HR.

Leeswood-Kent Collings 3-3, HR; Devin Lee 3-4; Alex Penders HR.

Game Synopsis-Wyatt Blatz hit a pair of two-run homers, scored three runs and was a triple shy of hitting for the cycle for the winners.

Game#2

Cobra Chickens-26, Leeswood Construction Dirty Mitts-19

Cobra-Matthew Reimer 5-5, 2HR; Wyatt Blatz 3-3, HR; Caleb Reimer 2HR; Nathan Froese HR.

Leeswood-Cory Smith 4-4; Greg Onaitis 4-4; Kent Collings HR; Travis Nikin HR.

Game Synopsis-Cobra Chickens, playing with just nine, pounded out 27 runs. Nathan Froese hit three doubles and hom-

ered, Matthew and Caleb Reimer each hit a pair of homers.

Game#1

Hit N Run -24, Sunspace/Bill Klyn Carpentry-15

Hit N Run-Jacob Klassen 5-5, HR; Daniel Unger 4-5, HR; Martin Klassen 2HR; John Wiebe HR; Peter Klassen HR.

Sunspace-Kyle McDougall 4-4, 2HR; Jake Millar 4-4; Ryan Miller HR.

Game Synopsis-Hit N Run belted out six homers in the win, and Martin Klassen hit three run homers in consecutive at bats. Peter Klassen drove in five runs.

Game #2

Hit N Run-17, Sunspace/Bill Klyn Carpentry-15

Hit N Run-Johnny Unger 5-6; Jacob Klassen 5-6; Martin Klassen HR.

Sunspace-Kyle McDougall 6-6, 3HR; Rob Stortz 5-6.

Game Synopsis-Hit N Run tied it in the seventh with Daniel Unger 's run scoring triple. Martin Klassen drove in two with a double in the eleventh to give Hit N Run the win.

Game #1

The Mill-23, Cubs-16

The Mill-Steve Derks 4-5; Steve Byron 4-5; Jeremy Roy HR; Josh Stubbs 2HR; Tim Morgan HR; Matt Evans HR.

Cubs-Joel Dyck 4-5, 3HR; Marcus Enns 4-5, 2HR; Jamie Teichroeb 2HR.

Game Synopsis-The Mill took over the game scoring 12 over their final two at-bats, Matt Evans and Steve Derks hit doubles in both innings.

Game #2

Cubs-18, The Mill-17

Cubs-John Klassen 3-4; Johnathan Dyck 4-4, HR; Ivan Dyck 2HR; Jamie Teichroeb 2HR.

The Mill-Bob Evans 3-4; Steve Byron 3-4; Darren Pace HR; Bryan Deblaie HR; Logan Kloet HR; Josh Stubbs HR; Matt Evans HR.

Game Synopsis-The Cubs walked this one off with a Johnathan Dyck double.

Men's Division 2

A couple of games wrapped up the regular season with All Seasons Estate Care Bandits beating Sticky Bandits to capture third place in the standings. At My Playground/IQT Logistics easily beat Papa's Auto Spa to finish fourth in the division.

At My Playground/IQT Logistics-18, Papa's Auto Spa-2

AMP-Jayden King 5-5, HR; Trent Lamb 4-5; Logan Partlo HR.

Papa's-Jesse Legg 3-3, HR; Mike Hopper 2-3.

Game Synopsis-Some royalty in this one as Jayden King hit for the cycle for the winners, scoring four runs and driving in six.

All Seasons Estate Care Bandits-12, Sticky Bandits-5

All Seasons-Luke Neufeld 3-4; Benny Neufeld 3-4; William Loewen HR.

Bandits-Jordan Weibe 2-2; Leroy Schmitt 2-3.

Game Synopsis-Adam Klassen led the winners with a triple and a double.

Division 2 Playoffs

This division featured a pair of wild card series as teams seven through 10 had best-of-three play-ins to advance into the playoffs. Quackheads swept their series with Underhill Farm Supply and will next take on the second-place Dave's Variety Mavericks. In the other series, Papa's Auto Spa took the opener with Designated Drinkers. Sticky Bandits have won the first two over third-place All Seasons Estate Care Bandits, taking the second in extra innings. The other series that began last week was between fourth-place At My Playground/IQT Logistics and fifth-place Strike Force. AMP held on for a close win in the lid lifter.

Game#1

At My Playground/IQT Logistics-11, Strike Force-9

AMP-Duncan McLean 3-3; Travis Lamb 3-3.

Strike-Johnny Klassen 4-4; Peter Klassen 3-4, 2HR.

Game Synopsis-Back-to-back four-run innings keyed AMP's win. Brandon Balazs had a bases-clearing triple in the fourth.

Game#1

Sticky Bandits-12, All Seasons Estate Care Bandits-5

Bandits-Bowen Thiessen 3-4; Jeff Heide 3-4; Conner Friesen HR; Jordan Weibe HR.

All Seasons-Jake Sawatsky 2-2; Adam Klassen 3-4; Alex Friesen HR.

Game Synopsis-Jeff Heide scored three runs for the winners.

Game#2

Sticky Bandits-12, All Seasons Estate Care Bandits-11

Bandits-Kurtis Friesen 4-4; Conner Friesen 4-4.

All Seasons-Jake Sawatsky 4-4; Alex Friesen 3-4.

Game Synopsis-After All Seasons rallied to tie the game in the seventh. Sticky Bandits lead-off batter Kurtis Friesen scored the winning run in the eighth.

Game#1-Wild Card

Quackheads-20, Underhill Farm Supply-19

Quackheads-Christian Bevan 4-4; Dawson McMillen 5-5, HR.

Underhill-Ty Cadotte 4-5; Troy Sebok 4-5.

Game Synopsis-Jim Long had the walk-off base hit for Quackheads, plating Dawson McMillen. McMillen had a two-run homer and scored three runs on the night.

Game#2-Wild Card

Quackheads-11, Underhill Farm Supply-6

Quackheads-Cody Long 3-4; Kalvin Smith 4-4.

Underhill-Chase Corbeil 4-4; Troy Sebok 3-3.

Game Synopsis-Kalvin Smith, Owen Korten, Bob Long and Chris Childerhouse each scored two runs for the winners

Playoffs under way in local slo-pitch

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 18

Game#1-Wild Card
Papa's Auto Spa-14, Designated Drinkers-5
Papa's-Dylan Denomy 3-3; Mike Hopper 3-4; Shawn Brooks HR.
Drinkers-Brent Sproule 3-4, HR; Warren McCallister 2-4.
Game Synopsis-A six-run second and five-run sixth helped give Papa's the win.

Men's Division 3
The only series that got going last week was the match-up between third-place John Beere and sixth-place Wolfpack. Wolfpack outslugged John Beere by five runs.
Game#1
Wolfpack-29, John Beere-24
Wolfpack-Ryan Copping 6-7; Jarryd Roest 5-7, 2HR.
John Beere-Shawn Ryerse 5-6; Brenden Reaney 5-6; Jesse Anderson HR.
Game Synopsis-This one went to one extra inning, where the Wolfpack scored six. Jarryd Roest hit a three-run homer in the rally.

Men's Division 4
Smokin Bases punched their ticket to the next round after defeating Diamond Kings in four games. The other series will be determined on Sunday after R.L.P. Melanie Luksys forced a fifth, and deciding game, with a victory on Friday night over the Tirecraft Tornadoes.

Game#1
Smokin Bases-2, Diamond Kings-16
Smokin-Tim Miners 4-5; Reg Burnett 4-4; Colton Trudel HR.
Diamond-Henry Froese 4-4; Johnny Wall 4-4.
Game Synopsis-A late seven-run rally gave Smokin Bases the win, and Chris Foresman and Colton Trudel each scored three runs.
Game #2
Diamond Kings-18, Smokin Bases-12
Diamond-Henry Froese 4-4; Johnny Wall 4-4; Ben Bueckert HR.
Smokin-Josh Hollis 3-4; Wade Kirby 3-3.
Game Synopsis-A seven-run fifth decided this one in Diamond Kings favor, Johnny Wall had a two run scoring double.

Game #3
Smokin Bases-10, Diamond Kings-9
Smokin-Ian Barrett 5-5; Wade Kirby 3-4.
Diamond-Henry Froese 3-4; Ben Bueckert 3-4.
Game Synopsis-Ian Barrett had the walk-off hit for Smokin, and everyone in their order scored at least one run.

Game #4
Smokin Bases-19, Diamond Kings-16
Smokin-Tim Miners 4-4; Ian Barrett 5-5.
Diamond-Ben Bueckert 5-5; Johnny Wall 4-5.
Game Synopsis-Reg Burnett, Tim Miners and Josh Hollis each scored three runs for the winners.

Game #1
R.L.P.Melanie Luksys-16, Tirecraft Tornadoes-8
R.L.P.-Dalton Cassidy 3-3; Jeremy Tannahill 3-3.
Tornadoes-Ben Serrador 3-4; Tyler Bouck 3-4.
Game Synopsis-A six-run third keyed R.L.P.'s win, Dalton Cassidy reached and scored three runs.

Game #3
Tirecraft Tornadoes-16, R.L.P. Melanie Luksys-12
Tornadoes-Jack Soares 4-4; Ben Serrador 4-4.
R.L.P.-Cayden Craggs 3-4; Cole Toth 3-4.
Game Synopsis-Jack Soares and Nick Smart each scored three runs for the winners.

FINAL STANDINGS	W	L	T	PTS
LADIES				
1-COOKS CONCRETE JAYS	22	1	1	45
2-SIMMONDS MORTGAGES	17	6	1	35
3-SUNSPACE/BILL KLYN CARPENTRY	15	7	2	32
4-FOLDENS MACHINE WORKS	15	8	1	31
5-RESTING PITCH FACE	7	16	1	15
6-WILDCATS	5	19	0	10
7-QUEEN BEES	0	24	0	0
A				
FOLDENS MACHINE WORKS VS COOKS CONCRETE JAYS-BEST OF FIVE COOKS 1-0				
SUNSPACE/BILL KLYN CARPENTRY VS SIMMONDS MORTGAGES-BEST OF FIVE SUNSPACE 1-0				
B				
RESTING PITCH FACE-BYE				
QUEEN BEES VS WILDCATS-BEST OF FIVE WILDCATS 1-0				
MEN'S DIVISION 1				
1-1,2 SEAL INSULATION HAWKS	18	2	0	36
2-HIT N RUN	12	8	0	24
3-THE MILL	10	10	0	20
4-COBRA CHICKENS	10	10	0	20
5-LEESWOOD CONSTRUCTION DIRTY MITTS	9	10	1	19
6-CUBS	7	12	1	15
7-SUNSPACE/BILL KLYN CARPENTRY	3	17	0	6
MEN'S DIVISION 2				
1-PELICANS	14	5	0	28
2-DAVE'S VARIETY MAVERICKS	13	6	0	26
3-ALL SEASONS ESTATE CARE BANDITS	12	6	1	25
4-AT MY PLAYGROUND/IQT LOGISTICS	12	6	1	25
5-STRIKE FORCE	11	8	0	22
6-STICKY BANDITS	8	11	0	16
7-QUACKHEADS	8	11	0	16
8-DESIGNATED DRINKERS	6	13	0	12
9-PAPA'S AUTO SPA	5	13	1	11
10-UNDERHILL FARM SUPPLY	4	14	1	9

FINAL STANDINGS	W	L	T	PTS
MEN'S DIVISION 3				
1-SLUGGERS	14	5	1	29
2-SANDY SHORE BREW JAYS	12	8	0	24
3-JOHN BEERE	11	8	1	23
4-BEER BOMBERS	10	9	1	21
5-NAPA/COWARD'S PHARMACY MAULERS	9	11	0	18
6-WOLFPACK	6	13	1	13
7-BIRD'S GOLF	6	14	0	12
MEN'S DIVISION 4				
1-N.I.M.	19	1	0	38
2-BRICKHOUSE BOYS	14	5	1	29
3-R.L.P. MELANIE LUKSYS	7	11	2	16
4-DIAMOND KINGS	7	13	0	14
5-SMOKIN BASES	6	14	0	12
6-TIRECRAFT TORNADOES	5	14	1	11
DIVISION 1 PLAYOFFS				
1,2 SEAL INSULATION HAWKS-BYE				
SUNSPACE/BILL KLYN CARPENTRY VS HIT N RUN-BEST OF FIVE HIT N RUN 2-0				
CUBS VS THE MILL-BEST OF FIVE THE MILL-1 CUBS-1				
LEESWOOD CONSTRUCTION DIRTY MITTS VS COBRA CHICKENS-BEST OF FIVE COBRA 2-0				
DIVISION 2 PLAYOFFS				
PELICANS, DAVE'S VARIETY MAVERICKS-BYES				
STICKY BANDITS VS ALL SEASONS ESTATE CARE BANDITS-BEST OF FIVE STICKY BANDITS 2-0				
STRIKE FORCE VS AT MY PLAYGROUND/IQT LOGISTICS-BEST OF FIVE AMP 1-0				
WILD CARD - UNDERHILL FARM SUPPLY VS QUACKHEADS-BEST OF THREE QUACKHEADS 2-0				
WILD CARD - PAPA'S AUTO SPA VS DESIGNATED DRINKERS-BEST OF THREE PAPA'S AUTO SPA 1-0				
DIVISION 3 PLAYOFFS				
SLUGGERS-BYE				
BIRD'S GOLF VS SANDY SHORE BREW JAYS-BEST OF FIVE				
WOLFPACK VS JOHN BEERE-BEST OF FIVE WOLFPACK 1-0				
NAPA/COWARD'S PHARMACY MAULERS VS BEER BOMBERS-BEST OF FIVE				
DIVISION 4 PLAYOFFS				
N.I.M., BRICKHOUSE BOYS-BYES				
TIRECRAFT TORNADOES VS R.L.P.MELANIE LUKSYS-BEST OF FIVE TIRECRAFT-2 R.L.P.-2				
SMOKIN BASES VS DIAMOND KINGS-BEST OF FIVE SMOKIN BASES-3 DIAMOND KINGS-1				



Otterville man presented with Governor General's Medal

JEFF HELSDON

Editor

An Otterville man was presented recently with the Governor General's Polar Medal.

Whitney Lackenbauer received the Polar Medal from Governor General Mary Simon in May. An author of 70 books, many on the Arctic, his quick answer for the connection to the country's north is "a longstanding fascination I've had with the Arctic". He is also a professor at Trent University and the Canada Research Chair

in Study of the Canadian North.

Growing up in Kitchener, Lackenbauer attributes his Arctic fascination to watching his favourite movie, "The Empire Strikes Back" and its Arctic scenes. He came to Otterville in 2002 after marrying Jennifer Arthur, and they live on a farm that's been in her family more than 100 years. He completed his PhD at the University of Calgary from 1998 to 2002, then moved back to Ontario in 2002. He was with the University of Waterloo for 15 years, and then Trent for the

last eight.

Trained as a historian and professor of Canadian studies, Lackenbauer's books also cover local history, such as a book he co-wrote with his wife on the impact of the First World War on Norwich Township families.

"I'm able to blend my interest in history, as well as current politics and current issues," he said. "I like Canadian studies because it allows me to be broad and be wide-ranging in my research."

He is also a believer that if you are going to work with northerners, it has to be done in partnership with them. He also spends a lot of time in other Arctic countries, such as Greenland and Scandinavia.

"I've always been a big fan of the idea that if you are going to write about a place you have to go and visit it, and if you are going to write about people, you have to interact with them," he said.

Lackenbauer estimated he spends about one-quarter of the year in the Arctic, although not consecutively. He spent July 2025 on northern Ellesmere Island with the Canadian Rangers at Canadian Forces Base Alert. The group was seeing how far it could operate out using ATVs and was also looking for potential sites for the defence projects being planned.

After spending last fall traveling to conferences on the Arctic, Lackenbauer returned to the north to join the Rangers on three segments of

a 5,200-kilometer patrol that took 53 days. During winter patrols, temperatures can dip as low as -40 or -50°C with wind chill.

"It is imperative not to have a square centimeter of skin showing, because in those extreme temperatures it freezes immediately," Lackenbauer said. "And it can be quite the mental exercise to keep wiggling fingers and toes so that they don't freeze up - no matter how good one's boots and mitts."

Lackenbauer has worked with the Canadian Rangers for the last 25 years, and is an Honorary Lt. Colonel for First Canadian Ranger Patrol Group. This military group encompasses Inuit, First Nations and Metis and spans the three northern territories and northern BC. Rangers' members are permanently in their communities, and serve as the military's eyes, ears and voice in the north.

"Day to day they're volunteers in their communities who are both passing along information if they see something out of the ordinary, but are also prepared if there is a community emergency," he said. "They also serve in long-range patrols, demonstrating the ability of the CAF to project out over the most remote parts of Canada."

Lackenbauer said one of the unique things is the Rangers use their personal vehicles - ATVs, snowmobiles, horses and boats - for their patrols, with government assistance to purchase



Whitney Lackenbauer.

(CONTRIBUTED PHOTO)



(CONTRIBUTED PHOTO)

Whitney Lackenbauer shows it is imperative not to have any exposed skin while on patrol with the Canadian Rangers, as it would freeze instantly.



(CONTRIBUTED PHOTO)

The Canadian Rangers exercise on Ellesmere Island involved testing the equipment and finding potential sites for new defence installations. They are shown here crossing a river during the expedition.



(CONTRIBUTED PHOTO)

Canadian Forces Base Alert is the northernmost inhabited location in the world. It's only 817 kilometers from the North Pole.

Children's puzzle piece exhibit shows how everyone fits in

ROBIN KRAFFT
Post Correspondent

The children who attended summer camp programs at the Station Arts Centre created artwork in the shape of puzzle pieces, which were gradually assembled to form a large collaborative art installation.

The completed mural, entitled Piece by Piece - Our Summer Story, was on display from July 27 to Aug. 21 in the Patenaude Family Gallery, accompanied by the gallery statement: "Every puzzle piece was created by a camper at Station Arts Centre. Individually, they tell unique stories. Together, they become a vibrant picture of creativity, friendship, and a summer spent making art."

The weekly themes explored over the course of five weeks promoted deep thinking about abstract ideas: Discover ("What makes you unique?"), Imagine ("If anything were possible?"), Explore ("The world around us"), Kindness ("How do we make others feel welcome?"), and Celebrate ("What will you remember most about this summer?").

"I wanted it to be so that the kids had to

think about it and how they could use their own creativity and individuality to express their ideas," said Executive Director and Curator Tabitha Verbuyst. "The kids really enjoyed the project!"

Parents were also delighted to see their children's work exhibited. It was clear that the children were utilizing their creativity, but it was also nice to see it as part of the community. Blank puzzle pieces were also available for visitors to decorate and add to the installation.

"It showcases how camp continues to grow and inspire others," Verbuyst said. "Every puzzle piece can fit. It shows how creativity flourishes regardless of age. I'm really happy with how it turned out."

Campers aged three to 12 years old participated in the project, which was then displayed in the space where they meet every morning. It was a good icebreaker and an opportunity to see that their work was being celebrated.

"The kids were really engaged, and some of them want to be involved with the arts," Verbuyst said. "Hopefully they'll continue pursuing that."



Young artists celebrated a summer of creativity at the Station Arts Centre camp with an exhibit entitled Piece by Piece.



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TILLSONBURG FAIR 2026

Tillsonburg Fair thrives on a busy weekend

CHRIS ABBOTT

Grant Haven Media

The Monster Madness Show, with three full-size monster trucks, was an instant hit at the Tillsonburg Tri-County Fair on August 15th and 16th.

“Saturday and Sunday, the grandstands were jam-packed,” said Rosemary Dean. “It shows that people were interested in that new addition to the fair. I think we made a good choice this year.”

Monster Madness, by Edge Motorsports, was followed by the Impact Motorsports demolition derby a couple hours later, both days, and after a quick cleanup the bleachers filled again, many derby fans returning from the monster truck show. All for the price of general fair admission.

The demolition derby has been one of the biggest draws of the fair weekend for decades. Two big bleachers fit up to 1,000 people, and they had another six smaller bleachers – giving them a crowd of about 1,500 both days.

“We had a lot of (demolition) cars Saturday. Sunday not as many cars, but we had a good audience watching. To go watch all that – on the days and the times they were running – you hit the jackpot, more-or-less, because they are not cheap to watch at another venue. We didn’t charge anything extra, it was part of your regular admission into the fair.

“For everything that was happening this weekend (Aylmer Fair, Cowapolooza, Norwich Tractor Pull), it was a good choice to bring the monster trucks to our fair,” Dean nodded. “It flowed very nicely, we’re pretty happy.

“Attendance was about 9,000 over the three days. We do everything within our budget – and you hope for nice weather that brings the people through the gates. This year we had beautiful weather. Mother Nature was wonderful to us again.”

Magical Midways’ ride ticket sales were up every day compared to last year, and there were 814 pre-sales for ride passes.

“In prior years we did 500-600 pre-

sales,” Dean noted. “So it was much better this year.”

The Tri-County’s Got Talent was also new this year, with three tryouts at The Copper Mug leading up to Saturday’s final at the Kinsmen Bandshell. Winners were announced Sunday.

“I think they’re already looking forward to doing something similar next year. We appreciate The Copper Mug coming out and doing that, providing music entertainment for us and the community.”

The free ice cream eating contest on Saturday and Sunday, sponsored by Shaw’s Ice Cream, filled up quickly. First with kids, then adults & kids for a second more challenging division.

“The adults are good sports when I say you can’t eat with a spoon,” Dean laughed. “Some of them got right into it. At the end, everybody’s a winner and they walk away happy.

“We thank all of our sponsors, people that donate, and everyone who comes to the fair. We’re all volunteers – volunteers

raising money for the community – and all the money that comes through the gates, it goes to help bring back the fair next year.

The Town of Tillsonburg contributed \$4,500 to the fair, and waived event fees, and the fair board appreciates the support.

New members have joined the ‘old guard’ Tri-County Agricultural Society fair board, and more are needed. The 2026 AGM is in September.

“We’ve got a few new people and we are always interested in people coming to find out what it’s about. Then we can give them the process if they would like to join... then come and join the board.

“I think we’re going to have an open house, so if you want to become a volunteer or join the fair board, watch for the open house. It’s probably the best way to do it.”

Planning for the 173rd fair in 2027 will start in November. Fair board representatives go to an annual convention in February to find new attractions that might work in Tillsonburg.



(CHRIS ABBOTT PHOTO)

Psycho Pat was the first monster truck to go ‘up and over’ the cars Saturday afternoon during the Monster Madness Show Saturday at the Tillsonburg Fair.



(CHRIS ABBOTT PHOTO)

Lisa Haarink and Kevin Jaques of Stratford sat down to play a game of crokinole at the Tillsonburg Tri-County Fair on Saturday in the Crystal Palace. One of the earliest known crokinole boards was made in Perth County in the 1870s. Today, the annual World Crokinole Championships are held in nearby Tavistock.



(CHRIS ABBOTT PHOTO)

The bleachers were jam-packed for the Monster Madness Show Saturday at the Tillsonburg Tri-County Fair.



(CHRIS ABBOTT PHOTO)

Vanessa Jiggins of Delhi, with Finn (on the left) and Magnus, discovered the Homecraft building’s corn box at the Tillsonburg Tri-County Fair.

TILLSONBURG FAIR 2026



(CHRIS ABBOTT PHOTO)
Ellie Smith's cat, Missy, won Best Cat in Show at the Tillsonburg Tri-County Fair Pet Show on Saturday, Aug. 15. Smith was the winner of the fair's 2026-27 Mini Queen competition on Friday.



(CHRIS ABBOTT PHOTO)
August Parry of Salford rides a 'little tikes' police car at the Tillsonburg Tri-County Fair. The fair's free kids zone, sponsored by Advanced Automotive, was available to children five-and-under.



(CHRIS ABBOTT PHOTO)
Connor Gunkel's dog Buster won two trophies Saturday, including Best Conditioned Dog, at the Tillsonburg Tri-County Fair Pet Show. Tatiana Babcock won Best Stuffedie in Show.



(CHRIS ABBOTT PHOTO)
Kayden Campbell from Nova Scotia visited the Tillsonburg Tri-County Fair on Saturday, and enjoyed feeding the Educational Animal Display and Pony Rides animals.



(CHRIS ABBOTT PHOTO)
Larissa McCabe and Sarah Lise exhibited agricultural artifacts from Annandale National Historic Site in the Home-craft building Saturday at the Tillsonburg Tri-County Fair.



(CHRIS ABBOTT PHOTO)
Jennifer Dean unloads her roll-over and figure 8 demolition derby cars at the Tillsonburg Tri-County Fair.

Oxford County looking for feedback on a road safety strategy

Oxford County's municipalities are looking for your feedback on how to improve road safety.

The Road Safety Strategy survey is online now at Speak Up, Oxford! until Sept. 8. The survey invites Oxford residents and businesses to share their thoughts and experiences as the County builds a detailed plan to improve safety for all road users and reduce collisions, injuries and fatalities.

Residents can also mark areas of concern for driving, walking or cycling on an interactive map, or fill out an online feedback form to submit a comment or question.

In 2025, Oxford County Council directed County staff to explore implementing a

long-term Vision Zero Plan and adopting the Good Roads Rural Road Safety Strategy following requests from the Township of Blandford-Blenheim, the Township of Zorra, and Township of East Zorra-Tavistock.

The Good Roads Rural Road Safety Strategy focuses on addressing safety on rural roads that have a disproportionately high number of accidents compared to urban roads through provincial funding advocacy and consistent road safety design standards.

Work to improve road safety begins this year with the development of a Road Safety Framework that will lay the groundwork for future planning. This will be followed

by the development of a Road Safety Strategy in 2027 that will include detailed countermeasures and guidance to address road safety concerns. The project is being carried out by Oxford County, the county's eight area municipalities, and partner agencies including police and public health.

Short-term recommendations under a new road safety strategy could include greater use of illumination at rural intersections, speed feedback signs, acoustical rumble strips, and flashing beacons at stop control intersections. Longer-term actions would focus on roadway design and expanded use of data-driven transportation planning.

The development of an Oxford County's Road Safety Strategy was approved by County Council in October 2025. This included adopting the Ontario Road Safety Audit (RSA) Guideline, which looks at existing road infrastructure and future transportation capital projects to identify safety hazards, assign risk ratings, and offer mitigation measures.

Public input and feedback will be sought throughout the process of developing the road safety strategy. The survey is a first step in getting public feedback and takes only 3-5 minutes to complete. Visit www.oxfordcounty.ca/speakup to learn more and take the survey.

Teddy Bears and all the 'Bear Facts'

CHRIS ABBOTT

Grant Haven Media

Bonnie Sitts might be considered a local expert on Teddy Bears.

Her display at the Tri-County Fair, which she first came up with to decorate a room at Annandale National Historic Site last Christmas, focused on the 'Bear Facts.'

Sitts highlighted the history of the Teddy Bear which goes back to 1902 when US President Teddy Roosevelt refused to shoot a black bear.

"A gentleman made a cartoon of it in the newspaper," Sitts noted.

A US businessman/inventor (Morris Michtom), inspired by the cartoon, came up with the idea of creating 'Teddy's Bear.'

"Prior to that, the bear was only a stuffed

toy," said Sitts.

Around the same time, the Steiff company began making plush bear toys in Germany.

"I didn't know there were so many bears," Sitts laughed, noting its popularity in art, literature, toys and even educational campaigns.

"I didn't realize there were that many 'Bear Facts' when I decided to do Teddy Bears on the third floor in the Tower Room (Annandale National Historic Site). "We've got Smokey the Bear, we've got Goldilocks and the Three Bears... Winnie the Pooh (from Winnipeg)... Paddington Bear, Berenstain Bears, the Coca-Cola Bear... so many.

"I've got a whole book that has all the Bear Facts – all the stories – and it's really fantastic. I was going to write up a lot more things (for the displays) but I ran out

of time."

Her Christmas display, which she revived at the Tillsonburg Tri-County Fair in the homecraft building, proved to be popular, and this year at ANHS Sitts will be focusing on snowmen and the history of snowmen, as well as a couple other room ideas.

"It's amazing how... once you start something, it grows. I've been working on this for six months," she added with a laugh. "Everything I do is a project."

Tangram Puzzles

Sitts also decorated a room at Annandale House with puzzles, which she displayed at the 2026 fair.

"It's a puzzle – this is what you can do with that little three-inch square. You can do all of those," said Sitts, flipping through a book of tangram puzzles and solutions.



(CHRIS ABBOTT PHOTO)

Bonnie Sitts highlighted the History of Teddy Bears with displays at the 2026 Tri-County Fair.

"You've got parallelograms, triangles, and you've got a square. So it's a math thing for the kids."

Known as a dissection puzzle, it originated in China in the late 18th century, then came to Europe and North America in the late 1800s and early 1900s, used for 'amusement, art, and education.'



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Teen Theatre returns with weekend production

JENNIFER ANGER-JULL

Post Contributor

Teen Theatre is back and Tillsonburg's newest heroes are ready to make their debut.

After several years on the sidelines, Theatre Tillsonburg's Teen Theatre program is officially back and this summer's cast is wasting no time showing the community what they can do.

Theatre Tillsonburg will present *Will You Be My Nemesis?* by Kathryn Funkhouser, an energetic and hilarious superhero comedy that turns the traditional hero story on its head. It runs from Aug. 28-30.

Forget saving the world for a moment. These superheroes have a different problem: they need a nemesis.

And they're determined to find one.

For the young performers taking the stage, the real adventure has been happening behind the scenes.

After auditions brought the group together, the cast has spent the summer learning lines, developing characters, navigating rehearsals and, perhaps most importantly, getting to know one another. What started as a room full of teenagers, has quickly become a team.

For director Tabatha Buckle, being part of the program's return is particularly meaningful.

"I am so excited to be a part of Teen Theatre coming back. Many years ago Teen Theatre was how I was first introduced to Theatre Tillsonburg," Buckle said. "This summer we have an amazing group of kids who have all worked so hard all summer to bring the community a hilarious show."

That history is now coming full circle as Buckle helps introduce a new generation of young people to the same theatre communi-

ty that first sparked her own love of the stage.

And this cast is ready to have some fun.

"This was a great experience! Working with people my age was so much fun," said cast member Anneliese McCarter.

For Logan Smith, one of the best parts of the experience has been the friendships made along the way.

"I've had so much fun and made many new friends during this show," Smith said.

Veeda Follington said the production offered the perfect opportunity to spend the summer trying something new.

"It was something great to do over the summer, and it was amazing to meet new people and perform on stage," Follington said.

Those friendships and experiences are exactly what Teen Theatre is about. While the audience will see the finished production under the lights, the young performers have spent the summer discovering what it means to work as an ensemble, support one another and step outside their comfort zones.

Director Pete Matthews is thrilled to see the program return.

"After years of being dormant, Theatre Tillsonburg is excited to bring Teen Theatre back," Matthews said. "An amazing cast of highly talented teens are ready to provide our audiences with a very funny, action-packed show suitable for all ages."

And if the energy in rehearsals is any indication, audiences are in for something special.

Will You Be My Nemesis? promises larger than life characters, superhero antics, plenty of laughs, and a cast of young performers who are ready to take over the Theatre Tillsonburg stage.

For Theatre Tillsonburg, the production is more than just another show in the season. It is an opportunity to open the doors to a new generation and give local teens a chance to experience every part of the theatre world, from the first rehearsal nerves to the thrill of hearing an audience laugh.

It is also a reminder that community theatre doesn't just create shows - it creates friendships, confidence, memories and the theatre lovers of tomorrow.

And these young performers aren't waiting for their turn to be the future of Theatre Tillsonburg, they're already on their way.

With only three performances, Matthews is encouraging audiences to grab their tickets before the curtain goes up.

"There are only three shows and tickets are selling



(CONTRIBUTED PHOTO)

fast so act now. You are not going to want to miss out," he said.

Will You Be My Nemesis? runs August 28, 29 and 30 at Theatre Tillsonburg.

Tickets are \$15 and available online at www.theatretillsonburg.com.

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CurlTillsonburg.com

COMING EVENTS

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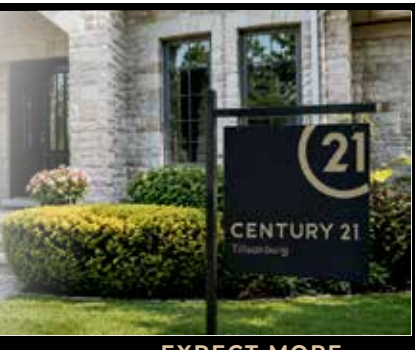
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AUGUST

AUGUST 28 | 1 - 4 PM

KEN LIGHTEART AND THE NORTHSHORE RAMBLERS DANCE

Tillsonburg Legion, 16 Durham St, Tillsonburg, ON

All Welcome! Only \$7 at the door. Cash bar open!

SEPTEMBER

SEPTEMBER 2 | 6 - 7 PM

OPEN HOUSE CANADIAN TAI CHI ACADEMY TILLSONBURG

St Paul's United Church, Fox Alley South entrance, off Ridout Street.

For more information, come to the Free Open House Wednesday Sept 2, 6 - 7 pm at St Paul's United Church, Fox Alley South Entrance off Ridout Street. **A New Fall Introductory Session begins Wednesday, September 9th 6:00 - 7:30pm.** Website: canadiantaichiacademy.org

SEPTEMBER 5 | 10 AM - 12 PM

MESSY CHURCH

"ALL TOGETHER NOW"

St.Paul's United Church, 88 Bidwell St.,Tillsonburg

New craft centers, music, games, snacks and lunch. All welcome. Children accompanied by an adult please.

SEPTEMBER 9 | 12 - 1 PM

TILLSONBURG LEGION LUNCH

Tillsonburg Legion, 16 Durham St, Tillsonburg, ON

Serving homemade soups, sandwiches, and desserts. Coffee and tea included. Only \$15 per plate while quantities last. Cash only. Complimentary Music by Four T Strings Band.

SEPTEMBER 12 | 9 AM - 4 PM

(Rain Date: Sunday, September 13)

OPEN HOUSE AND FAMILY FUN DAY

Tillsonburg Regional Airport, 244411 Airport Road, Tillsonburg

Join the Canadian Harvard Aircraft Association for its biggest event of the year, their Wings & Wheels Family Fun Day, September 13. (Rain date: Sept 14). World War II Harvard aircraft, along with hundreds of classic cars will be on display in one location. Bring your classic car or peruse those brought by others. Harvard flights will be available all day long. A great day's outing. Activities:

- Opportunities for Harvard flight experiences (While pre-booking flights is not necessary, it is recommended. Contact crewflights@harvards.com to ensure your seat)
- Hangar tours and aircraft displays
- Fundraising garage sale & book sale

- Food trucks

All types of vehicles are welcome. If you are bringing a vehicle for display, registering your vehicle upon arrival on-site is highly recommended.

In case of inclement weather, check their Facebook page for RAIN DATE updates.

Cost: Cash donation, Contact: info@harvards.com / 519-842-9922, For more info: www.harvards.com

SEPTEMBER 16 | STARTS 11 AM 136TH LANGTON FALL FAIR

Langton arena

Parade will begin at 11 am with opening ceremonies to follow. CWL luncheon at the Langton Community Centre. Also Baby Show, Talent Show, Tobacco Tying Contest and Car and Tractor Show! Also exhibits for Preserves, Baking, Homecrafts etc For adult and student prize lists call or text Carol 519-875-2973 or Susan 519-427-6314

SEPTEMBER 18 | 6:30 PM

TILLSONBURG KNIGHTS OF COLUMBUS MONTHLY BINGO

Basement of St Mary's Church on Rolph St in Tillsonburg

SEPTEMBER 19

TILLSONBURG LEGION GOLF TOURNAMENT

Tillsonview Fairways

Choose your tee time at the Legion for \$70 per person (includes hst) payable when you pick your tee off time. Includes 18 holes golf and meal. Cart extra. For more information call 519-842-5281.

OCTOBER

OCTOBER 24 | 10 AM - 3 PM

OXFORD PHILATELIC SOCIETY CIRCUIT BOOK (STAMP) FAIR

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

Free Admission & Parking. Stop in and buy some stamps and meet fellow stamp collectors. About 8 participating stamp clubs. Contact: dheaton3e3@gmail.com Website: <http://www.rpsc.org/chapters/oxford>

ONGOING CLASSES, CLUBS & ORGANIZATIONS

3RD TUE. OF MONTH | 6:30 - 8:30 PM

CAREGIVER CONNECTION

Revel Realty Woodstock, 111 Huron Street (Virutal/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.

STARTS 7 PM

THE TILLSONBURG & DISTRICT HISTORICAL SOCIETY PRESENTS MUSIC ON THE LAWN

Annandale N.H.S. , 30 Tillson Avenue AUGUST 16 – “North Shore Ramblers”

BEGINNING AT 6:30 PM

AUGUST 23 – “George Fulop”

AUGUST 30 – “Blue Sky” – Archie Wright

Bring your own lawn chairs. (Music may be cancelled at short notice due to weather. Call 226-970-1432 for cancellations.) Goodwill offering will be taken.

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 dheaton3e3@gmail.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/northbroadwaymf>, <https://www.instagram.com/northbroadwaymf>/ Inquires can be made at: nbmf@northbroadwaychurch.ca

EVERY OTHER FRIDAY | 1 - 4 PM

BE FALL-ISH AND COME TO 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! September 4 & 18, October 2, 16 & 30, November 6 & 20, and December 4.

WEDNESDAYS & FRIDAYS

TILLSONBURG BRIDGE CLUB

Two games weekly at the Tillsonburg Senior Centre - 45 Hardy Ave.

SOCIAL BRIDGE - Wednesdays, 7:00

p.m. A relaxed, friendly game for learners, returners and everyone else.

DUPLICATE BRIDGE - Fridays, 1:00

p.m. Still friendly, but a bit more structured and competitive.

Please arrive 10 minutes early.

Questions? tburgbridge@gmail.com or FB: [TburgBridge](https://www.facebook.com/TburgBridge)

COMING EVENTS

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 plattsvillegistrictheritage@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 SUPPORTIVE CARE PROGRAMS

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

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

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

WEEKEND QUIZ

by Jake Grant

1. What bird is a universal symbol of peace?
2. Who invented the airplane?
3. Which body part has the most bones?
4. What is the square root of 49?
5. How many legs does a crab have?
6. What three colors are on Estonia's flag?
7. Which gas do plants absorb from the atmosphere?
8. Who wrote the adventures of Tom Sawyer?
9. What are the five stages of grief?
10. Who sings the 1998 song Closing Time?

This week's answers are found on pg. 30

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DECORATION DAY

(KATHLEEN ROBINSON PHOTO)

Laying of wreaths, hymn singing and other acts of remembrance were featured at the Annual Decoration Day Service held at the Tillsonburg Cemetery on Sunday, Aug. 16. Sponsored by The Royal Canadian Legion Branch 153, Tillsonburg, the service included the Legion Colour Guard led by Sgt. at Arms Comrade Matt Brinn and the Knights of Columbus Honour Guard led by Bill Cannon.



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RIDDLES

What do you call a bear with no teeth?
A gummy bear!

What has a thousand needles, but cannot sew?
A porcupine.

Why do bees have sticky hair?
Because they use honeycombs!

What animal can jump higher than a building?
Any animal that can jump — buildings can't jump!

The alphabet goes from A to Z, but I go Z to A. What am I?
A zebra.

What two keys cannot open any doors?
Monkey and donkey.

Why are teddy bears never hungry?
Because they are always stuffed!

What do you call a dinosaur with an extensive vocabulary?
A thesaurus.

What kind of lion never roars?
A dandelion!

Which fish costs the most?
A goldfish!

SUDOKU

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

Solutions on Page 30

Level: Beginner

PET OF THE WEEK



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165295 Neidert Line RR #2, Otterville, ON
abbysplace.ca

TED

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

WORD SEARCH

FAIR DAYS

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

APPLES

BLUE RIBBON

CARNIVAL

CAROUSEL

CHURRO

COASTER

CONCERT

CORNDOG

COTTON CANDY

EXHIBIT

FERRIS WHEEL

FRIES

FUNNEL CAKE

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LOOKING FOR

Natalie Boulianne, or anyone knowing her whereabouts, please contact Fr. George F. Nayfa, St. Nicholas Greek Orthodox Church, 697 Asheville Highway, PO Box 1107, Spartanburg, SC 29303, 864-494-5365 about a personal matter.

QUIZ ANSWERS

1. Dove
2. Wright brothers
3. Hand
4. Seven
5. Ten
6. Blue, Black, White
7. Carbon dioxide
8. Mark Twain
9. Denial, anger, bargaining, depression, acceptance
10. Semisonic

SUDOKU

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

THANK YOU

Thank You



ARTHUR E. FLETCHER

(NOV 4, 1936 – JUNE 20, 2026)

Thank you to everyone who have reached out to me and family either by Mass cards, flowers, and food regarding the passing of my husband Arthur. There are not enough words to express my gratitude for all the sympathy and kind words that I have received. It is obvious that he will be missed by many.

Sincerely,

-Norma Fletcher and family

OBITUARY

RICHARD GABRIEL VAN DE WIELE

(JUNE 18, 1939 - AUGUST 24, 2026)



It is with deep sadness that we announce the peaceful passing of Richard Gabriel Van De Wiele on Monday, August 24th, 2026, at the age of 87. Beloved husband, father, grandfather, great grandfather, brother, uncle and friend.

Richard was predeceased by his beloved spouse, Simonne Cecilia (Spriet) Van De Wiele in November 2010. The two shared a wonderful 47 years together and built a beautiful life raising their four children in Langton on the home tobacco farm.

He leaves behind his wife and companion of 11 years, Veronica (Duden) Vandewiel, who brought much love and joy to his later years.

Devoted father of Lynne (Steve) Duquette, JoAnne (Mike) Van De Wiele-Kimura, Richard (Marleen) Van De Wiele, and Rose-Anne (Kent) McLellan. Proud Papa to Laura, Andrew, Emily (Aaron) and Alexandra Duquette, Michael Kimura, Celeste (Andrew), Christine (Evan), Alexander (Taylor) and Jennifer Van De Wiele, Gabriel, Lucas, Noah, Nathaniel, William, and Bella McLellan. Beloved Great-Papa to Heather Karolat. He will also be missed by John Vandewiel, son of Veronica, along with many extended family members and friends.

Richard is survived by his sisters Jean (Jerome) Donck and Elaine (Boyd) Armstrong and by his in-laws Rosa Demaiter, Andrew (Helen) Spriet, Mary DeCloet, Rosalie Spriet and Doris Spriet. He is also survived by many nieces, nephews and cousins. Predeceased by his parents, Victor and Alida (VanDaele) VanDeWiele, infant daughter Rita, grandson Nathaniel McLellan and his in-laws Celest Spriet, Gerard Demaiter, Roger Spriet, Lizette and Peter Lierman, John DeCloet and John Spriet.

Richard lived a life centred on family, love, and a deep appreciation for the simple joys that made life meaningful. Known for his easy-going nature and sense of humour, he created lasting memories and shared many laughs amongst friends and family. His kindness, generosity, and genuine interest in others left a lasting impression on everyone he met.

Born in Tillsonburg, and raised on the family tobacco farm in Middleton, Richard was an excellent student and athlete at Annandale High School. After graduating from the University of Western Ontario in 1962, Richard started his career as a high school teacher, but after three years he and Simonne decided to return to the farm. Simonne grew up on to pursue the "good life" as tobacco farmers. He continued as a tobacco farmer until his semi-retirement in 1998, when he carried on enjoying visits to the farm, curing tobacco and helping out as needed, for many years. Throughout his life, Richard loved dancing, canoeing, hunting, fishing, travelling, and spending cherished time at the Twin Mountain Hunt Camp on Lake Matinenda, where he found great joy in the outdoors and nature with all of his children and grandchildren. These moments brought him happiness and created wonderful experiences shared with family and friends.

Richard enjoyed giving back to his community. He was a trustee with the Norfolk Board of Education. He also volunteered his time with the Ontario Belgian Fair Association, the Knights of Columbus, and with the residents of Caressant Care Courtland. He was an active and faithful member of Sacred Heart Church (Langton) throughout his life.

The family extends their heartfelt thanks to the staff at Norview Lodge for their care and compassion over the past two years.

Friends, neighbours and relatives will be received by the family for visitation on Thursday, August 27, 2026 from 2:00 to 4:00 pm and 6:00 to 8:00 p.m. at the Maurice J. Verhoeve Funeral Home Chapel, 40 Queen Street, Langton. Parish Prayers will be held Thursday between 3:45 and 4:00 p.m. A funeral Mass of Christian Burial will be held on Friday at 11:00 a.m. at Sacred Heart Roman Catholic Church, 24 Albert Street, Langton, Rev. Fr. Seego John officiating. Interment to follow in the Sacred Heart R.C. Cemetery. All in attendance are invited to join the family at Courtland Community Centre (272 Main Street, Courtland) for a reception held immediately following the interment.

Everyone who knew Richard is invited to share special memories and photos, express personal condolences or contribute memorial donations to "Sacred Heart Parish – Building Fund" via Richard's online tribute page at www.verhoevefuneralhomes.com or by contacting the Maurice J. Verhoeve Funeral Homes – Burial and Cremation Services Inc. (519) 842-4238, entrusted with all arrangements, with confidence.

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CLASSIFIEDS

OBITUARY

MICHAEL JOHN STANLEY BOOTHBY

(MAY 5, 1945 – AUGUST 13, 2026)



It is with the heaviest of hearts that we announce the unexpected passing of our father, grandfather, brother, friend and neighbour, Michael J. Boothby, on Thursday, August 13, 2026.

Born in Quebec City, Quebec, on May 5, 1945, as the eldest of three children to parents Stanley and Yvette Boothby, Michael, known to his loved ones and friends as Mike, will be lovingly remembered

by his daughters, Michele Saran and Andrea Boothby-Gysling (Philipp), along with his grandsons, Tristan and Gabriel Gysling. Mike is survived by his brother, Richard Boothby, and predeceased by his sister, Marjorie Smith.

There were many defining points in Mike's life, one of which is when he joined the Metropolitan Toronto Police Force in the 1970s. He was a proud member of the Force for many years and held a variety of roles throughout his exciting career as Sergeant. The second is perhaps when he made the move from Oakville, Ontario, to Norfolk County in the early 2000s where he would painstakingly renovate what would become known as "Fairnorth Farm" — Mike could fix, build or design anything and many came to him for advice on a variety of topics ranging from the latest in tech to tools and cars; law to policing and politics and so much more. He adored sharing his skills and learnings with others.

But perhaps nothing made him happier than living "South of 45," which he often referred to as "God's Country." Whether that was taking his grandsons for Gator rides or socializing at the local Tim's, Mike spent his retirement enjoying sharing a laugh and one of his many colourful police stories with whoever he'd meet and spent his final days looking over the property he loved, just as he said he would.

A Celebration of Mike's Life will be held on a date to be announced soon. Everyone who knew Mike is invited to share favourite memories and photos, express personal condolences or in lieu of flowers contribute memorial donations to the "Arthritis Society" via his online tribute page at www.verhoevefuneralhomes.com or by contacting the Maurice J. Verhoeve Funeral Homes, 262 Broadway, Tillsonburg (519) 842-4238.

OBITUARY

ERICA MARIA (KRAUSS) O'BRIEN

(DECEMBER 23, 1948 – AUGUST 21, 2026)



It is with heavy hearts that we, the family of Erica Maria (nee Krauss) O'Brien, announce her peaceful passing after a courageous struggle with illness, on Friday August 21st, 2026, at Tillsonburg District Memorial Hospital, in her 78th year. Erica was born in Germany, daughter of the late Henry Krauss and Julia (nee Kuminka) Krauss. Erica was a proud tobacco farmer for many years, working all aspects of the farm including feeding many a home cooked meal. Erica and her late husband Pat (2009) retired to Tillsonburg in 2002. Not one to sit still and loving a conversation, Erica quickly found a part-time job as a cashier at the local Metro.

Erica was a member of St. Mary's Church and a 51-year member of the St. Mary's Catholic Women's League. She was a loyal friend to many with a generous heart ensuring everyone around her was happy and content. Above all else, she was a devoted grandmother to Grace, Alexandra, Julianne and Blake. Whether it was on vacation, attending a sporting event or at a family gathering she beamed with pride and loved them beyond measure.

Erica is survived by her children and their families: Christine (Robert Kittel), of Etobicoke and their children Grace, Alexandra and Julianne; Brent O'Brien, of Tillsonburg and his son Blake; and Adam O'Brien (Nicole), of Woodstock. Erica is also survived by her brother John (wife Linda), of Delhi, sister Julie, of Fort Erie and sister-in-law Judy, of Delhi. Predeceased by her much-loved husband Pat, brother Henry, and brother-in-law Dean. Also survived by several nieces, nephews and cousins.

Our family would like to express our deepest gratitude to the nursing staff of the Tillsonburg District Memorial Hospital. This special group of nurses supported our family and cared for our mother with the ultimate compassion and dignity.

We will miss her more than words can express.

Friends, neighbours and relatives were invited to join the family for visitation on Wednesday, August 26th, between 2:00 and 4:00 p.m. and 6:15 and 8:00 p.m. in the Maurice J. Verhoeve Funeral Homes Chapel, 262 Broadway, Tillsonburg. All CWL members were invited to attend a CWL Rosary on Wednesday at 6:00 p.m. in the funeral home chapel. A private family graveside service will take place in Our Lady of La Salette R.C. Cemetery, by Rev. Fr. Seejo John. Everyone who knew Erica is invited to share favourite memories and photos, express personal condolences or contribute memorial donations to the "Canadian Cancer Society" or the "Tillsonburg District Memorial Hospital" via Erica's online tribute page at www.verhoevefuneralhomes.com or by contacting the Maurice J. Verhoeve Funeral Homes at (519) 842-4238.

OBITUARY

GERARD JOSEPH DEMAITER

(AUGUST 24, 1931 – AUGUST 23, 2026)



It is with profound sadness that we, the family of Gerard Joseph Demaiter, wish to announce his peaceful passing, after a long and well-lived life, on Sunday, August 23rd, 2026, hours before his 95th birthday. Gerard, son of the late Maurice and Julia (Decuypere) Demaiter, was born in Moorslede, W.F., Belgium and emigrated to Canada with his parents and sisters in 1939. For many years, Gerard farmed

tobacco alongside his wife of 73 wonderful years, Rosa Mary (Spriet) Demaiter, innovating along the way. Gerard was a director for the Ontario Flue-Cured Tobacco Growers' Marketing Board for 20 years. He also served as president of the Belgian Fair Board and the Langton Fair Board. He was a member of the Long Point Region Old Auto Club. Gerard was a faithful member of Sacred Heart R.C. Church, Langton. He was always willing to help others in need and was known for his generosity. Gerard would always say that he loved his wife before she even knew him. He married Rosa, the love of his life, on February 5, 1953 and together they raised a beautiful family.

Lovingly remembered by his children and their families: Maurice (Lorie) and their children Sarah (Geoff), Erin (Jeremy), Jennifer, Kortney (Teddy), and Riley; Delores (Jerry Tack) and their children Quintin and Claire; David (Janet) and their children Kristen (Lee), Michelle, David and Allison (Chris); Leon (Heather) and their children Michael (Jennifer), Gerard (Sarah), William (Sam), Stephen (Madison), and Ann (Adam); Linda (Tom Schafer) and their children Janelle (Cameron), and Stephen (Alainna); Joseph (Lori) and their children Austin (Sarah), Alicia (Jonathan), and Matthew; Elaine (Paul Boyd) and their children James (Kaitlyn), Brian, Emily, Laura, Kevin, and Scott; Donna (Jamie Smithers) and their children Luke and Rosa. Always a caring great-grandfather to: Ethan, Jared, Olivia, Lauren, Beau, Shawn, Andrew, Grace, Benjamin, Laura, Julian, Benjamin, Amelia, Evelyn, Audrey, Bryson, Christian, Aiden, Avery, Nathan, Jacob, Clara, Carson, Bennett, Foster, Maryn, Elle, Evan, Georgia, Loraine, Rose, James, Eve and Mary. Also survived by his sisters Mary VanOoteghem, Freda Loncke and Gerarda Maertens and by his in-laws Andrew (Helen) Spriet, Mary DeCloet, Rosalie Spriet, Doris Spriet and Veronica VanDeWiele and many nieces and nephews. Predeceased by his grandson Peter, great-grandson Ryan and by his in-laws Celest Spriet, Roger Spriet, Lizette and Peter Lierman, Simonne and Richard VanDeWiele, John DeCloet, John Spriet, Julien VanOoteghem, Donald Loncke and Daniel Maertens.

Friends, neighbours and relatives were invited to attend Parish Prayers on Tuesday, August 25th, 2026 at 4:00 p.m. followed by public visitation between 4:15 and 7:00 p.m. in the Maurice J. Verhoeve Funeral Homes Chapel, 40 Queen Street, Langton. Additional visitation was held on Wednesday, August 26th, between 10:00 and 10:45 a.m. in the funeral home chapel. A Funeral Mass was held on Wednesday, at 11:00 a.m. in Sacred Heart R.C. Church, 24 Albert Street, Langton, by Rev. Fr. Seejo John. Burial followed in Sacred Heart R.C. Cemetery. Everyone who knew Gerard is invited to share favourite memories and photos, express personal condolences or contribute memorial donations to "Sacred Heart Parish" or to the "Canadian Red Cross" via Gerard's online tribute page at www.verhoevefuneralhomes.com or by contacting the Maurice J. Verhoeve Funeral Homes - Burial and Cremation Services Inc. (519) 842-4238, entrusted with all arrangements, with confidence.

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