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Running with the Bulls expected to be larger

JEFF HELSDON

Editor

It could be said that Running with the Bulls organizer Tamara Bull has a way of grabbing the bull by the horns and running with it.

"My life has always been go big or go home," Bull said, while taking a moment out from organizing what has become a large event drawing several hundred people.

Bull said the run, which is a sanctioned event on July 18, is gaining a positive reputation in the running community. The other place the event is gaining momentum is as a memorial for those who lost a loved one to cancer, as all proceeds go to assist families dealing with a cancer diagnosis.

The event originated after Bull's son Nathan was diagnosed with a rare form of cancer in 2023. Initially, it was believed he would have to go to the U.S. for any treatment, and a GoFundMe page was started. An outpouring of support came for this longstanding local volunteer's family.

Nathan managed to find treatment in Toronto, but still had to deal with the financial implications associated with treatment. His mother decided to give back to the community, starting Running with the Bulls in 2024 as a fundraiser to assist with the expenses from cancer not covered by the medical system.

"What if a family didn't have such a successful GoFundMe," she said. "No family should have to determine if their kid lives or dies; it shouldn't be that way."

Last year, Bull associated the event with the Kindred Foundation, a registered charity that assists individuals and their families who are diagnosed with cancer.

CONTINUED TO PAGE 5



(JEFF HELSDON PHOTO)

HATS OFF TO GLENDALE GRADUATES

Glendale High School sent the Class of 2026 off to post-secondary education and into the work force at its annual commencement last Thursday night in Memorial arena. To wind down the ceremony, the graduated students tossed their caps into the air. See next week's Post for more coverage of the commencement ceremonies.

Spencer enters town's mayoral race

JEFF HELSDON

Editor

There is officially a race for the mayor's seat in Tillsonburg with Coun. Kelly Spencer filing her papers to run for the town's leadership last week.

The first-time councillor sits as the vice-chair of the Com-

munity Health Care Advisory Committee, is on the Youth Advisory Council and the Museum, Heritage and Culture Committees as a member of council.

Outside of council, Spencer owned Indigo Lounge the past 15 years. The business was the recipient of the Chamber of Commerce's Entrepreneur of the Year in 2012, Community Impact Award in 2015 and Environmental Award in 2020.

CONTINUED TO PAGE 2

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There is officially a race for mayor's position

CONTINUED FROM FRONT

It also won the Partnership Award from Oxford County for leadership in collaboration and partnership with other business and farmers. As a volunteer, Spencer sits on the board of directors for United Way Oxford and the subcommittee for the Lighthouse/Transitional house here in Tillsonburg.

"As a former registered nurse, community advocate, business owner, and a town councillor, I have spent my life serving others," Spencer said. "I am ready to bring that experience, education, energy, and commitment to the role of mayor."

Asked why she decided to run for mayor, Spencer said the town deserves leadership that is visible, accessible, collaborative and focused on moving the town forward.

"Our town has incredible strengths, dedicated residents, passionate volunteers, and tremendous potential," she said. "To fully realize that potential, we need leadership that brings people together, builds relationships, and works toward common goals in Tillsonburg and at Oxford County council."

Spencer promised to provide respectful dialogue and effective leadership with every level of government while representing the town, if elected.

"Most importantly, I am running because I love this community, I am highly involved

in the community and believe deeply in its future," she said.

Saying council has achieved a lot in the last four years, Spencer wants to see a "course correction" if she is elected mayor.

"I want to see a thriving downtown, strong local businesses with room for expansion, housing options for every stage of life, support for seniors for aging in place, continued healthcare advocacy, and a community where everyone feels safe, connected, and proud to call Tillsonburg home," she said.

On the industrial front, Spencer wants to see expansion. She will push for establishing industries that will support the future VW Gigafactory in St. Thomas to become established in Tillsonburg.

She also wants to build stronger collaboration through her leadership between Tillsonburg council and Oxford County council.

"The perceived divide between Tillsonburg Council and Oxford County Council has moved beyond healthy democratic debate," Spencer said. "A renewed commitment to collaboration is essential for effective leadership and rebuilding public confidence in both councils."

One of the issues facing Tillsonburg in the next few years will be the need to ex-

pand the boundaries. Spencer believes the Memorandum of Understanding signed when the Norfolk Mall expanded in the early 2000s and the County of Oxford extended water and sanitary sewer lines to it, there was a clause supporting a future boundary adjustment.

"Because Norfolk mall sits on the Norfolk side of the border, but relies entirely on Oxford County water and sewer, major redevelopment on that site is essentially stuck in limbo until the jurisdictional boundary matches the infrastructure," Spencer said. "Despite the history and requests by the current property owners, nothing has been formally initiated. To get this process in gear we need a resolution, supporting a boundary change and request an evidence-based study between Oxford, Tillsonburg and Norfolk. It's time to treat this as a key issue."

As is the case in many municipalities, homelessness is an issue in Tillsonburg. Although Tillsonburg doesn't deal directly with social services as a lower-tier municipality, the mayor is a member of county council, which does oversee social services.

"This means our local leadership has a direct voice in how countywide funds, regional strategies, and provincial programs are distributed," Spencer said, adding she would champion localized transitional housing programs.

"There is now county staff dedicated to assisting Oxford communities through focused implementation of the Safe and Well Plan, which includes homelessness, mental health and addiction," she continued. "Unfortunately, this initiative was not supported by our county representative."

Spencer made the case that there is a financial argument for the county providing proactive funding to tackle homelessness.

"Leaving individuals unhoused is remarkably expensive," she said. "When a person lacks stable shelter, they are forced to rely heavily on reactive crisis systems: emergency room visits, acute mental health interventions, policing, and emergency shelter bed allocations."

Spencer pointed to provincial studies showing the managing chronic homelessness through crisis response costs more



Kelly Spencer.

(CONTRIBUTED PHOTO)

than providing structured, supportive housing.

"As a board member on United Way and a member of the Tillsonburg transitional house committee, I have learned to understand the complex layered continuum of housing," she said. "Investing early in and supporting the housing continuum, such as localized transitional housing or rent-supplement programs and affordable housing, breaks this costly cycle. Every dollar spent on prevention and rehabilitation reduces the burden and burnout on our first responders and healthcare infrastructure."

Spencer also sees an economic benefit for the community when people transition from survival mode by taking people off the streets, they become active participants in the local economy.

"As mayor I would create a "Committee of Care" taskforce, dedicated to accessing existing resources and services, outreach and staff, to assist Tillsonburg to create an even cleaner, safer, and more vibrant downtown and provide a boost for consumers and merchants alike," she said. "We cannot fine or arrest our way out of homelessness, mental health and addiction. We need root cause solutions, not reactive bandages. Situations have worsened over last few years. This is not the case for all municipalities. We need action for Tillsonburg, to support all community members."

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EDITORIAL

Saying no many times over

At this week's council meeting, one of the agenda items from the closed session was an Ontario Land Tribunal notification regarding the proposal at 155 Wilson Ave. Although the discussion was justifiably held in closed session because this is a legal proceeding, it's obvious the developer filed an appeal, as council greenlit hiring a planner to defend its position.

To step back in time, council turned down the proposal for this development on April 27 after neighbouring residents packed the council chambers and spoke out against it. The present proposal is for a 24-unit, three-storey stacked townhouse development. The application heard on April 27 was to change the zoning from low-density residential to medium-density residential, to recognize the 10-meter frontage on Wilson Ave and reduce the side-yard setback.

Developments for this property have been submitted to various councils over the years and have been turned down each time. There have been eight separate proposals for the property, all of which have given a thumbs-down.

Among the reasons the development was turned down last time were concerns about fire access to the property due to the narrow driveway. Although input from the fire department this time stated that a fire truck could turn around with the proposed design, the reality is that a fire in a high-rise will result in the fire department responding with all of its trucks. For these trucks to get access to the structure past the residents' vehicle parked outside the development is a different story. Also,

with a high-rise fire, there is a real risk of setting neighbouring houses that are that close ablaze.

Also at issue were the narrow width of the driveway and where to put any cleared snow. With a winter like the past one, most residents can relate to that issue. Besides the driveway, the proposed development and its parking is shoehorning an oversized development into a small space.

Another major unanswered question was parking. The development allowed for the town's current 1.25 parking spaces per unit, which is under review with a view to increasing it. Residents were rightfully concerned that any overflow parking would be on Wilson Ave. While this may not be ideal in the summer, the developer provided no answer about where vehicles could park in the winter, when all overnight parking is banned on all town streets to allow snow clearing. That is a glaring issue.

Many times, when a new development is proposed, neighbours are upset, and often it's a case of NIMBYism – or not in my backyard. This is not what is occurring here. When a development proposal has been turned down eight times, it's for a reason. That's the case again with the latest proposal.

With the province's current push for further development, the Ontario Land Tribunal is gaining a reputation for consistently siding with developers. If ever there was a case where the tribunal should stick with the municipality's decision, this is it.

This will be a real test of the tribunal's fairness in adjudication.



The early bird gets the worm.

(STACIE EDEN PHOTO)

PHOTOGRAPHERS WANTED

Do you have a great photo you think would look good on the editorial page?

The Tillsonburg Post is looking for images to display in this space from community members who would like to share their art work. All images must be taken in Tillsonburg, or the immediate area, and should not be of people.

Images should be high resolution jpegs. Please send only one image per e-mail, and send no more than three images. Images should be sent to jeff@granthaven.com

A life of service to church, community, and country



**EVERYONE
HAS A
STORY
TO TELL**

ROBIN KRAFFT

Tillsonburg Post Columnist

You just never know who's serving your coffee, fixing your car, or checking your groceries. Many people pivot to a completely different path and you'd never suspect the skills, experiences and positions they've had in the past.

You might recognize Heather Cnockaert, former cashier and current front end manager at Sobeys, but you may not know that she's been a dedicated volunteer and had a trail-blazing 20-year career with the Canadian Armed Forces Military Police.

Heather was born here, but moved to Northern Ontario when she was 12. She describes herself as a bit of a nerd in high school, but she had a strong sense of self and was always deeply involved with her church and community.

Her convictions and solid work ethic (which she attributes to her father's example) made her a good fit for the military,

but the 10-week training experience in Cornwallis was a bit of a shock.

"It was physically demanding," Cnockaert said. "They break you down in order to make you into what they need. It has changed now, but that's what it was like then. You dig deep to find something you didn't know you had. When I started out on patrol in Trenton, my sergeant had never had a woman work for him before. This was 40 years ago."

Early in her career, she got the tap from the Special Investigations Unit. Her captain advised her to never close an open door, and that became her guiding principle from then on. By the time she retired, Heather had held many positions: security specialist, harassment investigator, surveillance, criminal investigator, criminal intelligence analyst, and health and safety investigator.

"At 23 years old I didn't look like a police officer," Cnockaert said. "I looked like a librarian."

She was able to use that as an advantage.

Slowly, the attitude toward women in the military changed, and her husband Jerry was always supportive. As a truck driver, he could find work anywhere, and he was willing to follow Heather wherever she needed to go.

"I wouldn't have been able to advance in my career the way I did if it hadn't been for him," she added.

As a security specialist, she was in Calgary for a month for the PAMS multinational event and providing close protection, so she had to have formal wear so that she would blend in.

"I tried on one dress, and the sales lady said how nice it

looked on me," Cnockaert said. "My husband said, 'I don't know where you're going to put your gun' and I still remember the look on her face when he said that."

Heather also provided site security during the G8 in Alberta. She provided honour guard duty for Prime Minister Jean Chretien, and later for Prime Minister Brian Mulroney.

"When I was guarding the Chief of Defense at his residence during the Gulf War, I remember going into a donut shop at 1 or 2 a.m. and there were Ottawa Police sitting at a table," Cnockaert said. "I looked really young, and I was wearing a bright pink ski jacket, and they were giving me the eye, and I had to laugh to myself, knowing that under my jacket my gun was bigger than their's."

Heather is also an aspiring photographer. When she was in Borden, she sometimes took photos for weddings. She had all the necessary equipment (which she typically used for surveillance) and she was used to taking shots of people in action. Now she takes photos for the annual Running With the Bulls event.

After her military career, Heather and Jerry and their three young children moved to Tillsonburg to be closer to family. She was a reading buddy at the library, a long-time member of the board of directors for the Station Arts Centre, and taught pottery at public schools, but she stepped back from her volunteer positions 18 months ago when her first grandchild was born.

"We're still in the same house 20 years later," Cnockaert said. "It's a full house with children and grandchildren. We have three generations in the house and it's wonderful."

Seeing Annandale House through an artist's eyes

MUSEUM MUSINGS

SARAH LISE

Summer student, Annandale National Historic Site

As a fine arts and art history student, I am always looking for historical artworks to study in detail. My favourite period in art history features the Arts and Crafts and Aesthetic movements, which is what drew me to apply to work at Annandale House as a summer student for two years.

The Aesthetic Movement was influential because it challenged traditional notions of art and beauty, emphasizing aesthetic pleasure over function, which continues to inspire artists today. Through my time working at the museum, I have gained a new appreciation for the style that has influenced my own art.

Annandale House is a National Historic Site because it is the finest example of architecture and interior decoration in a domestic setting from the Aesthetic Art Movement. The house features ornate woodwork, stained glass, and intricate wallpaper designs that showcase the style's emphasis on beauty and craftsmanship. The inside of the house is ornately decorated from top to bottom with local flora and fauna motifs and patterns that reflected the world around E.D and Mary Ann Tillson in the late 19th century.

A prominent technique used in the Aesthetic movement was layering: materials, colours, and motifs were layered to create a beautiful effect, which is prevalent in Annandale's decoration. E.D. and Mary Ann Tillson were inspired to decorate Annandale House in this style because they are believed to have travelled to Woodstock in 1882 to attend a speech by Oscar Wilde titled "The House Beautiful," which emphasized decorating a house with detail and beauty. Thus, the Aesthetic Movement came to Tillsonburg.

When creating my own art, I like to make repeating patterns inspired by the Arts and Crafts and Aesthetic Movement styles. My focus is on creating art that looks beautiful and can be used for decoration, rather than creating art that



(CONTRIBUTED PHOTO)

focuses primarily on meaning. This ties in with the theory of the Aesthetic movement: creating art for art's sake.

When I first saw Annandale House last year, I was immediately inspired by the gorgeous interiors, particularly the wallpapers and ceiling paintings. Visitors can explore these details firsthand and see how the house's design reflects the movement's ideals. In my Printmaking class this past school year, I made prints inspired by the ceiling paintings in Annandale House. It is truly amazing to call this beautiful piece of history my workplace for the summer. I love telling my classmates and friends in my art history program about Annandale House and showing them photos. It is truly a hidden gem in Southwestern Ontario.

This role also gives me the opportunity to explore art in many ways. This year, I am creating a cow mural for our "Party 'Till the Cows Come Home" event on August 8, which will be a collaborative piece for attendees to paint together. I will also teach children about art and the Aesthetic Movement through our summer camps and drop-in programming.

The accompanying artwork for this article is of a patterned piece I created using motifs found throughout Annandale House. I went through the museum and took pho-

tos of my favourite details. I included stained-glass flowers from the parlour doors featuring local flowers and plants such as roses, chestnut tree blossoms, poppies, daisies, and bluebells. I also included the flora and fauna from the ceiling murals, as well as some animal designs found throughout the house, such as the squirrel and the sparrow. The colours used are inspired by Annandale House, making the design feel like it's from the Aesthetic Movement. My goal was to create an authentic piece of art that reflected the beauty and decorations of the house, and the history of the Town of Tillsonburg itself.

William Morris, considered one of the founders of the Aesthetic Movement, said, "Have nothing in your house that you do not know to be useful, or believe to be beautiful." This quote has really resonated with me as an artist because it emphasizes individuality and the importance of making a space feel beautiful according to your own opinions. This describes Annandale House perfectly - a gorgeous house that the Tillson's customized to their own opinions of beauty, which was the local beauty of their town, Tillsonburg.

Today, I hope this inspires others to see the beauty surrounding us here in Tillsonburg, just as the Tillson family did.

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Tillsonburg POST

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Event raises money to assist with cancer diagnosis expenses

CONTINUED FROM FRONT

She sought and was given assurance that any money raised in Tillsonburg would be prioritized for local spending.

Running with the Bulls is the only registered chip-time run in Oxford County. This affiliation, which is a large undertaking for an individual to organize, draws people from long distances, including Sarnia, Kingston, Ottawa, Windsor, and Barrie.

For runners, there will be swag for all participants. There will be more displays that interest runners, including local establishments such as At My Playground and the Ripped Club. Kokoanna Multi-Sport, which is Bull's running club, will also have a display. She said it is designed to cover people of all abilities.

"Me at 61 can run with my son who is 29," she said.

The run last year attracted 375 runners. Bull already surpassed that number and has a goal of 600 spots – 500 for adults and 100 for the youth Kiddie Run.

"In my world, I would sell out of all 500 spots," she said.

There are cash prizes for the top three finishers, along with additional prizes from local businesses.

Running with the Bulls is also a family event, complete with youth-focused booths. This includes the Station Arts

Centre kid's zone, face painting, bouncy castles from Super Air Bounce and a separate one-kilometer 'Kiddie Run'.

"Very seldom will you have a one-kilometer kiddie run where you get a medal," Bull said.

She has enlisted community groups to assist with the event. The Lion's Club provided a \$1,000 monetary donation and will have a tent and some volunteers assisting with the event.

Since Tillsonburg no longer has a Relay for Life, Bull sees the opportunity to expand the Family Memorial Walk. The memorial walk will give supporters the opportunity to purchase flags and carry them in the walk, either in yellow in honour of a person with cancer or white in memory of a person who died of cancer.

"You can personalize your flag at the Station Arts Centre and then carry it in the memorial walk, or plant it next to the trail," Bull said.

"My goal was not just to make it a running event but a complete community event," Bull said.

This year's goal is to raise \$33,000.

Registration for the run is \$55 until June 28, then it goes up by \$10 until the event date. Memorial signs are \$5. More information is available at tillsonburgrunning-withthebulls.com

OPP launches "Stop - Look - Live"

The Ontario Provincial Police (OPP), West Region, is launching the "Stop. Look. Live." campaign in response to ongoing concerns surrounding fatal and serious collisions at intersections across West Region.

Intersection-related collisions continue to have devastating consequences for individuals, families, and communities. In both 2024 and 2025, 13 lives were lost each year as a result of failure-to-yield and intersection-related incidents. Additionally, since May 2025, West Region OPP has responded to three separate intersection related fatal collisions, each claiming five lives.

These are not just numbers,-they represent people whose lives were cut short and families who continue to live with unimaginable loss.

From June 15 to June 21, OPP officers will focus on both enforcement and public education, targeting behaviours such as failing to stop at stop signs, failing

to yield the right of way, and inattentive driving.

"Every intersection presents a critical decision point for drivers. Taking an extra moment to stop and look can save lives," said Staff Sergeant Julie McLeod, OPP West Region Traffic and Marine.

Drivers are reminded that safe driving starts with simple, consistent actions:

- Come to a complete and deliberate stop at every stop sign
- Look in all directions, more than once, before proceeding
- Never assume other drivers will stop or yield
- Be mindful of pedestrians, cyclists, and approaching vehicles

Choosing to slow down and take that extra moment is an act of care-for yourself, your

passengers, and every other road user and the OPP encourages all road users to make safe and responsible decisions.

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Oxford County looking for community feedback for new Official Plan through in-person, online input

LEE GRIFFI
Post Contributor

Oxford County is hosting four in-person workshops and launching an online survey to gather feedback to help develop its new Official Plan (OP).

“The county’s population is expected to jump to more than 200,000 over the next 20 to 30 years. The new Official Plan will help shape this future growth by guiding housing and employment planning in Oxford, supporting infrastructure and other services, protecting the environment, and overall community design,” said a county press release.

An OP is the key planning document that directs a municipality’s future growth and development. It outlines how land should be used

and ensures that new development is supported by appropriate infrastructure and public services through a series of policies and planning tools.

“The current plan was originally approved in 1995, and it has been an incredibly effective tool to help us guide growth over the last number of decades. It has been reviewed and updated from time to time over that period,” said April Nix, the county’s Manager of Planning Policy.

“We’ve kept it up to date as things have changed and as we’ve gone through growth and development as a community. One of the things we’re finding now is that we’re seeing a lot more significant changes both in terms of the amount of population growth that we’ve been seeing over the last five to 10 years and

the amount of population growth it looks like we’re going to be dealing with going forward,” she added.

Nix added there are some other legislative and regulatory requirements in the province the county will have to meet with the new plan. She said now is the time for residents across the county to get involved in the process.

“The visioning we’re doing right now will help us shape the goals and objectives for the plan in terms of how we’re going to grow, where we’re going to grow and what that looks like. Also, how we create a balance so we protect the things that are important to our communities like farmland, natural spaces and water resources.”

She said there are many questions to ask, including what change looks like and where there are opportunities to get behind some of that change.

“And to think about this at a county-wide scale, at a community-wide scale, to have some of those conversations early rather than waiting for maybe that individual development application to show up in your community or in your neighbourhood. This actually helps set the rules and requirements that influence those types of things when they happen at that local level.”

Nix said she would like to see people from all parts of the county get involved in the process to have their say, and now is the time to

get involved and help Oxford set the vision for the plan in terms of how to deal with growth moving forward.

“What does growth and development look like in Thamesford, in Tavistock, in the village of Norwich, in Mount Elgin or Drumbo, which are equally fully serviced settlement areas. What does growth look like in some of our rural villages, which could be substantively different from Tillsonburg, Ingersoll or Woodstock?”

What are some of the things maybe that those villages need? And I’m sure there are ideas out there about that. So, you know, that kind of thinking and that kind of feedback is really, really important right now. Like, this is the kind of feedback we’re looking for through the visioning workshops and through the community survey online.

Residents can attend one of four in-person visioning workshops to have their say and are encouraged to register online in advance at www.oxfordcounty.ca/official-plan-engage. The survey closes on August 31, 2026. In-person Events are scheduled in Innerkip, Mount Elgin, Woodstock and Embro between June 16 and June 25. Nix said anyone interested in attending should RSVP, so the county has enough staff on site.

To learn more, provide feedback through the online survey, or submit comments at any time throughout the Official Plan process, visit www.oxfordcounty.ca/official-plan-engage.



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Tillsonburg TURTLEFEST

FESTIVAL MAP





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11:00AM - 7:00PM

DOWNTOWN BLOCK PARTY
Broadway & Side Streets

12:00PM - 6:00PM

Creative Imagination Station
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12:00PM - 6:00PM

Daytime Stage Entertainment
Check out the lineup at turtlefest.ca
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1PM, 3PM & 5PM

Reptilia Reptile Zoo
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2PM, 4PM & 7PM

Tim Burr Lumberjack Show
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7:30PM - 11:00PM

Evening Concert
Opener: Coty Robinson, Headliner: Nate Haller
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8:15PM

Fire Guy
Mainstage
Sponsored by Country 107.3 & 101.3 Giant FM

Organizers says Taste of Summer a success

JEFF HELSDON
Editor

Taste of Summer set records, both in terms of funds raised and in the number of people who attended.

The fifth presentation of the Tillsonburg District Memorial Hospital Foundation event continued the trend of seeing more money raised each year. Attendance was estimated at more than 2,000 people.

“Donations are still coming in, and we’re close to about \$45,000 raised,” said

Gerry Dearing, foundation executive director.

He was happy with the day, was thankful the weather was good, and heard the same from the vendors.

“The food trucks were happy with their day and the numbers they had,” he said, adding a thank you to those who attended from himself and the board.

With Taste of Summer complete, planning is underway for future events, including the annual foundation golf tournament in the fall.

WEEKEND QUIZ

by Jake Grant

1. Who won the 2025-2026 Stanley Cup?

2. Who recently became the world's first trillionaire?

3. What is the first stage of the rain/ water cycle?

4. In "Goodfellas", what character did Robert De Niro portray?

5. The thistle is the national flower of

6. How did Oliver Tree die?

7. What is Duolingo's mascot?

8. Which dog breed was the first to have its evidence legally admitted in court?

9. In health, what does HDL stand for?

10. In what year did the first FIFA World Cup take place?

what country?

This week's answers are found on pg. 30

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SWOX and Zorra Townships hire shared deputy fire chief

DEBBIE KASMAN
Post Correspondent

South-West Oxford (SWOX) and Zorra Townships have promoted Jeremy Wallace to the position of Shared Deputy Fire Chief, serving both municipalities. Wallace brings more than 20 years of fire service experience, and a strong com-

mitment to leadership, firefighter safety, training, and community service. He is well known for his collaborative approach, professionalism, and dedication to continuous improvement. He is also part of a proud multi-generational fire service family. In addition to his municipal fire service experience, Wallace also serves with the

London International Airport as a firefighter and team lead, bringing valuable expertise in specialized and high-risk emergency response operations. Both townships approved, in principle, a shared fire service leadership model in February. The combined salary and associated employment costs for this position will be cost-shared equally between the

two municipalities. The intention of this model is not to amalgamate services, but rather to strengthen leadership capacity, enhance operational resilience, improve continuity of operations, and provide a more sustainable structure for both municipalities while maintaining independent fire services, governance, and community identity.

Law enforcement torch run planned for June 24

The local edition of the Law Enforcement Torch Run for Special Olympics is slated to take place on June 24. “People can come and walk with us or stand along the route and cheer,” said Const. Randi Crawford of Oxford OPP. The run starts at 6 p.m. at Tim Hortons on Oxford Street. The route goes up Till-

son Ave to Brock Street, over to Broadway and then back down Oxford to Tim Hortons. The first Law Enforcement Torch Run was held in 1987, and since then it has become an annual event in 10 provinces and the North-West Territories. In Ontario alone, \$46 million has been raised to sup-

port Special Olympic Athletes over that time. In Oxford County, OPP has supported the torch run for nearly two decades. “We do the walk to raise awareness and show our support for our great athletes around town,” Crawford said. For anyone who would like to donate,

can do so anytime by visiting : specialolympicsontario.crowdchange.ca Tillsonburg Special Olympics has two athletes heading to Alberta for the summer games mid-August. To support those athletes specifically you can visit <https://specialolympicsontario.crowdchange.ca/127433/team/72159/donate>

Activities planned to celebrate Indigenous Day

JEFF HELSDON
Editor

Eagle Flight Drum and Singers will be the highlight of activities planned for Indigenous Peoples Day. Taking place on Sunday, June 21, in Memorial Park, the annual event is organized by the Tillsonburg and District Historical Society. Held on a weeknight last year, the event is being held on

National Indigenous Peoples Day this year. The theme of this year's event will be Indigenous culture. Eagle Flight Singers and Dancers, led by Gordon Nicotine Sands is the main attraction, but there are also vendors with Indigenous food and crafts. Historical society president Dave Morris said the food vendor was so popular last year that they ran out of

food. He hopes it will continue to attract those who want to sample Indigenous food. On the craft vendor front, he said that having the event on National Indigenous Peoples Day has increased competition among craftspeople. “What we’re finding is the craftspeople are going to long-standing celebrations they have,” he said. “We may not have as many craftspeople this year as we did last year.”

With the event falling on Turtlefest weekend, Morris is hopeful the hype will build and more local residents will attend. He encouraged people to bring lawn chairs as bleacher seating is available, but limited. The event is free thanks to a federal grant. The grounds open at 12:30 p.m., with the opening ceremonies with local officials at 2 p.m., and the Eagle Flight performance to follow.

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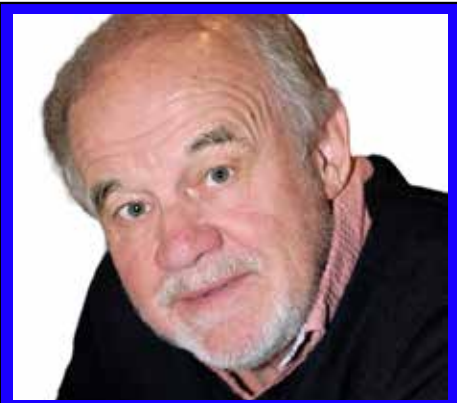


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LIVING RETIRED: 'World Cup Soccer for Dummies.'



By Gary Chalk
Non-Pulitzer Prize
Winning Columnist

Living Retired

van-driving little league soccer moms screaming at the top of their lungs: "BRANDON. I DIDN'T #\$\$\$ LEAVE WORK EARLY JUST FOR YOU TO SIT ON THE %\$\$ FIELD PLUCKING %\$\$ DANDELIONS!"

I am not a big soccer fan. What I do know is that Brazil, Germany, Italy, Argentina, Spain, England, and The Netherlands are known for their soccer prowess — while, here in Canada we are known for our poutine prowess.

Another thing I know is that before a soccer game begins the tattooed, man-bun players walk on to the field holding the hand of a young child. This is soccer's gesture of sportsmanship — before these same modern day Goliaths start running all over the field kicking each other in their pad-protected shins forcing them to collapse in pain apparently

The entire friggin' world is about to invade Canada, USA, and Mexico! Shirtless soccer fans wearing plastic horned-Viking helmets will drink, sing, chant, and march in the streets. Yes, it is the World Cup of Soccer.

The World Cup is similar to the Olympics, but without the French figure skating judges. The only thing that comes close here in North America are the

worse than childbirth!

Here is more of what I know about soccer...

The soccer referee — there is only one on the entire field! — blows a whistle when a penalty occurs. However, the player who committed the crime learns of his misdemeanour when the referee reaches into his pocket to select a suitable-colour Hallmark greeting card which he waves in the face of the villain.

Soccer is the only sporting event I can think of that has a guy whose job is to run along the sidelines from one end of the field to the other waving a large digital clock which identifies how much time remains for the players to do faceplants holding their shins, AND, how much additional time will be played because of these same players wasting time flopping onto the field feigning injuries.

And then there are the goalies. As the last line of defence, they stand in front of the goal which is a net large enough to trap a killer whale. So, to make themselves as large as possible, the goalies inflate their hands to 50 PSI and then tug colourful gloves on. Nothing is more intimidating to a soccer player running towards the goal than a goalie with powder

blue Papa Smurf hands!

Not many goals are scored in soccer because the players are flailing around down on the ground trying to entice the referee to pull out one of his Hallmark greeting cards, AND, after all, those Papa Smurf hands are enough to scare the bejeebers out of players with man-buns. Much of the game stays goalless, or as they say in soccer, Nil-Nil, which drives fans, well, Willy-nilly! Finally! A player actually scores which surprises the daylights out of the announcer who lets out a bloodcurdling scream, "GOOOOOOOOAL!" With that the score is now 1-Nil. More Willy-Nilly.

And what is it with the substitute players waiting to enter the game? They sit protected from 40,000 drunken fans in a discarded plexiglass transit shelter. Just saying.

There's no avoiding the World Cup Soccer, so let's all just kick back.

Living Retired is written weekly by humour columnist Gary Chalk and published throughout Canada and USA. Living Retired On The Radio is heard Thursday mornings. To inquire about keynote presentations contact Gchalk@me.com

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CHOOSE KINDNESS

(CHRIS ABBOTT PHOTO)

Choose Kindness Day 2026 was celebrated in Tillsonburg Saturday. Participants gathered at Indigo Lounge before heading out to spread kindness around town – handing out inspiring messages, donating food, sharing flowers and seeds, and more. From left are (front) Sharon Sommer, Sheryl Saint, Laura Ballantine, (back) Kelly Spencer, Cheryl Newton, Shelley Heaslip, Anne Spencer, Cheryl Bailey and Donna McConkey.



VOLUNTEERS AT WORK

(JEFF HELSDON PHOTO)

Members of the Tillsonburg Horticultural Society were recently hard at work planting the flower beds in front of Legion Branch 153. Left to right are: Hanna Hopper, Tina Hopper, Jenny Thomson, Jane Tunks and Jean Martin.

Changes in alcohol policy for parks results in confusion

JEFF HELSDON

Editor

Tillsonburg residents expecting to be popping corks or cracking cans in local parks this summer should think again.

Since the province amended its regulations regarding alcohol consumption in parks, there has been some confusion in regards to where people can imbibe. In some municipalities, Toronto for instance, there are specific parks where park goers can take and consume alcohol. That is not the case in Tillsonburg.

A few things changed with the recent amendments to the province's alcohol regulations. Those visiting pro-

vincial parks can now consume alcohol in picnic areas, beaches and other day-use areas, whereas before it was restricted to individual campsites.

Municipalities set their own regulations for alcohol consumption in parks. Toronto allows alcohol consumption in designated parks, and Tillsonburg does not. What else changed was the ability to designate bring-your-own alcohol events, where a permit would still be needed.

"As of April 30, municipalities have the option to designate outdoor events as community or cultural events that would be eligible for the new Bring-Your-Own Event permit," explained Julia Facca, Press Secretary for Attorney General Doug Downey. "The Bring-Your-

Own Event permit allows event attendees to bring and consume their own liquor at the event."

The province made the changes to support local tourism and drive economic growth through local festivals and small businesses.

Tillsonburg council recently amended its policies to allow it to designate community or cultural events as being eligible for the new bring-your-own alcohol permit.

The recent update to the Municipal Alcohol Policy provides Council with the ability to designate community or cultural events as eligible for the new bring-your-own event permit, and to date there have been no applications requesting such approval.

Kinsmen rebuild pontoon boat for Lake Lisgar

JEFF HELSDON

Editor

The only motorized boat docked on Lake Lisgar has a new look.

Called Kinship 1, the pontoon boat is used for lake maintenance by the Kinsmen, and mostly by member Frank Kempf.

Kinsmen Pat Carroll explained the boat was purchased by the Glen and Ellen Springer Trust, a \$50,000 trust established to maintain the beauty of Lake Lisgar. It was purchased in 2018, but it was already more than a de-

cade old, so the wooden deck on the boat needed replacing.

The boat went into the shop shortly after the fountain was installed on April 18. Carroll and Richard Mann disassembled the boat and replaced the plywood and stainless steel hardware. These items were donated by Home Hardware and 3E Power.

"Frank is elated because he has a solid boat because he's going to do his big project at the north end of the lake," Carroll said. "Now, it's pretty solid, so it should last until the next

generation."

Lake Lisgar has been a pet project of the Kinsmen, and Kempf is also involved with the Lake Lisgar Revitalization Committee. The Kinsmen purchased a new pump for the fountain, painted the bridge, and annually install and remove the fountain. Carroll said there is also a lot of behind-the-scenes work involved with the fountain after its removal, including cleaning and replacing the pump gaskets.

Removal of silt in the north end of the lake is planned this summer.



(CONTRIBUTED PHOTO)

Frank Kempf pilots the newly rebuilt Kinship 1 on Lake Lisgar. The boat recently had a neck installed and some of the hardware replaced.

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Chris Rosehart files nomination papers for town council

STAFF

Tillsonburg Post

Chris Rosehart has officially filed nomination papers to run for Tillsonburg Town Council, bringing with her 28 years of experience serving the residents of Tillsonburg.

Throughout her years on council, Rosehart has served on numerous boards and committees, including parks and recreation, Annandale House, airport, cemetery, police services, and the Tillsonburg Non-Profit Housing Committee. She has also been an active member of the Tillsonburg Fair Board, helping ensure the fair remains a valued tradition for local families.

Rosehart was raised on a farm near Langton. She

moved to Tillsonburg with her family in 1971, and purchased the store on Tillson Ave in 1978, which she still owns and operates to this day.

"I have decided to run again because I still have the energy, experience, and commitment to help move our community forward," said Rosehart. "Experience matters. I understand the issues facing Tillsonburg, how municipal government works, and the importance of teamwork, thoughtful planning, and responsible leadership."

During her time on council, Rosehart has supported significant progress through investments in roads and infrastructure, support for local businesses, responsible budgeting, and eco-

nomie development that has attracted new industry and expanded the tax base. Council has also enhanced community services and recreational opportunities, including the addition of six pickleball courts.

Looking ahead, Rosehart remains focused on the priorities that matter most to residents: affordable housing, reasonable taxation, maintaining roads and infrastructure, supporting industrial growth, and enhancing community safety. She notes that council was able to limit the town's portion of this year's tax increase to just three per cent, while continuing to invest in important services and projects.

One of the key initiatives facing the next council will

be the completion of the town hall renovation at the Customer Service Centre, creating a modern, accessible one-stop location for municipal services. Also, town growth will see pressures on infrastructure which will have to be addressed along with rising costs and budget constraints.

"As your town councillor, I have always been mindful of how taxpayer dollars are spent," said Rosehart. "I believe in transparency, accountability, common sense, and teamwork. Most importantly, I never forget who I work for—the residents and taxpayers of Tillsonburg. It has been an honour to serve this community, and I would be grateful for the opportunity to continue working on your behalf."

What's New

in Tillsonburg and surrounding areas

Simcoe Lighting and Décor celebrates 30 years

Simcoe Lighting and Décor is celebrating its 30th anniversary this year.

Service and selection have been priorities since day one, said co-owner Violet Frank, who has three decades experience in the lighting industry.

"You get that one-on-one customer service here," said Mike Frank, Violet's husband. "It's nice to ask the questions before they make a purchase, find out what they actually want. It's listening to them, I think that's the main part of it. Then you can make suggestions. I always say, 'You've got to like the fixtures because you're looking at them every day.'"

They specialize in residential lighting for new builds and renovations, carrying everything from chandeliers to bathroom vanities, pendant lighting, desk lamps, drawer lamps, and lamp shades in top quality brands. They also offer outdoor lighting options, including landscaping, path and solar lighting in their 4,000 square foot showroom.

This year they added new display areas. The vast number of lights on the ceiling still 'wow' customers, but now they also have a selection down at eye level.

"It just makes things flow and look better," said Violet.

"You get to see them from a level point of view, instead of looking up," said Frank. "Close up and personal, I call it."

Décor products are also prominent – they are right up front when you walk in the door. The expanded selection includes small tables, chairs, stools and benches, wall and shelf clocks, shelf units, decorative mirrors, signs and art, offering customers a 'home décor hub.'

"We have a lot of giftware ideas, and competitive prices I think," said Violet, suggesting customers keep that in mind with Father's Day coming up, or any anniversaries/birthdays for any gender. "We have a little bit of everything. Some of the big places don't always touch on the small stuff."

"We're bringing in more décor, more pictures," said Mike. "We started that two years ago and it was well re-



Mike and Violet Brown, owners of Simcoe Lighting and Décor.

ceived. So we stepped it up a bit with pictures (painting and prints). It looks elegant and stylish, but you're not breaking the bank to buy it. Flowers and birds seem to be 'in' right now."

"It can give you some colour, because it seems everything is so neutral now, too," Violet noted.

Simcoe Lighting and Décor Customers include home owners, contractors and builders, all benefiting from a constantly changing selection, and the many anniversary sales.

"We also are doing draws all year round, each month, to promote the 30th anniversary," said Violet, noting they had a big open house sale in May.

"It's been great being part of the community for 30 years. We have supported a lot of sporting events over the years, too, baseball, hockey, golf..."

Simcoe Lighting and Décor is open at 625 West Street W., Simcoe, Monday to Friday, 9-5, and Saturday 9-3. They are closed on long weekends. For more information, call them at 519-428-9927 or visit their updated website at www.simcoelighting.ca where you can view the newest products online, or on check them out on Facebook (www.facebook.com/simcoe.lighting/).



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Oxford County opens annual online budget survey

STAFF

Tillsonburg Post

No matter where you live in Oxford County, the 2027 budget survey is your chance to have a say on which services should be a priority in the coming budget year.

Information collected will help the county and local area municipalities know how well their services are understood, how they are valued, and which ones are a priority for residents.

"The survey asks residents and business owners from Blandford-Blenheim, East Zorra-Tavistock, Ingersoll, Norwich, South-West Oxford, Tillsonburg, Woodstock and Zorra about services they receive from their local area municipality, such as fire services, building and drainage services, parks and recreation, by-law enforcement and more," according to a county press release.

It also asks about services provided by Oxford County, such as roads and bridges, waste management, long-term

care at Woodingford Lodge, paramedic services, human (social) services, water and wastewater, community planning and others.

Each participating municipality receives and reviews its own survey results to help plan 2027 budgets.

Municipal property taxes collected from Oxford County residents are distributed to other municipalities (township, town or city), Oxford County, and the local school board designated by the homeowner according to the education tax rate set by the provincial government.

Oxford County's special budget meetings for the 2027 Business Plan and Budget take place on December 10 and December 14, after the swearing in of a new council in November following October's municipal elections. The 2027 budget will be presented for final approval at a regular council meeting on Jan. 13, 2027.

The survey is open until August 31 and can be found at www.oxfordcounty.ca/speakup.

Oxford OPP investigating series of Pride Flag thefts in Norwich

The Oxford detachment of the Ontario Provincial Police (OPP) is investigating a series of theft incidents involving Pride flags reported in Norwich Township.

Between June 5 and June 8, several Pride flags were reported stolen from multiple locations, including a school property, a place of worship, and private residences within the community.

Investigators continue to review the circumstances surrounding these incidents and are working to identify those responsible. Police are encouraging anyone with information to come forward.

Then, between Friday June 12, and Monday June 15, 2026, several more Pride flags were reported stolen from multiple locations, including a school property and private residences on Jerdon Street and Stover Street.

Investigators continue to review the circumstances surrounding these incidents and are working to identify those responsible. Police are encouraging anyone with information to come forward.

Residents and businesses in the area are asked to review any available video surveillance during the noted time frames and report anything that may assist investigators.

Anyone with information is asked to contact the Oxford OPP at 1-888-310-1122.

Those wishing to remain anonymous can contact Crime Stoppers at 1-800-222-TIPS (8477) or submit information online at www.oxfordcrimestoppers.com

Updates will be provided as new information becomes available.

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Turtlefest on tap for this weekend

JEFF HELSDON

Editor

The town's largest event of the year will be taking to the streets of Broadway this weekend.

"It's growing every year," said Turtlefest coordinator Terry Fraser. "Weather permitting, we expect to have an ever-increasing crowd every year."

Turtlefest starts Friday with the opening ceremonies at the Station Arts Centre at 4 p.m. after a ribbon cutting at the newly-renamed Tillson Parkette at the corner of Oxford Street and Broadway. The opening is also the debut of the Shell of a Place exhibit at the Station Arts Centre that will give gallery visitors a chance to vote on their favourite turtle-themed art.

Then, Friday night, things start to build with a concert at the Copper Mug featuring Chuck Jackson and Tyler Yarema, former members of the award-winning Downchild Blues Band, from 8 p.m. to 11 p.m.

Annandale National Historic Site also kicks off its TurtleFest activities on Friday evening with turtle rock painting, oversized outdoor games, food trucks, and a free outdoor screening of the Teenage Mutant Ninja Turtles III movie on the lawn. Families are encouraged to bring blankets or lawn chairs for a comfortable movie night experience.

Saturday's downtown activities will see things ramp up, with traditional activities, new events, and some modifications to regular features.

Farmer's Market

The addition of the Saturday morning farmers' market held in front of the Station Arts Centre is one new feature. There is an additional twist added to the market, though, with musician Rob Cromwell performing, additional "pop-up vendors, Beres Catering offering food, and horse and buggy rides for a fee.

"For most of its 13 years, the Station Arts Centre and Annandale House have been mainstays of TurtleFest," said Mark Renaud, chair of the TurtleFest Organizing Committee. "Adding the Farmer's Market this year continues the growth of Tillsonburg's signature event, offering free fun for everyone."

"The Tillsonburg Farmer's Market is excited to join this year's TurtleFest" said market president Chris Stubbe. "It's great to bring community hubs like the Farmer's Market together to celebrate all that Tillsonburg has to offer. It is an opportunity for our town to experience the market and get to know the farmers that are part of our community."

Change continues in the north end of the downtown with the Station Arts Centre's Creative Imagination Station moving from the north end of Broadway to Bridge Street, which is an addition to the TurtleFest area. The area will feature hands-on craft stations for youth, including face painting, community mural painting, an interactive chalk art station, and photo opportunities with the turtle-themed cutout. In addition, entertain-



(JEFF HELSDON PHOTOS)

Astute Tillsonburg residents who received mail that was dropped in a local box will notice the TurtleFest philatelic stamp showing the mail was received in the town's post office. This is something local postal staff started doing a couple of years ago to promote the festival.

er Tia McGraff will be performing and providing storytelling throughout the noon to 6 p.m. hours the area will operate.

"These activities are designed to encourage creativity, community participation and fun for all ages," said Station Arts Executive Director and Curator Tabitha Verbuyst.

Food for every taste

Continuing the theme of change in the northern part of downtown, the food trucks will be moved from their former location on Brock Street to a circle in the mall's north parking lot. Fraser said this was based on feedback received from festival attendees last year. There will also be seating for 200

in the area.

Beyond the dedicated food truck area, there are outside patios at Nectar, the Copper Mug and Carriage House.

Traditional activities

Downtown favourites such as the petting zoo, bouncy castles, Young Entrepreneur Alley and Reptalia exhibit will be returning from 11 a.m. to 7 p.m. Broadway will be lined with 140 vendor booths, and Fraser said organizers encourage booth operators to have interactive activities at their displays. There will also be a new display of campers, dubbed "Happy Camper Way," on Brock Street.

CONTINUED TO PAGE 25

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SPORTS

Cornish, Nunn, Oosterveld, Janzen named Gemini athletes of the year at annual banquet

JEFF TRIBE

Post Correspondent

The best of the best from the Tillsonburg Gemini 2025/26 sports seasons were both recognized and celebrated on a very warm day inside Glendale's Orr/O'Rourke gymnasium.

"Give all the kids credit," said Gemini Athletic Director Shelby Colldock. "It's not air-conditioned and there are no fans."

"They held it together pretty well."

This year's athletic banquet attracted 192 out of the 300 students who participated in Gemini individual or team sports this past school year. Colldock gave a huge shout-out to Emma Miners and the Gemini Athletic Council for planning, promoting, setting up, arranging the awards and tearing down the event. Colldock also added a word of appreciation to school administration who supported an in-school event inserted into a busy June calendar and also personally popped in to take in proceedings.

Although schools are first an academic institution, athletics play a strong role Colldock agreed.

"It's what kids are going to remember," she said. "And for some, it gives them the desire to want to attend school or the motivation to do well."

This year's major athletes of the year awards followed standard procedure, one winner picked from a group of nominees. However, for individual sports, coaches were given more latitude in selection, putting the choice for award categories of their own creation into their hands.

"To allow coaches who they wanted to honour and why," said Colldock.

Additionally, sports with more participating students were given more awards, one per 10 roster members. For example, a curling team with six students could select one award winner, a

football program with 30 was eligible for three.

Beginning at the senior level, Keona Cornish was selected as female athlete of the year from among a group including Lucie Panschow, Alex Jones and Vivian Suderman.

Cornish was one of the Gemini girls' rugby team's captains, qualified for Ontario Federation of Schools Athletics Association (OFSAA) provincial finals as a wrestler, was vice on the Gemini girls curling team and also made a return to the basketball court in answer to a shortage of players there.

"She went back and played," credited Colldock.

Her impressive high school sports resume testifies to both dedication and hard work Colldock continued, association with community rugby coach Tony Hietkamp also influencing a career path toward firefighting. Beyond all that, Cornish balances intensity with a sense of humour.

"She's hilarious."

Liam Nunn received top honours from a group of male senior athletes including Nolan Janzen, Dorian Park-Thomas, Kypton Lofthouse and Landon Dodsley.

Centre and captain for the Gemini boys' hockey team, Nunn also caught and played third for the baseball squad as well as volleyball and ultimate frisbee. As well as being a great athlete, Nunn is a member of the Glendale Best Buddies program, promoting full educational integration by being paired up with a student from the development program.

"It speaks to Liam's character overall," said Colldock. "He's a phenomenal young man."

Emily Oosterveld was selected as junior female athlete of the year from a group including Kate Bruder, Kate Panschow, Cadence DeFraga, Kailey Clark and Asha David.

The Grade 9 Oosterveld was a member of the wrestling, swimming and rugby programs.

"And outstanding in all three areas," credited Colldock.

Always positive and looking to represent her school well, Oosterveld proved a solid teammate. "Always bringing up her teammates."

Terren Janzen took junior male athlete of the year honours from among a group featuring James Straeharn, Elliott Fletcher and Rudy Lofthouse.

A student athlete competing in football, hockey and as a soccer standout, Janzen is also a positive force on his teams says Colldock. He takes instruction well, learns from his mistakes and moves forward, she added.

"I look forward to seeing what he can do as he keeps growing."

Tillsonburg Gemini 2025-26 Athletic Banquet

Fall Seasons

Junior Football: MVP, James Straethern.

Senior Football: MVP, Dorian Park-Thomas.

Tennis: Co-MVPS, Rylan Homick and Meesha Finck.

Girls Golf: MVP, Lainey West.

Boys Golf: MVP, Peyton Voth.

Junior Girls Basketball: MVP, Camryn Gundry.

Senior Girls Basketball: Heart, Hustle & Leadership, Sophia Silliker.

Junior Boys Volleyball: MVP, Stephen Aaroye

Senior Boys Volleyball: MVP, Ryder Hillner.

Winter Seasons

Wrestling: Guts and Grit, Keona Cornish; Rookie of the Year, Emily Oosterveld.

Swimming: Best New Upstart, Keith Allen; All-Event Contributor, Shaylin McInnes.

Junior Boys Volleyball: Progress, James Straethern; Defensive Hustle, Cameron James.

Senior Boys Volleyball, Hoops, Jacob Mogg; Hustle & Spirit, Om Vyas.

Junior Girls Volleyball: Rookie of the Year, Belisa Ademi; Best Attitude, Lydia Yarmie; Spirit, Laila Bowman.

Senior Girls Volleyball: Heart of the Team, Cameron Kongishofer; MVP, Bridget Wall.

Boys Curling: Team Rock, Aaron Phillips; Most Improved, Sota Hamsira.

Girls Curling: Team Rock, Keona Cornish.

Girls Hockey: Most Outstanding Player, Asha David.

Spring Seasons

Girls Rugby: MVP, Keona Cornish; Rookie of the Year, Adianna Van Leeuwen; Dedication, Emmy Gray.

Boys Soccer: Rookie, Max Suderman; New to You, Landon Dodsley; Mr. D, Gavin Balazs.

Girls Soccer: MVP, Elysse Davis; Golden Shoe, Sophia Monsere.

Track and Field: MVP, Ethan Brown.

Baseball: Odin Ottaway, Homerun Hero.

Junior and Senior Badminton: MVP, Om Vyas; Lifetime Commitment, Liv Heleniak and Ryder Hillner; Full Coverage, Maiko Thammavongsa.

Junior Female 2024-25: Alex Jones (Jones, Misha Finck, Bridget Wall, Isabel Wilson, Sophia Monsere, Kennedy Vandendriessche).



(JEFF TRIBE PHOTO)

Long-time Gemini coach Lee Janzen (right) had a special moment in being to share in the celebration of son Terren's (left) Junior Male Athlete of the Year award.



(JEFF TRIBE PHOTO)

Emily Oosterveld was named Junior Female Athlete of the Year.



(JEFF TRIBE PHOTO)

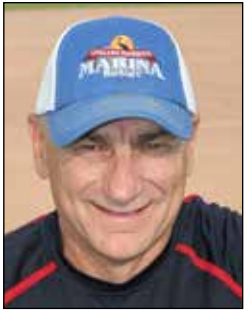
Liam Nunn, who also recently was signed by the PJHL Norwich Merchants hockey team, was named Gemini Senior Male Athlete of the Year.



(JEFF TRIBE PHOTO)

Keona Cornish (left) is all smiles in accepting the Senior Female Athlete of the Year award from coach Brett Ferguson (right).

St. Thomas victorious over Tillsonburg in slo-pitch tourney



DAVE WEAVER

Post Columnist

EYE ON SLO-PITCH

It was a windy day in St Thomas on Saturday for the annual Tillsonburg vs St Thomas All Star Challenge.

St Thomas came out on top in three of the games but outside of the Men's D3 game, two of the other matches were close. The Ladies' D1 team had a dominant performance winning easily 16-4. Thanks to all the participants as well as the scorekeepers and spectators who supported our teams!

Participants

Men's D3

Tyler Rowe, Gary Woolner-Sluggers

Matt Bowers, Dillon Outerbridge-NA-PA/Coward's Pharmacy Maulers

Shaun Elliott, Keith McMerty, Mark Carrel-John Beere

Wolfpack-Geoff Bowlby

Dave Weaver-Sandy Shore Brew Jays

Ben Bueckert, Henry Froese, George Hiebert-Diamond Kings

Men's D2

Benny Neufeld, Lukas Neufeld, Jake Sawatsky-All Seasons Estate Care Bandits

Ryan Verbuyst, T.J. Neville-Pelicans

Cody Long, Dawson McMillen, Jim Long-Quackheads

Johnny Klassen, Abe Hamm-Strike Force

Shawn Brooks, Dylan Denomy-Papa's Auto Spa

Jayden King-At My Playground/IQT Logistics

Ladies D2

Kelly Verscheuren, Liz Irvin-Simmonds Mortgages

Ling Wong, Christine Phillips -Wildcats

Katie Depew, Katie Pittock, Brittany Wolf-Resting Pitch Face

Liz Yuile-Sunspace/Bill Klyn Carpentry

Alyssa Berkeley, Sylvia Brooks-Queen Bees

Ladies D1

Maddi Obar, Candi Obar, Mayra Bael-

de, Brandi Cook, Tara Muscutt, Paige Baynham, Tracy Shackleton-Cooks Concrete Jays

Kim Hurd-Sunspace/Bill Klyn Carpentry

Brooklyn Carroll, Kyla Long, Tena Bueckert

I close this week's column with some sad news as we lost one of our own. Rhonda Sergeant passed peacefully on Friday. She was a long-time member of the Wildcats ladies slo-pitch team. She will best be known for her competitiveness, and her spunkiness, but most of all to be on and off the field with her Wildcats family. Her son's Adam and Kyle played in the men's league, and her loving husband John played as well spending most of his years playing for Straffordville Underhill's in the SWOX League. John's son Tyler also has played in the league. Many of her relatives play and have played in both leagues. A ceremony was held prior to their Monday game on A2. She will be greatly missed by everyone. R.I.P. Rhonda.

Ladies' Division

Sunspace/Bill Klyn Carpentry had a come-from-behind win over Simmonds Mortgages on Wednesday after dropping an 11-run decision to first-place Cooks Concrete Jays two nights prior. Simmonds had defeated Wildcats on the Monday. Cooks had a mercy win over Resting Pitch Face. Foldens Machine Works won both ends of their doubleheaders mercying Wildcats and Queen Bees. Resting Pitch Face collected the other victory, mercying Queen Bees.

Resting Pitch Face-19, Queen Bees-1

Resting-Amber Smith 3-3; Hailee Beckett 3-3; Martina McCallum HR

Queen Bees-Jayden Hanniman 2-2

Game Synopsis-Martina McCallum homered and scored three runs for the winners, Amber Smith also crossed three times.

Sunspace/Bill Klyn Carpentry-11, Simmonds Mortgages-10

Sunspace-Gemma Ladosz 4-4; Kalyn Salmon 3-4; Nicole Morgan HR.

Simmonds-Katy Wilkinson 4-4; Shannon O'Neill 3-4.

Game Synopsis-Sunspace had a three-run seventh to steal the win, Ashley Gee hit a two-run double in the rally, and infielder Courtney Lukawiecki made several outstanding defensive plays.

Cooks Concrete Jays-13, Sunspace-2

Cooks-Hilary Stoop 4-4; Kayla Bond 4-4.

Sunspace-Kalyn Salmon 3-3; Sabrina Sinden 3-3.

Game Synopsis-A six-run bat-around first keyed Cooks win. Brandi Cook and Maddi Obar hit triples for the winners.

Cooks Concrete Jays-20, Resting Pitch Face-4

Cooks-Tracy Shackleton 4-4; Mayra Baelde 4-4.

Resting-Michelle Socholotiuk 2-2; Martina McCallum 2-2.

Game Synopsis-Mayra Baelde scored four runs for the winning side.

Foldens Machine Works-19, Wildcats-5

Foldens-Monica Barnes 3-3; Andrea Deblaire 3-3.

Wildcats-Ling Wong 3-3; Christine Phillips 2-3.

Game Synopsis-Twelve of Foldens 13 batters scored at least one run, and lead-off batter Trisha McKenzie crossed three times.

Foldens Machine Works-29, Queen Bees-0

Foldens-Ashley Aker 4-4; Mackenzie Brackenbury 4-4; Amber Woolgar 2 HR.

Queen Bees-Carolyn Vanlagen 2-2; Tristyn Dahl 1-2.

Game Synopsis-Amber Woolgar led the winners with a pair of two-run homers and four runs scored.

Simmonds Mortgages-15, Wildcats-3

Simmonds-Jackie Wood-Van Santen 4-4; Connie White 4-4.

Wildcats-Steph Miller 2-3; Danielle Jeromin 2-3.

Game Synopsis-Jackie Wood Van Santen led Simmonds with a pair of doubles and a pair of singles.

Men's Division 1

1,2 Seal Insulation Hawks kept winning recording a 10-run victory over Cobra Chickens. Hit N Run recorded their first victory upsetting second-place The Mill squad. Leeswood Construction Dirty Mitts had a massive comeback win over the hard luck Sunspace/Bill Klyn Carpentry squad on Friday. Cobra Chickens beat up on Leeswood on the Thursday. The Cubs continue to impress, winning by seven over Hit N Run.

Cubs-10, Hit N Run-3

Cubs-Johnathan Dyck 4-4; Abe Redecop 2-2; Jamie Teichroeb 2 HR; Ivan Dyck HR; Marcus Enns HR.

Hit N Run-Peter Klassen 3-3; John Wiebe 2-3; Peter Klassen HR.

Game Synopsis-Cubs put this one away with a four-run sixth. Jamie Teichroeb, Marcus Enns and Ivan Dyck all homered in the rally.

Cobra Chickens-24, Leeswood Construction Dirty Mitts-10

Cobra-Caleb Reimer 5-5, HR; Marcus Peters 5-6, HR; Nathan Froese HR; Wyatt Blatz 2 HR; Nathan Peters 2 HR.

Leeswood-Trevor Stuyt 4-4; Sean Miller 3-3; Alex Penders 2 HR; Thom Puhr HR.

Game Synopsis-Caleb Reimer and Wyatt Blatz were each a triple shy of hitting for the cycle for the winners.

1,2 Seal Insulation Hawks-21, Cobra Chickens-11

Hawks-Daniel Enns 4-4; Jake Klassen 4-4; Johnny Klassen 2 HR; Ben Bueckert HR; Johnny Epp HR; John Klassen 2 HR; Evan Bueckert HR.

Cobra-Wyatt Blatz 4-4; Brian Dyck 4-5.

Game Synopsis-The Hawks rode the long ball to victory, out-homering their opponent 7-0. John Klassen homered in consecutive at bats.

Leeswood Construction Dirty Mitts-21, Sunspace/Bill Klyn Carpentry-19

Leeswood--Cheyne Sarafinchin 4-4; Travis Nikin 3-4; Devin Lee 2 HR; Jarrett Anderson HR.

Sunspace-Alex Dalby 5-6; Kyle McDougall 4-4, HR; Dallas Dalby HR.

Game Synopsis-The Mitts came back from a 16-run deficit, scoring 12 in the seventh to stun their opponent. Devin Lee homered in the winner's bat around inning.

Men's Division 2

The Pelicans remain as the only unbeaten team left in the group after winning over Quackheads and All Seasons Estate Care Bandits. Bandits lost their first to the Mavericks on the Sunday. They rebounded with a close win over Designated Drinkers. Mavericks defeated a surging Strike Force by 10. Sticky Bandits easily defeated Papa's Auto Spa. Papa's completed their week with a win over Underhill Farm Supply.

All Seasons Estate Care Bandits-12, Designated Drinkers-10

Bandits-Dylan Reimer 4-4; Lukas Neufeld 3-5.

Drinkers-Matt Barker 3-4; Warren McCallister 3-4; Curtis Verboom HR; Kyle Postma 2 HR.

Game Synopsis-A three-run sixth helped the Bandits salvage the win, Martin Hildebrandt led off the rally with a double.

Papa's Auto Spa-18, Underhill Farm Supply-14

Papa's-Dylan Denomy 4-4; Corey Hopper 4-4; Jesse Legg HR; Zach Vanderhaeghe HR.

Underhill-Oscar Redekopp 4-4, HR; Clay Thompson 4-4; Aaron Dyck 2 HR; Craig Robb HR.

Game Synopsis-Dan McRae reached and scored in all four plate appearances.

Sticky Bandits-31, Papa's Auto Spa-14

Bandits-Makaio Thiessen 4-4; Jeff Heide 4-4; Mason Miller HR; Connor Friesen HR.

Papa's-Jesse Legg 4-4; Phillip James 4-4.

Game Synopsis-Sticky Bandits scored seven runs in four of their six at-bats.

Mavericks-16, Strike Force-6

St. Thomas victorious over Tillsonburg in slo-pitch tourney

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 15

Mavericks-Nick Dovsek 4-4; Ryan Sinden 4-4.

Strike Force-Johnny Klassen 2-3; Silas Bueckert 2-3, HR; Tony Klassen HR.

Game Synopsis-Doug Falkins and Jason Landry each scored three runs for Mavericks.

Pelicans-11, All Seasons Estate Care Bandits-6

Pelicans-Ryan Marques 3-3; Kevin Buchner 3-4; Jeff Cadotte HR.

Bandits-Ben Neufeld 2-2; Benny Neufeld HR.

Game Synopsis-A five-run seventh broke up a tie game, Steve Leacock smashed his second consecutive double for the Pelicans in the rally.

Pelicans-18, Quackheads-4

Pelicans-Chris Parker 3-3; Ryan Verbuyst 4-4.

Quackheads-Jim Long 2-3; Mark Vanderhaeghe 2-3.

Game Synopsis-Jeff Cadotte led the winners with a double and a triple and Ryan Marques scored three runs for the Pelicans.

Men’s Division 3

Sandy Shore Brew Jays are the only unbeaten team left in the division. They won a close one over NAPA/Coward's Pharmacy Maulers before mercying John Beere. Sluggers continue to lead the group after mercying Wolfpack and beating Bird's Golf by five. John Beere also defeated Bird's to round out division play.

Sluggers-21, Wolfpack-2

Sluggers-Quinten Bell 3-3; Alex Barnes 3-3; Layn Wells HR.

Wolfpack-Gulbir Sekhon 2-3; Jarryd Roest 2-3.

Game Synopsis-Sluggers took advantage of an eight-man Wolfpack squad easily beating them. Alex Barnes, Gary Woolner and Jake Superales all scored three runs.

Sluggers-11, Bird's Golf-6

Sluggers-Jake Superales 4-4; Wolfgang Sym 3-4.

Bird's-Sam Laurensen 3-4; Glen Hunt 4-4.

Game Synopsis-Jake Superales reached in all four plate appearances for Sluggers.

Sandy Shore Brew Jays-25, John Beere-8

Sandy Shore-Duane Nutt 4-5; Derek Hodgson 5-5, 2 HR; Kyle Hollister 2 HR.

John Beere-Shawn Ryerse 3-3, HR; Rick Pihokker 3-3; Mark Carrel HR.

Game Synopsis-Kyle Hollister homered in consecutive at bats for the winners.

John Beere-17, Bird's Golf-12

John Beere-Jesse Anderson 4-5; Mark Carrel 5-5.

Bird's-Matt Wood 4-4; Jake Froese 4-4.

Game Synopsis-Shaun Elliott and Mark Carrel each scored three runs for the winners.

Sandy Shore BrewJays-8, NAPA/Coward's Pharmacy Maulers-4

Sandy Shore-Mike Haegens 3-3; Brian Reddecopp 2-2.

NAPA-Reece Dally 3-3; Jace Owen 2-3.

Game Synopsis-Brew Jays scored six in the fourth to take the win. Derek Hodgson 's bases-clearing triple was followed by back-to-back doubles from Mike Haegens and Josh Knoflock.

Men’s Division 4

N.I.M. won both of their games by mercy over Tornadoes and R.L.P. Melanie Luksys. Brickhouse Boys are trying to keep pace after they mercied Smokin Bases. Smokin evened their week with a victory over Diamond Kings. Diamond Kings picked up a victory over Tornadoes.

Smokin Bases-18, Diamond Kings-13

Smokin-Chris Foresman 5-5; Ian Barrett 4-5.

Diamond-Johnny Wall 4-5; Ben Goertzen 3-4.

Game Synopsis-Robert Moore, Wade Kirby and Chris Foresman each scored three runs for the winners.

Brickhouse Boys-23; Smokin Bases-8

Brickhouse-Dylan Smith 4-4; Tony Epp 4-4, HR; Shaun Knelsen HR.

Smokin-Colton Trudel 3-3; Wade Kirby 2-3; Josh Hollis HR.

Game Synopsis-Everyone in the winner’s order scored at least one run, and Shaun Knelsen homered and scored four runs.

Diamond Kings-16, Tornadoes-8

Diamond-George Klassen 3-3; Frank Redecop 3-3; Andrew Friesen HR.

Tornadoes-Hayden Lounsbury 3-4; Tyler Bouck 3-4.

Game Synopsis-Jake Peters led the winners with a pair of triples and two runs scored.

N.I.M.-15, R.L.P. Melanie Luksys-3

N.I.M.-Cory Chambers 4-4; Brodie Earls 4-4.

R.L.P.-Ethan Luksys 3-4.

Game Synopsis-Lead-off batter Cory Chambers reached four times and scored three runs for N.I.M.

N.I.M.-29, Tornadoes-10

N.I.M.-Randy Husbands 5-5; Justin Grzech 5-5.

Tornadoes-Oliver Hamn 3-4; Peter Soares 3-4.

Game Synopsis-Joe Allin, Justin Dygos and Randy Husbands each scored four runs for N.I.M.

MEN'S DIVISION 1	W	L	T	PTS
1-1,2 SEAL INSULATION HAWKS	5	0	0	10
2-CUBS	4	1	0	8
2-THE MILL	4	2	0	8
2-LEESWOOD CONSTRUCTION DIRTY MITTS	4	3	0	8
3-COBRA CHICKENS	3	4	0	6
4-HIT N RUN	1	6	0	2
4-SUNSPACE/BILL KLYN CARPENTRY	1	6	0	2

MEN'S DIVISION 2	W	L	T	PTS
1-PELICANS	8	0	0	16
2-ALL SEASONS ESTATE CARE BANDITS	6	2	0	12
3-STRIKE FORCE	4	3	0	8
4-PAPA'S AUTO SPA	3	4	1	7
5-STICKY BANDITS	3	1	0	6
5-MAVERICKS	3	3	0	6
6-AT MY PLAYGROUND/IQT LOGISTICS	1	3	1	3
7-QUACKHEADS	1	4	0	2
7-UNDERHILL FARM SUPPLY	1	5	0	2
7-DESIGNATED DRINKERS	1	6	0	2

MEN'S DIVISION 3	W	L	T	PTS
1-SLUGGERS	7	1	0	14
2-SANDY SHORE BREW JAYS	2	0	0	10
3-JOHN BEERE	3	3	0	6
4-BEER BOMBERS	2	3	0	4
4-MAVERICKS	2	5	0	4
4-WOLFPACK	2	6	0	4
5-BIRD'S BALLERS	0	3	0	0

MEN'S DIVISION 4	W	L	T	PTS
1-N.I.M.	10	1	0	20
2-BRICKHOUSE BOYS	7	2	0	14
3-R.L.P. MELANIE LUKSYS	5	7	0	10
4-DIAMOND KINGS	4	7	0	8
4-SMOKIN BASES	4	7	0	8
5-TORNAOES	2	8	0	4

LADIES	W	L	T	PTS
1-COOKS CONCRETE JAYS	9	0	0	18
2-FOLDENS MACHINE WORKS	7	2	0	14
2-SIMMONDS MORTGAGES	7	2	0	14
3-SUNSPACE/BILL KLYN CARPENTRY	4	5	0	8
3-RESTING PITCH FACE	4	6	0	8
4-WILDCATS	1	8	0	2
5-QUEEN BEES	0	9	0	0

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(STUART BLOWER PHOTOS)



Nectar players Rowan Thiessen heads the ball in a U-10 house league match-up with VLG Insurance.



U10 boys' Roulston's Pharmacy goaltender grabs the ball to stop a scoring attempt by a Coward's Pharmacy player.



Tilly's Trailers goalie Duke Sinclair dives for the ball in a U-8 house league game against Meridian Health Osteopathy.



Tillsonburg Cadman Irrigation's Ellie Walton keeps the ball out of reach from a St. Thomas player in U-13 Tier 1 action.



Tillsonburg Coward's Pharmacy/Cadman Irrigation and London United players view for control of the ball in a U 13 rep game.



Optometrist on Broadway goalie Anthony Cruz and Tillsonburg Glass forward Samuel Stuyt struggle with the ball during a boys' U-8 game.

Simcoe Juniors two-hit Red Sox in commanding victory

GRAHAM NICKERSON
Post Contributor

When shopping for your next carton of milk, you may come across the label: Missing – Red Sox Batting. Such an alert was issued after the Tillsonburg Red Sox were convincingly defeated by the Simcoe Juniors 8-1 Friday night at Sam Lamb Field.

With most of their regulars back in the lineup, the Sox managed two meager hits off Simcoe’s dominate starter Travis Lamb. The flame thrower had a no-hitter through six innings, while facing one above the minimum during that stretch and struck out a total of seven.

Tillsonburg started Ky Miners, fresh off his stellar performance at the tournament. Miners proved himself once again, going five innings, and striking out six while allowing five hits. Despite the left hander’s best efforts, the defense behind him spoiled an otherwise quality start by committing a season-high seven errors. Of the eight runs Tillsonburg pitching was touched for, only two were earned.

In the second, Simcoe’s bottom of the line-up

rattled off a double and two singles, and combined with a walk, were able to push across three runs. The Juniors tallied one more in the third after a lead-off single and two booted balls.

After a clean fourth, the baby-facers extended their lead in the fifth when sloppy fielding caused two more runs to score.

With Miners’ day done, Old Sox call-down Kent Collings came in in relief but after recording just one out felt stiffness in his shoulder and was taken out in favour of Jeff Prouse. The veteran closed out the game, giving up two unearned runs while striking out two.

Taking up the bat in the last of the seventh yet to record a hit, Collings led off with a walk followed by a one-out knock to left by Odin Oatway that broke up the no-no. Jordan Vitias slapped his two-out offering up the middle to bring in Collings for the lone Red Sox run.

The game scheduled for June 14 in Simcoe was rained out. Tillsonburg looks to get back in the winner’s column Friday when they play host to the Port Dover Clippers. First pitch 7:30.

Juniors.....031 021 1 – 8 7 0
Tillsonburg.....000 000 1 – 1 2 7

TILLSONBURG	AB	R	H
RACHAR, SS	2	0	0
OATWAY, LF	3	0	1
VERHOEVE, 3B	3	0	0
VITIAS, 1B	3	0	1
WEST, RF	2	0	0
PROUSE, CF, P	2	0	0
MINERS, P, CF	1	0	0
THIESSEN, C	2	0	0
BALE, 2B	2	0	0
COLLINGS, EH, P	1	1	0
TOTALS	21	1	2

Summary: ER, Juniors 2, Tillsonburg 1; LOB, Juniors 12, Tillsonburg 3; W, Lamb; L, Miners

Historical Woodlawn still draws people together

CHRIS ABBOTT
Grant Haven Media

The 50th anniversary of Woodlawn’s restoration in Otterville was commemorated on June 6 with a very successful community High Tea.

Organized by the Woodlawn committee, and supported by the South Norwich Historical Society, the first sitting was booked solid, and although the second sitting was not as busy, they were pleased with the turnout.

It was an opportunity to showcase the historical octagonal building, raise some funds, and get out the fine china.

“The building needs a little bit of freshening up after

50 years,” said Gail Lewis, noting as soon Woodlawn was operational as an adult community centre it was turned over to the Township of Norwich, and is managed by a Woodlawn committee of council.

“So, the reason we’re doing this (High Tea) is to generate a little bit more money, other than rentals, and we don’t have to go to the municipality for everything... and we have a nice community event.”

In the early years, a seniors club met at Woodlawn. Today, it is a rental facility, popular for family events including anniversaries, birthdays, showers and small weddings, as well as corporate meet-



(CHRIS ABBOTT PHOTO)

Enjoying their High Tea at Woodlawn’s 50th ‘restoration anniversary’ in Otterville on June 6 are from left Angela Moyart, Mae Leonard and Betty Smet.

ings.

“The historical society meetings are all here, too,” Lewis smiled.

The single-storey, octagonal house was originally constructed by Thomas Wright in Milldale in 1861. Located on Lot 7, Concession 8, in the



(CHRIS ABBOTT PHOTO)

Otterville’s Diane Butler, on the left, and Catherine Furlong, on the right, are joined by Loys McElhone and Kerry Franklin from South Carolina for High Tea on June 6, celebrating the 50th anniversary of Woodlawn’s restoration in Otterville.

throughout the day.”

The best thing about an octagonal building, she said, is that you gain about 20 per cent more floor space – compared to square or rectangular buildings – with the same amount of building materials.

Woodlawn’s floor plan was modified when it moved to Main Street West, Otterville. Originally, there was an everyday kitchen/eating area, four small bedrooms, and a formal parlour.

Today, it has two main rooms, plus the entry room and kitchen area.

“An increase in community events is vital to communities, especially small communities, to network together, to have a sense of place, instead of just being a bedroom community. These community buildings are what draw people together.”

Woodlawn also helps generate tourism, which benefits the municipality.

Geographically, South

Norwich Historical Society encompasses Otterville, Springford, New Road, Hawtrey, Rock’s Mills, Rosanna, and more.

“We are a very busy historical society,” said Lewis, noting they lease the Otterville Mill from the township. “We also operate the Otterville Mill (Main Street West) and this historical society has taken that from a derelict building into the beautiful building you see today.

“We have a summer student, and it’s going to be open Saturdays until mid-August.”

On the same property as Woodlawn is the Otterville Railway Station Museum, which was expanded four years ago.

“Our summer student is in the station today,” Lewis noted. “We have an office, accessible washroom and kitchenette, so we can have a curator. Because without a curator, you are not really (an official) museum.”

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Green Theory plant expanding in Tillsonburg

JEFF HELSDON

Editor

Amidst all the negative talk about the state of the industry, there is a positive story of expansion in Tillsonburg.

Green Theory Design, which is currently located at 1,523 Bell Mill Side Road, is moving into a larger space in the former Reiter Automotive (Johnson Controls) building. The company manufactures custom planters, benches, garbage cans, and other outdoor furniture.

Company managing partner Joel Franske started the company in Vancouver in 2014. A former auto shop owner, he developed the concept of a company to provide site furnishings for commercial, institutional, and recreational facilities. He never imagined it would be as successful as it is. The company's customers include municipalities, hotels, stadiums, and even Disney and celebrities.

The company was sending enough of its products to Ontario and the American eastern seaboard that it wasn't efficient, and it started looking for a new site. Although Franske was originally looking at locating in a larger centre, his real estate agent promoted the former TRW building in Tillsonburg. The company purchased the building and started production five years ago on the corner of Bell Mill and Townline.

Green Theory starts with raw metal, which is cut with a laser, and wood to build its products from the ground up. Powder coating is the final step completed at the plant. Volume has grown to the point where all woodworking is now done in a building next door.

Franske initially was going to add 20,000 square-feet to the plant, but said it would just be a "band-aid."

"We need more space than we have;

that space is almost triple," he said.

The existing plant will be sold once the move is complete.

The company has 100 employees, 65 of whom are in the Tillsonburg plant. An afternoon shift was recently added at the Tillsonburg plant. Another plant will be opened in North Carolina due to the cross-border tariff situation. Green Theory has become Canada's largest planter manufacturer.

The new facility, which will triple Green Theory's space, will bring the woodworking under the same roof. It will have a larger lunchroom, more office space, and a second laser cutter.

Westwind Properties

Bert Van Maren of Salford is the owner of Westwind Properties, the company that purchased the former Reiter plant in September 2023.

"At the time, I was hoping to either sell the building to a manufacturing company or lease out the building to another user," he said. "What I saw in the building was a big facility with good structure, but in need of renovation."

His company ended up renovating the building and leasing it to several users.

Dane Wilson of Royal LePage RE Wood Realty leased out the 160,000-square-foot property.

"There's a lot more space coming down the pipeline, and he's a great landlord to work with," he said of Van Maren.

Green Theory is the largest tenant with its 90,000 square-feet. Horizon Seeds is renting a portion for storing feed, and Welder's Millrights, a company that was based in Vienna, is taking another portion to expand its facility.

"They're serving the manufacturing plants in Tillsonburg," Van Maren said.

Speaking to Green Theory, Van Maren estimated it would cost \$10 million to



(JEFF HELSDON PHOTO)

Jeremy Heinrichs and Jay Byrnes operate the fiber laser cutter used to cut modular planters at the Green Theory plant in Tillsonburg. A second similar unit will be added when the plant expands.

build an industrial building of that size.

"I'm excited we were able to help Green Theory to expand their business," he said. "It's a smart way for them to move forward. They can invest their money in equipment and expertise, and lease from us."

A smaller 3,600 square-foot unit is still available on the property.

The Townline Road building isn't the first that Van Maren has renovated and turned into a multiple-unit facility. He owns properties from Grimsby to St.

Thomas, including the former Rona store on Bell Mill Side Road. Electrical Components International occupies the main building. A second building was built, and it houses Jones Marine, Empire Paving, and Zafiato Café Supplies. Van Maren is working on adding two more buildings to the property. Zafiato will move into one of the buildings, occupying two-thirds of it.

"For a company to find nice industrial space to lease, there isn't that much of that," he said.

Tillsonburg & District Historical Society

National Indigenous Peoples Day Celebration

Sunday, June 21, 2026

SPECIAL GUESTS: Eagle Flight

The **Eagle Flight** singers and dancers, (lead by Gordon Nicotine-Sands) are a First Nations singing group based out of London, On. and have been active for over two decades. Singing in what's known as **Northern Straight**, the group has travelled extensively in the Great Lakes area as well as internationally on occasion, participating in festival-like celebrations known as **Pow-Wow**. With pulse-pounding, live performances, **Eagle Flight** has also honoured invitations from professional and educational institutions in the form of educational song and dance performances. The group is of Plains Cree, Ojibway, Haudenasaunee decent, and is comprised of friends and family.

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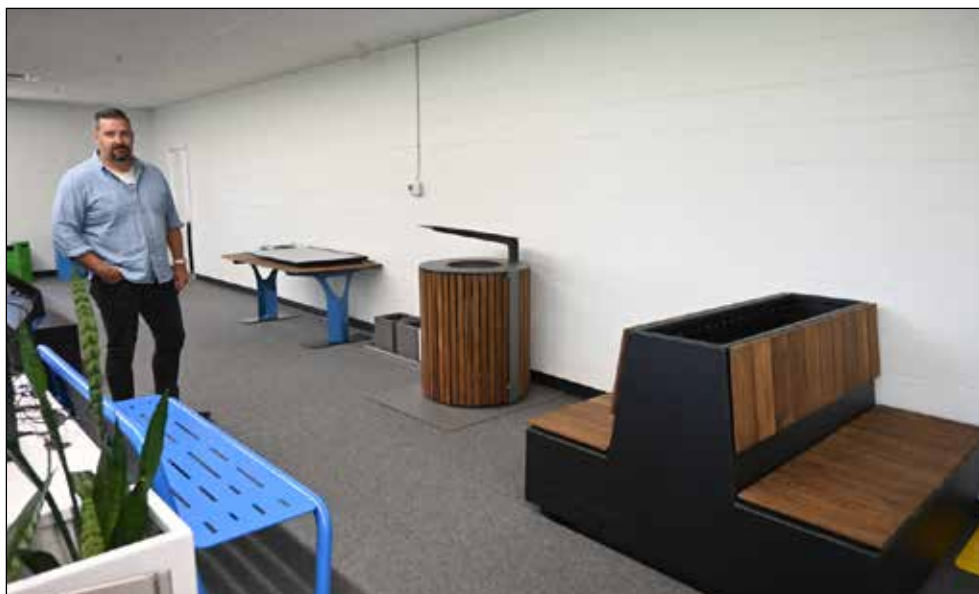
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(JEFF HELSDON PHOTO)

Joel Franske, managing partner of Green Theory, stands in the office of the present plant, with a variety of products manufactured there in the background.

tillsonburgpost.com

Gooding honoured as Citizen of the Year



(JEFF HELSDON PHOTO)

Oxford MPP Ernie Hardeman and Tillsonburg Mayor Deb Gilvesy presented Gooding with the official certificate and mementos for being named Citizen of the Year for 2026.

JEFF HELSDON

Editor

The terms giving, humility, and caring were repeated throughout the evening as people gathered to pay tribute to Scott Gooding as Tillsonburg's Citizen of the Year for 2026.

A ceremony held in the Lion's Den on June 10 honoured Gooding's contributions. He was cited for his many contributions to the town, the impression he made on students' lives at Glendale High School, his years coaching,

raising money for children's cancer research, starting the Friends of Glendale program and making a difference.

The night was hosted by Carrie Lewis, chair of the town's Museum, Heritage, Culture and Special Awards Advisory Committee. She, too, noted Gooding's accomplishments, saying she was proud when her daughter, Scarlett Robson, received the Scott Gooding Spirit Award at Glendale last year.

Oxford MPP Ernie Hardeman was impressed by Gooding's lengthy list of contributions



(JEFF HELSDON PHOTO)

Tillsonburg Citizen of the Year Scott Gooding was surprised by his wife Kathy and the shirt their niece created to celebrate his nomination.

made to the community, and pointed out it has been more than just last year that Gooding has been giving.

"It's a great thing to celebrate because he's been working his whole life to get here this evening," Hardeman said.

Mayor Deb Gilvesy said she heard of the affection and admiration people have for Gooding, including from her daughters and many residents, who told her he was the correct choice for the award.

"I often heard the same heartfelt words over and over," she said, listing off professionalism, thoughtfulness and caring.

When Gilvesy phoned Gooding to tell him he was citizen of the year, he was humbled.

"That humility speaks volumes of your character," she said to him.

The mayor lauded Gooding for his impact on his colleagues, students, and those he coached.

"Through your compassion and leadership, you have touched countless lives, likely into the thousands," she said.

Fellow coaches and teachers Derek Partlo and Lee Janzen jointly paid tribute to Gooding. Partlo initially knew Gooding as a student.

"He was the type of guy who walked through the halls and took an interest in all of the students," Partlo said.

Then, working with him as a colleague, he said Gooding made work enjoyable. They were both in guidance, where Partlo said Gooding was a tough act to follow.

"I don't know how anyone can meet the standard he set with his caring attitude," he said.

Janzen spent a lot of time coaching soccer with Gooding. He said their style could be called "good cop, bad cop type of coaching."

"I was the bad cop by default because Scott was so nice," he lamented.

Student Taylor Donck thanked Gooding for supporting her throughout her entire life, including after she graduated from high school.

"Over the years, I've seen him have an impact on so many people, including myself," she said.

Cayla Thornton was one of the players Gooding coached with the Tillsonburg Titans.

"He taught us to work hard, support each other, and work as a team," she said.

Thornton said retirement didn't slow Good-

ing down, and he still found ways to give back, including his community giving posts on Facebook.

"Once again, he is lifting others up and increasing the sense of community around him," she said.

Speaking to Gooding, she said, "Our community is stronger because of you, and we are all better for knowing you."

Former co-worker Julie Fleet looked up the criteria for Citizen of the Year, and commented Gooding checked all the boxes. She said his positive influence on people has a ripple effect.

"It moves on like a ripple in a pond," she said. "Scott was the drop that continues to spread."

When Gooding retired, Glendale High School created the Scott Gooding Spirit Award in his honour.

"When the Scott Gooding Spirit Award was named after him, he was humbled and surprised. No one else was surprised," Fleet said.

Taking the microphone, Gooding said he was humbled to receive the award.

"I really don't believe I am deserving of it," he said. "There's so many amazing people in this community."

He thanked former student Samantha Helsdon for nominating him, and his parents for instilling the importance of giving back to the community.

"The thing I learned was we all have something special to give to the world," he said. "Mine was a connection to people."

Explaining further, he said his way of making a difference is to talk to people, smile, and be kind to people.

Kudos were also given to his wife Kathy, and children Mariah, Josh and Kaitlyn for their support.

He also talked about his efforts to raise money for children's cancer through the Great Cycle Challenge and to start Friends of Glendale to help cover the cost of busing, sports, and extracurricular equipment for the school.

Gooding said that if, as individuals, everyone changed one life, the world would be a better place.

"I think I have done that; I hope I have done that," he said. "If we all did that, imagine what we could do."

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AIR CADETS INSPECTION

(JEFF HELSDON PHOTOS)



Part of the annual ceremonial review is a march past of all the cadets in front of the reviewing officers. The entire squadron takes part in this portion.



Several members of the 153 Varnavair Royal Canadian Air Cadets were honoured during the annual ceremonial review. Left to right are: (front) Genesis Chhan, most improved band member; Genevieve Letourneau, most improved cadet; Adrie Wall, commanding officer of top squadron flight (Lancaster); Addison Mabee, commendation for service; (back row) Parker Dygos, best cadet on inspection; Collin Day, most improved LAC; William Morrison, most improved NCM; Chance Davies, top cadet of the year.



Warrant Officer Second Class Addison Mabee, left, salutes Ron Phillips, right, who was the reviewing officer. Mr. Phillips was a member of the Canadian military and is presently a member of the Port Burwell Legion.



Band instructor Nigel Suarez led the air cadet band through several performances during the evening, including playing O' Canada.



Accompanied by Lancaster Flight commander Adrie Wall, reviewing officer Ron Phillips walks through the ranks of her flight during the review, and pauses to talk to a cadet.

Tillsonburg's Joe Sym starts over with Joebreaker



BEN ANDRESS

Tillsonburg Post Columnist

If you have been to a concert in Tillsonburg, there is a good chance that local artist and promoter Joe Sym has been one of the driving forces behind it.

Joe has been a part of Oxford County's thriving punk and alternative music scene for years, performing with The McBains, organizing concerts through 1-3-2-4 Records and Beer, and building community through his passion for craft brewing.

Recently, Joe Sym stepped away from his role in the band The McBains and is now embarking on a new musical chapter with his solo acoustic project named Joebreaker. While many know him from his energetic stage presence and dedication to promoting independent music, most do not know that his departure from The McBains came after a difficult period marked by physical challenges and reflection about his future commitments.

"I was in a lot of pain. I have issues with my left shoulder, then when we were on tour, I hurt my elbow while packing up after a show in Sherbrooke, Quebec. The band had a lot of plans heading into 2026, and I did not feel like I could commit fully to those plans, so I decided to step away," Sym explained. "Since I left, I still wanted to play music but I was not exactly sure how I was going to do that. Then, one day in late December, I wrote a song, then another, then quite a few more. I really just want to have some fun and play the odd show here and there. I have never really considered myself a musician, but I guess I may have to change that perspective going forward."

The transition from band member to solo artist was not something Sym had planned. The acoustic direction of Joebreaker represents a significant departure from the loud, fast-paced punk music that helped define his reputation.

"It is acoustic, so that is the major difference. I said I would never do an acoustic project, but I change my mind a lot and still want to play music. I love heavy, fast, loud music so this is about as far away from that as I can possibly get," Sym said. "I like to mix things up. Some songs are comedy, some are about addiction and some are about anxiety. At this point, I have no intention to record, but I learned last year that I do enjoy touring so hopefully more touring in the future."

Aside from performing, Joe also has a knack for behind-the-scenes roles in the music scene. He has played an important role in helping shape Tillsonburg's modern independent music community. Through 1-3-2-4 Records and Beer, he has organized countless concerts and events and has helped connect musicians and music fans throughout the region by doing so. His involvement began shortly after returning to Tillsonburg in 2019.

"When I moved back to Tillsonburg in 2019, I was homebrewing a lot. There was not much of a music scene here at the time for people that are into punk so I decided to host a house show. Covid put everything on the back burner, but I started hosting shows again in 2022. That eventually led to the reformation of The McBains," Sym explains. "Tillsonburg now has one of the most respected music scenes in the province, so hosting shows is not a priority but we still host the odd show here and there."

Sym continues to balance his interests in music and brewing, which are two creative outlets he sees as closely connected.

"The similarities are creativity and community. As far as creativity goes, I can brew a beer or write a song, they both kind of go hand in hand. Beer and music also create community. Both beer and music bring people together to enjoy something they love," Sym breaks it down. "I started playing guitar three-and-a-half years ago with the intention to learn something

new and attempt to keep my mind sharp as I start to get a bit older. I love to learn - whether it is something new on guitar or coming up with a new beer recipe - I love the challenge of it all."

Although Joebreaker may be a quieter project than fans are accustomed to hearing from Sym, the same DIY spirit remains. With a growing catalogue of original songs and plans to continue performing the project represents not only a new creative outlet, but also a reminder that reinvention is often part of the artistic process. The focus is not on chasing commercial success or recording albums, it is about writing honest songs and continuing to contribute to the community that you are from. As Joebreaker begins to find its footing, one thing is for certain and that is the fact that you can expect the same passion that has made Joe Sym a fixture of Tillsonburg's creative community.

You can catch Joebreaker's second-ever show next Saturday, June 27th at Paddy's Underground with Dalton Puhr and Connor Petkau. The show is a part of the Oxford Homegrown Music Showcases, presented by The Mill. The show is all ages/ licensed with a cover charge of \$10 in advance, or \$15 the night of the show. Tickets are available online at www.eventbrite.ca or the venue. You can find out more about 1-3-2-4 Records and Beer by following Joe Sym on his official social media account at www.instagram.com/1324recordsandbeer

UPCOMING SHOWS

JUNE 19 - CHUCK JACKSON & TYLER YAREMA OF THE DOWNCHILD BLUES BAND
The Copper Mug
Free Entry – 8 p.m.

JUNE 20 - TURTLEFEST W/ CHASE BERES, AMELIA FORSYTH, IAN BW, DANIEL HAMM, GHOST TOWN CITIZEN, KICKIN KOUNTRY, COTY ROBINSON & NATE HALLER
Downtown Tillsonburg
Free Entry – 12 p.m.

JUNE 20 - RIGHT TURN CLYDE
The Copper Mug
Free Entry – 10 p.m.

JUNE 27 - CONNOR PETKAU, JOEBREAKER & DALTON PUHR
Paddy's Underground
\$10 – 8 p.m. - All Ages/Licensed

JUNE 28 - MUSIC ON THE LAWN SERIES W/ WADLEY STATION
Annandale NHS - Free Entry – 7 p.m.

JULY 5 - MUSIC ON THE LAWN SERIES W/ VANCE CZERWINSKI
Annandale NHS - Free Entry – 7 p.m.

JULY 10 - DUMB CRUSH W/ THE ICK
Paddy's Underground
\$10 – 8 p.m. - All Ages/Licensed

JULY 12 - MUSIC ON THE LAWN SERIES W/ GEORGE FULOP
Annandale NHS
Free Entry – 7 p.m.

JULY 30 - THE SADIES
Paddy's Underground
\$40 – 8 p.m. - All Ages/Licensed

AUGUST 7-9 - BUDDIES FEST
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The unusual contrasts in Monaco



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

PAUL KNOWLES

Tillsonburg Post Columnist

The Principality of Monaco is truly a country of contrasts. But those contrasts don't fit into the usual categories implied by that cliché. This is not a place of disparity between rich and poor, nor a country with a variety of striking landscapes.

The contrasts here are perhaps unique to this tiny nation. We encountered them as we were hosted on a Mediterranean Sea cruise aboard the Viking Sea, one of Viking's small, ocean-going vessels.

First of all, there is no contrast between rich and poor, here, because to live in Monaco, you have to be rich. Our guide simply stated, "So many millionaires and billionaires are living here!"

As we explored Monaco on foot, our guide explained that virtually all the workers commute from somewhere else. About 40,000 arrive each morning, and return home, outside the tiny nation's borders, each night.

That number of commuters presents one of the contrasts—because the out-of-country workers slightly outnumber the people who actually live in Monaco, a nation with a total population of only 39,000.

It gets odder—of those 39,000 people, only 9,000 are passport-carrying citizens. The rest are "residents", people who have demonstrated they have sufficient financial assets to live in this country.

This is an independent nation with a population only slightly larger than the city of Strat-

ford, Ontario. To carry on that comparison for a minute, Stratford, an important Canadian tourist attraction, draws about 600,000 visitors a year. Monaco's annual visitor count reaches seven million.

Some of those visitors arrive on mega-yachts. Others arrive in the kinds of automobiles that cause gearheads to do triple-takes. Many are taxied in—but by helicopter—from nearby Nice airport. Nice, of course, is in France, but that's not surprising, because Monaco covers only 2.2 square kilometers. So, if you are standing anywhere in Monaco, and looking up at the hillsides above the country, you are looking at France, or, to the immediate east, at Italy.

Monaco is the second-smallest independent nation in the world (only the Vatican is smaller), but there are four administrative districts in this 2.2 square kilometer place. The most famous of which is Monte Carlo, home to the Monte Carlo Casino, which draws heavy-duty gamblers from all over the world, and features in many movies, including James Bond epics.

But here's another unique thing in this country of contrasts—while the 30,000 "residents" are welcome to gamble in the casino, the 9,000 citizens are forbidden to do so. Which seems to suggest there may be an inherent caution about gambling in this country which is built on that very thing.

And that is the truth—there is no income tax in Monaco. The country runs on the income from the casino, as well as value added tax (a hefty number when visitors number in the millions).

That hasn't always been the case. Monaco has been ruled for seven centuries by the Grimaldi family. They conquered it, and have run the nation ever since. At times during those centuries, the country verged on bankruptcy. But in 1865, the royal family founded the casino—and in doing so, solved the nation's money problems in perpetuity.

Today's ruler is Prince Albert II. And therein lies another intriguing contrast. Albert, and virtually all Monégasques (the name for citi-



(PAUL KNOWLES PHOTO)

The marina in Monaco hosts multiple mega-yachts. The famed casino is the building with the arches and the dark roof, above the right-hand boats.

zens) is devoutly Roman Catholic. In the heart of the community—discreetly distant from the casino but near the royal palace—is the modern, Cathedral of Our Lady Immaculate. Pope Leo XIV, made an apostolic visit to Monaco earlier this year. So, Monaco is Catholic to its core.

And yet it is common knowledge that while Albert and his wife, Charlene, Princess of Monaco, have twin children, he is also the admitted father of two other children, born to two other women.

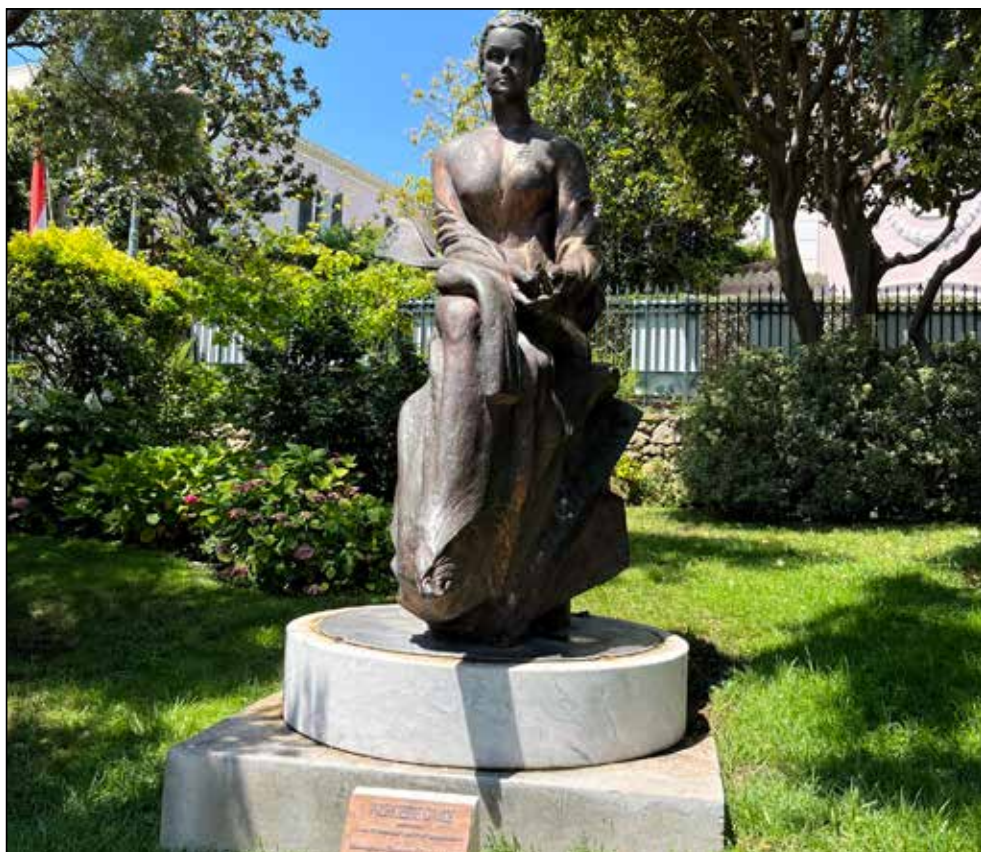
And when it comes to the twins, another contrast is apparent. This apparently modern country, which hosts Formula One race cars, and sundry state-of-the-art mega-yachts, is run on rules that date back to the Middle Ages. The twins are Alexandre Grimaldi and Jazmin Grace Grimaldi, but the heir to the throne is inevitably Alexandre, because when it comes to royalty in Monaco, males rule. (And neither of Albert's other two children should even dream about inheriting the throne because in this uber-conservative Roman Catholic nation, that is unthinkable.)

Let's go back to the cathedral, and to Albert's daughter, for a moment. Because the girl's middle name is no accident—her grandmother was the legendary Hollywood star, Grace Kelly, who left her thriving acting career while still in her 20's to marry Prince Ranier III. They were Albert's parents.

Both are buried in the cathedral. Visitors can stroll behind the high altar, to view a semi-circle of Grimaldi family tombs, the latest being those of Grace, who died in a car crash in 1982, and Ranier, who passed away in 2005.

We pondered, for a moment, this contrast between the glamour of Hollywood and the antiquated medieval reality of this unusual country. And then we strolled to a scenic lookout to view \$500-million yachts and the route of the Monaco Grand Prix. And we quickly realized: there is no other nation like this on the face of the earth.

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



(PAUL KNOWLES PHOTO)

A statue of the late Prince Grace, in the beautiful gardens dedicated in her honour.



Prince Grace's tomb, in the cathedral in Monaco.

(PAUL KNOWLES PHOTO)

Turtlefest on tap for this weekend

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 13

On the south end, busker Tim Burr will be presenting a lumberjack-themed busker show at 2, 4, and 7 p.m. in front of the main stage. Fraser said juggling chainsaws could be a part of this. Fire Guy busker will juggle fire, swallow fire, and Fraser teased that there is something new.

"He says he has something new in his show this year which is better than what he has done in the past so we are looking for-

ward to that," Fraser said of Fire Guy.

Annandale House

Annandale National Historic Site activities will continue on Saturday from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. with live turtles, carnival games, Lego Creations featuring a new turtle-inspired pattern for 2026, and a turtle scavenger hunt. An open house will be held at the museum. Some of the exhibitors lined up

are: authors Jan and John Everett, the Tillsonburg Horticultural Society, Scales Nature Park, ToroLug lego activities, "Skunk Haven of the Dragon's Lair" presented by Laurel Beechy, and the Long Point Biosphere region.

"There's nothing quite like TurtleFest weekend at Annandale House" said Annandale's Kathleen Watkin. "We're thrilled to welcome families back to the grounds

to Shell-a-brate all things turtles, dive into Tillsonburg's history and just enjoy the festival together."

Country roads . . .

The main stage has a diverse lineup, with local talent performing during the day before the Coty Robinson Band warms up the crowd for Canadian country music star Nate Haller. Haller will take the stage at 9 p.m.

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JUNE 27 | 8 AM - 12 PM
IGA-LOEB-VALU-MART 25TH REUNION

Tillsonburg Legion, 16 Durham Street, Tillsonburg A celebration of 25 years since the closing. All OLD/NEW former employees are welcome. Tickets available at Chrissy's Corner store or contact Nancy at nshelton8@aol.com. Tickets are \$20 each, also available at the door. Advance ticket sales would be appreciated. Have pictures or memorabilia (uniforms)? Please bring them with you. Hope to see you there. Many stories to tell.

JUNE

JUNE 19 | 7 PM

WHEN TOBACCO WAS KING
The Edison Vienna Museum, 6209 Plank Road, Vienna, Ontario

A History of Tobacco by Author Paul Allen. For more information email bayhamhistoricalsociety@hotmail.com

JUNE 20 | 10 AM - 10 PM
PLATTSVILLE'S 175 ANNIVERSARY CELEBRATION

Plattsville Park and Arena

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

JUNE 20 | 1 - 4 PM

LIVE BAND KICKN KOUNTRY
Tillsonburg Legion

Food available from noon to 2pm. Cash Bar. \$8 admission at the door. All Welcome! Doors open at noon!

JUNE 20 | 10 AM - 2 PM

NATIVE PLANT SALE
Friendship House, 452 Grey St, Brantford, ON N3S 7T4, Less than a 5-minute drive from Highway 403

Featuring 61 different species of native perennials, shrubs, and grasses! Accepting Cash or E-Transfer.

JUNE 21 | OPENS 12:30, ENTERTAINMENT STARTS AT 2 PM

NATIONAL INDIGENOUS PEOPLES DAY CELEBRATION

Memorial Park adjacent to the Kinsmen Band Stand, 49 Hardy Avenue in Tillsonburg, ON

The Tillsonburg and District Historical Society will be holding a National Indigenous Peoples Day Celebration. June is National Indigenous History Month in Canada, a time to recognize the rich history, heritage, resilience and diversity of First Nations, Inuit and Métis. The Indigenous Eagle Flight Singers and Dancers led by Gordon Nicotine-Sands will be featured. There will be Indigenous Food and Craft Vendors in attendance. Bring your lawn chairs as seating will be limited. Opening Ceremonies and Entertainment will start at 2 pm with site open at 12:30 pm. Admission is free. Please spread the word. Invite your friends and family. All are invited!

JUNE 26 | 1 - 4 PM

KEN LIGHTHEART AND THE NORTHSORE RAMBLERS
Tillsonburg Legion

Cash Bar. \$7 admission at the door. All Welcome!

JUNE 26 | 5 - 6 PM

ROAST BEEF DINNER
Tillsonburg Legion

\$18 per person includes mashed potatoes, gravy, vegetables, buns, desserts, tea, and coffee and HST. Cash at the door. While quantities last. All Welcome.

JUNE 27 (RAIN DATE: SUNDAY, JUNE 28) | 9 AM - 4 PM

FLY DAY & OPEN HOUSE
Tillsonburg Regional Airport, 244411 Airport Road, Tillsonburg

FREE Admission. Come fly with us! Join us for our June Open House and Fly Day. We welcome everyone to this FREE-admission, family-friendly outdoor event that offers aviation enthusiasts the opportunity to see our collection of vintage Harvard aircraft up close, tour our hangars, explore our restoration projects, purchase souvenirs, and best of all, go for a flight! (additional cost for flights). Come explore North America's largest fleet of Harvard aircraft and what the volunteers are doing to keep the history and legacy of these Second World War warbirds alive. While pre-booking flight experiences is not necessary, it is recommended. Contact crewflights@harvards.com to ensure your seat! In case of inclement weather, check our Facebook page for RAIN DATE updates.

JUNE 28 | DOORS OPEN NOON, GAMES START 1 PM

CHILDREN'S CANADA DAY BINGO
Tillsonburg Legion

Free for children ages 5-14 (must be accompanied by an adult). Door prizes, bingo prizes, snacks available.

JULY

JULY 17 & 18

BRANTFORD UKULELE FESTIVAL

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

JULY 19 | 2 PM

DECORATION DAY FOR FORESTVILLE CEMETERIES
Hillcrest Cemetery, 638 Charlotteville Road 1, Forestville

Rain or shine. Bring your lawn chair, a friend, and umbrella. Music will be provided by "Blue Chicory". Everyone welcome!

ONGOING CLASSES, CLUBS & ORGANIZATIONS

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

CAREGIVER CONNECTION
Revel Realty Woodstock, 111 Huron Street (Virtual/hybrid options available)

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

OXFORD COUNTY DIABETES EDUCATION PROGRAM

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

MONDAYS | 7 - 9 PM

MODERN SQUARE DANCING IS FOR YOU!

Thames Valley Dance Club

Looking for something to do in the evening or something new to try? Modern square dancing is a great way to learn something new, have fun, meet new friends, relieve stress, and get some exercise! All you need is comfortable shoes

and casual clothing. No experience or partner is required and anyone over the age of 12 is welcome (children from 12-15 with an adult, please). **The 2025-2026 season has started at the Ingersoll Pipe Band Hall, 108 Wonham St. S. Ingersoll.** The first night is free, and after that the cost is \$7.50 per person each Monday, paid monthly at the start of the month. For more information, contact Julie at 519-535-3314.

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

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

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

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

3RD WED. OF MONTH | 10 AM - NOON
LYNN RIVER PROBUS CLUB

Army, Navy & Air Force Club, Simcoe, ON. Corner of Water St. and Culver St. Simcoe. Enter via Culver St.

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

TUESDAYS & THURSDAYS | 7 - 9 PM
SATURDAYS | 10 AM - 12 PM

LEARN BRAZILIAN JIU-JITSU (BJJ)
North Broadway Baptist Church

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

COMING EVENTS

EVERY OTHER FRIDAY | 1 - 4 PM SPRING INTO THE INGERSOLL COUNTRY MUSIC JAMBOREE

Masonic Hall, 190 Thames St. S., Ingersoll
Join us, walk ins welcome. Qualifications - love 50-70's country music. Perform, listen, dance & enjoy! May 1, 15 & 29, June 5 & 19.

FRIDAYS | 1 PM

INTERESTED IN BRIDGE? JOIN US AT THE TILLSONBURG DUPLICATE BRIDGE CLUB

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

SATURDAYS, JUNE 6 - SEPT. 19 | 10 AM - 4 PM

PLATTSVILLE & DISTRICT HERITAGE SOCIETY

2026 EXHIBIT - HOLIDAYS & CELEBRATIONS THAT BRING US TOGETHER

Archive & Museum at Chesterfield, 816661 Oxford Rd 22, Bright (June 20 - visit us at Plattsville 175)
Donations accepted. Refreshments. For private viewing email plattsvilledistrictheritage@gmail.com or call 519.535.1417.

1ST AND 3RD TUES. OF MONTH TILLSONBURG LIONS

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

1ST WED. OF MONTH | 7 PM

WAGNER MEMORIAL TEETERVILLE LEGION BRANCH 526 - MEMBERS GENERAL

MEETING

The Wagner Memorial Teeterville Legion Branch 526 - 3890 Teeterville Road, Teeterville, ON

Not a member? Contact us to join. For More Information Call, the Legion 519-443-5588. www.teetervillelegionbranch526.ca

WOULD YOU LIKE TO VOLUNTEER TO HELP AT ONE OF OUR EVENTS? WE WELCOME YOU!

The Wagner Memorial, Teeterville Legion Branch 526 - 3890 Teeterville Road, Teeterville, ON

You do not need to be a member to Volunteer, Just contact the legion and leave your name and number and purpose of your call. Someone will get back to you as to where you might be needed. Students and Adults welcome. Open hours. Wed.- Fri. 3 pm-10 pm, Sat. 1 pm-10 pm, Sun. 1 pm-6 pm. For More Information call, the Legion at 519-443-5588 or

teetervillelegionbranch526.ca

VON OXFORD 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.

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RUST CHECK

What tastes better than it smells?
The tongue.

When is a door no longer a door?
When it's ajar.

No matter how little or how much you use me, you change me every month. What am I?
A calendar.

What gets shorter as it grows older?
A candle.

What runs around the whole yard without moving?
Fence.

What word in the dictionary is spelled incorrectly?
Incorrectly.

What do you see once in June, twice in November, and not at all in May?
The letter "e."

What occurs once in a minute, twice in a moment, and never in 1,000 years?
The letter "M."

What is at the end of a rainbow?
The letter W!

PET OF THE WEEK



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Mon - Fri: 9 a.m. - 8 p.m.

Sat: 9 a.m. - 6 p.m.

SARA

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

WORD SEARCH

FLOWER FRIENDS

A	H	A	Y	E	G	S	G	E	A	S	V	P	B	H	A	M	B	G	B
N	I	M	Y	R	F	B	L	F	M	B	F	I	M	R	G	G	C	E	N
E	R	F	T	F	O	T	S	B	I	H	H	Y	A	N	C	N	A	F	C
C	T	I	T	M	E	T	A	U	U	M	Y	P	I	M	G	V	L	G	V
T	E	B	M	E	A	O	A	M	B	M	I	G	A	H	A	I	N	H	Y
A	E	R	B	P	I	H	M	R	M	E	A	N	I	O	G	M	D	N	B
R	P	S	I	Y	L	I	V	I	G	R	D	U	C	H	P	V	O	U	C
T	A	N	T	E	N	N	A	E	O	I	P	C	T	P	G	L	T	H	U
T	D	T	C	G	T	E	C	F	B	L	M	S	O	S	O	T	R	H	I
O	Y	R	B	O	T	A	L	L	A	V	T	L	H	C	E	Y	A	A	S
H	B	I	O	S	F	L	E	T	E	C	L	A	Y	R	S	L	E	B	C
T	R	H	U	N	T	S	E	C	T	E	F	G	F	A	D	L	T	I	F
D	E	U	Y	M	E	P	I	P	N	H	M	L	L	N	R	V	H	T	I
N	M	E	T	S	Y	S	O	C	E	S	Y	I	F	G	T	F	O	A	D
O	T	P	D	R	N	A	V	U	H	A	S	T	A	M	E	N	V	T	V
V	F	V	U	B	O	A	M	O	S	S	O	L	B	C	N	L	E	G	G
A	V	B	U	M	B	L	E	B	E	E	S	B	I	E	R	A	R	V	N
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Y	V	S	F	Y	O	I	D	O	E	T	L	Y	U	Y	F	V	L	A	F
L	C	M	I	F	O	S	M	Y	R	A	I	P	A	R	P	A	Y	I	I

ANTENNAE

APIARY

BEETLE

BLOSSOM

BUMBLEBEE

BUTTERFLY

CHRYSLIS

COLONY

DRONE

ECOSYSTEM

FLIGHT

FORAGING

HABITAT

HOVERFLY

HUMMINGBIRD

LARVA

MANDIBLES

MIGRATORY

NECTAR

OVARY

PETAL

POLLEN

PROBOSCIS

STAMEN

SUDOKU

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

Solutions on Page 30

Level: Beginner

CLASSIFIEDS

TREES

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

GLENN ARTHUR RICE
MARCH 27, 1955 – MAY 31, 2026



It is with deep sadness that we announce the passing of Glenn Arthur Rice, aged 71, who left us peacefully on May 31, 2026, surrounded by the love of his family at Carpenter Hospice in Burlington, Ontario.

A longtime resident of Blenheim, Glenn was born to the late Donald Rice and Helen Smith. Known to many as “Papa Rice,” and to his adoring grandchildren as

simply “Papa,” he was a man who lived life at his own pace. While he was famously late for almost every event, however he was somehow always exactly where he needed to be whenever someone needed a hand. He was a natural fixer, builder and a keeper of odds and ends, operating under the firm belief that nothing should ever be thrown out because it might just fix something down the road.

Glenn’s life was defined by adaptability. When a back injury took away his career as a mechanic, he didn’t slow down; he went to night school, conquered computer science, and built a successful career in IT with MPAC. Later in life, he traded keyboards for sawdust, picking up the carpentry tools of his father, and finding peace in working with his hands.

Glenn’s greatest joy was found in the company of his family. Whether traveling together or simply gathering at home, he was the steady presence and heart of the family. He was also a devoted member of Charing Cross United Church, where he generously volunteered his time and found great fulfillment in serving others. Each spring, without fail, Glenn could be found on the water, enjoying his passion for fishing alongside the same close-knit group of lifelong friends.

Glenn leaves behind a beautiful legacy in his wife, Betsy Adair-Rice; his children, Laura (Darren) Murray and Grant (Karla) Rice; and his four grandchildren, Lincoln, Lillian, Elizabeth, and Matteo, who were the absolute lights of his life. He is also survived by his brothers Don, Doug, David, and Bruce and their families, his extended Adair and Chapple families, and countless friends. He goes to join his parents, Donald and Helen, and his brother-in-law Don Chapple, who went before him.

Family and friends are invited to honour Glenn at *Charing Cross United Church on Wednesday, June 24, 2026, at 11:00 AM.*

Instead of flowers, memorial contributions to the Charing Cross United Church or Carpenter Hospice Burlington would be greatly appreciated by the family.

Glenn taught us how to fix what was broken, how to show up for the people we love, and how to hold onto what matters. We will miss him terribly, but we take comfort in his favorite parting words, knowing this isn’t a final goodbye, but simply: “Bye for now.”

OBITUARY

PATRICIA “PAT” JOYCE SANDHAM
(OCTOBER 19, 1952 – JUNE 12, 2026)



It is with heavy hearts, that we the family of Patricia “Pat” Joyce (Day) Sandham, wish to announce her peaceful passing after a courageous struggle with illness, on Friday, June 12th, 2026, at her Tillsonburg residence, at the age of 73. Pat was born in Ingersoll, daughter of the late Harvey Robert Day and the late former Joyce Ethel Marie Croker. She was raised in Newark, Ontario. Pat is dearly missed by her loving

and much-loved husband of 54 years, Gerald “Herbie” Best Sandham. Pat is lovingly remembered by her children and their families: Tricia Lynn (Abe Giesbrecht) and their children Nolan, Alyssa, and Kiera, all of Springfield; Angela Marie Sandham (Jason Leslie), and their children Hayden, Hunter and Stirling, all of St. Williams. Also survived by her brothers Gord Day (Tammy), of Tillsonburg; Wayne Day (Lois), of London; Russ Day (Mary), of Brantford; Terry Day (Emily), of London; as well as by several nieces, nephews and cousins.

Pat will be dearly remembered as a wonderful wife, mother, grandmother, sister, aunt and friend to many. Raising her wonderful family was her greatest achievement. Pat and Gerald loved Classic Car Shows and Cruises. She was especially proud of their 1951 Lincoln, which she loved to show at many cruises. Pat was a proud participant of the Tillsonburg Cruisers. Pat was a dedicated clerk for several years at the Bank of Montreal, Norwich branch. She later worked as a secretary at Eberhard, Sandham Cartage & Ontario Ohio Express.

“The Sandham family would like to express their sincere thanks to the wonderful Nurses, PSW’s and Staff at Care Partners for the incredible care, endless support and the compassion shown to Pat and our family over these past months. It will never be forgotten.”

Friends, neighbours and relatives were invited to attend public visitation on Monday, June 15th, 2026, between 11:00 a.m. and 12:45 p.m. in the Maurice J. Verhoeve Funeral Homes Chapel, 262 Broadway, Tillsonburg. A Funeral Service to Celebrate Pat’s Life was conducted by Pastor David Stead, assisted by Pat’s niece Rev. Stephanie Day, on Monday, at 1:00 p.m. in the funeral home chapel. Interment followed in Goshen Cemetery. Everyone who knew Pat is invited to share favourite memories and photos, express personal condolences or contribute memorial donations to the VON Oxford (Sakura House) via Pat’s online tribute page at www.verhoevefuneralhomes.com or by contacting the Maurice J. Verhoeve Funeral Homes - Burial and Cremation Services Inc. (519) 842-4238, entrusted with all funeral arrangements, with confidence.



OBITUARY

RHONDA LYNN SERGEANT (FRANCIA)
(NOVEMBER 19, 1964 – JUNE 12, 2026)



Rhonda Lynn Sergeant (Francia), of Tillsonburg, passed away peaceful after a courageous struggle with illness, at the Tillsonburg District Memorial Hospital, on June 12th, 2026, with her loving husband John and family by her side, at the age of 61. Beloved wife and best friend for 30 years, of John Sergeant. Rhonda was born in Tillsonburg, daughter of Doris Rand, of Tillsonburg and the late George Francia (2017). Predeceased by her caring stepfather Robert Rand (2022) and stepmother Juanita (2013).

Much loved mother and mother-in-law to: Adam Mayo, of Tillsonburg; Kyle Mayo (Morgan), of Tillsonburg; stepmother of Tanya Bason (Tao), of Barrie; Tyler Sergeant (Carly), of Embro; Cherished grandmother of Chace, Braydon, Lukas, Logan, Ethan, Evan, Cheyanne, Ellie, Penny. Caring sister to Rosemary Dean (Michael), of Tillsonburg; Tammy Csomos (John), of Courtland; Kim Jeromin (Dave), of Tillsonburg.

Also survived by nieces and nephews, Lisa VanderGulik (Steve), Melissa Hunt (Ken), Amanda Weigel (Adam), Jennifer Dean, Tiffany Swick (Darren), Kristen Csomos (Jason), Danielle Jeromin, Brandyn Buckle (Kelsey), Dorion Buckle and Kaelon Buckle. Also survived by her “chosen mother” Mary Jane Kekes, of Delhi.

Rhonda will be remembered as loving wife, mother, sister, aunt, and good friend to many. She loved baseball and being part of the Wildcats team. We know you will be watching over us as we play ball and send us pointers from above.

In keeping with Rhonda’s expressed wishes, cremation has taken place and a get-together will be held at a later date. Everyone who knew Rhonda is invited to share favourite memories and photos, express personal condolences or contribute memorial donations to a local charity of your choice via her online tribute page at www.verhoevefuneralhomes.com or by contacting the Maurice J. Verhoeve Funeral Homes, 262 Broadway, Tillsonburg (519) 842-4238.



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

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