

Tillsonburg POST

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Town council endorses new film policy

JEFF HELSDON
Editor

Tillsonburg has a new policy to attract filmmakers to town.

Development Commissioner Cephas Panschow presented a report on consultations regarding the policy at the July 20 meeting. He suggested moving forward with a three-year trial policy, starting Jan. 1, 2027, that included waiving the \$100 application fee.

Council approved the policy, which includes policies for filming both on municipally-owned and private property, notification of residents near the filming location, the formation of a Film Liaison Committee and a total cost recovery policy.

Panschow said there was an 88 per cent level of support from those who answered the survey and attended the meeting. He also said there was public support for waiving the \$100 fee.

Coun. Pete Luciani pointed out the original draft of the policy contained a waiver of the application fee for one year, but questioned why there was now a three-year exemption.

Panschow said the change was to allow more time for the town to become known as a film destination.

Coun. Chris Rosehart also questioned why the policy wouldn't have an application fee.

Panschow answered that other communities do this to attract filming, so the suggestion was for the town policy to match that. He said filming crews in town would benefit local businesses and catering companies, and that lumber could be purchased for building sets, as well as other goods. Panschow again emphasized that the town is looking to have costs covered for public works expenses and any other costs.

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(JEFF HELSDON PHOTO)

RUNNING WITH THE BULLS A RUNAWAY SUCCESS

Although the smoke and a possible thunderstorm had organizer Tamara Bull wondering about the fate of Running with the Bulls until hours before race time, the smoke cleared and rain held off to make the event a success. The event attracted more than 450 runners and raised over \$30,000 to assist families of cancer victims. See more photos on Page 22.

Tillsonburg's transportation master plan adopted by council

JEFF HELSDON
Editor

A truck bypass, new stoplights, lower speed limits, bike lanes and more trails were all part of the town's new transportation master plan, but the elimination of angle parking on Broadway was not.

Kevin Jones of Paradigm Transportation Solutions Ltd. shared the final document with council, the culmination of a process that started in December 2023.

Jones explained a transportation master plan is "A systematic and strategic review of transportation, all forms of transportation in a community."

It looks at how transportation is working now, how growth will affect the transportation network, what changes are needed, and what the priorities are over the next 5 to 10 years.

The study was completed in four phases, including two public information sessions and an online survey. The first open house, held in June 2024, attracted 96 people. The second, in April 2026,

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SCAN



Eliminating angle parking is not part of parking plan

CONTINUED FROM FRONT

only had 17 in attendance. The survey, though, had great input, with 653 people submitting comments.

Through the public input, Jones heard:

- Support for enhanced transit
- Support for future truck bypass
- Support for new active transportation infrastructure and enhanced crossings at major roads
- Concerns about parking

From the input and study of traffic patterns, the team came up with a series of recommendations.

“Our recommendations are designed to see a modest increase in walking and biking because the public thought that was important,” Jones said.

To facilitate this, the plan suggests enhancing a network of interconnected trails and creating on-road cycling opportunities. A part of this would be 6.6 km of new multi-use paths on major road boulevards and 15 km of new on-road bike lanes on secondary roads. A 10.1-km trail network through recreational areas would be central to the system. Nine new pedestrian crossings would need to be created to support the network.

The plan is based on the assumption of growth and suggests road modifications to address it.

“We are forecasting some congestion on Broadway, on Oxford Street, through the downtown and north Tillson Ave,” Jones said.

New stoplights at Tillson Ave/North Street, Quarter Town Line/North Street, Concession Street/Lisgar Ave are suggested, as are new all-way stops at Bridge Street/Bidwell Street, and Bidwell Street/Brock Street. A variety of intersection improvements are needed for Broadway/North Street, Tillson Ave/Oxford Street, Simcoe Street/Goshen Street, Vienna Road/Townline Road, and Cedar Street/Simcoe Street. Also raised was the possibility of looking at red light cameras at the Broadway/North Street and Oxford

Street/Tillson Ave to see if it would be beneficial in reducing the collision count in those intersections.

Enhancing the transit system is another suggestion in the plan.

“A lot of people tell us they won’t take transit because it doesn’t serve them when they are done work,” Jones said.

Adding later hours, an expanded route and weekend service would cost the town \$600,000 annually. Jones said this could be done gradually as demand increases and the town has the budget for it.

The largest part of the plan is protecting a truck bypass, with the preferred suggestion being a corridor to the west of town.

“I call this a conversation starter,” Jones said.

Many who provided feedback commented that the trucks have to be removed from the downtown. About 9,000 trucks per day come through Tillsonburg, and many stop in town.

Before arriving at the suggestion of a route to the west of town, outside town limits, the plan team looked at five different alternatives. Jones said an initiative of this magnitude will need to be done in partnership with Oxford County.

The plan also contained initiatives to enhance the downtown for pedestrians.

“There is an opportunity to make your downtown more friendly for pedestrians,” Jones said, suggesting managing speed in the downtown and enhancing pedestrian crossings. Although the study looked at revisiting downtown angle parking, Jones said there wasn’t a lot of support for that.

He suggested future councils consider a parking levy with a user-pay system that will make people think about if they want to pay to park in the premium spots downtown, or if they want to walk a block.

The study also looked at reducing speed limits in some neighbourhoods to 40 km/h, as well as in the downtown.

The total cost of implementing suggestions in the study is \$15 million in capital

costs.

Coun. Chris Parker questioned the figure of 9,000 trucks per day.

Jones said a lot of this is truck traffic on Highway 3 in town limits, but another 1,000 per day come into town from the north. In addition, a number of trucks started their journeys in town, and then left.

Parker also had questions about the transit figure of 5.3 per cent wanting improvements. Relating that number to the 630 who responded to the survey, he said that would be only 30 wanted to see improved transit.

Jones explained the 5.3 per cent number comes from those who reported using transit in the census, and countered that almost half of those who responded to the survey wanted transit improvements.

Continuing questions about transit, Parker asked whether the \$600,000 cost would be offset by additional revenue from increased ridership opportunities and whether it would approach revenue neutrality.

“There’s not a transit system in Canada that’s revenue neutral,” Jones answered, explaining the \$600,000 would be an additional cost.

Deputy Mayor Dave Beres pointed out some cities that installed bicycle lanes are finding these take away from vehicle lanes, and are reconsidering the decision. He asked if this was considered in the report.

Jones answered that provincial legislation now restricts taking traffic lanes out to create bicycle lanes, and instead wide shoulders would be utilized.

None of the recommendations in our traffic take lanes away from traffic.

Coun. Bob Parsons, who said he rides his bicycle in town, said it’s unsafe to ride on Broadway with cars backing out.

“Is there going to be any consideration - I access the side streets - to have places to park bikes somewhere not too far from

Broadway,” he asked.

Jones said they heard there was nowhere to park bikes downtown, and that this would be a small step at a modest cost.

Mayor Deb Gilvesy asked if multi-use sidewalks, which are more common in Europe, were being considered instead of the standard boulevard and sidewalk used now.

“We could be developing better and smarter and thinking of adding active transportation,” she said.

The mayor also had questions about the truck bypass route not being in town, and if land expropriation costs were included in the cost estimate.

Jones said this report could be leveraged to go to the county for partnership, and that these reports don’t include land expropriation costs, as that is a variable.

With Director of Operations Carlos Reyes writing the report accompanying the study, Gilvesy asked and received confirmation that angle parking on Broadway would not be changed. Removing angle parking is one alternative identified in the report.

Parker said there were many good suggestions in the report, but he suggested the motion to adopt it have the words ‘in principle’ added. Coun. Pete Luciani, who presented the motion, said that any of the suggestions in the report must come back to council, and that this wasn’t needed.

Beres commented it was good the truck bypass was included in the report.

“That will be something that will carry a lot of weight the next time the county looks at a master plan,” he said, adding the bypass wouldn’t be feasible on just the town’s tax base.

The final motion that was passed was to accept the report for information and to direct “staff to bring forward programs, studies, and projects included in the 2026 Transportation Master Plan preferred strategy for consideration in future capital and operational budget deliberations.”

Tillsonburg has a new film policy

CONTINUED FROM FRONT

Rosehart also pointed out there was filming for Murdoch Mysteries recently.

Deputy Mayor Dave Beres said he learned from one of his colleagues through the Rural Ontario Municipal Association – of which he is a board member – that many Hallmark movies are filmed in Almonte, in eastern Ontario.

“People come to see the stars and the merchants do very, very well. It’s very positive for the community,” he said.

Mayor Deb Gilvesy asked whether there was a cost to the town for reviewing the application.

Panschow confirmed there would be a cost for town staff to review the application, but again emphasized that his suggestion to waive the fee was based on what other communities are doing.

Council passed a motion to adopt the policy, but did go with an application fee of \$100.



SUMMER SANTA STORYTIME

(ROBIN KRAFFT PHOTO)

Eager children gathered around Santa at the Tillsonburg Public Library on July 14 for Summer Santa Storytime. Santa explained how he kept a low profile, landing his sleigh in a nearby field and driving his magic car into town. Libraries across Oxford County are offering a variety of drop-in programs for kids throughout the summer.

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

EDITORIAL

Letter to the Editor

Kudos to amateur golf championship organizers

A tip of the hat to all those responsible for hosting the 104th Ontario Men's Amateur Golf Championship at the Otter Creek Golf Course from Monday, July 6 through Thursday, July 9. This prestigious event, second to the Canadian PGA Golf Championship, is the biggest golf event in the province during the summer months.

At the top of the host list were: Taylor Declercq- director of golf operations; Randy Booker – director of turf operations; Summer Hayes – director of food and beverage, and Lindsay Farkas – director of events.

This event continues to highlight the exceptional talent within Ontario's amateur ranks and is a proud tradition of one of the province's longest-standing championships. The aforementioned started each day at 5 a.m., and then got to their homes around 6 p.m. There was one exception in the 'host' list, who did not leave the course over the four days, and that was Randy Booker, who slept on a cot in his office each night.

One hundred and fifty-six golfer qualified for this championship, and after two days of competition, 67 made the cut. There were 15 Golf Ontario representatives in charge of scoring and rules enforcement, coupled with

approximately 16 volunteers from the Tillsonburg area.

The trophy is named after Gary Cowan, a nine-time winner, and of great significance, Mike Weir (Canada's Augusta Masters' Champion), who won this event twice.

Otter Creek Golf Club proved to be a true test throughout the week, rewarding patience, precision and consistency from tee to green. The course yielded three holes in one, two of them on a par four. The average of the competitors was in the low 20s, and several of them were sporting U.S. college golf bags.

The eventual champion, Jager Pain, from Gormley, ON., had a four-day total of six under par. He finished ahead of Gabriel Mainella, Matteo Rocca and Jackson Murphy. Pain, Mainella, and Rocca will represent Ontario in the Canadian championship later this summer.

Golf Ontario offered great appreciation to the entire staff of the Otter Creek Golf Club, tournament officials, volunteers, partners and spectators for their outstanding support in delivering a well-organized and professional effort.

*Brian O'Rourke
Tillsonburg*



Smoky street.

(JEFF HELSDON PHOTO)

Summer adventures and vacations in the 1970s



**WRITER'S
CORNER**

NORMA COLLIS

Tillsonburg Post Columnist

One of my early teaching partners was very proud of the purchase of her very first car, which was an original Volkswagen Beetle.

The car was available in three different shades of vibrant yellow, her colour of choice was called Saturn Yellow. You can imagine her delight when on one of her shopping sprees, she found a Saturn Yellow polka dotted sun dress that fit her perfectly.

The dress design included spaghetti straps, and the dress buttoned all the way

down the front with large white buttons that matched the white dots on the dress.

In the early days, the VW beetles did not have an interior heater as such. The engine was cooled by a fan, and the heat then directed into the cabin of the car. De-frosting the car windows was a challenge in a cold Canadian winter. The car floor heating vents had to be closed so that all the air pressure would channel upwards to clear the windshield. This airflow was very weak when the car was in idle gear, so it was not uncommon to see the proud VW owner, sitting in the school parking lot, trying to scrape the interior of the windows before she could safely get on her way.

In hot weather, the car did not have any sort of air conditioning, and one opened the air vents in the hope that a small amount of cooling air might blow on the driver.

One hot Saturday morning, the young teacher was driving out of Toronto on a very busy highway. The interior of her car felt like a blast oven. She opened the car air vents and prayed that a small breeze might help a little with her extreme discomfort.

It was stop-and-go traffic on the very busy thoroughfare, and this made the possibility of any air flow only a wishful endeavour. The full skirt of her new favourite sundress was sticking to her legs so she made the decision to unbutton several of the bottom buttons on the dress.

This action seemed to help make the driver feel a little cooler but not by many degrees. As the traffic finally began to speed up a little, the airflow increased and our young driver unbuttoned a few more buttons on the dress looking for more relief from the stifling heat and humidity.

As she finally neared her home, she made the decision to stop for gas at her local self serve station.

She hopped out of her tiny car and began the process of gassing up. Other drivers at nearby gas pumps, glanced her way frequently and some smiled at her as well.

One particularly good-looking young male motorist even added a wink to the wide grin he beamed her way.

"Well," she thought to herself, "it must be my new sundress. I must wear this outfit more often."

She finished filling the tank and reached into her car to retrieve her matching purse.

Just then, a slight and welcome breeze, caused the wondrous sundress to cease sticking to her body and, to billow out in several different directions.

Only then did she realize that every button on the dress had somehow managed to unbutton itself and she was now barely clad in her once favourite dress.

When she told me this story I said, "You were wearing undergarments, weren't you?"

"Of course I was" she stated with indignation.

"And...." I continued "did the undergarments match your dress?"

"Of course they did," she replied.

"How on earth did you find Saturn yellow underwear?" I asked her.

"Oh, I have my ways," she said, "But I am still searching for Saturn yellow nail varnish. Please phone me immediately if you spot any for sale."

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

Summer adventures in the 1970s



WAYNE HUTCHISON
Tillsonburg Post Columnist

PAST IMPERFECT

It's that time of the year when many tend to venture out and explore the world. Our family didn't take a lot of vacations, or go on many "adventures" back in the 1970s. There wasn't a lot of extra money lying around, and our parents didn't have a lot of free time on their hands. But that doesn't mean we didn't have any vacations, and maybe they are more memorable because there were so few.

I recall going on three actual camping trips when I was a kid, not counting setting up a tent in the backyard. I remember one trip to the Sand Hills, and two others to Rondeau Park.

At the Sand Hills, we had a couple of tents we set up on our little campsite. We spent some time throwing frisbees and baseballs around, and cooking on an open fire, but most of our time was spent up on the sand hill, and down in the water. You could climb up and over the tall-

est part of the sand hill if you were more adventurous, or you could take the gentler path that cuts through the hill from the campground to the lake. We did a fair amount of climbing up and sliding down the sand, and even more time splashing around in the cooler lake water.

One afternoon I was climbing the sand hill on the lake side, and the sand gave out beneath me. I slid down the slope until coming to a stop at the edge of what I thought was a huge drop straight down. I felt I was going to die when the sand finally released me over the edge – but the drop was only a few feet. Disaster narrowly averted!

On our camping adventures to Rondeau Provincial Park, we had a little bit more upscale living arrangements – a truck bed camper and a soft-sided pop-up camper that my parents borrowed from friends. Much more comfortable than a tent on hard ground. Rondeau had a lot of trails, wooded areas, and beaches to explore. We did a lot of walking around, riding our bikes, and swimming. It was great fun for all, and highly recommended.

One of my earliest memories of a summer "night out" was going to the stock car races at the old Ascot Park racetrack on Young Street. This was the summer of 1970. There was a nice grassy slope from the edge of the street down the hill to the track, and that's where everyone sat to watch. The racing was fast, loud, and "full contact". And maybe where I got my first racing "itch" ...

Another early adventure took us a bit farther afield. We went to the Detroit Zoo. I don't remember the details of the trip very well, but I do have a few faded Polaroids my mom took that day to help jog my memory. One photo shows the Rackham Fountain with two bears standing up and holding a large bowl overflowing with water. Another shows the real polar bears lazing around in the sun. I

suspect we got sunburnt that day as both my brother and I were wearing shorts, short-sleeved button-up shirts, and no hats. And, no doubt, I slept in the car all the way back to Tillsonburg.

One summer we decided to see what the African Lion Safari was all about. It was still relatively new back then, only opening in the summer of 1969. We drove through the park in our own car – it was amazing to be able to see all the animals up so close. The giraffes would come right up to our windows, and the monkeys would climb all over the car. It was a hot day, and our car didn't have air conditioning, so we kept rolling the windows down when we could to get a little fresh air – but you had to be careful, or you might have another passenger! And the car needed a good wash afterwards...

The Tillsonburg Fair was also another summertime staple for us. The midway rides were always found on the old baseball diamond where the bandshell and pavilion are today. All along John Street inside the park gates were the games of chance. Dad always told us that these were too crooked to waste good money on – a lesson we forgot years later when we had girlfriends to impress.

And the most important stop was always just inside the John Street gate – the taffy shop! Inside the arena there would be booths for all sorts of businesses and service clubs, as well as a few food vendors. And right across the street from the arena's back entrance was the grandstand – where we'd try to find a seat to watch the motorcycle races, the Hell Drivers, or the demolition derby. Back in those days the fair was a big deal and was always packed.

Summer adventures back then were what we made of them – there were no airplane flights, hotel stays, or Disney trips – but we enjoyed them just the same.

Youth section to be added to town app

JEFF HELSDON
Editor

The Tillsonburg app will now have a youth section added thanks to a request from the town's youth's advisory council.

Isabella Rasokas and Sri Darshini Ganesh of the youth advisory council spoke to council at the July 13 meeting, discussing opportunities for youth in the town. A survey of local youth by former members of the youth advisory council identified opportunities wanted by younger people. More recent work found many of the opportunities already exist.

"The challenge is that many youths simply don't know about them," Rasokas said at the meeting.

Darshini Ganesh said the group concluded a separate

tab on the town's app could highlight activities, local clubs and volunteer opportunities.

"We believe that this page would make it easier for young people to find information, increase awareness of opportunities available in summer, and encourage more youth involvement in our community," she said.

After Councillor Chris Parker, Deputy Mayor Dave Beres and Mayor Deb Gilvesy complimented the duo for the work the committee accomplished and a well-done presentation, council endorsed a motion directing staff to add and maintain a youth section to the app.

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8. Newspapers should be locally-owned and operated

RIDE program stops another impaired driver

A Reduce Impaired Driving Everywhere (RIDE) spot check, in the Town of Tillsonburg, stopped another impaired driver from driving any farther on Oxford County roads.

On July 13, at approximately 10:40 p.m., members of the Oxford detachment of the Ontario Provincial Police (OPP) were set up on a RIDE program in Tillsonburg when they identified an impaired driver.

As a result of the investigation, a 37-year-old female resident of Tillsonburg was charged with:

- Operation While Impaired
- Operation While Impaired - Blood Alcohol Concentration (BAC) 80 plus
- Dangerous Operation of a Motor Vehicle

The accused has been released from custody and is scheduled to appear before the Ontario Court of Justice, in Woodstock, on Sept. 1.

Oxford OPP would like to remind the public that no amount of alcohol is safe to consume and drive.

Please drive safe, drive smart and drive sober.

Buddies Fest bringing top names to town

JEFF HELSDON

Editor

Some top names, including a former Guns N' Roses bassist, will be playing in this year's version of Buddies Fest.

Starting Friday, Aug. 7, and running until Sunday, Aug. 9, the second year of the local music festival will have some changes, including adding country performers, to the line-up.

Last year's debut of Buddies Fest saw about 350 people attend the main event at The Mill, and 300 weekend passes sold. All hotel rooms and bed and breakfast rooms in town were booked for the event.

After the outdoor performances wind down at 10 p.m., the music continues, split between Paddy's Underground and The Copper Mug.

"We figured let's go big or go home and get some bigger bands," said organizer Ben Andress.

Last year's event was mostly punk rock, but this year will see country and rock mixed in.

Andress talked about the Buddies Fest name: being up front, it wasn't his idea, but it came from Jon Snodgrass, a festival organizer. Snodgrass has a song called Buddies, where he "name drops Buddies in bands," Andress explained. Hence the name, and it stuck.

This year, Andress said, really drives the buddies theme home. Chad Price of Drag the River, and Ben Nichols, were mentioned in Snodgrass' song and will be playing in Buddies Fest this year.

"It's kind of cool the festival is named after a song called Buddies and two of the people named in the song are playing this year," he remarked.

Held in July last year, the festival is moved to August this year.

"It was really hot, and just the air quality wasn't too enjoyable," Andress said of the same week this year. "It's good we did move it as it was the same weekend as

Rock the Park."

The largest name in this year's festival is Tommy Stinson, who was bass player with the Replacements in the 1980s, and played for more than a decade with Guns N' Roses from 1998 to 2014. That time included touring with the band and the release of the album Chinese Democracy. He will take the Buddies Fest stage at 7 p.m. on Friday.

Two country acts, including Ben Nichols and Chixxdiggit, will be in this year's line-up.

"With Tillsonburg being a country town, we thought we'd get a little bit of country going on," Andress commented, adding, "Even though they're country, they're all buddies."

The Groovy Ghoulies, a pop-punk act, will appeal to the entire family, Andress said, reminding that Buddies Fest is an all-ages event.

The changes don't mean punk rockers will be left out. UltraBomb, which has members from Husker Du, Solar Asylum and Social Distortion, will be performing Friday.

"This is one of their first Canadian gigs ever," Andress said. "They've been a band for a bit, and they're finally making their way to Canada, which is kind of exciting."

Fuzzed Out, which is playing Sunday at 8 p.m., features Patrick Pentland from the band Sloan. Andress understands they will be playing many Sloan songs.

"If you're a Sloan fan, that's a set you don't want to miss," he said.

A couple of local bands, the McBains and Where's Shane, will be part of the festival.

"Some of them are friends with some of these bands, so they fit in with the buddies theme," Andress said.

Chumbawamba vocalist Danbert Nobacon will also be playing during the weekend.

Tickets are available online at buddies-fest.com or from The Mill at a discount.

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A summer adventure leads to 70 years of love, commitment, and family

ROBIN KRAFFT

Post Correspondent

When 15-year-old Edna Sandham was staying with her sister and brother-in-law for the summer, she probably didn't expect anything of great significance to happen, but it did.

"I was staying in Springford with my sister when I got a call from Murray," Edna said. "There was a school bus driver who was taking a load of high school kids to Niagara Falls and there was room on the bus. He asked if I'd like to go and I said yes. After that, he started calling. He followed me with all my moving and always came to visit."

Edna's father worked for various farmers, and they moved frequently. Murray showed up faithfully to spend time with Edna and her family wherever they were, including Hanover, Walkerton, Byron, and Ingersoll.

Edna and Murray Sandham were married four years later, moving to Tillsonburg shortly after their wedding in 1955. They've witnessed many changes in town over the years, their growing family keeping pace with many advancements and innovations, but it all started with that summer adventure.

They initially rented a little house in town across from Livingston's, before purchasing their own home for \$9,500 on a dead-end street surrounded by cornfields and peach and apple trees.

"Everybody here had children," Edna said. "It was a great place to raise children. I thought I had a palace. We owned it, and we were happy to stay right here. We always had good neighbors, and it's still very quiet. We always had a huge garden, which Murray loved, and we had so much we often gave some away."

Murray got an apprenticeship as a mechanic for 50 cents an hour, and later worked in the shop for \$3 an hour. He became a skilled mechanic and eventually bought into Eichenberg Motors.

"I was part owner and part mechanic, and I liked it," Murray said. "In those days, you listened and knew what was wrong. You fixed things; now you replace things."

"We would always go to the car shows in the fall," Edna said. "When mini-vans first came out, I said they'd never sell. But we got one and we always had them after that. Our kids still like them."

Edna was a stay-at-home mom, and she



(ROBIN KRAFFT PHOTO)

Edna and Murray Sandham, who been living in their house in Tillsonburg for 68 years, reflected on the dramatic growth and changes in their community.

loved it. She reflected on how families have changed, but she remembers hearing a very influential television personality stating that it's the most important job in the world.

"My daughter told me recently: 'You were always there'," Edna said. "I liked cooking. At the end of the summer, I would have shelves full of fruit, pickles, jams, tomato juice, and apple juice. I made a lot of the kid's clothes until they started wearing jeans, and I made my own clothes a lot too."

The Sandhams remember the overhead bridge that you had to go over to get into town, the Town Hall, and the Carnegie Library.

"There were bakeries downtown," Edna said. "There was a big department store on the corner, (Heaths), the post office, Bell Telephone, banks, the Metropolitan store by the main stop light and the Chainway store. I remember there being a lot of ladies' wear and men's shops, Lady Anne's dress wear, and Winter's Menswear. There were three movie theaters in town, but everybody has TVs now. As a kid, if you ever went out at all, you went to the movies."

Murray, who was on town council for several years, recalls the tearing down of the town hall and the building of the mall, but it was all part of progress, and it was good for the people of the town.

The traffic has changed over the years, Edna added, and the pace of life is different now. She sometimes worries about her great-grandchildren and what things will be like for them.

"What are they going to have to face?" Edna said. "Every generation changes; one generation is one thing, and the next, and the next changes again; lifestyles, point of view, technology."

The building and growth has been amazing, but the Sandhams still live in their first house, although it is no longer a dead-end street and the fields have been replaced by neighbourhoods. They've made some changes, finishing the basement and building a garage, and Edna added that they spent twice

as much renovating the kitchen as the house originally cost.

They worked hard, and enjoyed the results. High levels of sales earned them trips, and they travelled widely, from Hawaii and Bermuda to Alaska and the Yukon. Destinations across Canada were often their favorite places to visit, and their cottage on the French River (eight miles up the river by boat) and nearby Lake Nipissing hold many special memories.

"Canada is a beautiful place," Edna said. "I love seeing the country and the beautiful scenery."

The Sandhams had three children, and they now have eight grandchildren and eight great-grandchildren.

"Time goes by so fast," Edna said. "We were always so busy with family, and we're still busy with family!"

Edna described how they had big celebrations for their 50th and 60th wedding anniversaries, but for their 70th, they didn't want to make a fuss.

"It was what we wanted," Edna said. "So, we said nothing, then we started getting these cards. They came from the States, New Zealand, all over, but most of them were local. It was astounding. It was wonderful to read the personal messages."

Their daughter Joyce, knowing how much they enjoy receiving cards in the mail, had invited her Facebook community to help them celebrate by sending them a card. They received over 100 cards, many with heartfelt handwritten greetings.

"I think when you go into marriage you don't always think it's going to be a bed of roses," Edna said. "There's ups and downs. You're going to have differences and I think you should. But you know that you're there for each other. When we came out of church on our anniversary, we were going to have a little cake and ice cream for everybody, but we were shocked to see that all our friends were there waiting to celebrate with us. Tillsonburg has been a good place, it's a town that is welcoming."



A locket gifted to Edna from Murray with photos from when they met. (CONTRIBUTED PHOTO)

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COMMUNITY UPDATE

Notices

Sportsfield Project Public Information Centre Review Concepts and Share Your Feedback

The Town of Tillsonburg invites residents to attend the first Public Information Centre (PIC) for the Sportsfield Project. Review concept plans for the Annandale Ball Diamonds and Mall Road sites, ask questions, and share your feedback to help inform future planning. Additional PICs will be held on August 13 and September 9.

Learn more at www.tillsonburg.ca/SportsfieldProject.

Date: Thursday, July 23, 2026

Time: 4:30 PM – 6:30 PM

Location: Marwood Lounge, Tillsonburg Community Centre

Bid Opportunities

RFP 2026-010

Consulting Services for Stormwater Management Master Plan

Submission Deadline: July 28, 2026 at 2:00 PM

RFT 2026-004

Construction of Sidewalk Connectivity

Submission Deadline: July 27, 2026 at 2:00 PM

Visit tillsonburg.bidsandtenders.ca.



More Time to Enjoy Downtown

Starting July 13, 2026, the Saturday on-street parking limit has increased from 2 hours to 3 hours, giving visitors more time to shop, dine, and explore downtown.

Please note: The 2-hour parking limit in the mall's underground parking garage remains unchanged.



Calling All Burger Masters!

Think you've got what it takes to create Tillsonburg's ultimate burger? Local restaurants and licensed food vendors are invited to compete for the title of Official TillsonBURGer as part of Party 'til the Cows Come Home!

Create a signature burger featuring a locally sourced ingredient or a connection to Tillsonburg for a chance to be crowned Tillsonburg's Best Burger and take home the coveted Golden Cowbell Trophy.

The registration deadline is Friday, July 24. Judging takes place at 11:00 a.m. on Saturday, August 8 on the front lawn of the Annandale National Historic Site. Community members are encouraged to come out, cheer on their favourites, and watch as the Official TillsonBURGer is crowned.

To register or learn more, email recreation@tillsonburg.ca or call 519-688-3009 ext. 4251.



Culture Corner

Party 'til the Cows Come Home

Get ready for a moo-velous day of family fun!

Join us on Saturday, August 8, from 10:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m. at Annandale National Historic Site (30 Tillson Ave) for a celebration of Oxford County's agricultural roots.

Enjoy activities for all ages while discovering the story of Annandale Farm – once home to dairy cows, pigs, and apple trees. Admission is by donation. Come party 'til the cows come home!

Join the Herd! Volunteer for Party 'Til the Cows Come Home

Help make our celebration of Oxford County's agricultural heritage a success on Saturday, August 8! Volunteers are needed to assist with games, crafts, food service, and family activities.

Flexible shifts available: 9:30 AM – 12:00 PM or 12:00 PM – 2:30 PM (or stay for both!). High school students can earn community service hours.

519-842-2294 | museuminfo@tillsonburg.ca



Active Living & Learning Opportunities

Most Drownings are Preventable, Make Water Safety a Priority This Summer

Join us at Lake Lisgar Waterpark for National Drowning Prevention Week from July 20-24 and take part in our Activity Passport – fun, educational, and a chance to win a prize!

Activities will run Monday to Friday from 12 P.M. to 3 P.M., depending on attendance and demand. Activity Passport pickup begins at 11 A.M. on Saturday, July 18.

Learn more at www.tillsonburg.ca.

Make a Splash This Summer!

There's still time to register for summer swimming lessons at the Tillsonburg Community Centre. Programs are available for all ages and skill levels, whether you're just getting comfortable in the water or ready for the next level.

Register online at townoftillsonburg.perfectmind.com, visit the Community Centre, or call 519-688-9011 to get started.





MUSIC ON THE LAWN

(JEFF HELSDON PHOTOS)

George Fulop played as part of the Music on the Lawn Series, presented Sunday nights at Annandale House by the Tillsonburg and District Historical Society. The series continues until Aug. 30, starting at 7 p.m., with the start time being 6:30 p.m.



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Local talent contest leading up for fair final

JEFF HELSDON

Editor

It doesn't feature Howey Mandel, but Tri-County's Got Talent has the same musical thrust as Canada's Got Talent.

Three try-outs are being held prior to the final at this year's Tillsonburg Tri-County Fair on Aug. 15.

Although talent shows have been held by the fair in various forms in the past, this is the first time it is being held in this format, and the first after a multi-year hiatus.

"It needs to be done," said organizer Kim Sage. "It's something new to the kids, something to bring the music talent out - there's so much untouched talent out there."

The first tryout was held on July 11 at the Copper Mug. Jonathan Hilliker won, singing two original songs and a Stone Temple Pilots song. Sage pointed out participants can choose to present original numbers or covers. Three winners are chosen to advance to the final, plus an alternative in case one of the winners can't attend.

Daniel Jones, lead singer of Sugar Kings, Sally Jo Atkinson-Jones, and Chris Soares from Country 107 were the judges.

There were seven entries in the first tryout.

Sage contacted about 15 venues to spread the tryouts across the area. Although two were interested, they had prior commitments this year. The next tryouts will be Aug. 1 and Aug. 5 at the Copper Mug.

The finals will be held at the fair bandshell on Aug. 15, with the winner announced the next day. The stakes are high, and in a similar vein to Canada's Got Talent, but minus the six and seven-digit payouts. The winners will receive a recording session at Handmaid Studio in London and a record with their songs on it, plus be featured on Country 107.

Sage said anyone wanting to enter just needs to show up on the night of the tryouts. Background music will be provided, but the singers need to know the words to the songs.

"They definitely do not need to be professional," Sage said.

She pointed to the fourth-place finisher in the first competition as an example, a person who was convinced by her friends to run.

"Years later you aren't going to say you went in front of Simon Cowell, but you could say you went in a singing contest," Sage said.



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Honeysuckle is Tillsonburg’s first third-wave coffee shop

JEFF HELSDON

Editor

Tillsonburg’s newest business is offering something new on the café scene.

Honeysuckle Coffee opened at 361 Quarterline Road on July 13. Owners Kealy and Jay Keating classify the shop as a specialty coffee shop with rotating seasonal drinks and baked goods made on site. The shop also has espresso-based drinks, iced coffee, brewed coffee, mocha, latte and crafted coffee.

Kealey believes the shop’s offerings are unique to town.

“It is a new thing to Tillsonburg,” she said. “It is unique.”

Honeysuckle is classi-

fied as a third-wave coffee shop by its owners. Third-wave coffee shops treat coffee as an artisanal craft, with an emphasis on precision brewing, as well as sustainable sourcing.

Kealey explained the coffee beans used in Honeysuckle are direct trade and fair trade.

“Our roasters work with the small farms in the countries they are grown in,” she said. “It’s more of an ethical process.”

The beans are then roasted in Alberta and shipped to Honeysuckle.

Besides the specialty coffee drinks, Honeysuckle also features other specialty drinks. For example, a Raspberry Beret is made with raspberry oat milk and matcha tea cold foam.



(JEFF HELSDON PHOTO)

Kealy Keating prepares an espresso in Honeysuckle, a new alternative in Tillsonburg’s coffee shops.



(JEFF HELSDON PHOTO)

A ribbon-cutting for Honeysuckle was held recently at the location on Quarterline Road, in the 360 Developments complex. Left to right are Margaret Voth, 360 partner; Frank Voth, 360 partner; Cedric Tomico, 360 partner; Trish Tomico, 360 partner; Mayor Deb Gilvesy; Kealy Keating, business owner; Eloise Keating; Etta Keating; Nixon Keating; Jay Keating, business owner; Candace Pickering, building owner; Brad Pickering, building owner; and Peter Braun, 360 partner.

A Muy Bueno is a white chocolate shaken espresso with hazelnut cold foam. Other specialty drinks include tea-based drinks such as a London Fog and matcha latte, as well as lemonade-based drinks.

Jay comes to the business with a background

working in coffee shops in Hamilton, and Kealy has hospitality experience. They have lived in Tillsonburg for three years and will take turns working in the shop.

“We combined our knowledge and our hope is to serve good coffee in

a good environment,” she said.

Located adjacent to the soon-to-be-opened Eyes Daycare, Honeysuckle is bright and airy, with an open, modern concept, plus there’s an outdoor patio. Kealey acknowledged it’s off the beaten path, but

said that’s to their advantage.

“The uniqueness of the space is it’s not downtown or busy,” she said. “We want to lead into that: your neighbourhood coffee shop. We love it’s in our backyard, our community.”



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FORM 6

SALE OF LAND BY PUBLIC TENDER

Municipal Act, 2001

Ontario Regulation 181/03, Municipal Tax Sale Rules

SALE OF LAND BY PUBLIC TENDER

THE CORPORATION OF THE TOWN OF TILLSONBURG

Take Notice that tenders are invited for the purchase of the land described below and will be received until 3:00 p.m. local time on August 19, 2026, at the Tillsonburg Municipal Office, 10 Lisgar Ave, Tillsonburg, Ontario

The tenders will then be opened in public on the same day as soon as possible after 3:00 p.m. at the Tillsonburg Municipal Office, 10 Lisgar Ave, Tillsonburg.

Description of Land:

1. Roll No. 32 04 050 055 29000 0000; 44 JACKSON CRT., TILLSONBURG; PIN 00033-0201 (LT); PART OF LOT 48, PLAN 41M86; DESIGNATED AS PARTS 23 & 24, 41R5384 SUBJECT TO EASEMENT IN FAVOUR OF THE CORPORATION OF THE TOWN OF TILLSONBURG OVER PART 24, 41R5384 AS IN LT44360 SUBJECT TO EASEMENT INFAVOUR OF UNION GAS LIMITED AS IN LT62003 TILLSONBURG; File No. 25-07 According to the last returned assessment roll, the assessed value of the land is \$197,000

Minimum tender amount: \$34,567.94

Tenders must be submitted in the prescribed form and must be accompanied by a deposit of at least 20 per cent of the tender amount, which deposit shall be made by way of a certified cheque/bank draft/ money order payable to the municipality.

Except as follows, the municipality makes no representation regarding the title to or any other matters relating to the land to be sold. Responsibility for ascertaining these matters rests with the potential purchasers. The assessed value, according to the last returned assessment roll, may or may not be representative of the current market value of the property.

Pursuant to the Prohibition on the Purchase of Residential Property by Non-Canadians Act, S.C. 2022, c. 10, s. 235 (the "Act"), effective January 1, 2023, it is prohibited for a non-Canadian to purchase, directly or indirectly, any residential property, as those terms are defined in the legislation. Contraventions of the Act are punishable by a fine, and offending purchasers may be ordered to sell the residential property.

The municipality assumes no responsibility whatsoever for ensuring bidders/tenderers comply with the Act, and makes no representations regarding same. Prospective bidders/tenderers are solely responsible for ensuring compliance with the Act and are advised to seek legal advice before participating in this sale.

Transfers of properties that contain at least one and not more than six single family residences and are transferred to non-residents of Canada or foreign entities, are subject to the Province's Non-Resident Speculation Tax (NRST).

This sale is governed by the Municipal Act, 2001 and the Municipal Tax Sales Rules made under that Act. The successful purchaser will be required to pay the amount tendered plus accumulated taxes and any taxes that may be applicable, such as a land transfer tax and HST.

TAKE NOTICE: Where a refund is claimed by a qualifying first-time Homebuyer under the Land Transfer Tax Act, the Municipality requires the purchaser to retain legal counsel to complete the transfer.

The municipality has no obligation to provide vacant possession to the successful purchaser.

A copy of the prescribed form of tender is available on the website of the Government of Ontario Central Forms Repository under the listing for the Ministry of Municipal Affairs.

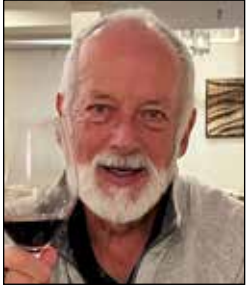
For further information regarding this sale and a copy of the prescribed form of tender, visit:

www.OntarioTaxSales.ca

or if no internet access available, contact:

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PAUL KNOWLES

Tillsonburg Post Columnist

There was a talented young violinist busking in front of the Avon Theatre. As I dropped a loonie into her case, I couldn't help but notice that the coin nestled into a large collection of American bills.

And that reminded me of a cliché – one that is none the less true. That is: we almost never visit wonderful destinations that are too close to home. A good number of Niagara Region residents don't go to see the Falls. Lots of Ottawa folks never visit the National Gallery. Many Winnipeg people have not darkened the door of the Canadian Museum for Human Rights.

And while Americans and Canadians from farther away pour into Stratford by the score to see some of the best theatre in the world, we locals often give it a miss.

After seeing our first two Stratford productions this season, I have to say we locals are making a big mistake.

I often hear people comment on the cost, sometimes comparing it to other regional theatres. Well, yes, Stratford is more expensive than the others. But frankly, as good as the regional theatres can be, Stratford is consistently several steps higher on the ladder of excellence.

We've just seen *Guys and Dolls* and *The Importance of Being Earnest*. The acting, singing, dancing, sets... in fact, everything... is simply the best, by far, that you will find any-

where in this area. The productions, I venture to say, are as good as anything theatre-goers will find, anywhere!

And another note about the cost – we locals are often offered bargain basement prices. Last week, I received social media notifications of ticket prices at the Festival, as low as \$29, and ranging upward, but never getting near the usual price.

It also occurs to me that, even at full price, tickets to see amazing theatre are still less expensive than good seats at a Blue Jays' game, and way less than tickets to see the Leafs lose. I say this as a life-long Leafs fan, by the way.

Enough about economics. Stratford is a destination that locals are foolish to ignore. Not just the theatre, but also the restaurants, the concerts (often outdoors and free), the shops, and the beautiful parks and gardens.

But most of all, the theatre.

The two plays I've seen were both enormous fun. Difference genres, but both full of laughter, extremely talented performances, and very clever sets.

Let's start with *Guys and Dolls*. In my mind, the star of the show never appears on stage: she is Donna Feore, a Stratford resident who is a wildly talented choreographer and director. She performed both duties for *Guys and Dolls*, and that dance sequences are more than worth the price of admission, on their own.

The cast is terrific – Mark Uhre as Nathan Detroit, Olivia Sinclair-Brisbane as Sarah Brown, Jennifer Rider-Shaw as Miss Adelaide. But I admit I am biased – I have enjoyed the work of Dan Chameroy every time I have seen him on stage, and I did so, again. And the show-stealing song, "Sit Down, You're Rocking The Boat" is performed magnificently by Steve Ross, as Nicely-Nicely Johnson. Full disclosure – Steve is a much-treasured acquaintance of mine, and to see him nail the performance was a highlight of the afternoon for me.

The entire play is performed with great ener-



The busker at the Avon Theatre attracted a lot of American patrons. (PAUL KNOWLES PHOTO)

gy, and yet, minute attention detail. If you like musicals with happy endings, you will love *Guys and Dolls*. If you don't like musicals with happy endings... I don't think I can help you.

If song and dance is the signature of *Guys and Dolls*, words are the focus of *The Importance of Being Earnest*. This clever, funny, satirical piece is the work of Oscar Wilde, and it is jam-packed with his wit. But it's also silly, in a brilliant way.

Again, the cast was excellent: Carter Gulseth as Algernon Moncrieff, Allison Lynch as Gwendolen Fairfax, Marissa Orjalo as Cecily Cardew, and Joe Perry as John Worthing were in the lead roles, and were terrific. But the play holds a special treat: two giants of Canadian stage and screen were featured in this production: Fiona Reid as the unstoppable Lady Bracknell, and Lucy Peacock as Miss Prism, a prim spinstress with a deeply guarded secret.

A secret which is, of course, revealed, along with many other misunderstandings, miscon-

ceptions and downright lies that form the basis for the hilariously unfolding plot.

I am guessing that most of the audience had seen a performance, or the movie, of *Earnest* prior to taking their seats in the Avon Theatre. Including me. It says everything about the excellence of Stratford theatre that prior knowledge did not detract one bit from the sheer enjoyment of the performance. Even the big reveal by Miss Prism was received with shouts of laughter – not because folks were surprised, but because Lucy Peacock was so good at her job.

Stratford: a destination that attracts visitors from all across North America and beyond, and where the doors are wide open to the Festival's neighbours, all season long. Enjoy!

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.



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Vincent Heleniak enjoys 'once-in-a-lifetime' experience at Edmonton's Invitational Brick Hockey Tournament

JEFF TRIBE

Post Correspondent

Vincent Heleniak's hairstyles continue to progress along with his 'game.'

"Had a mullet, had a buzz cut - have a mullet, probably get another buzz cut," smiled the 10-year-old Tillsonburg-area resident.

Heleniak has the hockey hair down and his game is following, underlined by a memorable trip to the 2026 Invitational Brick Hockey Tournament in Edmonton with the Toronto Bulldogs. Considered North America's premier 10-year-old hockey event, The Brick was founded in 1990, a year, Edmonton Team Brick's Mike Comrie was top scorer. Cole Caufield topped offensive stats in 2011 while playing for the Chicago Junior Blackhawks and Connor Bedard was named tournament MVP in 2015 while representing the B.C. Junior Canucks.

Other tournament alumni include Steven Stamkos, P.K. Subban, Jordan Eberle and Austin Matthews. The Brick is recognized as a showcase from which a high percentage of players subsequently play at the major junior or NCAA college level, and a significant number are drafted by NHL teams.

Teams apply for the prestigious event based on years of experience, tournaments played in previously and organizational structure including coaches' resumes. The Bulldogs have a long-standing relationship with The Brick, stretching back to 2005 when Max Domi earned top-scoring honours, and 2007, when Mitch Marner did the same.

Heleniak began playing hockey as a Timbit in the Tillsonburg Minor Hockey Inc. system, the left-shooting defenceman advancing to play with the U10 South Oxford Storm as an eight-year-old. Unofficially, playing up an age group as a blueliner, Heleniak reputedly finished top five in league scoring. Last year, he suited up with the Brantford AAA program for a team which went undefeated through regular season and round-robin playoffs prior to losing in the final



(JEFF TRIBE PHOTO)

Ten-year-old Vincent Heleniak enjoyed a 'once-in-a-lifetime' experience with the Toronto Bulldogs at the 2026 Invitational Brick Hockey Tournament.

"I'm an offensive and defensive player," said Heleniak, who likes to care of things in his own end, but also allows he has a 'pretty good shot from the point.'

He continues to work on his skating under Penny Jelsma, finding hockey 'a lot of fun.'

"Your teammates trust you because you score and you have fun when you score."

The Bulldogs first noticed him during spring hockey in Toronto, says Vincent's dad Matt.

"They kind of have to ask you and you have to try out," explained Vincent, nervous, scared and also excited at the prospect. "A bit of all of them."

Tryouts were held in December and January, with Heleniak making the roster along with teammates from the GTA, Collingwood, North Bay, Port Elgin and Woodstock, although asked

to play both defence and forward, a hard transition said his father, which Vincent handled well.

The Bulldogs' campaign began after his AAA season concluded, roughly 36 hours of practice and 30-plus games leading up to the June 28 to July 5th Brick schedule.

That tournament's 14 teams were split into two seven-member pools, each contesting six round-robin games in five days at the West Edmonton Mall's Ice Palace.

The Bulldogs opened with a 2-1 win over the BC Junior Canucks, dropped a 6-4 decision to the Western Selects and rebounded for an 8-2 win over Manitoba Junior Ice, a game in which Heleniak notched his first tournament point. The Bulldogs suffered a 5-4 overtime loss to the Montreal Canadiens, cruised past the Detroit Junior Red Wings 5-1 and closed out with a tight 3-2 over Team Brick Alberta.

"The first game was crazy," said Vincent. "Once it went on it got less crazy, but then in quarters (quarter-finals) it was crazy again."

The 'Dogs finished tied with the Junior Canucks atop Wigston Conference standings with a 4-0-1-1 record, good for 13 points. They met the Saskatchewan Junior Pats in crossover quarter-final play, suffering a tough 2-0 loss.

"A hot goalie," Matt summed up succinctly. "Wasn't our best game either."

Paced by tournament-leading scorer Colton Stewart's 33 points in nine games (22 in round-robin, 11 in playoffs, topping Bedard's record), Team Minnesota downed the Western Selects 7-2 in quarter-final play, eased past the Junior Canucks 3-1 in the semis and took the title by a 7-2 score over the Junior Red Wings.

Heleniak's favourite on-ice moment was his second assist, coming in the Bulldogs' 5-1 win over Detroit.

"When I chipped it off the boards and Otis (Alderson) scored."

Vincent excelled at 'any role he was put in,' credited Bulldogs coach Massimo Lamacchia.

He is an 'ultimate team guy' who plays a 'hard game' combined with offensive ability continued

the coach, hard on the puck with a great shot and work ethic to go with it.

"He had a great tournament overall."

Off the ice, the entire family (mom Kelly, siblings Olivia, Richard and Elizabeth and grandmother Cheryl) enjoyed a trip featuring intense hockey, the mall's waterpark, Galaxyland and quality shopping.

"It was awesome," said Matt. "It's a once-in-a-lifetime experience."

Playing at The Brick brings no guarantees.

"One hundred per cent," Matt agreed. "But it does mean you're on the right track."

Looking forward, Vincent is committed to playing with the Elgin-Middlesex U11 Komoka AAA Canucks through the 2026/27 season.

"He seems to be pretty motivated," his father concluded. "I never have to force him. As long as he's motivated, we'll just try and support him."



(CONTRIBUTED PHOTO)

Vincent Heleniak competing during The Brick tournament in Edmonton.



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EXPECT MORE.

Smoke and air quality postpone slo-pitch games



DAVE WEAVER

Post Columnist

EYE ON SLO-PITCH

This past week was definitely unexpected as Wednesday 's ladies' games, and Thursday's and Friday 's men's games were postponed due to unfavorable weather conditions due to smoke and bad air quality conditions.

Ladies' Division

The top three teams easily won their games with Foldens winning by forfeit over Wildcats while Cooks Concrete Jays, who are still unbeaten, cruised past Sunspace/Bill Klyn Carpentry by nine. Simmonds Mortgages merced the winless but improving Queen Bees.

Cooks Concrete Jays-14, Sunspace/Bill Klyn Carpentry-5

Cooks-Brandi Cook 3-4; Maddi Obar 3-4, HR.

Sunspace-Amy Rhame 2-3; Hailee Beckett 2-3.

Game Synopsis-Brandi Cook scored three runs and Maddi Obar hit a three-run homer for the winners.

Simmonds Mortgages-19, Queen Bees-0

Simmonds-Jackie Wood-Van Santen 4-4; Kyla Long 4-4.

Queen-Emma Ferris 2-2.

Game Synopsis-Jackie Wood Van Santen and Kyla Long each scored four runs for Simmonds.

Men's Division 1

Just four teams saw action last week. Leeswood Construction Dirty Mitts had an exciting come-from-behind walk-off win over the hard -uck Sunspace/Bill Klyn Carpentry squad. Cobra Chickens merced the Cubs in the only other game.

Leeswood Construction Dirty Mitts-24, Sunspace/Bill Klyn Carpentry-23

Leeswood-Trevor Stuyt 4-5; Devin Lee 5-5, HR; Steve Deblaire HR.

Sunspace-Kyle McDougall 4-4, 2HR; Dallas Dalby 4-5, 2HR; Nathan Boldt HR;

Randy Miller HR.

Game Synopsis-Trevor Stuyt walked it off in the winner's five-run rally. Devin Lee was a double shy of hitting for the cycle.

Cobra Chickens-26, Cubs-11

Cobra-Matthew Reimer 4-4; Wyatt Blatz 4-4, 3HR; Ethan Froese HR; Fred Froese HR; Marcus Peters HR.

Cubs-Joel Dyck 3-3; Marcus Enns 3-3, HR; Ivan Dyck HR; Nick Jansen HR.

Game Synopsis-Wyatt Blatz had a big night, homering three times while driving in nine.

Men's Division 2

Two of the hotter teams in the division collected victories last week: Strike Force outslugged Underhill Farm Supply by seven and the Mavericks merced Quackheads.

Strike Force-25, Underhill Farm Supply-18

Strike-Jake Friesen 4-4; Henry Teichroeb 4-5; Henry Klassen HR; Peter Klassen HR.

Underhill-Curtis Chambers 4-6, HR; Ty Cadotte 4-6, HR; Oscar Reddecopp 2HR.

Game Synopsis-Peter Klassen drove in four for the winners.

Mavericks-20, Quackheads-5

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

Quackheads-Kalvin Smith 2-3; Jim Long 2-3.

Game Synopsis-Ryan Sinden and Kevin MacDonald each crossed three times for the winners.

Men's Division 3

Sluggers 22, Sandy Shore Brew Jays 6

Sluggers lengthened their lead over Sandy Shore Brew Jays with an easy win.

Sluggers-Gary Woolner 5-5; Tyler Rowe 5-5; Layn Wells HR; Cole Seaton HR.

Sandy Shore-J.D.Collier 3-3, HR; Dan Konrad 2-3.

Game Synopsis-Sluggers scored runs in every inning but the first, Layn Wells and Cole Seaton each hit three-run homers.

Men's Division 4

Diamond Kings 20, Smokin' Bases 7

Diamond Kings won by 13 over Smokin Bases.

Diamond Kings-George Hiebert 5-6; David Wall 5-6.

Smokin-Chris Foresman 3-4; Alfred Guidolin 2-3.

Game Synopsis-Lead-off batter David Wall scored four runs for Diamond Kings.

MEN'S DIVISION 1	W	L	T	PTS
1,2 SEAL INSULATION HAWKS	12	0	0	24
THE MILL	6	5	0	12
HIT N RUN	6	7	0	12
COBRA CHICKENS	6	8	0	12
LEESWOOD CONSTRUCTION DIRTY MITTS	5	6	1	11
CUBS	4	7	1	9
SUNSPACE/BILL KLYN CARPENTRY	3	9	0	6

MEN'S DIVISION 2	W	L	T	PTS
PELICANS	12	1	0	24
STRIKE FORCE	9	4	0	18
MAVERICKS	8	5	0	16
AT MY PLAYGROUND/ IQT LOGISTICS	7	3	1	15
ALL SEASONS ESTATE CARE BANDITS	7	4	1	15
STICKY BANDITS	6	7	0	12
QUACKHEADS	4	10	0	8
PAPA'S AUTO SPA	3	9	1	7
UNDERHILL FARM SUPPLY	3	9	1	7
DESIGNATED DRINKERS	3	10	0	6

MEN'S DIVISION 3	W	L	T	PTS
SLUGGERS	9	2	1	19
SANDY SHORE BREW JAYS	8	5	0	16
JOHN BEERE	7	6	1	15
BEER BOMBERS	6	6	1	13
NAPA/COWARD'S PHARMACY MAULERS	5	7	0	10
BIRD'S GOLF	4	6	0	8
WOLFPACK	3	10	1	7

MEN'S DIVISION 4	W	L	T	PTS
N.I.M.	17	1	0	34
BRICKHOUSE BOYS	9	4	1	19
R.L.P. MELANIE LUKSYS	7	10	2	16
DIAMOND KINGS	7	11	0	14
SMOKIN BASES	6	13	0	12
TORNADOES	4	11	1	9

LADIES	W	L	T	PTS
COOKS CONCRETE JAYS	17	0	0	34
FOLDENS MACHINE WORKS	12	4	1	25
SIMMONDS MORTGAGES	12	4	0	24
SUNSPACE/BILL KLYN CARPENTRY	9	6	1	19
RESTING PITCH FACE	5	13	0	10
WILDCATS	3	14	0	6
QUEEN BEES	0	17	0	0

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Red Sox fall to pieces against Simcoe Seniors, lose 13-7

GRAHAM NICKERSON
Post Contributor

There's no secret the Tillsonburg Red Sox have been playing this season with one hand tied behind their back. From injury setbacks creating inconstancies in the line-up, to long-standing players departing from the team, the Sox have been battling up hill from the opener.

Mired in a four-game losing streak, Tillsonburg breezed into Simcoe's Owen Street Grounds Sunday evening looking to right the ship. Both teams scored a single run in the first. Iron Ring Rachar led off with a booming double, then trotted home on Kent Colling's ground rule double.

For Simcoe's part, Josh Knelsen singled and Paul Smith walked to put two on with no outs. A past ball sent the runners into scoring position, before Brandon Zelem bounced out to first base bringing in Knelsen from third. The Giants looked to add another tally on a sacrifice fly to left field, but the strong arm of Tim Thiessen cut down Smith at the plate for an inning-ending double play.

Jordan Vitias carried that momentum into the second, striking out two, but a lead-off single and walk reached second and third base after a wild throw by catcher Owen West on a failed back-pick attempt at first. A ground out by Brad Barnard was good enough to score an unearned run and hand Simcoe the lead.

For all the bone-headed bat-around innings Tillsonburg has been struck in the field for this season, it was a welcomed change to be on the offensive side of a crooked number which came in the third inning. Neil Polfliet led off with an infield hit and coasted into second on a throwing error that sailed into the first base dugout. Ra-

char reached on a miscue then doubles by Rob Verhoeve and Vitias edged the game in Tillsonburg's favour. A wild pitch sent Vitias scampering home for the fourth Tillsonburg run. The exclamation point on the inning was Ky Miners smacking a double down the left field line, plating run number five. Miners quietly had himself a respectable three-quarter day at the plate.

Cracks in the façade of Vitias' arm began to show in the fourth, letting up two doubles, a single and a walk that was good for two Giant runs.

Taking the field in the fifth, clinging to a three-run advantage, the levee broke wide open and Tillsonburg's grasp on the game slipped away like a receding wave at low tide. No less than 13 Giants came to the plate in an eight-run nightmare of an inning. Vitias failed to record an out allowing four hits and three free passes for seven earned runs. The right-hander tired considerably with three wild pitches charged to his record. Stemming the onslaught, Ky Miners got two quick strikeouts but one more run came across before Tillsonburg could crawl back to their dugout lacerated from the beat-down.

Shell-shocked from their implosion, the Red Sox went out with a whimper in the remaining two innings. Adding to their laundry list of woes, Collings in his return from the DL, and with two hits in the game, reinjured his knee running out an infield hit. Sprinting out of the box, the speedster was only a few strides down the line before his meniscus gave out and he landed in heap of agony. In all likelihood, Collings will have to sit out the remainder of the year following this setback.

In the seventh, Tillsonburg's frustrations boiled over when Jim Davis was called out for missing first base while rounding the bag on a double. Davis used every

TILLSONBURG	AB	R	H	PO	A	E
RACHAR, SS	3	2	1	1	1	0
VERHOEVE, CF	3	2	1	1	0	0
COLLINGS, 2B	4	0	2	0	1	0
VITIAS, P, 2B	3	1	1	0	0	0
WEST, C	3	0	0	10	0	1
DAVIS, 3B	3	1	0	1	1	0
MORRIS, 1B	2	0	0	4	0	0
MINERS, RF, P	4	0	3	0	1	1
THIESSEN, LF	4	0	0	1	1	0
POLFLIET, EH	2	1	1	0	0	0
*APPLEFORD, EH, RF	0	0	0	0	0	1
TOTALS *Pinch hitter	31	7	10	18	5	3

Summary: ER, Tillsonburg 5, Simcoe 11; **LOB,** Tillsonburg 10, Simcoe 9; **2B,** Rachar, Verhoeve, Collings, Vitias, Miners, Smith, Wall, Johnson, Boyd; **RBI,** Verhoeve (2), Collings, Vitias, Miners, Smith (2), Zelem (2), Wall, Johnson, Lawrence, Barnard, Boyd; **W,** Lawrence; **L,** Vitias; **BB,** Vitias (6), Miners (3), Shortt (2), Lawrence (4); **K,** Vitias (5), Miners (4), Shortt (2), Lawrence (3), Knelsen (1); **Time,** 2:32

insult in the book, giving a piece of his mind to the base umpire before being restrained by teammates.

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Simcoe.....110 281 – 13 12 3

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MINOR SPORTS

SCRAPBOOK

(STUART BLOWER PHOTOS)



Tillsonburg Optometrists on Broadway third baseman is ready to grab the ball as an Ingersoll player tags the base in last week's U-9 action.



A Tillsonburg Optometrists on Broadway U-9 runner is ready to steal a base in last week's game against Ingersoll.



OPID Technologies Blake Porchak, left, is safe on first in a U-9 game against J.L. Scott McLean last week.



Orange OPID Technologies first baseman Lukas Rohrer is still recovering the ball just as a J.L. Scott McLean player tags the base in U-9 action.



Tillsonburg Accel Flooring U-13 first baseman Blake Echaute is ready for a too-late relay in a game against Simcoe Allure Construction.



Tillsonburg's Austin Baldwin slides into third in an U-13 game against Simcoe last week.

Highlights of the hospital year presented at annual meeting

HOSPITAL HAPPENINGS

LISA DAHM

Integrated Executive Assistant, AHI/TDMH

On June 24, 2026 Rural Roads Health Services (RRHS) held the annual meeting of the organization. Holding an annual meeting is a requirement under the Ontario Not-for-Profit Corporations Act, 2010 (ONCA), which is the Ontario legislation for hospitals and other not-for-profit organizations.

There are a number of items required for discussion or approval at the annual meeting, including review of the financial statements of the organization, any revisions to corporate documents like by-laws and also, the election or re-election of directors.

At the Alexandra Hospital, Ingersoll (AHI) and Tillsonburg District Memorial Hospital (TDMH) there has also been a tradition of presenting the annual report during this meeting. RRHS will continue this tradition, sharing the most notable accomplishments of previous fiscal year like the ones included here.

Over the 2025–2026-year, AHI and TDMH continued working toward legal integration, introducing the new organizational name and branding and culminating in the official amalgamation on April 1, 2026. Throughout

the year, the entire team worked very hard to achieve all of the integration goals.

In April 2025, TDMH opened a 12-bed Transitional Care Unit (TCU) for Alternate Level of Care (ALC) patients needing restorative care prior to hospital discharge. This unit has been seen as a great success in terms of patient experience; and was featured in the September edition of the Ontario Hospital Association (OHA) Health System News.

In the fall of 2025, AHI and TDMH were approved to deliver the Hospital to Home ('H2H') program, a program that exists in only eight hospitals across Ontario. Hospitals obtain approval to be Home Care Providers and then organize delivery of home care services through a Service Provider Organization.

In partnership with the Oxford County Paramedic Services (OCPS), AHI, TDMH and Woodstock Hospital submitted an application for a Dedicated Offload Nurse (DON) role for each hospital in Oxford County. The OCPS successfully received one-time funding, and based on the assessment of need, TDMH was selected to implement a DON role to improve Ambulance off-load times in the Emergency Department (ED), improving ambulance off-load times from 50 minutes in November 2025 to 17 minutes in March 2026.

RRHS is proud to have been chosen as a Registered Nurses Association of Ontario (RNAO) Best Practice Spotlight Organization (BPSO)-designated organization. The goal of the RNAO BPSO program is to foster evidence-based practice cultures within organizations and across health systems through the



(JEFF HELSDON PHOTO)

NEW HOSPITAL BOARD

The new Rural Roads Health Services board was sworn in at the annual general meeting in June. Left to right are: (front row) Nadia Facca, President and CEO; Megan Whalen, board member; Susan Goble Hall, board member; Carrie Lewis, outgoing board chair; (back row) Jack Scott, incoming vice-chair; Mike Bastow, COO and VP Finance; Dr. Clay Inculet, Chief of Staff; Dr. Joel Wohlgemut, Deputy Chief of Staff; Dr. Punkuj Chawla, President Professional Staff; Doug Barker, board member; and Al Lauzon, board member. Absent from the photo were: Judy Cayford, incoming board chair; Stephen Molnar, incoming treasurer; Diane Kleer, board member; April Mullen, CNE and VP Clinical Services; Jennifer Row, CQO and VP Human Resources & Risk.

systematic implementation and evaluation of multiple RNAO clinical best practice guidelines (BPG). This partnership represents a formal commitment to collaborate with RNAO to implement, evaluate, and sustain multiple BPG, while disseminating knowledge gained through this work.

And as always, our people are our greatest asset. Over the last year we have continued with several strategies to attract people to join our teams, resulting in the continued lower team member vacancy rates over the past several years. There has been an expanded focus on the team wellness, and our Equity, Diversity, and Inclusion (EDI) committee continues to build on our commitment to an inclusive workplace including month-long Pride celebrations and honouring Truth & Reconciliation Day.

The Annual report is available in full, on the RRHS website. Along with the accomplishments above, you will find in it a message from our Chief of Staff and Deputy Chief of Staff, as well as a snapshot of the hospital financials from the year. Audited financial statements can also be found on the website.

The annual meeting is also a time when the board has the opportunity to recognize the contributions of the Board members who will be stepping away from their board member roles. This year we celebrated the accomplishments of board members Carole Keeping, Jane Ann McLean, Heather Spanjers and Tanya Pirie.

The board was also pleased to accept the nomination of three new board members for the upcoming board year. Welcome to Doug Barker, Al Lauzon and Megan Whelan.

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(CONTRIBUTEDPHOTO)

HELPING DASO

Representatives from Home Hardware and the Tillsonburg Lions gathered with members of the Baldwin Place DASO (Women's Shelter) Committee to present them with a cheque for \$1500. The money was the result of a successful BBQ at Home Hardware on July 4.

Harvard association hosts military history day

JEFF HELSDON

Editor

The Canadian Harvard Aircraft Association's inaugural Military Heritage Open House and Fly Day was called a success by organizers despite a one-day delay due to weather.

Originally scheduled for last Saturday, the event was rescheduled to Sunday due to smoky conditions and thunderstorms in the forecast. Association president Walther Irie estimated the crowd at 150 to 200, which he was pleased with after the rescheduling.

Changing the day meant the event lost a military vehicle display, the association's dive team display, and food trucks – all due to other commitments on the Sunday.

Although the association holds monthly fly days during the warmer months, this weekend's event was planned to

bring out more people.

"What I'm trying to do is reach out so more people can see their history," Irie said.

One of the displays was from London Air Patrol of the Civil Air Search and Rescue Association. It's one of 10 search and rescue units in Canada that assist the military and law enforcement in searching for lost aircraft, boats and people.

Members are trained by the military, but are volunteers and not part of the reserves. Some are pilots, but this isn't mandatory. Members have assisted the military with search and rescue missions as spotters in the RCAF's Hercules.

"Spotting is a very intense job; the more people you have in the air, the better," said president Larry Porter.

The organization recently added a drone to its available search and rescue tools. It is outfitted with thermal imag-

ing and infrared.

"The drone can fly over a heavily wooded area and direct people to it," Porter said.

Second World War reenactor Kai Helsdon was at the event, dressed in a period RCAF uniform, along with his fiancée Jessica Korhowiec, who was wearing period civilian clothing. His display of Canadian military memorabilia included reproduction uniforms and some original items, such as a gas mask, a pilot's mask, a German magazine from April 1939, and a small Union Jack flag that was his great-grandfather's and is several decades old.

"It's hard to find original uniforms because it's so fragile," he explained.

Helsdon started as a volunteer with the Canadian Warplane Heritage Museum in Hamilton during high school, and then became involved with a reenactor's group.

Irie said the event will run again next year.



(JEFF HELSDON PHOTO)

The Canadian Harvard Aircraft Association's vintage Harvards and one Yale were kept busy taking people up for rides during Sunday's event. The training aircraft were joined by three T28 Trojans, which were aircraft mainly used on aircraft carriers.



(JEFF HELSDON PHOTO)

The Legion colour party marched on during Sunday's Military Heritage Open House and Fly Day, presenting a small ceremony to honour Canadians who served in the military.



(JEFF HELSDON PHOTO)

Second World War reenactor Kai Helsdon talks to an event visitor about his display of Second World War military memorabilia.

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Artwork by Beth Kates

Canada Post and the shuttering of community newspapers

PAUL DEEGAN

President and Chief Executive Officer of News Media Canada

The shuttering of Winnipeg's Community Review means 200,000 households will no longer get the benefit of a free community newspaper delivered to their door. It also means that more than 800 people who deliver the paper and their families will be affected.

This is an unforced error that never should have happened. How did we get here? The answer is complex.

First, there is a high degree of concentration in the flyer printing market in Canada. Montreal-based TC Transcontinental enjoys the dominant position in the marketplace thanks, in part, to a 2012 Competition Bureau-approved asset swap.

Second, municipal and provincial politicians have passed environmental regulations, however well-intentioned, have unintended consequences. Former Montreal Mayor Valérie Plante passed a municipal bylaw that led to the end of distribution of Publisac (a plastic bag with flyers and a community newspaper). Several provinces, including Manitoba, have imposed extended producer responsibility levies on printed newspapers. Ontario's Premier Doug Ford made the wise decision to exempt newspapers from this kind of stealthy journalism job-killing tax in his province.

Third, Canada Post is the biggest culprit. TC Transcontinental, which had distributed Publisac door-to-door in Quebec, formed a strategic partnership with Canada Post, which as a Crown corporation was not beholden to municipal bylaws. They bypassed Mayor Plante's new regulation by distributing a curated bundle of flyers called Raddar through the national postal service. Unlike Publisac, Raddar did not include a community

newspaper. On the sidelines of this saga, news publisher Métro Média and its more than 30 hyperlocal publications — including 17 print newspapers — shut down.

In partnership with Canada Post, TC Transcontinental recently expanded its Raddar offering across Canada. It is understood that Canada Post — which has a mandate to “charge postage rates that are fair and reasonable” — is offering TC Transcontinental rates below what it is offering to community newspapers. To its own benefit, the Crown corporation has effectively shut community newspapers — their private sector rivals — out of flyer distribution, lessening competition substantially in that market.

This is not the first time community newspaper publishers have felt the squeeze of Canada Post in the flyer distribution market. As of January 2024, community newspapers with commercial inserts were no longer exempt from Canada Post's Consumers' Choice program, which allows Canadians to opt out of receiving ‘junk mail’. Canada Post made that decision without stakeholder consultation or economic/social impact analysis and failed to recognize that community newspapers — with or without an insert — are not ‘junk mail’; they are a social good.

The juxtaposition of the shuttering of Winnipeg's Community Review at the same time as the revelation of \$30.8 million in bonuses at Canada Post has not been lost on community newspaper publishers across Canada.

What should Ottawa do about it?

First, Joël Lightbound, the Minister responsible for Canada Post, should ensure the Crown corporation is treating community newspapers fairly and offering them comparable pricing to what it offers to TC Transcontinental.

Second, the House of Commons Standing Committee on Canadian Heritage should conduct hearings into the role Canada

Post can play in the sustainability of community newspapers — ensuring the relationship is one of partnership, rather than predatory and parasitic.

When a community loses a newspaper, like Winnipeg's Community Review or Métro Média's publications in Quebec, the information vacuum can lead to people getting their news from less than reliable sources — like AI and social media — which can create division that drives people apart. Without a check on local government, corruption, mismanagement, and wasteful spending often flourish, which can result in higher municipal taxes and borrowing costs.

It was not foreign Big Tech monopolists like Google and Meta that caused Manitoba's largest community newspaper to shutter. It was Canada Post.

And it's not like we weren't warned...

Thirty years ago, in his review of Canada Post's mandate, George Radwanski recommended that postal service get out of delivering unaddressed junk mail (i.e., flyers), concluding that the Crown corporation engaged in inappropriate practices that created unfair competition for private businesses like community newspapers.

As a former Toronto Star editor-in-chief, Radwanski knew the news business. He noted that Canada Post was actively siphoning advertising revenue away from the news industry and adroitly cautioned that the state-granted mail delivery monopoly should not be in the business of crippling the financial health of newspapers.

A healthy democracy demands a healthy community news media ecosystem. Let's level the playing field and restore competition in the flyer distribution market before more community newspapers shutter.

Tillsonburg council questions archeological assessments

JEFF HELSDON

Editor

A request to approve an archeological assessment in the Van-Norman Innovation Park Phase 2 that could cost up to \$384,675 resulted in Tillsonburg council members questioning the process.

Currently in the process of being developed, the VanNorman

Innovation Park's second phase initially had several sites identified that required an archeological assessment. The initial assessments led to the need for Stage 3 assessments at seven sites and, subsequently, a Stage 4 assessment at five sites. The \$384,675 bid for the Stage 4 assessment from Stantec includes \$186,991 for two sites that need to be done to allow construction to proceed.

Deputy Mayor Dave Beres asked whether there is any way to negotiate with Six Nations to get blanket coverage instead of as-

sessments costing \$200,000, \$300,000, and \$400,000 each time. He mentioned the soccer as a past example.

“This is going to cost millions in the long run, assessments every time there is building construction,” he said.

Development Commissioner Cephas Panschow described the artifacts that have been found to date as “nothing major in terms of size”.

Mayor Deb Gilvesy said that anytime an assessment is done next to a watercourse, something will be found. She asked how long this has held up development of the industrial park.

Panschow said the delay has been up to two years, with total assessment costs approaching \$800,000.

Coun. Chris Parker suggested talking to provincial ministries about the issue.

“Realistically this is going to not only cost the town, but is holding up the development,” he said. “Has anybody had this discussion with the Ministry of Red Tape? This is red tape at this point. I'm wondering if there is an opportunity to have these discussions if we haven't.”

Beres asked how significant it is that the tender was approved at the July 20 meeting.

“There isn't a way forward without doing this work,” Panschow said. “If we don't get it passed, it won't get done until spring 2027.”

Council approved the bid, with funding for the cost of the assessment to come from the sale of land in the innovation park.

We're set for summer driving!

Hot days. Cool drives.

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\$3 SUMMER MENU

HARVEY'S
400 Simcoe St., Tillsonburg

Creative young entrepreneur is hooked on crocheting

ROBIN KRAFFT

Post Correspondent

When eleven-year-old Bryn Finck joined the crochet club with some friends during the past school year and created her first granny square in February, she was hooked.

"My friend Hannah crochets, and she inspired me," Finck said. "I kinda wanted to do crochet as well. I picked up a lot from YouTube."

The industrious young lady attends Westfield Public School, and she'll be going into Grade 7 in September. She particularly enjoys math and gym.

"There's a lot of math in crochet," Finck said. "You have to count your stitches, and size as well. It takes a lot of patience."

"Once she figured out the granny square, she took off," Bryn's mom, Devon Finck said. "She made shirts, blankets, sweaters, hats, headbands, then stuffies. It was a really quick progression. She's a very driven person."

During the town-wide garage sale, she set up a booth at her aunt's house and sold out of everything. She also had a

booth at Turtlefest and the young entrepreneur has been expanding her business since then.

With support and assistance from her parents (and some creative use of AI) she now has a charming business card and an Instagram account: Creative Loops by Bryn. She accepts orders by direct message on the platform and by email (CreativeLoopsbyBryn@gmail.com).

"I like to make something different each time," Finck said. "I like getting custom orders because I can make something the person wants. I love getting creative, it's better than staying inside the lines."

Her adorable crochet animals are handmade with love. Their personalities evolve as she creates them, and they come with adoption cards with their name, likes, dislikes, favorite food, season, activities, and disposition. She often adds accessories from other patterns, and she chooses her materials to give them a unique character.

"I can also make custom characters from TV shows, and mascots," Finck said. "My brother is going to Laurier in



(ROBIN KRAFFT PHOTO)

the fall, and I surprised him with a Laurier Hawk."

Bryn is off to summer camp for some nature inspiration, but she's a true entrepreneur, already thinking about what she

could make for baby shower, winter, and Valentine's Day themes. If you're looking for a unique and heart-felt gift, Bryn is ready to create something special for you, made with love, loop by loop.

UPCOMING SHOWS - LIVE MUSIC AND ENTERTAINMENT IN TILLSONBURG

JULY 24 - MUSIC BINGO
The Copper Mug
6:30 p.m.

JULY 25 - DANIEL HAMM
The Copper Mug
Free Entry
8 p.m.

JULY 30 - THE SADIES
Paddy's Underground
\$40 - 8 p.m. - all ages/
licensed

AUGUST 1 - TRI-COUNTY'S GOT TALENT TRYOUT NIGHT #2
The Copper Mug: 7 p.m.

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



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Tillsonburg**
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• Meetings • & More
Fresh made foods, in house smoked meats and
lot of love, just like Mom used to make.
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tillsonburgpost.com



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Brought to you by: *Tim Hortons*

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

SO, YEAH, IF SUMMER COULD SLOW DOWN, THAT WOULD BE GREAT.

THE SMOKE WAS SO BAD LAST WEEK, THE SALE OF NICOTINE PATCHES WENT UP.

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

RUNNING WITH THE BULLS

(JEFF HELSDON PHOTOS)



Volunteers were a crucial part of Running with the Bulls, including Anne Davis, right, and Karen Northgraves (off-camera), who were handing out water at the half-way point for the 10-kilometer runners.



Aaron Canfield was the first across the line in the 10-km race, finishing with a time of 35:18.



Hanny Willems, mother of organizer Tamara Bull, cheers on runners at the start.



Volunteer Antonia Palmer was handing out medals at the finish line.



Running with the Bulls has grown to become one of the larger events in Tillsonburg, attracting hundreds of people in a single day. It brings it with interesting stories, including the youngest runner Griffin Brooks, 10, who finished the race before his Oma Jane VanLeeuwen, and 90-year-old Tom Elliott.



Although they endured the heat, several runners put in a last-minute burst of energy to get across the line before a competitor.



The one-kilometer Kiddie Run had an increase of about 30 people from last year.

COMING EVENTS

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PRICE IN EFFECT
THURSDAY, JULY 23 TO
WEDNESDAY, JULY 29, 2026
 UNLESS OTHERWISE STATED.

BACK TO OUR
LOWEST
PRICE OF
THE YEAR*

*Lowest price of the year is the lowest price of the year to date in 2026.

INCREDIBLE
PRICE
24⁹⁹

Chicken Strips
 27-33 PIECES 1.36 kg

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\$10



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JULY

JULY 24 | 1 - 4 PM
KEN LIGHTHEART AND THE
NORTHSHORE RAMBLERS
 Tillsonburg Legion, 16 Durham St,
 Tillsonburg, ON
 \$7 Cash at the door. All Welcome!

JULY 25 | DOORS OPEN 6 PM
LIVE COUNTRY MUSIC SHOW
FEATURING THE COUNTRY
BELLES
 Tillsonburg Legion, 16 Durham St,
 Tillsonburg, ON
 Advance tickets \$35 available online or
 at the Legion. Tickets at the door \$40. All
 Welcome! For more info call 519-842-5281.

AUGUST

AUGUST 1 | 9 AM - 12 PM
HEAVENLY CLOSET CLOTHING
SALE
 Springford Baptist Church, 422 Main
 St W in Springford (In the basement
 of the church)
 Clothes, shoes, boots, handbags, backpacks
 will be available by purchasing a bag for \$5
 and stuffing it with as many items as you
 can in the bag. Bags will be supplied by the
 church. Enter side door near parking lot.
 Proceeds will be donated to the Tillsonburg
 Foodbank.

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.

STARTS 7 PM
THE TILLSONBURG & DISTRICT
HISTORICAL SOCIETY
PRESENTS MUSIC ON THE
LAWN
 Annandale N.H.S. , 30 Tillson Avenue
 JULY 19 - "North Shore Ramblers"
 JULY 26 - "1962" – Cindy McMaster
 AUGUST 2 – "Blue Sky" – Archie
 Wright
 AUGUST 9 – " Kickin Kountry"
 AUGUST 16 – "North Shore Ramblers"
 BEGINNING AT 6:30 PM

AUGUST 23 – "George Fulop"
AUGUST 30 – "Blue Sky" – Archie
Wright

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

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

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

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

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

2ND TUES. OF MONTH (SEPT. TO MAY)
| 2 - 4 PM
4TH TUES. OF MONTH (SEPT. TO MAY) |
7 - 9 PM

OXFORD PHILATELIC SOCIETY
 Church of the Epiphany, 560 Dundas
 Street, Woodstock Ontario N4S 1C7
 If you have never belonged to a stamp club,
 now's the time. Meet new friends, grow your
 knowledge and collection. Contact: Don
 Eaton dheaton3e3@gmail.com. Website:
<http://www.rpsc.org/chapters/oxford>

3RD WED. OF MONTH | 10 AM - NOON
LYNN RIVER PROBUS CLUB
 Army, Navy & Air Force Club, Simcoe,
 ON. Corner of Water St. and Culver St.
 Simcoe. Enter via Culver St.
 Our retired and semi-retired members enjoy
 diverse interest groups, friendship and
 fellowship. We have interesting speakers
 at our monthly meetings as well as time to

socialise.

Current and prospective members are
 welcome to join us at the Army, Navy & Air
 Force Club, Simcoe, which is on the corner
 of Water St. and Culver St. Simcoe. Enter
 via Culver St. For more information, please
 visit our website at: lynnriverprobus239.com
 or email lynnriverprobus239@gmail.com

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

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

EVERY OTHER FRIDAY | 1 - 4 PM
SPRING INTO THE INGERSOLL
COUNTRY MUSIC JAMBOREE
 Masonic Hall, 190 Thames St. S.,
 Ingersoll

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

WEDNESDAYS & FRIDAYS
TILLSONBURG BRIDGE CLUB
 Two games weekly at the Tillsonburg
 Senior Centre - 45 Hardy Ave.
SOCIAL BRIDGE - Wednesdays, 7:00
p.m. A relaxed, friendly game for learners,
 returners and everyone else.
DUPLICATE BRIDGE - Fridays, 1:00
p.m. Still friendly, but a bit more structured
 and competitive.
 Please arrive 10 minutes early.
 Questions? tburgbridge@gmail.com or FB:
 TburgBridge

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.

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

RIDDLES

What has a face, but can't smile?
A clock.

There is only one word spelled wrong in the dictionary. What is it?
W-R-O-N-G.

I can fill up a room, but take no space. What am I?
Light.

What is a bunny's favorite kind of music?
Hip hop music.

What kind of room has no doors or windows?
A mushroom.

What can you catch, but not throw?
A cold.

What goes up, but never comes back down?
Your age.

What room do ghosts avoid?
The living room.

What belongs to you, but other people use more?
Your name.

You buy me to eat, but you never eat me. What am I?
A fork.

What kind of tree can you carry in your hand?
A palm.

What do dogs have that no other animal has?
Puppies.

SUDOKU

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

Solutions on Page 30

Level: Beginner

PET OF THE WEEK



SPONSORED BY:

Your Family Pet Centre

107 E Concession St. E.,
Tillsonburg, ON
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519-688-2672

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

BARTHOLEMEW

Bartholemew is one of many pets who are in need of a loving home. He is available for adoption from Rags to Riches Cat Rescue: ragstorichescatrescue.com

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

WORD SEARCH

DIVE RIGHT IN

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

BACKSTROKE
BEACH
BREASTSTROKE
BREATH
BUTTERFLY

CHLORINE
DEPTH
DIVING
ENDURANCE
FLOATING

FREESTYLE
GOGGLES
LANES
LAPS
LIFEGUARD

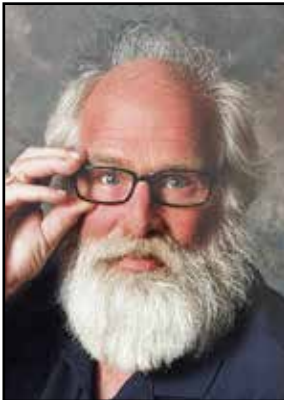
OCEAN
POOL
SPLASH
STROKES
SUNSCREEN

SWIMSUIT
TOWEL
TRAINING
WATER

CLASSIFIEDS

IN MEMORIAM

DAVID BRIAN BURNS



Died peacefully at home, surrounded by friends and family on Thursday, July 16, 2026. Predeceased by his wife, Sandi (2026) and his father, William Burns (1982). Deeply mourned by his children Drew, Kam (Taylor), and Ashleigh. Grandad will be greatly missed by Lilliana (Alex) and Bentley Travis, Neveah Lesage-Rosewell, and Zoey, Cassy and Jackson. David will be missed by his mother,

Lois Burns (née Fairbairn), siblings Paul (Margaret) and Doug, as well as many nieces and nephews.

A visitation was held at Westview Funeral Home and Cremation Centre, 709 Wonderland Road North, London on Friday, July 17, 2026 from 6:00 – 8:00 p.m. Family and friends gathered to celebrate his life at St. Aidan’s Anglican Church, 1246 Oxford Street West, London on Saturday, July 18, 2026 at 11:00 a.m. Interment took place on Tuesday, July 21, 2026 at 10:00 a.m. at Forest Lawn Memorial Cemetery, London.

In lieu of flowers, donations to Scouts Canada’s No One Left Behind fund would be appreciated. Online condolences can be left at <https://www.westviewfuneralchapel.com>.

TREES

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

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

WEEKEND QUIZ

by Jake Grant

1. Who won the 2026 FIFA World Cup?

2. What does WWE stand for?

3. What was the name of Dorothy’s dog in Wizard of Oz?

4. What is the national flower of Japan?

5. What was the main language spoken in the Roman Empire?
6. What is the chemical symbol for Carbon Monoxide?

7. What does CEO stand for?

8. Who shot JFK?

9. What is the only mammal capable of true flight?

10. What is the world’s largest commercial passenger plane?

This week’s answers are found on pg. 30

OBITUARY

CLARA EILEEN DUNLOP (NEE COLLINGS) (JANUARY 21, 1929 – JULY 17, 2026)



Eileen went to be with the Lord on Friday, July 17, 2026, at the age of 97. A long-time resident of Tillsonburg, Eileen lived her final three years at the Belmont Longterm Care Home in Belleville. Beloved wife of William (Bill) Dodgson for 43 years and Murray Dunlop for 11 years. Loving mother of Bill (Donna) Dodgson and Janet (Allan) Langlois. Cherished

grandmother of Amanda (Darryl) Vanderstoep, Jessica (Nathan) Leachman, Sarah Dodgson (Jon Boyd), Abby (Michael) Pascoli, Ethan Langlois, and Olivia Langlois. Great-grandmother of Jack, Emery, Trinity, Evelyn, Ava, Kadence, and Sloane. Dear sister of Helen Csullog (late Gary) and Marilyn (late David) Collings and an aunt to many. Predeceased by her son, Dan Dodgson, parents Fred and Ella Collings, sisters Judy Collings, Doreen Gram, Ila Brown, Norma Sheptenko, Kay Baynham, Mary Lou Tremblay and Freda Collings, and brothers David Collings, Don Collings, and Joe Collings.

Interment has taken place at Tillsonburg Cemetery. A Memorial Service for family and friends will take place on Thursday, July 23, 2026 at 11:00 a.m. at North Broadway Baptist Church (6 North St. E., Tillsonburg). In lieu of flowers memorial donations to “North Broadway Baptist Church” would be appreciated. Online condolences can be made at www.verhoevefuneralhomes.com.

OBITUARY

DOROTHY GHESQUIERE (NEE DE SUTTER) (HODSON) (EPEL) (JUNE 21, 1939 – JULY 18, 2026)



It is with deep sadness, that the family of Dorothy (De Sutter) (Hodson) (Eppel) Ghesquiere announce the peaceful passing of our cherished wife, mother, grandmother, great-grandmother, sister, aunt, and friend to many, after a courageous struggle with illness, at the VON Sakura House Hospice, Woodstock, on Saturday, July 18th, 2026, at the age of 87. Dorothy was born in Tillsonburg, daughter of Edgar De Sutter and

Simonne (D’Hondt) De Sutter. Dorothy is survived by her husband Walter J. Ghesquiere, of Tillsonburg. Predeceased by her first husband John Hodson (1986) and her second husband John Eppel (2007). Always a loving mother to her children and their families: John Hodson, of Tillsonburg; Sandra Hodson-Holmes (Paul) of Dundas and their children Jacqueline and Alex; Kathy Crossley (Cameron) of Kitchener and their children Christopher and Meghan. Lovingly remembered by her step-family: Gary (Charlyn) Eppel; Richard (Mary Anne) Eppel and their children Alison (Matt), Kristen (Tommy) and their children Silas and Jasper, Joshua (Manpreet), Benjamin (Cali), Hillary (Rodney) and their daughter Kira; Michael (Jennifer) Eppel and their children Ainsley and Jady; Julie (Glenn) Gilvesy and their children Jennifer and Steven; David (Sylvie) Ghesquiere and their children Matthew and Charlotte. Predeceased by her brother Edward Frank De Sutter (2007).

Those who knew Dorothy will remember her as courageous in facing life with dignity, thoughtful in the way she listened and cared, and wise in her understanding of people and life. Her life was a testimony of steadfast love, quiet faithfulness, and grace. Though she is no longer with us in body, her influence remains, and her memory will continue to be a blessing.

Dorothy was a dedicated member of First Baptist Church, Tillsonburg. She will be remembered for her love of singing at church and with various choirs such as the Tillsonburg Melody Makers.

The family will receive friends, relatives and neighbours on Thursday, July 23rd, 2026, between 2:00 and 4:00 and 6:00 and 8:00 p.m. in the Maurice J. Verhoeve Funeral Homes Chapel, 262 Broadway, Tillsonburg. A Funeral Service to Honour Dorothy’s Life and Faith will be held on Friday, July 24th, 2026, at 11:00 a.m. in First Baptist Church (18 Harvest Ave., Tillsonburg), by Pastor David Heinrichs. Cremation follows with later inurnment in Langton Baptist Cemetery. Everyone who knew Dorothy is invited to share favourite memories and photos, express personal condolences or contribute memorial donations to “TDMH - Ed De Sutter Dialysis Unit” or to “VON Oxford (Sakura House)” or “Youth for Christ” via Dorothy’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, which has been entrusted with all funeral arrangements, with confidence.

“We would like to thank the wonderful Doctors Nurses PSW’s and Staff at VON Sakura House for the wonderful care and comfort provided to Dorothy. Special thank you to Amy, Hanna and Claire.”



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