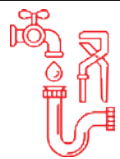


Tillsonburg POST

AUGUST 7, 2025

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Campbell progresses in hockey family legacy

JEFF TRIBE

Post Correspondent

Florida Panthers Assistant GM and three-time Stanley Cup winner Gregory Campbell strode forward to shake hands, still looking in the kind of game shape he maintained through an 800-game NHL career.

As we sat down to chat however, he admitted being reminded of a 41-year-old body while skating at sister Lauren's Colin Campbell Hockey School in Tillsonburg, as well as gaining additional respect for the tenacity of its founder.

"I was out on the ice this morning for three hours," Gregory smiled. "He (his father Colin) did it for 30 years."

The business of hockey is never far from an

NHL front office's member seeking the rarified air of a Stanley Cup three-peat. However, warming up at a shaded table outside an iconic Canadian coffee shop, Gregory paused to reflect on his own career progression in what might be considered the Campbell family business.

Hockey runs deeply through the clan, a connection underlined through a school founded in the early 1970s and still running strong July 21 through 25 this year in the arena that now bears his father's name.

"The enthusiasm the kids have at this camp is amazing," said Gregory, crediting his sister's organizational ability for bringing participants together quickly through a positive and constructive experience. "Lauren does a great job off the ice."

CONTINUED TO PAGE 14

Construction underway on Kinsmen Bridge replacement

JEFF HELSDON

Local Journalism Initiative Reporter

The town's largest construction project of the year was expected to be underway this week with the start of the replacement of the Kinsmen Bridge.

An assessment of the existing bridge in 2019 deemed it needed to be replaced in the next few years. The bridge, which connects Hickory Hills

and other subdivisions on the west end of town to the downtown via the Veterans' Walkway, sees between 250 and 500 people per day cross it.

The existing structure was built in 1888 as part of the Great Western Railway connecting Tillsonburg Junction to Brantford.

Council approved the bid for \$3.25 million from Lancoa Contracting of Caledon East, which was a considerable savings from the \$4.69 million budget.

CONTINUED TO PAGE 2



(SUBMITTED PHOTO)

Florida Panthers Assistant GM Gregory Campbell shares a very welcome guest's visit with his sons Noah and Finn. Being able to share unique NHL-related experiences with his sons as his father Colin did with he and his family, has been a welcome perk of Gregory's demanding job with Florida. Story starts on top left.



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Construction underway on Kinsmen Bridge replacement

CONTINUED FROM FRONT

The new bridge will be a prefabricated girder design with a metal grate walkway. It will have a deflector plate so those walking across the bridge wouldn't be able to see the valley floor below and create an issue for those with a fear of heights. It will utilize the existing cement pillars, with renovations, and feature LED lighting on the walkway.

Lancoa was expected to set up on the site Aug. 4 to start removal of the existing bridge. Portions of it will be retained by the town and could be incorporated into a future redesign of the Veterans Walkway.

The replacement bridge will be brought into the area in sections and then connected on-site. Known as a plate girder construction, the replacement will have a girder construction to contain an element of the original structure, and will incorporate the existing concrete abutments.

"The existing masonry piers/abutments will be restored where necessary and the centre eight piers will remain integral to the bridge structure where the others will be unused," said Leo Ferreira, Tillsonburg's Manager of Engineering.

Construction is expected to take until the end of the year.

Temporary closure of one of the town's main pedestrian links will result in changes. Participark,

including the trail from Concession Street West to Baldwin Street, will be closed during the construction period.

"During this time, there will not be any public access to the park," Ferreira said.

There also will also not be any pedestrian access to Veteran's Walkway during this time, al-

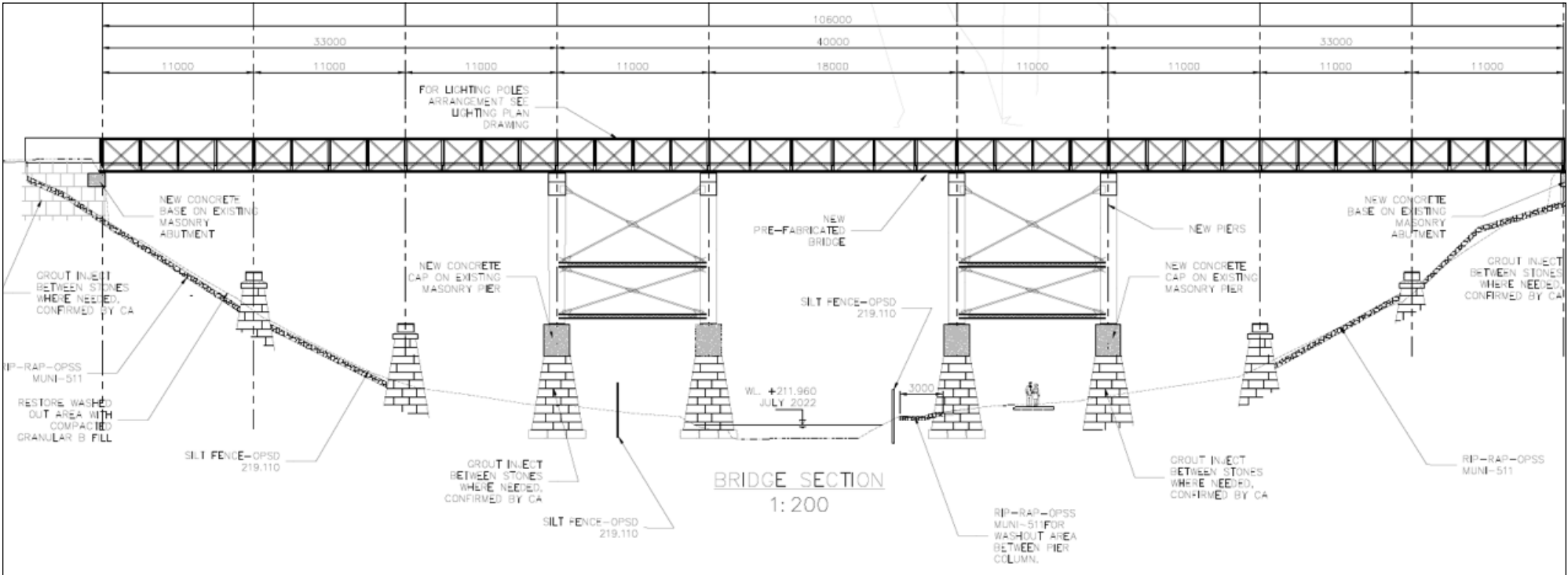
though the trail from Wilson to the Hickory Hills Community Centre will remain open. The pedestrian detour will be down Wilson to Baldwin to access the downtown. A temporary three-way stop will be set up at Wilson and Baldwin to allow safe crossing to the sidewalk on the south side of Baldwin Street.



This photo from the 1870s shows the first bridge of the Great Western Railway being built to traverse Stoney Creek in what is now Participark. That original bridge was replaced by the current one in 1888. Note that the cement support pillars remained between the two structures, and will still be in use with the new bridge.



The Kinsmen Bridge, as it's known today, was transformed from being a rail bridge to a pedestrian bridge after the rails were removed. Word on the street is the occasional child living on the west end of town, and not listening to their parents, would use it as a pedestrian bridge while the rails were still in place.



A schematic diagram illustrates what the new bridge will look like.

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OPP investigating two break and enters in Norfolk County



(CONTRIBUTED PHOTOS)

Police are seeking assistance from the public in identifying the individual(s) responsible for two separate break and enter incidents.

At approximately 8:05 a.m. on Tuesday, July 29, the Norfolk County Ontario Provincial Police (OPP) responded to a reported break and enter at a property on Colonel Talbot Road near Tillsonburg.

Through investigation, it was determined that sometime overnight, one or more unidentified individuals unlawfully entered a workshop on the property and stole a dirt bike.

The stolen dirt bike is a red 2022 Honda CRF450. Photographs of the dirt bike are attached for reference.

ence.

During the investigation, officers discovered a black TREK mountain bike left at the scene, which is believed to have been stolen. A photograph of the bicycle is attached for reference.

At approximately 8:37 a.m. on Thursday, July 31, the Norfolk County OPP responded to a similar break and enter at another property on Colonel Talbot Road near Tillsonburg.

Through investigation, it was determined that sometime overnight, one or more unidentified individuals unlawfully entered a workshop on the property and stole a utility task vehicle (UTV).

The stolen UTV is a brown 2010 Polaris Ranger

side-by-side. A photograph of a similar UTV is attached for reference.

In another nearly incident at approximately 4:16 p.m. on Thursday, July 31, the Norfolk OPP responded to a report of a stolen ATV on North Street in Courtland.

The investigation revealed that one or more unidentified individuals attended the address and stole an ATV from the property.

The stolen ATV is a brown 2021 Suzuki 750 AXi, bearing Ontario licence plate 5TB38.

Police are actively conducting ongoing investigations and are appealing to the public for assistance. Anyone with relevant information is urged to contact the Norfolk County OPP at 1-888-310-1122.

Should you wish to remain anonymous, you may call Crime Stoppers at 1-800-222-TIPS (8477) or leave an anonymous online tip at www.helpsolve-crime.com where you may be eligible to receive a cash reward of up to \$2,000.

Single vehicle collision leads to multiple charges

Members of the Ontario Provincial Police (OPP), Oxford Detachment responded to a single vehicle collision, resulting in one person being charged with multiple charges.

On July 29, at approximately 10:30 p.m., while on general patrol, members of Oxford OPP came across a collision on Plank Line in the Township

of South-West Oxford.

As a result of the investigation, Charlene Webber, a 46-year-old resident of Woodstock, has been charged with:

- Operation While Impaired
- Operation While Impaired - Blood Alcohol Concentration (BAC) 80 plus
- Possession of Weapon for Dangerous Purpose (two

counts)

The accused has been released from custody and is scheduled to appear before the Ontario Court of Justice in Woodstock on Sept. 2.

Police encourage anyone who comes across a suspicious vehicle to call police. Your call could help prevent a crime or save a life.

Safety tips for using ride-share programs

During vacation season, many members of the public use ride-share programs. Members of the Ontario Provincial Police (OPP), Oxford Detachment would like to share essential safety tips for anyone using ride-share programs.

In recent years, ride-share programs have transformed the way we travel, offering convenience and flexibility at the touch of a button. However, with this convenience comes the responsibility to ensure personal safety while using these services. Below are essential safety tips for anyone using ride-share programs.

- Verify the driver and vehicle

Before getting into a ride-share vehicle, take a moment to double-check the following:

Driver's name and photo: Ensure the name and photo of the driver match the information provided in the app.

Vehicle details: Confirm the make, model, and license plate number of the car.

Ride confirmation: Wait for the driver to confirm your name before getting in, especially in crowded areas.

- Share your trip details

Most ride-share apps allow you to share your ride details with a friend or family member. Utilize this feature to enhance your safety.

- Sit in the back seat

When you use a ride-share service, it's generally safer to sit in the back seat. Doing so provides you with personal space from the driver and allows for easier exits on either side of the vehicle.

- Avoid sharing personal information

Maintain your privacy during the ride. Avoid sharing too much personal information with your driver, such as your home address, workplace, or travel plans.

- Be aware of your surroundings

Stay aware of your environment:

Keep an eye on landmarks: Familiarize yourself with your surroundings and keep an eye out for recognizable landmarks during the ride.

Stay off your phone: Limit distractions by keeping your phone away and being alert to your surroundings.

- Rate your driver

After your ride, take a moment

to rate your driver and provide feedback. This helps improve the service and ensures that there are consequences for any inappropriate behavior.

- Know the emergency features

Familiarize yourself with the emergency features of your ride-share app:

Emergency button: Many apps have an emergency button that can connect you directly to local authorities.

In-App safety features: Explore safety options available in the app, such as sharing your trip status, assistance resources, or reporting incidents.

- Use reputable ride-share services

Choose well-known ride-share services with good reputations for safety and customer feedback. Research the companies, read reviews, and only use those with verified driver profiles and safety measures.

While ride-share services offer incredible convenience, prioritizing safety should be your primary concern. By following these tips, you can help ensure a safe, enjoyable, and reliable ride experience.

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Publisher

Stewart Grant • stew@granthaven.com

Editor

Jeff Helsdon • jeff@granthaven.com

Graphic Design / Sales Inquiries

Stacie Eden • info@tillsonburgpost.com

Business Development

Heather Dunbar • heather@granthaven.com

Administration

Jen Gaetan • jen@granthaven.com

Contributors

Jeff Tribe, Laurel Beechey, Debbie Kasman,
Paul Knowles

36 Water St. St. Marys, ON, PO Box 2310 N4X 1A2
info@tillsonburgpost.com | 519.655.2341 | granthaven.com



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EDITORIAL

Replacing Kinsmen Bridge a step forward

When construction started on replacing Kinsmen Bridge this week, it was a step forward for Tillsonburg.

The present structure was built in 1888 and was due for reconstruction. Between 250 and 500 people a day use this vital link between the downtown and west edge of town.

The design of the bridge will pay homage to the original, having steel girders and incorporating the cement pillars that were first put in place more than 125 years ago.

Although replacement of the bridge was in the capital budget, there were some obstacles in the way from higher levels of government.

Municipal staff had hoped there would be funding programs but found that any bridge funding was only for road bridges, not pedestrian bridges. This is disappointing in an age with abundant hyperbole about incorporating pedestrian walkways into future designs and the push to go green. How much greener can you be than walking?

Even more disappointing were the

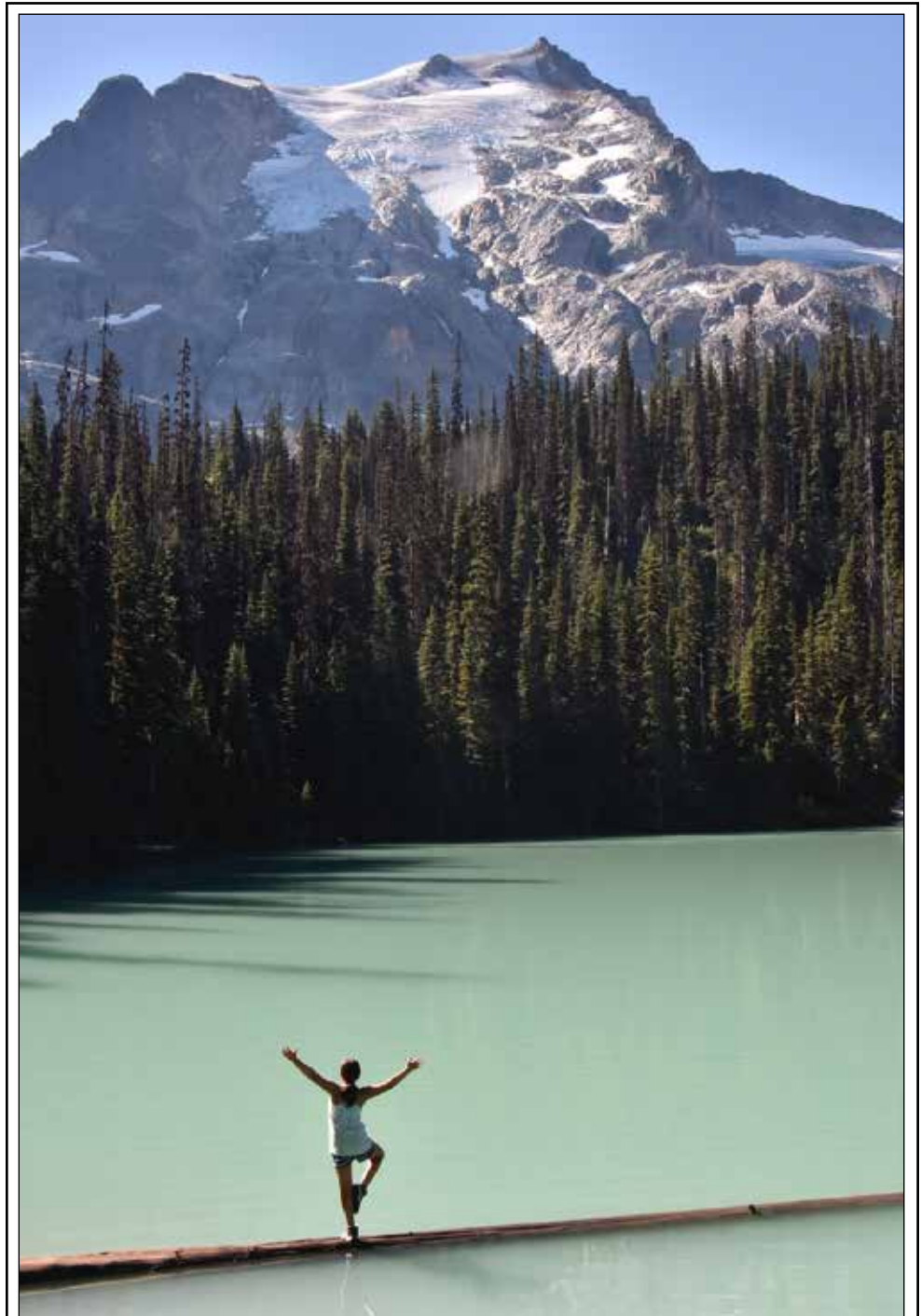
roadblocks put in place to stop funding assistance from the town's service clubs. Although exact numbers are hard to come by today, a good portion of the original construction of the Tillsonburg Community Centre was paid for by service clubs. The fact there is so much red tape in place today that service clubs can't help – and there was a desire expressed to assist – is more than disappointing. Kudos to the mayor, deputy mayor and council members who attempted to push for a way to allow service clubs to assist.

The inevitable grumbling from a portion of town citizens about the bridge closure during construction is inevitable. But, they should take solace in this really is a case of short-term pain for long-term gain.

Back in the 1800s, building of the railway bridge was an important connection for the town to main rail lines and a step forward. Today, the bridge is important in an era when the town has expanded and pedestrian links are vital.

*Have something to say?
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Balance.

(JEFF HELSDON PHOTO)

Raising awareness about cobalt poisoning



**THE
STAGE
IS THE
WORLD**

LAUREL A. BEECHEY

Tillsonburg Post Columnist

I was getting rather frustrated in finding solution for persisting health problems I had. Tests resulted in 'nothing's wrong'. I am sure I was driving my GP crazy.

Back in June, by chance I received a petition to help people in the United Kingdom with: "End the cobalt poisoning cover-up: Act on it!" I started researching.

I was interested in learning about the joint replacements, as I have the dubious honour of having my two knees replaced knees 27 years ago. I

was 'too young' for implants back then but had multiple knee surgeries as a teen, so at 47 years old there was no other option but to replace my knees. I recall being quite impressed that my knees were titanium.

The average age range in 2020 for knee replacements was 65 to 74 for females in Ontario. The main reason replacements were for older recipients back then, and today, was due to the fact most replaced joints were good for about 10 to 15 years. Well, mine have lasted longer than expected, I think, because I have never been able run, kneel or participate in sports, so did not wear them down as quickly. I expected to have some problems but not the one I got; I have cobalt poisoning.

I don't know if you have heard of this, but I think people need to know. It was verified with the \$380.00 blood and urine testing (not under OHIP). It is from both knee implants made of titanium, and evidently cobalt. It is the wearing down, when metal meets metal, which causes the cobalt to get into the blood system. Unfortunately, they did not monitor the implants over time, 10-year checkups or the blood and urine testing.

I had been going to my GP with the same

symptoms for several years and would get various testing done but there was never a problem. However, all but two of my symptoms were listed with cobalt poisoning. Beside removing both old replacements and getting new ones to stop further poisoning, there is little the medical system does. My GP had never heard of it, nor have any of the multiple people I know who have had various joint replacement. My original orthopedic surgeon has retired, and it will probably take a year or more to get into a new surgeon just for an assessment.

Fortunately, my homeopath has me on two detox regimes now, so we are at least doing something about it. I am hoping that someone had come up with artificial cartilage or something that would stop the wear and tear, so I don't require total replacements.

If you know anyone with any joint that has been replaced, you might suggest they make an appointment with their orthopedic surgeon to monitor the implant and learn what other side effects there could be. Most people who get replacements are older and are never diagnosed with cobalt poisoning, and they die before it becomes a problem or is diagnosed.

Then I wonder, how many have actually died because of it? I have never been told to return, after 10 or 15 years for a check up on the implants or health. As one study noted, people 27 years ago did not get replacements, they had to wait, so cobalt poisoning doesn't normally show up.

Now I am on a crusade to make it known and inform people that today there are alternatives to cobalt, depending on your situation. If you need joint implant, how long will it last? Could it be replaced again? Is there anything detrimental that gets into your blood stream? Make monitoring appointments now. When your surgeon retires, who will monitor your implant over the years.

I do not for a moment, regret getting my knees back in 1998. I am thankful as they allowed me to do things I never could before and have held me in good stead all these years. Only only one is a little wonky 27 years later.

Here is a good website for more information: Understanding Cobalt Poisoning in Hip Replacement Patients: Symptoms, Diagnosis, and Future Outlook - Lincolnshire Hip Clinic. For more information, contact lbeecheys2@gmail.com or 519-842-9416

Theatre camp gives participants a moment in the limelight

JEFF HELSDON

Editor

Theatre Tillsonburg Camp rolls crafts, games, and the chance to be on the stage all into one.

With more than 20 years of providing an alternative for summer day camps, camp director Charlotte Van Roestel is excited about the response to the program this year. Although there are weeks where it isn't as busy, overall the program has been over 90 per cent full this year.

The camp is set up in week-long sessions, and costs \$250 per week. It's open to youth from four

to 14, and the campers are divided into three groups based on age.

Although the week starts with crafts, games, and activities, the one difference is part of those crafts will become props in the play that the youth present for the young actors at the end of each week. Intermingled with the usual camp activities are learning lines for the play and rehearsals. On Thursday, the excitement starts to build as the youth get to pick out the costumes.

Then, Friday at 3 p.m., the curtain rises. Lights, sound effects and the curtains are the same as in a Theatre Tillsonburg pro-



(JEFF HELSDON PHOTO)

Camp participants start rehearsing their lines early in the week so they have their lines memorized by the end of the week.

duction.

"It's pretty cool because they have all the aspects

of theatre," Van Roestel said.

Most weeks, the theatre



(JEFF HELSDON PHOTO)

Olivia, left, and Adelaide work on their crafts during theatre camp. Some of the crafts will become props in the play presented at the end of the week.

is packed with parents and friends watching the presentation. Van Roestel

said the vibe builds amongst participants on Friday and is electric.



(JEFF HELSDON PHOTO)

Dancing is one way participants get exercise at the theatre camp. Some of their moves will be part of the play.



(JEFF HELSDON PHOTO)

Every Friday participants in the Theatre Tillsonburg Camp take to the stage for their first taste of performing in front of an audience. The performance includes curtains, lights and sound.

CONTINUED TO PAGE 8



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The cost of Woodingford Lodge

LEE GRIFFI

Local Journalism Initiative Reporter

Residents of Oxford County might be surprised to know just how much money the three Woodingford Lodge sites are costing them.

The three homes are operated by Oxford County - a 160-bed home in Woodstock and two 34-bed satellites in Ingersoll and Tillsonburg. The bottom line is the county billed residents about \$12.8 million over and above what the province supplied them for the 2025 budget year.

There is a huge difference between for-profit long-term care (LTC) and municipal homes. Private homes operate on what the Ontario government gives them.

Full disclosure, this reporter worked 14 years at a for-profit chain of long-term care and retirement homes in a communications role, and I know how the system works, particularly when it comes to funding. I also spent five years on the Ontario Long-Term Care Association board of directors.

Caressant Care owns and operates several homes in Oxford County and has a similar bed count to Woodingford. While the for-profit company has no obligation to release its funding numbers, it cannot get additional funding to provide care and pay for other expenses other than from within.

Oxford County CAO Ben Addley explained all municipalities in the province are required by law to provide long-term care beds, although the statute is generic when it comes to how many beds.

"Historically, the reason we are in the three urban centres is a little bit of equalization of service rather than just operating one home. As you saw in the numbers, and private operators would experience the same thing, the larger the home, the greater the efficiencies."

These days, the smallest new home being built across the province is 128 beds. In the for-profit world, that is the least number of beds a home could have to make it profitable. Addley said the county's municipal homes offer a superior product compared to the for-profit sector.

"I assume our private partners are meeting the regulations and requirements, but I stand behind the fact our municipal long-term care is second to none. They provide great service, we have great staff, we maintain our employment numbers. Everyone is always looking for employees, but we aren't in critical stages a lot of times, like in other areas."



Woodingford Lodge's Tillsonburg location is one of three in the county.

(JEFF HELSDON PHOTO)

He added Woodingford provides a gold standard when it comes to care, but he isn't criticizing the for-profit world.

The financial breakdown shows just how expensive the 34-bed satellites are to operate. On a per-bed cost, Ingersoll this year shows a cost of just under \$67,500 while Tillsonburg comes in at just over \$64,000. That compares to a bit over \$52,000 per bed at the much larger Woodstock site. According to the provincial Ministry of Long-Term Care, no new long-term homes are being built with fewer than 128 beds to maximize economies of scale.

Addley admitted the care provided is expensive, but the county is diligent in ensuring a high level of care continues while en-

abling strategies for efficient use of tax dollars.

The county last year looked into building a new, much larger home in Ingersoll to absorb the current facility, but council decided the burden on taxpayers was too great once a 20 per cent tax hike was on the table.

"Staff are looking at how we can run them more efficiently. How can we maintain the level of beds we are currently providing? Like you said, the amount of subsidy the province was willing to contribute to the capital side, really made it really made it cost prohibitive, and it would have probably doubled the levy cost, as you said," explained Addley.

CONTINUED TO PAGE 11

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Theatre camp gives participants a moment in the limelight

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 6

"They're almost vibrating with excitement," she said.

The plays, and accompanying dances, are all original, written by camp coordinator Khloe Gamble and assistant camp director Angela Weiler. The productions are unique to each week and are tailored to the number of campers.

"We make sure they all get equal lines," Gamble said.

"They all get a chance to be in the spotlight," Weiler added.

The 12 to 14-year-olds have a different program where they write their own play.

"That's a special group where they get to do all the activities but they get to write their own play, director their own play," Van Roestel said. "They even get some light and sound experience. We hope the writer's group brings theatre alive for these kids and they want to be part of our productions, or they want to work for the camp."

Camp registrar Trudi Czerwinski recalled that the writer's camp was started to offer something for the older children.

"At 12 they still want to come to camp and we didn't offer anything," she said. "It was a nice transition because we can employ them at 15."

Van Roestel did note the majority of the staff were campers at one time.

"To me that says the program is working. We are keeping theatre alive."

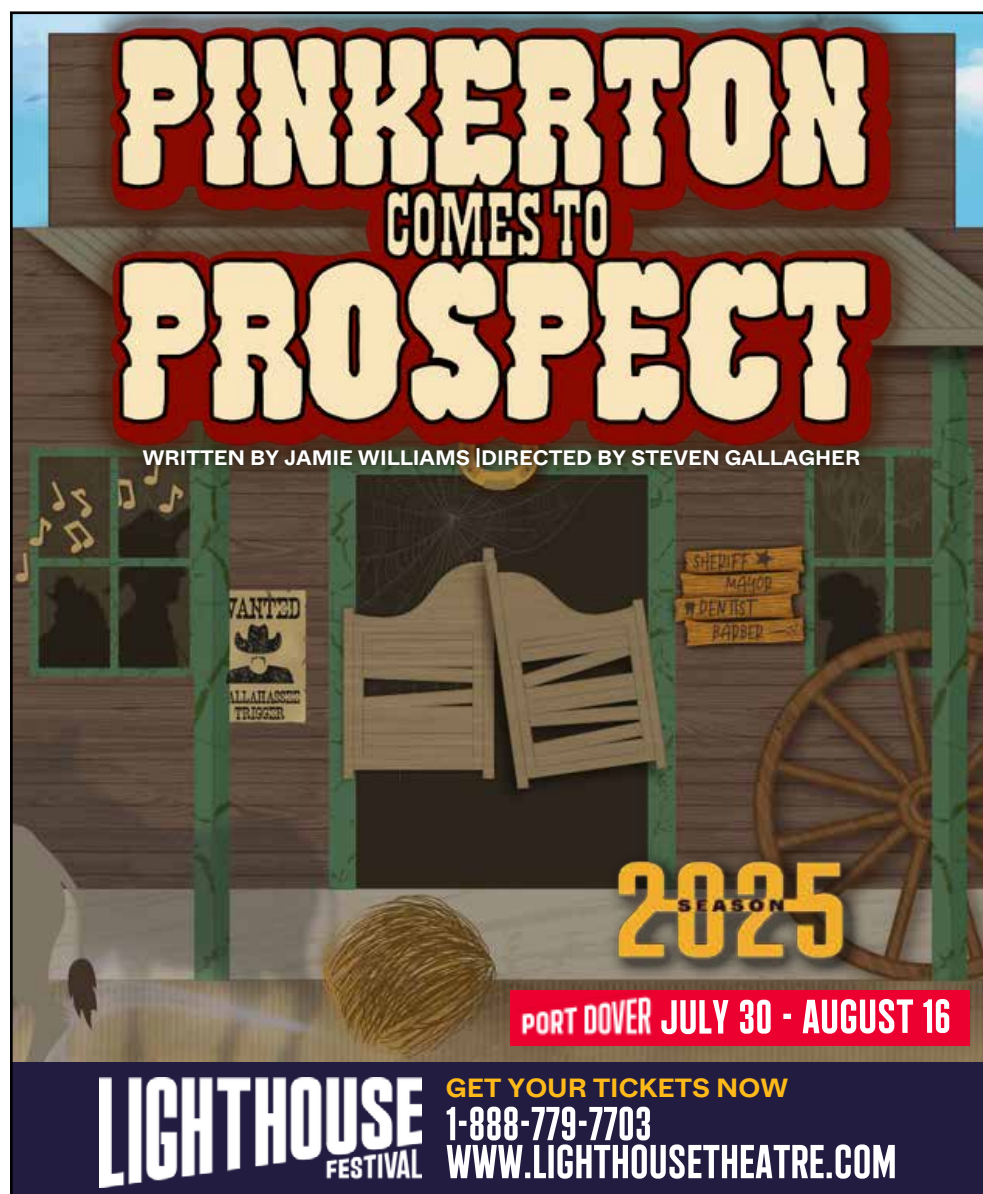
"Our staff have to come with some skills and a background in child care as well," Czerwinski said.

Where the program is now, is leaps and bounds ahead of where it started originally. Initially, it was run by volunteers and was only one or two weeks in length.

"Now we've made it a whole summer affair when Canada Summer Jobs became available," Van Roestel said.

The volunteer work for Van Roestel and Czerwinski starts months before the first camper arrives in July. They have to fill out applications for summer job programs. This year they tried opening registration in March, which was earlier, and is one reason the program is fuller this year.

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CEDARVIEW

Golfing for the hospital's sake

JEFF HELSDON

Editor

Golfers will be teeing up to help out the Tillsonburg District Hospital Foundation on Friday, Sept. 12, at the Bridges of Tillsonburg.

The annual golf tournament in support of the hospital will feature a shotgun start at 1 p.m. A barbecue lunch will be available at registration. Dinner is at 5 p.m., followed by a live auction.

With the tournament raising \$52,000 last year, it one of the major fundraisers of the year for the foundation. The foundation assists the hospital with the purchase of essential new and replacement equipment. Some of the key items for 2025 include vital sign towers, a therapeutic gastroscope, ceiling lift, operating room table, and replacement of beds.

"What makes the TDMH Foundation Golf Tournament so great is seeing how it grows and evolves making each year a unique and fun experience," said Lindsay Tribble, foundation development assistant and event co-chair. She and event co-chair Lindsay Morgan are joined by Jenny Good this year in organizing the tournament.

With this being the 100th anniversary of the hospital, foundation Executive Director Gerry Dearing has high hopes for the fundraiser.

"It has the potential to make more because of the live auction and raffle/silent auction," Dearing said.

Organizers are seeking donations for the live and silent auctions, as well as sponsor-

ships for dinner, holes, lunch, and golf carts.

Dearing said the \$1,000 hole sponsor is an interesting opportunity for businesses.

"You can set up a tent and talk about your business," he said, adding there is also a sign sponsorship opportunity.

The auction features high-quality items such as experiences, a cottage for the weekend, catered dinners and sports tickets. In the past, auctioneer Ewart McLaughlin has wound the crowd up.

"It's a fun event," Dearing said. "He gets them going in the auction."

Tribble added that the auction is "offering different, amazing experiences put together by our donors for the always-entertaining auctioneer Ewart McLaughlin, who engages the crowd and pushes up their bids."

To date, some of the donated items are a six-course dinner for eight in your home from Chrissy's Catering and a Harvard Flight. Typically, there are around a half-dozen auction items.

"We want to keep it short and sweet," Dearing said. "We don't want to keep people there all night, so we want some good items."

The dinner will be a steak dinner.

Tickets are \$800 for a foursome, with a \$75 tax receipt going to each individual. Social tickets for dinner only are \$60.

In addition, the foundation's 100 for 100 campaign is still running. Donors are needed. More information is available at <https://www.tillsonburghospital.on.ca/give-back-donate>

For more information on the tournament, contact Tribble at 519-842-3611, ext. 5312 or at lindsay.tribble@tdmh.on.ca



(FILE PHOTO)

The Tillsonburg District Memorial Hospital Foundation annual golf tournament is on Friday, Sept. 12. This group, playing in last year's tournament, was enjoying their time on the links before the supper and auction.

Oxford County Library celebrates 10 years of teen photography contest

Oxford County Library's annual Teen Photography Contest marks a milestone 10th year with the return of popular categories and exciting prizes.

Launched in 2016 at the Tillsonburg Public Library, the Teen Photography Contest has grown into a county-wide celebration of youth creativity. As part of the library's Summer Reading Club, the contest offers teens a fun and engaging way to explore visual storytelling.

Open to teens aged 12 to 18 with an active Oxford County Library card, participants are invited to submit one entry in each of the following four categories:

- Around the World

- Activism
- Blast from the Past
- Oxford County

Submitted photos will be featured online from Aug. 20–26, giving the public a chance to view the entries and vote for their favourites. Photos will also be shared on the Oxford County Library's official Facebook page, with details on how to vote.

The contest is open until Sunday, Aug. 17. Winners will be announced on Wednesday, Aug. 27. For full contest guidelines and additional details, visit: ocl.net/programs-events/teen-photography-contest.

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Woodingford Lodge staff looking for efficiencies

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 7

He added every long-term care home is required by the province to have a director on site, something that adds to the budget and something he is pushing against for the smaller satellite sites along with other expenses required for smaller homes.

"We are trying to negotiate, push back and advocate to say you have to scale this back for smaller operators for us to be more efficient. We will continue to do that and as we make progress it will continue to help us out."

Anyone outside of Oxford County can add their name to the long-term care bed wait list at Woodingford as per provincial rules. That means people living in the county looking for a long-term care bed when their time comes are not guaranteed a spot, despite paying taxes for years.

"You're right and we do have this conversation and I'll be honest, even council struggles with it when they are making their decisions," said Addley.

Asked if the county would consider selling the long-term care beds located at satellite locations, including for-profit peopleCare, which has asked the province to build a home in Ingersoll, Addley responded, "Anything we can do to support or maintain long-term care beds, we would probably take to council to look at. If we were going to get out of those locations, we would look at what are the best opportunities for them to make sure we maintain that level (of beds) in the county."

Warden Marcus Ryan did not specifically address the cost of operating the three homes, but did say the county is always looking at saving precious dollars.

"We are always looking at ways to run more effectively and efficiently in all services we deliver, whether it's long-term care, paramedic services, roads or human services. We are constantly assessing whether they are services we deliver directly or in partnership with other people. That's always on the table."

"As for what the direct costs are per bed or resident in specific homes, I don't have those numbers off the top of my head, but always open to looking for opportunities to deliver a service better for the same dollars or just as good for less dollars."

Oxford County had explored the possibility of building a new 194-bed home in Ingersoll to replace the current satellite home in the town, but the economic reality and a likely

20 per cent tax increase on residents quashed those plans.

"Since I became a member of county council, this number stood out as a number that shouldn't be there," said Norwich Township Mayor Jim Palmer, who added the care needs of long-term care residents have increased. "Woodingford has been a feature of Oxford County for many years. Since its inception, the health status of those needing its services has changed. Initially, residents might have arrived walking with a cane. Nowadays, some come directly from the hospital as a way to free up hospital beds for others."

He added funding demands have also put financial pressure on the county.

"Standards of care are always more of everything. More hours of care per person, more expensive care equipment, and higher qualifications for employees. The list could go on. The Woodingford Lodges are in many respects tier 2 hospitals but are still funded by the County of Oxford."

The Echo reached out to each member of county council for comment. Tillsonburg Mayor Deb Gilvesy declared a pecuniary interest on matters related to Woodingford, and couldn't comment.



GIVING AT A YOUNG AGE

(CONTRIBUTED PHOTO)

Gerry Dearing, Executive Director of the Tillsonburg District Memorial Hospital Foundation, stopped by Indigo Lounge to accept a donation from participants in the summer empowerment camp. The camp teaches kids about character building through kindness, acceptance, and trust. Another part of it is a mini business, looking at entrepreneurial skills, making something, and then marketing the item. Camp participants then donate the proceeds from the sale of the items they make to local charities, which in this case was the hospital foundation.



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UNITED WAY GIVES BACK

(JEFF HELSDON PHOTO)

The United Way of Oxford recently provided the Tillsonburg Multi-Service Centre with \$10,000 to assist with employment services programs that assist clients to overcome barriers to employment. Some of the items this funding can assist with include transportation, child care, bike repairs, clothing, and technology, all items not covered by provincial funding. Taking part in the presentation were, left to right: Andrea Greenway, United Way volunteer; Randi-Lee Durham, director of employment and literacy programs and Kathryn Leatherland, Multi-Service Centre executive director. The money came from the United Way's annual campaign.

Weekend Quiz

by Jake Grant

1. The Spanish word "lobo" means what?
2. What does rpm stand for?
3. Who was the longest reigning King in England?
4. What U.S state hosts the annual Oshkosh air show?
5. Who starred in "The Naked Gun?" (1988)
6. How far is a Marathon?
7. A sommelier is known to do what?
8. Which country has won the most FIFA World Cups?
9. How many legs does a lobster have?
10. In The Simpsons, what is the name of the bartender?

This week's answers are found on Page 27

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You can't buy happiness, but you can buy LOCAL premium, grass finished beef from Sweets Creek Acres.

Located on Norwich Road, Sweets Creek Acres is owned and operated by Dwayne and Anna Van Harberden. Originally, the Van Harberdens started with a couple horses in 2005, then added a Pinzgauer cow/calf pair to help trim their hobby farm pasture.

Discovering the Pinzgauer breed, originally developed in Austria, was actually a fortunate chance.

"The breed that we have is a heritage breed which finished well on grass... but it was a complete accident that we ended up with it," said Dwayne. "The summer that we were looking for a cow, the only farmer we could find willing to sell us an animal had these cows, and this one didn't quite match the rest of his herd. So that's how it started."

"Once we got one, we really enjoyed it," said Anna. "That's when 'the dream' kind of evolved."

Over the years, the dream grew into a small purebred herd of 10 cow/calf Pinzgauer pairs, plus yearlings. Ten was the ideal number, as they did not need extra staff.

"It's still fun, but not too much work," said Anna.

'Grass finished' is essential at Sweets Creek Acres.



Dwayne and Anna Van Harberden sell 'beef you can believe in' from Sweets Creek Acres on Norwich Road.

Initially, with their first few cows, finishing with grass was just easier than corn. They liked the results and when they sold some meat, they received good compliments. That sealed it – it would be grass finishing. And NO hormones, antibiotics, pesticides, etc.

"We started to realize we had something special," said Dwayne.

"A lot of people will advertise 'grass fed,' but they finish the last 100 days with corn," Anna noted. "But ours is grass finished. It comes right off the pasture."

The flavour is exceptional – its marbling means premium cuts of meat and tender, juicy steaks.

"I think the selling point

for our meat is the texture," said Anna. "If it's grown on grass or corn, that makes a big difference. We have heard that ours is more tender. It has a finer texture, it's not so coarse."

"There is no comparison in taste either, there's nothing like it," said Dwayne. "It's better than you get at a restaurant... and it makes grocery-store beef taste watered down."

Last year was their first year exclusively selling directly to consumers.

Purchasing can be done through their website (sweetscreekacres.ca) and they are now taking deposits for September 2025 delivery. You can order whole beef (400lbs), half beef, quarter beef or the eighth

(50lbs) beef shares.

The dry-aged, vacuum-packed beef will be mailed to your door.

As a special promotion, when you reserve a half or whole beef this fall, you can choose to get a free chest freezer. You can ask for two smaller freezers with either option if you are splitting the order with friends/family.

They also sell sampler packs, steak boxes, roasts and ground beef specials.

For more information, email them at farmer@sweetscreekacres.ca or leave a message at 519-863-5218.

Sweets Creek Acres has a booth Saturday mornings at the Tillsonburg Farmers Market.



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Campbell earns third Stanley Cup ring

CONTINUED FROM FRONT

He, along with former OHL Kitchener Rangers teammate and NHL defenceman Steve Eminger (currently a professional scout in the New York Rangers organization) were guest instructors, heading up a team including the camp's namesake, and Lauren's son Xander, one of several aged-out campers returning to assist. The week-long school serves partially as a reunion for Gregory, friends and family, along with a shared opportunity for he and Eminger's children.

"The boys love it," said Gregory, noting his kids are among other offspring of former campers among the attendees. "This is one of the highlights of their year."

Finn Campbell is the lone nine-year-old to make the jump from Kitchener AA to AAA this past season, Gregory describing his seven-year-old brother Noah as a 'young Colin,' naturally defensively-minded with a bit of an edge. Spending time together on the ice is special for Gregory, who as a full-time parent, prioritizes work-life balance when it comes to family.

"And giving them the best opportunities as my mom and dad did for me."

As far as the sport has taken him, Campbell retains a value system grounded in Tillsonburg-based roots and upbringing, a 'pretty special place' with hard-working people. "If I have to grind it out for three extra hours at night, I will, because that's what I learned from my parents."

Colin's work ethic, still in evidence as NHL Executive Vice-President in his seventh decade, is what inspired Gregory 'from day one.'

"He is a great role model."

But his own experience as a parent has also emphasized his mother Heather's crucial role, allowing Colin to do what he needed to do. "And she raised us three."

Each sibling was encouraged to create their own path, Lauren a teacher, Courtney a lawyer based in Oakville. Hockey was a natural progression for Gregory who in retrospect, realized how fortunate he was to be born into it. Among the greatest lessons learned growing up around NHL players and coaches, a sponge absorbing as much as possible, was how important winning was.

"You have to be able to create your own path, offer teams something that will help them win."

His learning curve is one he shares at development camp, 36



(CONTRIBUTED PHOTO)

Gregory Campbell and a family portrait with the rewards of the 'family business', the Stanley Cup.

young players used to success throughout their lives, who may have their own view of who they are, who may now have to adjust.

"Now you have everyone in the world coming together and you have to create a new path for yourself. You've got to be willing to do whatever."

Campbell referred to Brad Marchand, an elite player instrumental in this year's Stanley Cup victory, who started his NHL career on the fourth line with Campbell in Boston.

"You accept a role, get your foot in the door and sometimes your talent will take over."

Gregory's own junior hockey career included a Memorial Cup

championship with the Rangers where Campbell was the tournament's leading scorer, named to the all-star team and also recognized as the most sportsmanlike, as well as a world junior silver medal. Drafted 67th overall by the Florida Panthers in the 2002 NHL Entry Draft, he played 64 games with them in 2005-06 and 79 the following season. Following three additional full campaigns with the Panthers, Campbell was traded to the Boston Bruins, where he would contribute to a 2011 Stanley Cup victory as centre on a highly-effective penalty-killing unit. He will also be remembered for courageously completing a penalty-killing shift in the 2013 post-season after an Evgeni Malkin slapshot broke his leg.

CONTINUED TO PAGE 15

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Campbell’s playing career spanned 12 years

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 14

Campbell signed with the Columbus Blue Jackets after five years with the Bruins, playing his final full season in 2015-16. He had hoped and thought he would play longer.

“You’re kind of shown the door.”

Campbell does however look back on a lengthy playing career spanning 12 NHL seasons.

“I’ll never be in the hall of fame and won’t break Wayne Gretzky’s scoring records,” he said, “but at the same time, I always tried to be part of a winning group.

“I just tried to offer whatever I could, gravitated to making the most of what I had.”

That motivation led to his name inscribed on the Stanley Cup, a tighter fraternity among the tight fraternity of active and former NHL players.

“That was pretty special for me,” said Campbell. “I’m proud of where I got to - it’s really not easy.”

Ex players can struggle with the transition says Campbell, happy to be a larger part of their family’s lives and yet conditioned to an internal clock indicating the end of August/beginning of September is time to go back to work. Campbell officially retired as a player on June 9, 2017, joining the Blue Jackets as a development coach the same day. Those with an extended NHL career

who have invested wisely may well be financially secure.

“At the same time, it’s about having a purpose,” said Campbell. “There’s not a lot of opportunities,” he continued, rapidly discovering what many others had before him. “You have to work just as hard and you have to learn. The game has changed and you have to keep evolving.”

A new door opened, but one with a new set of requirements.

“If you’re not ready, not willing to put in the work, it can go pretty fast.”

Campbell quickly developed a professional and personal relationship with then Blue Jackets assistant GM Bill Zito. Although highly appreciative of the opportunity presented by John Davidson with the Blue Jackets and welcome to stay, Campbell made the decision to follow Zito to the Florida Panthers, a full-circle experience including Rick Dudley who had originally drafted him.

“I just wanted to keep expanding,” said Gregory, who began in player development, working with a young, hard-working and motivated group.

“Who like me, want to learn.”

His responsibilities subsequently evolved and expanded into GM of the Panthers’ AHL Charlotte Checkers and promotion to assistant GM. Campbell’s growing role includes ongoing GM

responsibilities with the Checkers and scouting, which at the pro level, includes filling roster holes with players who may either benefit from a change of scenery or the Panthers’ coaching staff’s expertise.

Gregory is based out of Kitchener/Waterloo, geographically close enough to both drive to area destinations or Pearson Airport for connections further afield. September through June are his busiest months, on the road and in rookie and training camps.

Although his job entails long hours, at times alone, the last two seasons have been particularly satisfying. Campbell notched cups two and three, however in the same vein as watching someone else’s joy at opening a present on Christmas morning, he was thrilled to see others celebrate ultimate victory.

“That was a special experience to watch that team win the last two years.”

Multiple uncontrollable factors challenge the possibility of a three-peat including health and luck. Campbell is confident Zito has checked every possible box toward that lofty goal, but there are of course, 31 other teams looking to intervene.

“The more successful you are, the more people want to knock you off,” Gregory smiled.

His own post-playing career has also enjoyed success despite his comparative youth, its logical progression raising the possibility of the next level. That may be Campbell’s eventual goal, but beyond the open question of whether the chance will arise, he’s grateful for the challenges and rewards of his current position.

“I’m very content in Florida with this group and the opportunity to continue learning.”

Zito creates a positive atmosphere within the organization credits Campbell, and with three children of his own, has respect for the importance of family. In addition, the Panthers’ GM exemplifies the commitment required to be one of 32 NHL GMs.

Beyond his own ongoing professional development with the Panthers, Gregory also enjoys sharing the kind of experiences his father shared with him with his own sons: for example, introducing them to Marchand and Matthew Tkachuk, or back-to-back Stanley Cup celebrations.

“They’ve had those experiences,” said Campbell.

“The short and the long of it is, it’d be something that’s on my radar, but I have no timeframe for it,” he added in conclusion. “I’m 41 years old, I don’t see the rush.

“And again, I feel I have a lot to learn.”

Red Sox down Port Dover to snap losing streak

GRAHAM NICKERSON

Post Contributor

The Tillsonburg Red Sox got themselves back in the winner’s column Friday night when they played host to Port Dover, defeating the lake-siders by a score of 8-5.

Tillsonburg’s bats struck early for three runs in the first. Kid Appleford found himself in the lead-off spot and worked the count for eight pitches before nubbing a swinging bunt up the third base line that was successfully legged out. Rob Verhoeve hit a Texas leaguer into left field, then Fish Verschueren reached on a fielder’s choice when the Dover infield failed to make an out on a double-play opportunity. Bubba DeClark stepped up to the plate and laced a base hit to left field that plated Appleford. Laird McPherson grounded into a double play, but it was good enough to score Verhoeve from third and Verschueren scampered home on a wild pitch to put the locals up 3-0. Jordan Vitias was mere inches from a home run when he drove one deep to right that was robbed at the warning track for out number three.

Bubba DeClark was reactivated to the Red Sox roster after being on paternity leave and was called on for mound duty. DeClark cruised through the first four innings only giving up

two singles without allowing a run. His slider was working nicely as the infield got plenty of work fielding ground balls for outs.

Tillsonburg would score five in the third after Port Dover’s starter Sam Wilson issued three straight free passes. Vitias got a hold of his offering for a two-run single which was followed by Alex Fishback reaching on an error. Kylen Miners and Appleford both had RBI groundouts in the inning that saw all nine batters come up to the dish. Neil Polfliet was perfect in his two at bats, hustling out two infield hits with his Ichiro-like slap and run-hitting technique in the lefty batter’s box.

Trouble struck in the fifth with two outs when three walks loaded the bases for Port Dover. Zach Heipel and Simon Storoschuck knocked back-to-back base hits to drive in three Dover runs. The visitors would score one more run on a passed ball to half the Tillsonburg lead at 8-4. In the sixth with Verhoeve now on the mound for the Sox, Port Dover pushed one more run across on a fielder’s choice and an RBI single.

Port Dover threatened again in the seventh after they loaded the bases on two walks and a hit. McPherson caught a high pop-up in foul territory for the first out, then the Red Sox turned one of the more unusual double plays seen on the diamond this year.

TILLSONBURG	AB	R	H	PO	A	E
APPLEFORD, RF, LF	3	1	1	2	3	1
VERHOEVE, 3B, P	3	2	2	1	1	0
VERSCHUEREN, 1B, RF	4	0	1	0	0	0
DECLARK, P, 1B	4	0	2	6	0	0
MCPHERSON, CF	4	0	2	2	0	0
VITIAS, 2B, 3B	1	1	1	3	0	1
FISHBACK, SS, 2B	2	1	1	1	1	1
MINERS, CF	3	0	1	0	0	0
POLFLIET, LF	3	0	0	1	0	0
TOTALS	30	7	13	18	7	6

Summary: **ER**, Port Dover 5, Tillsonburg 7; **LOB**, Port Dover 8, Tillsonburg 5; **RBI**, Heipel (2), Storoschuk, Schweyer, Appleford, DeClark, McPherson, Vitias (2), Miners; **W**, DeClark; **L**, Wilson; **BB**, Wilson (4), Andrello (2), DeClark (5), Verhoeve (2); **K**, Wilson (1), Andrello (3), DeClark (2); **Time**, 2:14

Iron Ring Rachar was now playing shortstop with Fishback at second. A screaming line drive was hit directly at Rachar, who may or may not have purposefully muffed the catch as the runners were frozen on the base paths. A quick flip to Fishback covering second for the force-out, then a rifle home to

get the runner trying to score amongst the chaos was the game ending play.

The Red Sox final home game of the season is Friday, August 8 at 7:30 p.m. against the Simcoe Seniors, which will decide second place.

Port Dover.....000 041 0 - 5 7 4
Tillsonburg.....305 000 x - 8 6 0

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Tillsonburg slo-pitch gearing up for the playoffs



**EYE
ON
SLO-
PITCH**

DAVE WEAVER

Post Columnist

Most of the men's schedule has been completed with just a pair of B Division games left to play and a week of C competition to finalize the standings and play-off matchups.

The A and B regular season winners have all but decided in the ladies loop with just two games remaining in the schedule.

Men's A Division

1,2 Seal Insulation Hawks closed out a successful season winning by six over O&L Duct Design Ducks. They will play the winner of the play in game between O&L and Courtland Landscape and Grounds. The Mill will have home advantage in their series with Bill Klyn Carpentry after they beat Leeswood Construction Dirty Mitts by three. Bill Klyn finished off their season doubling up Smitty's Electrical. O&L had a forfeit win over Courtland. Leeswood will take on Smitty's while third-place Legend Rubber Cobra Chickens will go up against John Klassen Realty Hit N Run.

Bill Klyn Carpentry-12, Smitty's Electrical-6

Klyn-Kyle McDougall 4-4, 2 HR; Dallas Dalby 4-4, 3 HR.

Smitty's-Justin Wood 3-3; Zack Cowenberg 3-3.

Game Synopsis-Dallas Dalby and Kyle McDougall provided most of the winner's offence as they combined to hit five round-trippers.

O&L Duct Design Ducks-7, Courtland Landscape and Grounds-0 FF

The Mill-21, Leeswood Construction Dirty Mitts-18

The Mill-Ryan Black 5-5; Steve Derks 4-4, HR; Tim Morgan 2HR; Billy Wilson 2HR; Bryan Deblaire HR.

Leeswood-Kent Collings 4-4, HR; Trevor Stuyt 4-4, 2HR; Alex Penders 2HR.

Game Synopsis-A total of 11 homers were hit in this one. Tim Morgan's two-run seventh-inning homer ended up being the decider.

1,2 Seal Insulation Hawks-19, O&L Duct Design Ducks-13

Hawks-Johnny Epp 4-4, HR; Jake Klassen 3-4; Peter Epp 2HR; Evan Bueckert HR; Martin Klassen HR.

O&L-Connor Smith 4-4, 3HR; Spence Meron 4-4, HR.

Game Synopsis-The Hawks scored runs in every inning but the fourth. Daniel

Klassen scored three runs for the winners.

Men's B Division

It has come down to a race between two teams to claim the top spot. Bayham Construction Lumberjacks hold a slim one-point lead over Pelicans. The Pelicans have a chance to overtake them with a win in their final game against Side 2 Side Exteriors Strike Force. At My Playground/IQT Logistics spoiled Lumberjacks chances of clinching first, beating them by four. The next night, the Lumberjacks edged out Strike Force and merced Designated Drinkers sweeping a doubleheader the next night. Strike Force won games over Drinkers and Copper Mug-Lubricare Wannabee's. Pelicans put themselves in position to finish first after mercying Copper Mug-Lubricare. The first-place winner will take on the winner from the play-in game between John Beere and Sandy Shore Brew Jays.

Second place will meet up with an unpredictable Copper Mug-Lubricare squad. Underhill Farm Supply will go head to head with Designated Drinkers. The four-five will be an interesting series with At My Playground hosting Strike Force.

Pelicans-19, Copper Mug-Lubricare Wannabee's-4

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

Copper Mug-Lubricare-Dawson McMillen 2-3.

Game Synopsis-The Pelicans easily handled the eight-man Wannabee's squad. Brandon Travers had a pair of doubles for the winners.

Bayham Construction Lumberjacks-9, Side 2 Side Exteriors Strike Force-8

Bayham-Nathan Peters 3-3; William Loewen 3-3.

Strike Force-Johnny Klassen 3-4; Johnny T. Klassen 3-4.

Game Synopsis-Bayham walked this one off with Jake Sawatsky plating William Loewen with two outs.

Bayham Construction Lumberjacks-24, Designated Drinkers-5

Bayham-Nicholas Klassen 5-6; Benny Neufeld 5-6; Jake Sawatsky HR.

Drinkers-Brayden Ambo 3-3; Matt Barker 2-3; Kyle Postma HR.

Game Synopsis-Jake Sawatsky led the winners with a homer, a pair of doubles and a triple. Benny Neufeld hit four doubles and a triple.

Side 2 Side Exteriors Strike Force-22, Designated Drinkers-20

Strike Force-Frank Klassen 4-4; Henry Teichroeb 4-4; John Klassen HR.

Drinkers-Brayden Ambo 3-3; Matt Barker 3-3.

Game Synopsis-John Klassen led the winners, driving in five while scoring three runs.

Side 2 Side Exteriors Strike Force-22, Copper Mug-Lubricare Wannabee's-16

Strike Force-Johnny Klassen 4-5; Henry Teichroeb 2-2, HR; John Klassen GrSlam HR; Jamie Teichroeb HR.

Copper Mug-Lubricare-Brent Sproule 4-4, HR; Dylan Graydon 4-4; AJay Johnson HR; Ryan Copping HR.

Game Synopsis-Two big final two innings won it for Strike Force. Jamie Teichroeb hit a three-run homer in their six run sixth; followed by a John Klassen grand slam in their six-run seventh.

At My Playground/IQT Logistics-11, Bayham Construction Lumberjacks-7

A.M.P.-Duncan McLean 4-4; Keenan Coderre 4-4, HR.

Bayham-Silas Bueckert 3-3; Jake Sawatsky 3-4.

Game Synopsis-Keenan Coderre homered and scored three runs for the winners, Duncan McLean also scored three runs.

Men's C Division

There are still a full week of games left to play next week to finalize the standings, and it will be a race to the finish. Townline Eqt Inc Smokin Aces and Shaw's Ice Cream Sluggers lead the pack with 14 wins each but Tailgators are just one point back. Smokin has three games left, Shaw's has two left and Tailgators have three left to play. Sticky Bandits sitting in fourth, knocked off the Aces and Diamond Kings upset the Tailgators.

Diamond Kings-24, Tailgators-20

Diamond-Ben Bueckert 5-5; Corney Dyck 4-5.

Tailgators-Terry Jones 4-4; Matt Pitt 4-4.

Game Synopsis-Diamond Kings scored four runs in the seventh to win it. Corney Dyck led the winners with a triple and four runs scored.

Townline Eqt Inc Smokin Aces-21, Cain's Brickhouse Boys-1

Smokin Aces-Herman Froese 3-3; David Klassen 3-3; Daniel Unger HR; Jakob Froese HR.

Cain's-Corey Chretien 2-2.

Game Synopsis-Jakob Froese was a triple shy of hitting for the cycle for the winners.

J/E Bearing-14, N.I.M.-12

J/E-Craig Boucher 3-4; Matt Bowers 3-4; Dillon Outerbridge HR.

N.I.M.-Justin Dygos 4-5; Wes McDougall 4-4.

Game Synopsis-Craig Boucher had a triple and scored three runs for J/E.

Tailgators-16, Team Swingers-10

Tailgators-Jarryd Roest 4-4; Nick Klassen 3-3; Prabjhot Singh HR.

Swingers-Tony Epp 4-4; Ryan Hamn 2-3.

Game Synopsis-Nick Klassen scored three runs for the winners.

Shaw's Ice Cream Sluggers-32, Cain's Brickhouse Boys-11

Shaw's-Layn Wells 5-5; Cole Seaton 4-5.

Cain's-Dimitri Carvahlo 4-4; Court Cronheimer 3-4.

Game Synopsis-Everyone in the winner's order scored at least one run.

Tailgators-11, N.I.M.-10

Tailgators-Jarryd Roest 4-5; Rick Klassen 3-3.

N.I.M.-Brodie Earls-Gr Slam HR.

Game Synopsis-Jarryd Roest had the walk-off hit for Tailgators.

J/E Bearing-13, C.R. Custom Engraving Smokin Bases-12

J/E-Bernie MacDonald 4-5; Carter McKay 3-4.

C.R.-Jake Rempel 3-4; Joe Miller 3-3.

Game Synopsis-A four-run sixth helped them edge out C.R.

C.R. Custom Engraving Smokin Bases-24, R.L.P. Melanie Luksys-13

C.R.-Caleb Waycott 5-5; Cory Hopper 5-5.

R.L.P.-Cole Toth 5-5; Blake Ash 4-5.

Townline Eqt Inc Smokin Aces-23, Diamond Kings-22

Smokin Aces-George Bueckert 4-4; Jackie Froese 5-5, HR; Peter Klassen HR.

Diamond-Corney Dyck 3-3; Fritz Thiesen 3-4; Andrew Friesen HR; Dave Berg 2 HR; Ben Bueckert HR.

Game Synopsis-A three-run rally helped Smokin record the walk-off win, Jakob Froese had the walk off hit.

Team Swingers-17, R.L.P. Melanie Luksys-9

Swingers-Nate Bridges 3-3; Shawn Knelsen 4-4, 2HR; Luke Thomas HR.

R.L.P.-Eric Allen 3-3; Ethan Luksys 4-4; Cole Toth 2HR.

Game Synopsis-Shawn Knelsen homered twice and scored four runs for the winners.

Sticky Bandits-18, Bird's Golf-11

Bandits-Ivan Enns 5-5; Makaio Thiesen 4-5.

Bird's-Nate Schram 4-4; Chris Wagenaar 4-4.

Game Synopsis-The Bandits scored 10 runs over their final two at-bats to take the win.

Ladies' A Division

It looks like the Jays will edge out Simmonds Mortgages for top spot in the division. They merced Trillium Court on the Monday but lost to Simmonds by eight on the Wednesday. Simmonds needed at least a win in their double header on the Monday, but they tied Foldens Machine Works and were upset by Kyle Nesbitt Trucking. Foldens beat Trillium to close out the week. Jays and Simmonds close out their season out against the two bottom teams in B. Barring an upset the matchups will be Trillium-Jays and Foldens-Simmonds.

Foldens Machine Works-15, Simmonds Mortgages-15

CONTINUED TO PAGE 17

Tillsonburg slo-pitch gearing up for the playoffs

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 16

Foldens-Amber Woolgar 5-5; Mandi Vickers 4-4.

Simmonds-Katie Hahn 4-5; Elaine Roswell 3-4.

Game Synopsis-A big four-run sixth erased Simmonds lead, Trisha McKenzie scored four runs on the night for Foldens in an exciting match.

Simmonds Mortgages-15, Jays-7

Simmonds-Tracey Carruthers 4-4; Janet Nagy 4-4.

Jays-Kirstie Jones 3-4; Tracy Shackleton 2-3.

Game Synopsis-Simmonds scored six in two innings, and 11 of their 12 batters scored at least one run.

Jays-15, Trillium Court-2

Jays-Tracy Shackleton 3-3; Amy Southwick 3-3.

Trillium-Katy Wilkinson 2-2; Lisa Wheeler 2-2.

Game Synopsis-Back-to-back six-run

innings put this one away for Jays.

Foldens Machine Works-16, Trillium Court-6

Foldens-Monica Barnes 3-4; Melissa Redekop 3-4.

Trillium-Katy Wilkinson 3-3; Lyn Hewitt 3-4.

Game Synopsis-Foldens broke up a close game with a bat-around 10-run seventh. Mackenzie Brackenbury had a pair of doubles for the winners.

Ladies' B Division

Kyle Nesbitt Trucking had their biggest win of the year, beating Simmonds Mortgages by four thus crushing Simmonds chances of a first-place finish in A. They won a close one over Wildcats and easily beat George's Auto. George's moved into third place with a victory over Resting Pitch Face. The matchups should be Resting against Nesbitt and George's vs Wildcats.

Kyle Nesbitt Trucking-10, Sim-

monds Mortgages-6

Nesbitt-Nicole Morgan 4-4; Tammy Griswold 4-4.

Simmonds-Katie Hahn 3-3; Jackie Wood-Van Santen 2-2.

Game Synopsis-Tammy Griswold and Nicole Morgan combined for eight hits and seven runs scored to lead Nesbitt.

George's Auto-16, Resting Pitch Face-13

George's-Julianne McKeown 4-4; Reina Dewatcher 3-4.

Resting-Jenna Wilford 4-4; Martina McCallum 4-4.

Game Synopsis-Brittany Sandham had a double and scored three runs for George's.

Kyle Nesbitt Trucking-19, George's Auto-5

Nesbitt-Tammy Griswold 4-4; Kim Hurd 4-4; Nicole Morgan HR.

George's-Brittany Sandham 2-3; Kristin McDowell 2-2.

Game Synopsis-Nicole Morgan was a double shy of hitting for the cycle. Tammy Griswold tripled and scored four runs.

Wildcats-16, Resting Pitch Face-8

Wildcats-Lynette Lakusta 3-3; Shannon Collings 3-3 .

Resting-Danielle Cherewka 3-3; Katie Depew 3-3.

Game Synopsis-Everyone in the winner's order scored at least one run.

Kyle Nesbitt Trucking-10, Wildcats-9

Nesbitt-Nicole Morgan 3-4; Lacey Warren 3-4.

Wildcats-Krystal Sivyer 2-3; Ashley Anderson 2-4.

Game Synopsis-Nicole Morgan had the walk-off hit for Nesbitt in their come-from-behind win.

SCOREBOARD

MEN'S A DIVISION	W	L	T	PTS
1-1,2 SEAL INSULATION HAWKS	18	2	0	36
2-LEESWOOD CONSTRUCTION DIRTY MITTS	13	6	1	27
3-LEGEND RUBBER COBRA CHICKENS	13	7	0	26
4-THE MILL	11	9	0	22
5-BILL KLYN CARPENTRY	10	9	1	21
6-JOHN KLASSEN REALTY HIT N RUN	9	11	0	18
7-SMITTY'S ELECTRICAL	6	14	0	12
8-O&L DUCT DESIGN DUCKS	6	14	0	12
9-COURTLAND LANDSCAPE AND GROUNDS	3	17	0	6

MEN'S B DIVISION	W	L	T	PTS
1-BAYHAM CONSTRUCTION LUMBERJACKS	14	5	1	29
2-PELICANS	14	5	0	28
3-UNDERHILL FARM SUPPLY	13	7	0	26
4-AT MY PLAYGROUND/IQT LOGISTICS	12	6	2	26
5-SIDE 2 SIDE EXTERIORS STRIKE FORCE	10	7	2	22
6-DESIGNATED DRINKERS	6	12	1	13
7-COPPER MUG-LUBRICARE WANNABEE'S	6	13	1	13
8-JOHN BEERE	5	15	0	10
9-SANDY SHORE BREW JAYS	4	14	1	9

MEN'S C DIVISION	W	L	T	PTS
1-TOWNLINE EQUIPMENT INC SMOKIN ACES	14	3	0	28
1-SHAW'S ICE CREAM SLUGGERS	14	4	0	28
2-TAILGATORS	13	3	1	27
3-STICKY BANDITS	11	6	0	22
4-BIRD'S GOLF	9	6	1	19
5-N.I.M.	8	8	0	16
5-TEAM SWINGERS	8	10	0	12
6-J/E BEARING	6	10	0	12
6-R.L.P. MELANIE LUKSYS	6	12	0	12
6-DIAMOND KINGS	6	12	0	12
7-C.R. CUSTOM ENGRAVING SMOKIN BASES	5	14	0	10
8-CAIN'S BRICKHOUSE BOYS	3	15	0	6

LADIES A DIVISION	W	L	T	PTS
JAYS	16	5	0	32
SIMMONDS MORTGAGES	15	5	1	31
FOLDENS MACHINE WORKS	12	8	1	25
TRILLIUM COURT	8	13	0	16




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Sharon Jacques, CFP®
Financial Advisor

32 Brock Street West
Tillsonburg, ON N4G 2A2
Bus. 519-842-4382 • Cell 519-639-2651
sharon.jacques@edwardjones.com
www.edwardjones.ca/sharon-jacques

TILLSONBURG MINOR SOCCER ACTION

(JEFF HELSDON PHOTOS)

Both children and adults have been keeping the soccer pitches at the Tillsonburg Minor Soccer Club busy the past few weeks. The U-5 league players take to the field on Saturday mornings while older players practice and compete through the week before the adults play on Friday night. Soccer will continue into the fall for youth with a fall league.



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MUSIC CORNER

Tracksuits and Sharpies: Punk wisdom from The Lawrence Arms' Brendan Kelly



BEN ADDRESS

Tillsonburg Post Columnist

Tillsonburg is about to get a jolt of Chicago punk rock swagger when Brendan Kelly, the frontman of acclaimed punk veterans The Lawrence Arms, rolls into town next week with his band The Wandering Birds. The concert is part of the Red Scare Across Canada Tour featuring France's punk powerhouse Guerilla Poubelle, UK sing-songwriter Sam Russo and

Boston's In The Meantime.

To mark the run of shows, record label Red Scare Industries has released an exclusive four-way split 7 inch featuring all the bands on the bill. The limited edition vinyl will be available at the merch table. The songs are already streaming online on all digital service providers as well. Brendan Kelly's contribution is the snarling track Tracksuit.

Fans who know Kelly from his work in The Lawrence Arms may be surprised by the shift in tone with The Wandering Birds, which is something he says is entirely by design.

"If it was the same, there would really be no need for a Wandering Birds. This entire project came about in no small part by me thinking I love doing the Lawrence Arms, and I want to do it until I die, but there is no denying that high energy music like The Lawrence Arms is youth music,"

Kelly explains with a grin. "Most music is youth music, and the Wandering Birds is definitely youth music, but it is also something I can play when I'm 70 and still feel like I'm authentically the person that looks right making the music that's being played."

Brendan Kelly is just as witty on stage as he is while being interviewed.

"Your countrymen NO-MEANSNO actually turned me onto this when I saw them. They still look rad doing really aggressive music and it is notable immediately. I'm going to actually use this phrase properly for the first time ever, and also alienate your entire readership by being the kind of smug didact who points out that an often-used phrase is consistently misused. They are the exception that proves the rule," Kelly laughs while reminiscing. "The Birds is something I can look cool playing when I'm 80 and if you take only one thing

away from this it should be that looking cool is very important."

Kelly's witty humor continues as he breaks down his new song Tracksuit.

"There's some people who tend to be tracksuit wearing sloppy men and I'm aware that I fit this description so far," Kelly explains. "Punks who believed in punk rock but who then graduated to some more nuanced, mature adult-kind of alternative music. You do not get to eat and drink at the punk rock table and learn and become informed by one of the only consistently cool, fun subcultures in the world, and then just move on to tracksuits. This song is written about those people and performed in the style of a more sophisticated post punk sound."

While Tillsonburg may be known more for its farms than its punk shows, Kelly says the town should be ready for a full-blown shake up.

"Tillsonburg is not going to know what hit it. Your town is going to wake up one province over begging for more," Kelly says with a chuckle.

His history with Canadian audiences is colourful to say the least.

"One night we were on tour for Oh! Calcutta! and we were drawing Sharpie mustaches on anyone who came to the merch table in celebration of our general idiocy. The show had been in Edmonton and fast-forward to Calgary. Every person to the last wearing a Sharpie on mustache and we take over this Boston Pizza," Kelly grins. "Once it starts to get to be too much to bear, the manager decides they are closing for the night. I tried to bribe her to keep the place open. A dork with a huge Sharpie mustache trying to play it super James Bond, saying I will give you \$300 to keep this place open all night."

Many of Brendan Kelly's

Road stories and thoughts were posted on his celebrated blog titled Bad Sandwich Chronicles. The blog has not been active in some time, however the idea of a book is not totally off the table for The Lawrence Arms frontman.

"I have been offered book deals in the past, and I can never quite get past the 'so what is your book going to be about?' question before the publisher in question stops calling me," Kelly jokes "So if you want a book by me and you are a big city fancy Canadian publisher, let's talk. I have no ideas but my general in print repartee is mediocre plus."

Brendan Kelly & The Wandering Birds take the stage Wednesday, August 13th at Paddy's Underground at 7:30 p.m. More details and \$25 advanced tickets for this all ages/licensed concert are available online at <https://red-scaretillsonburg.eventbrite.ca>

UPCOMING SHOWS

AUG. 7 - FELICIA MCMINN
The Copper Mug
No Cover – 8 p.m.

AUG. 9 - DAVE BELLAIRE
The Mill
No Cover - 5:30 p.m. - All Ages

AUG. 9 - JOSHUA DOYLE, XNEWROMAN & THE HALF SMOKES
Birds Golf Sports Lounge
\$10 – 9 p.m. - 19+

AUG. 10 - NORTH SHORE RAMBLERS
Annandale NHS 'Music On The Lawn series'
No Cover – 7 p.m. - All Ages

AUG. 13 - EUCHRE NIGHT
The Copper Mug
6 p.m.

AUG. 13 - BRENDAN KELLY (OF THE LAWRENCE ARMS), GUERRILLA POUBELLE, SAM RUSSO & IN THE MEANTIME
Paddy's Underground
\$25 – 8 p.m. - All Ages/Licensed

AUG. 15 - ETHAN WALL, JAY ROCK & HARD CHORDS
Tillsonburg Fairgrounds
\$10 ages 11+ / \$5 ages 6-10 – 7 p.m. - All Ages/Licensed

AUG. 16 - DAVE BELLAIRE
The Mill
No Cover - 5:30 - All Ages

AUG. 16 - CHASE BERES & RIGHT TURN CLYDE
Tillsonburg Fairgrounds
\$10 ages 11+ / \$5 ages 6-10 - 7pm - All Ages/Licensed

AUG. 22 - JADEA KELLY & RYAN O'REILLY
Paddy's Underground
\$25 – 8 p.m. - All Ages/Licensed



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Oxford County celebrates 175th anniversary with new book

DEBBIE KASMAN

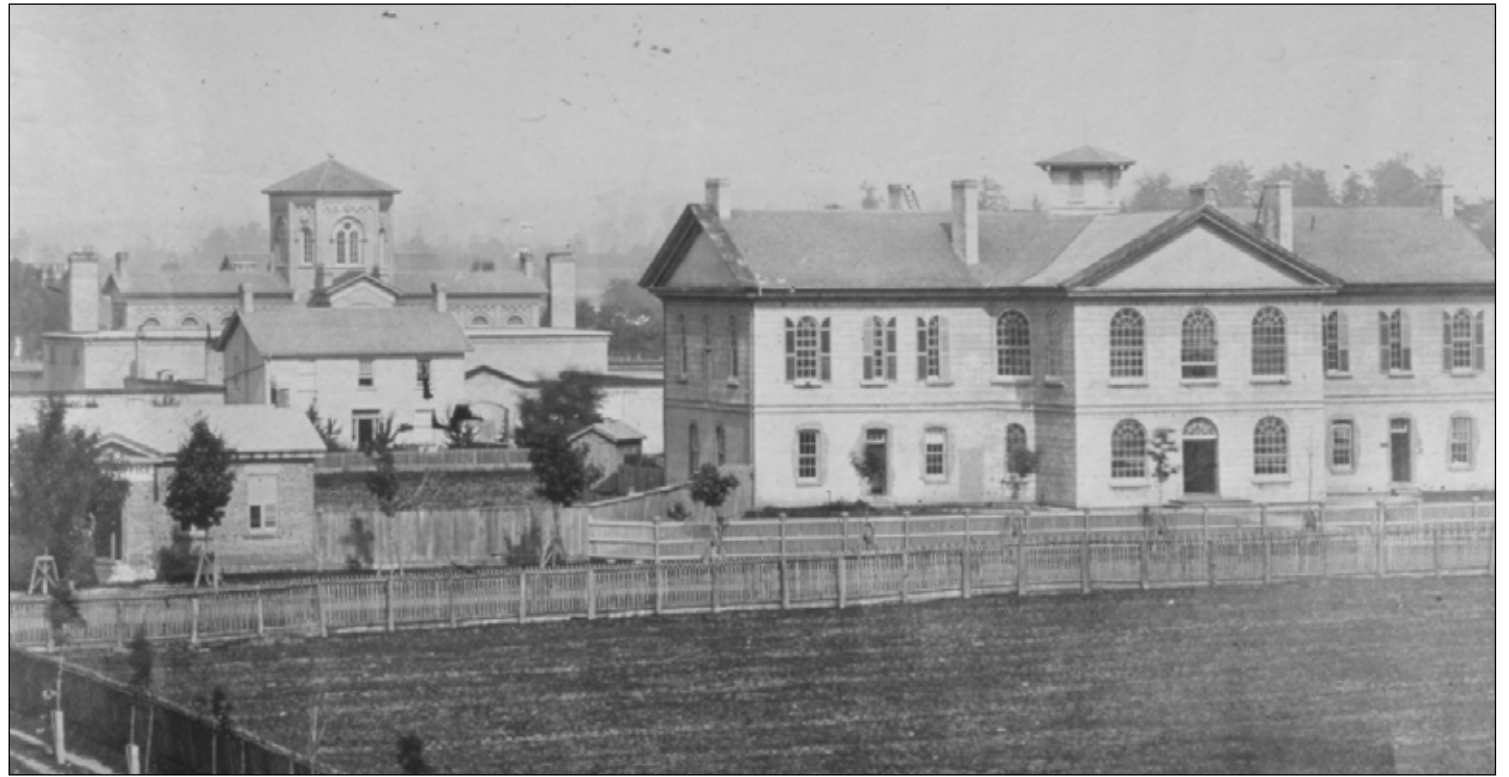
Post Contributor

Oxford County is celebrating its 175th anniversary, which represents a significant chapter in its history, and the county has been celebrating this special anniversary all year with social media posts, exhibits at the administration building in Woodstock and at the Legislative Assembly in Toronto, which will be on display until the end of this year.

The county has existed for 233 years. It was proclaimed in 1792, but counties at that time were for organization of the militia and electoral representation in parliament, and districts did civil government until 1849.

The Baldwin Act, which was passed in 1849 and took effect in 1851, established a two-tier system of municipal government, where districts were replaced by counties as the senior local level of government.

At that time, counties were composed of various cities, towns, villages and townships, each with its own local council. These councils were initially elected by men who lived in the jurisdiction or who had property there to the value of \$400. The local councils were headed by reeves who, as part of



(CONTRIBUTED PHOTO)

their duties, also sat on county council.

Therefore, Oxford County has existed for

175 years as a county with civil government functions (when the 1849 Act came into force), and 174 years as a county with its present-day territory, which began in 1851.

There was a restructuring in 1975 where the territorial structures of the townships of 1851 were kept, but the municipal territories within that county were changed and townships were merged with new names.

Blandford and Blenheim merged to form the new Township of Blandford-Blenheim, and West Oxford, Dereham Township and the village of Beachville merged to create South-West Oxford.

East Zorra, North Oxford, and West Zorra were also combined into the Township of Zorra. East Zorra and Tavistock merged to form the Township of East Zorra-Tavistock.

As part of its anniversary celebration, Oxford County Archives is also planning a new book to commemorate the occasion. The book is the Oxford County Archives' largest project for the year and was written by archives staff as well as local community contributors such as Drumbo & District Heritage Society and Museum, Oxford Historical Society, Plattsville & District Historical Society, Zorra Heritage Committee,

Oxford County Library, Norwich & District Museum, Tavistock & District Historical Society, Beachville District Museum and Scott Gillies (formerly Ingersoll Cheese and Agricultural Museum).

The book will be available by the end of June and for sale at the archives as well as at other various locations throughout the county.

A new exhibit will also be launching at the Woodstock Art Gallery from July 12th until January 24, 2026. This exhibit will explore the history of some of the county's iconic administrative buildings, including the Court Houses, Jail, Registry Offices and House of Refuge, and will highlight some of the architectural drawings, photographs and artwork maintained by Oxford County Archives.

One final project for the year will be a fall video series with a few county councillors delving into archival records related to their family history.

*** Thank you to Liz Dommasch, Archivist, Oxford County Archives and Dr. George Emery, professor emeritus, Western University, for their historical contributions to this article.*



(CONTRIBUTED PHOTO)



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What's in a name? Ask the folks at Glenora Distillery



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

PAUL KNOWLES

Tillsonburg Post Columnist

Let me be clear: I am the last one to say anything negative about Scottish whisky. In fact, there is an unofficial but quite active group here in my community that gathers – often in our living room – to explore the world of single malts. The exploration has gone well, so far.

So, count me in as a lover of Scotch and also, Irish single malt whiskey.

But at the same time, you gotta love a story where an underdog defeats the big guys. And in this instance, the “big guys” were the Scotch Whisky Association.

The underdog? Glenora, an absolutely wonderful whisky distillery on Cape Breton Island. If you are a whisky lover, this is a must-stop during any trip to Cape Breton or journey around the Cabot Trail.

The fight? It's all in a name. Glenora's single malts are named “Glen Breton.” The Scotch Whisky Association felt that this was misleading, that it sounded like a Scotch – and the Scotch distillers are notoriously protective of their brand. That's understandable – they've been making Scotch in Scotland for well over 500 years. No one outside Scotland is allowed, by law, to call their product “Scotch”. (The same restrictions apply to champagne and cognac, by the way).

A side note: generally, if whisky is made in a country without an “e” in its name, it's “whisky”. If the country – Ireland, or the United States, for example – has an “e”, it's “whiskey”. Thus Scotland and Canada produce ‘whisky’.)

But Canada cannot produce “Scotch”; that's against international branding laws.

But unable to call their product “Scotch”, Glenora opted to sound very Gaelic – obviously appropriate on Cape Breton, part of Nova Scotia, or “New Scotland”. The distillery was opened in 1990, as the first single malt distillery in Canada. And when they finally released their first batch of single malt, almost a decade later, they branded their whisky “Glen Breton.”

“Not so fast,” said the Scotch Whisky Association. That sounded too Scottish – and they took their legal fight all the way to the Supreme Court of Canada. But the Supreme Court upheld a lower court ruling allowing the name. The Scots were not impressed. They issued a statement pointing out that “the mark has caused confusion because of its use of a ‘Glen’ prefix, and... Glenora has marketed its product as Scotch in all but name.”

They might have a point. The label on the two-thirds-empty bottle of Glen Breton single malt whisky sitting beside me as I write this, reads “Aged ten years in the highlands of Cape Breton.”

The back label adds, “The legacy of deep-rooted Scottish wisdom and culture give it its classic character. Our Scottish descendants passionately keep the dearest aspects of colourful Gaelic culture alive.”

That's a lot of nods to all things Scottish. On the other hand, the label carries the red maple leaf, and declares itself, “North America's first single malt whisky”.

And there is no question that the folks at Glenora relish their victory. To the point where one of their whiskies is named “Glen Breton Battle of the Glen,” a reference, not to any military action, but to the legal battle that they won against the Scots, allowing them to keep their treasured brand.

You'll hear all about this when you visit Glenora. And apart from very tasting whisky, there are plenty of other reasons to visit the distillery. Although you will certainly want to take the distillery tour, to learn all you might want to know about making great single malt



(PAUL KNOWLES PHOTOS)

Glenora Distillery, maker of Glen Breton single malt whisky.

whisky, and also, to hear the story of Glenora, including the fact that the water used to make the whisky comes from the stream that you cross on the property. Or as described on the label, “The crystal clear water that flows from the Mabou Highlands.”

You will get the opportunity to taste the 10-year-old Glen Breton, but only look at (or purchase) the bottles of the longer-aged liquid gold.

The stills at Glenora come from – you guessed it – Scotland. The whisky is aged for at least 10 years in bourbon barrels from Kentucky.

There is a poignancy to the story of Glenora – it was founded by Bruce Jardine, who watched his dream become a reality almost to the point when Glen Breton whisky went from cask to bottle. But Jardine passed away just before the launch of the brand. Today, Glenora's whisky's include a Bruce Jardine Special Reserve 25 Year Old.

I mentioned there are other good reasons to visit Glenora. Chief among them is the restaurant, serving great food and superb entertainment – typical “ceilidh” style music featuring Cape Breton fiddlers, guitarists and pianists.

You can also stay at Glenora. We checked into a comfortable, motel-style suite, but there are also cabins with wonderful views of the Cape Breton countryside.

And then, there are the gardens. Glenora has a dedicated and creative gardener, and there are beautiful beds and plantings wherever you look, including along the stream, and beside the restaurant's lovely outdoor patio.

Glenora is open to visitors from the first of June to the end of October. Drop in for a dram or two.

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



The stills at Glenora come from Scotland.



Casks of well-aged whisky, in the gift shop at Glenora.



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**SOUTH-
WESTERN
ONTARIO
OUTDOORS**

JEFF HELSDON

Editor

As I reeled in the first walleye on Long Point Bay's elbow and looked around the boat, it amazed me how many things were coming together.

The lure responsible for catching the fish was a King Crusher lure in vibrant pinks known as the Sundowner pattern. I was fishing with Ty Earle, owner of King Crusher lures, his cousin Alec McLellan and Captain Allen Carroll of Jimmy Riggins' Fishing Charters, a member of the King Crusher pro team who tests the lures. On the distant horizon I could see the water tower of Port Dover, the home of the company.

With the current emphasis on buying Canadian, why not look at domestic fishing lures as the success on our recent fishing trip proved?

Canadian fishing lures are not a new thing. The Canadian Wiggler is an obvious example as the name is a giveaway. Now owned by Lucky Strike Bait Works, I, and many anglers, have caught many fish with this hollow brass lure over the years. Lucky Strike also manufactures a variety of spoons, spinners and other tackle. Many anglers may not know the popular Williams spoons are made by Brecks in Quebec. Len Thomson spoons are another that is made north of the 49th parallel, as are Gibbs from British Columbia. In addition, there are many smaller manufacturers scattered across Ontario.

King Crusher is the most recent addition to Canadian tackle manufacturers, starting last summer.

The 21-year-old entrepreneur has been fishing Lake Erie since he was young. He bought an air brush last year and started painting his own lures.

"I wanted to come up with the highest-quality lures with my favourite colour combinations," he said, in between fish as we worked on our four-person limit with Carroll.

With experience in business while he went to school in Nova Scotia for aviation, Earle decided to sell his lures.

"It got so big we sold over 500 last year," he said. "I needed to find a way into retail stores."

Searching for a solution, he found a company in the Philippines that had the rights to Nasty Boy spoon blanks. This former company was famous for its spoons with holes to create noise, but the blanks used for King Crusher have the shape of a Nasty Boy spoon, but no holes.

Earle has complete control over the manufacturing, dictating the colour combinations and finish. The lures have an automotive grade clear coat on them.

"That's the best way to ensure the lure lasts as long as possible," he said.

There is also a unique process used to put the tape on the lures that the competitors don't use.

"It's the clear coat process how we put the tape on the lure," Earle said. "We have a technique that allows the tape to stay on the lure."

Carroll pointed to a pile of lures on his dash from a competitor, and picking up one, showed how the tape comes loose with constant use. He said this doesn't occur nearly as fast with King Crusher Lures.

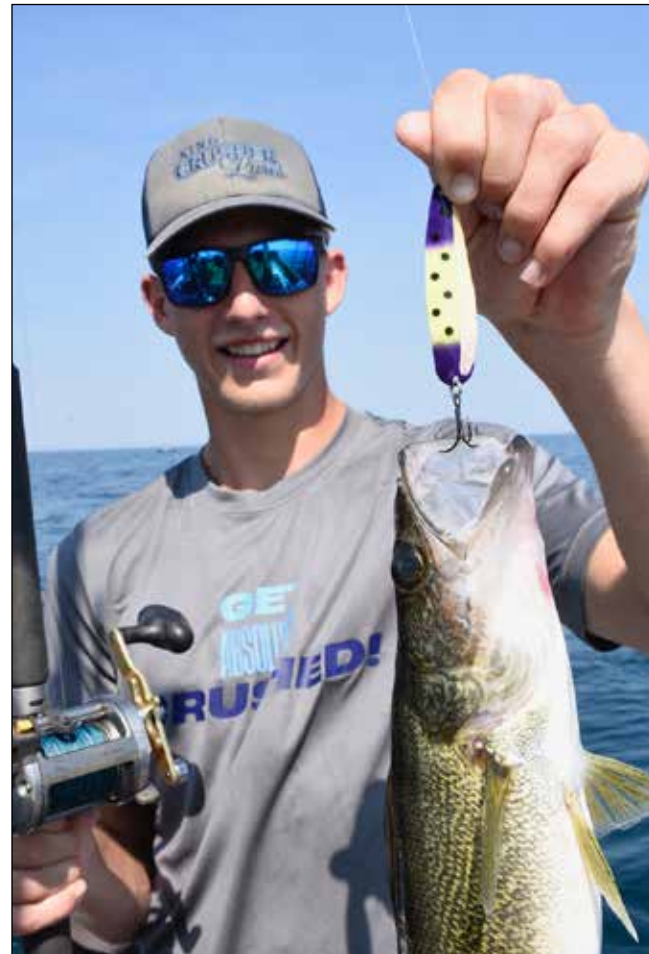
His father, Jimmy Carroll, who has operated R and R Outdoors the past 20 years, said he was impressed with the quality when Earle walked in the store last summer.

"I've never had a spoon with as good a quality paint as those ones," he said. "We've had some (King Crusher) spoons that have taken over 100 fish and never had a scratch. With some other spoons, we've had the paint peel after 15 or 20 fish."

Carroll said King Crusher is the best-selling spoon he has had. He mentioned the quality and the fact they are Canadian-made and have a good quality hook as selling points.

"Guys are coming in and buying one or two, and then they're coming back and buying 10 or 15," Jimmy said.

Amongst the 70 colours are standard Lake Erie colours like Greasy Chicken, Nascar, Pink Panties and Mixed Veggies. Earle said his takes on the standard colours have



(JEFF HELSDON PHOTO)

Purple Frog is a take on a standard Lake Erie colour spoon that Ty Earle modified for his King Crusher colour.

small improvements he has made. There are even glow-in-the-dark options in some colours.

But then there are his custom-designed colours. The Sundowner in its pastel pinks, which was the colour the walleye preferred most the day we were fishing, is one, and is amongst the hottest patterns of the year. Gin and tonic - a multi-colour spoon with green and orange - and tequila sunrise - a orange, green and yellow spoon - round out the list of the top three.

The King Crusher designs have unique names. Chernobyl shad, Area 51, Toxic Tadpole and Stelco were mentioned to illustrate the point.

"It's making funny names so people will associate it with my lures," Earle said.

The quality of the lures is gaining a solid reputation amongst anglers, with Earle selling out of most of his run of lures this year. The plan is for more next year.

King Crusher Lures are available at R and R Outdoors, Old Cut Marina, Angling Outfitters, Erie Tracker and Port Burwell Marina. The lures can also be ordered online at <https://www.kingcrushlures.ca>

Jeff Helsdon is an award-winning outdoor writer, a columnist for Ontario Out of Doors and writes for several other outdoor publications.

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DeCloet family gives generously to protect nature

JEFF HELSDON

Editor

A Tillsonburg man, and his family, are doing their part to preserve unique Carolinian forests in Norfolk County.

Tillsonburg resident Paul DeCloet, a retired farmer and philanthropist, previously donated the Paul DeCloet Forest to Norfolk County in 2021. That donation safeguarded a biodiverse area home to 26 tree species, including unique Carolinian varieties such as tulip trees and sassafras.

When Paul saw a 50-acre parcel across the road from the Paul DeCloet Forest for sale, he had the vision to enlarge the protected area.

"It adds to what we've already done. It's the perfect fit to enlarge it," he said.

Since he did not own that property, and Norfolk County isn't in the business of purchasing land, DeCloet approached the Long Point Basin Land Trust with his concept. He brought his brother Ben DeCloet on board, and funding from the two was combined with federal government funding through the Conserving Canada program to purchase the property. The DeCloet brothers provided \$400,000 of the purchase price.

"As a family with deep roots in Norfolk County, we take pride in knowing this forest will be protected and enjoyed forever," said Ben DeCloet. "Through this gift, we hope to encourage others to reflect on how they too can leave a lasting legacy for future generations."

Funding assistance also came from The Walter J. Blackburn Foundation, the James N. Allan Family Foundation and other donors.

Called the DeCloet Family Forest Legacy, the property is a diverse mix of wetland and forest, including habitats associated with cold-water streams vital to the region's ecology. LPBLT plans to undertake restoration efforts, such as removing invasive species and seeding open areas with native plants, to help the land evolve into a thriving successional forest.

"These lands build on a vital creek corridor that protects a rich variety of wildlife habitat and clean, cold water," said Wendy Cridland, Executive Director of LPBLT. "The DeCloet Family Forest Legacy not only expands our network of protected areas but also highlights the profound impact that individual and family contributions can have on protecting nature."

Paul elaborated further, explaining 42 acres of the property were wooded and the remainder was cleared. The field portion is being re-naturalized, with the goal to create an oak savannah. About 25 friends and members of the DeCloet family turned out to an event on May 17 to plant acorns in the field.

"It's perfect for what they want to do," Paul said of the property. "LPBLT has been a positive addition to the south



(CONTRIBUTED PHOTO)

Members of the DeCloet family took time out from a planting event to stand next to the recently-unveiled sign designating the DeCloet Family Forest Legacy, near Clear Creek in Norfolk County. Left to right are: Paul DeCloet; Wendy Cridland, executive director of the Long Point Basin Land Trust; Ben DeCloet; and Peter Carson, president of the land trust.

of Norfolk County in terms of protecting lands like this for the future."

In addition to planting acorns, a wide variety of native grasses, wildflowers and other tree seeds were planted on this property to create habitat for native species, including pollinators, from insects and birds to other species higher

on the food chain. Over time, the site will add to the forested corridor along Clear Creek, protect the soil and help to increase carbon storage.

With the addition of the DeCloet Family Forest Legacy, LPBLT now stewards a total of 1,201 acres within the Long Point basin, one of the most diverse ecosystems in Canada.

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August 23: Brownie Cameras

August 30: Back to School

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CANADIAN HARVARD AIRCRAFT ASSOCIATION OPEN HOUSE & FLY DAYS

August 16 (Rain Date: August 17)

Sept 13 – Wings & Wheels

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Tillsonburg Regional Airport

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JOIN THE TILLSONBURG LEGION AT OUR DECORATION DAY SERVICE

at the Tillsonburg Cemetery
on Sunday August 17th at 2:00 pm.

KEN LIGHTEART AND THE
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August 22nd from 1:00 pm - 4:00 pm.

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NEW DURHAM CEMETARY DECORATION DAY SERVICE

Sunday, September 7th, 2025, 2:00pm

Service of Remembrance by Lola Mather-Dyer. Music by the Norwich Musical Society Band.

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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! At Thames Valley Dance Club, we dance on Monday nights from 7:00-9:00pm. 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). We will be starting our 2025-2026 season on Monday, Sept 8/25 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. Hope to see you on Sept 8th at the Ingersoll Pipe Band Hall!

CELEBRATION OF ST. JOHN'S 125TH ANNIVERSARY

Sunday, September 14, 2025.

Please join us for our Sunday Morning
Service at 10:30 a.m.

St. John's Anglican Church,
46 Ridout Street West, Tillsonburg,
Ontario

Celebrated by The Bishop of Huron: The Right Rev'd. Robert Todd Townshend, Th.D.

There will also be soloists and other instrumentalists during the service. Followed by the dedication of our new church outdoor sign, blessed by the Bishop Todd. Followed by an authentic Ukrainian Lunch, a fundraiser for Alongside Hope's project in the Ukraine (Free will offering). This is an experience you won't want to

miss, with our Chef Rudy working his magic with food again.

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October 25, 2025

Church of the Epiphany, 560 Dundas
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Stop in and buy some stamps and meet fellow stamp collectors. About 8 participating stamp clubs. Contact: Don Eaton dhfe@silomail.com Website: http://www.rpsc.org/chapters/oxford

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Friday, December 5, 2025 – Free will
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TIME: 6:30PM-8:00PM

INGERSOLL

WHEN: 4th Tuesday of every month

WHERE: Ingersoll Public Library 130
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TIME: 10:30AM – 12:00Noon

WOODSTOCK

WHEN: 3rd Saturday of every month

WHERE: Sakura House Hospice 715180
Oxford Rd.4, Woodstock

TIME: 10:30AM-12:00Noon

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Duplicate Bridge Club at 1 p.m. at The Senior Centre. Don't have a partner? Come anyway and we will match you up with someone. For more information, visit their Facebook page: TburgBridge.

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.

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WEEKLY CRUISE NIGHTS

Hosted by the Tillsonburg Cruisers at the
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Everyone is welcome to come and enjoy
vehicles of all makes and years.

OXFORD PHILATELIC SOCIETY Meetings: 2nd Tuesday (2-4pm) and 4th Tuesday (7-9pm)

September to May

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

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heather@granthaven.com



OBITUARY

DREW HAINES 1962 - 2025



Andrew Clair "Drew" Haines, a beloved figure known for his kindness, friendliness, and exceptional handiness, passed away peacefully on June 19, 2025, in Grand Prairie, Alberta, at the age of 62. Born on July 12, 1962, in Windsor, Ontario, Drew was a man whose warm smile and generous spirit left a lasting impact on everyone he met.

Drew grew up in the small community of Delmer, Ontario, where he attended the local public school and later Glendale High School. During his teenage years, he was a familiar and helpful presence at the neighborhood IGA Grocery Store, where he stocked shelves and assisted customers with their groceries. At 18, Drew's adventurous spirit took him west to Alberta, where he quickly made a name for himself in the construction industry. Working alongside various tradesmen, Drew's natural talent shone through, and he soon became a highly skilled and respected figure in the field.

In time, Drew's entrepreneurial spirit led him to establish his own construction company, which specialized in the renovation of hospital rooms, medical centers, restaurants, and malls throughout Northern Alberta. His company's motto, "Cut a Cheque," was emblazoned on the hats proudly worn by his team, symbolizing Drew's straightforward and reliable approach to business.

Drew's life was marked by the deep bonds he shared with his family and friends. He was predeceased by his parents, Clair and Jeanie Haines (nee Currie), his cherished son Fox, and his nephew John Haines. He leaves behind a legacy of love and fond memories with his brothers Bob, Dan, and Rick, and his sisters Barb Oulette (the late Corky), Judy Salisbury (Bill), and Penny Warris (Scott). Drew's nieces and nephews—Rob, Jamie, Lance, Ashley, David, Tammie, Corey, Glen, Dale, Jane, Sally, and Willow—will forever cherish the moments spent with their caring uncle.

Drew's friendship was a gift, and he will be dearly missed by his close friends Tom Thomson, Hayward Williams, Dennis Prouse, Lauren Briere, Kathy Emerson and his brother Dan "Loui" Haines. Each of them shared in different chapters of Drew's life, and together they forged memories filled with laughter, camaraderie, and the shared joy of life's simplest pleasures.

Cremation has taken place, honoring Drew's wishes. His family plans to gather in Windsor, Ontario, for a Celebration of Life in early August, where they will inter his urn and pay tribute to a life well-lived. This gathering will not only be a time to mourn but also an opportunity to honor the remarkable man Drew was, recounting stories of his life and the many ways he touched the hearts of those around him.

Andrew "Drew" Haines was a man of substance, a pillar in his community, and a beacon of kindness to all who knew him. His legacy of warmth, generosity, and an unwavering work ethic will continue to inspire those who were fortunate enough to know him. Drew's journey through life was one of purpose, love, and unassuming service, and he will be profoundly missed but never forgotten.

OBITUARY

DONNA EVON SEGHERS JUNE 26, 1937 - JULY 30, 2025



The family of Donna Evon Seghers sadly announces her passing at the Tillsonburg District Memorial Hospital on Wednesday July 30, 2025 at 88 years old. Loving wife to Roger for 70 years. Caring mother to Kathy (Karl) Kisilak and Shelley Houze. Mother-in-law to Ron Blondeel. Grandmother to Marsha, Tonya, Johnathon, Crystal, Jade and Cody. Great grandmother to Kailah, Carter and Zander. Donna is also survived by her sister Norma

Poirer. She is predeceased by her parents Leon DeMeester and Ida (Pickersgill), daughter Linda Blondeel, grandson Jason Blondeel, sister Marie Burnham and brothers Leon and Tony DeMeester.

At Donna's expressed wishes, cremation has taken place. A Memorial visitation will be held at Ostrander's Funeral Home, 43 Bidwell Street, Tillsonburg, ON N4G 3T6 (519) 842-5221 on Friday August 8, 2025 from 10:00am until 11:00am. A Memorial Service will be held in the Funeral Home Chapel Friday August 8, 2025 at 11:00am. Interment will be held at Straffordville Cemetery following the Memorial Service. Donations in memory of Donna can be made to the Heart and Stroke Foundation or the Canadian Cancer Society and can be done online directly with each or via cheque payable to the charity by contacting Ostrander's Funeral Home. Condolences and memories can be made at www.ostrandersonline.com.

TREES

Hundreds of shade trees, fruit trees, apples, pears, peaches, plums, sweet and sour cherries, apricots, nectarines, blueberries, haskapp grapes, raspberries, elderberries etc. Lots of spruce, pine, cedars for windbreak and privacy hedges. Sizes 1-8 ft. in containers ready to go. Flowering shrubs and much more. Mon-Sat 7:00am to 6:00pm. Martin's Nursery, 42661 Orangehill Rd Wroxeter, ON N0G 2X0 (1 Conc. North of Wroxeter on Belmore Line)

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8	4	9	5	3	1	6	2	7
5	1	2	7	8	6	9	4	3
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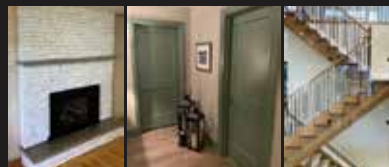
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Why Is the Funeral Ritual Important?

1. Acknowledging Death and the Reality of Loss:

Funerals provide a concrete way to recognize that a person has died, which is a crucial step in the grieving process.

They offer a public declaration of death, allowing the community to share in the grief and support one another.

This public acknowledgment helps to validate the experience of loss and begin the process of healing.

2. Rituals for Mourning and Remembrance:

Funerals provide a structured environment for expressing grief, both individually and collectively. They allow for the sharing of memories, stories, and experiences related to the deceased, helping to keep their memory alive.

Different cultures have developed unique rituals, such as viewings, processions, and memorial services, to honor the deceased and facilitate the grieving process.

3. Support for the Living:

Funerals bring people together, fostering a sense of community and providing social support for those who are mourning.

They offer an opportunity for friends, family, and community members to offer condolences and comfort to the bereaved.

The support system provided by the funeral can be crucial in helping individuals cope with the emotional challenges of loss.

4. Cultural and Religious Significance:

Funeral practices are deeply intertwined with cultural and religious beliefs about death, the afterlife, and the relationship between the living and the dead.

For example, ancient Egyptians believed in an afterlife and meticulously prepared their dead for it, while Greeks and Romans saw funerals as a way to ensure the deceased's peaceful transition.

Christian funerals emphasize the belief in resurrection and the promise of eternal life, while other religions may have different perspectives on the afterlife.

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