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SIMCOE ADVOCATE

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Northern Venture documentary debuts at The Strand

CHRIS ABBOTT

Editor

Daryl Granger launched his new documentary, Northern Venture, at The Strand Theatre in Simcoe on Monday, Oct. 26.

The premiere's well-attended audience watched 'A Voyage of a Great Lakes Freighter,' which has already earned accolades from 22 international film festivals – Granger was notified of the documentary's 22nd award (from Florida) while the premiere show was playing.

Granger's fourth full-length documentary will continue at The Strand Simcoe on select days in November, December and January. Tickets ($20) can be purchased at the door or in advance at the theatre, or online at simpli.events/u/strand-theatre-simcoe (online tickets close 24 hours before a show).

"That sound you hear, that's her, that's the Northern Venture," said Granger introducing the documentary with a deep rumble in the background, although the background noise did not distract from Granger's voice-overs during his deep dive into life on a Great Lakes freighter and 'the shipping world.'

"That sound… you hear all the time. It's an amazing experience that Scott Bravener (President, McKeil Marine) let me have."

Granger's journey in August 2025 started in Parry Sound, Ont. with very little knowledge of what he

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(J.P. ANTONACCI PHOTO)

Norfolk County mayor-elect Adam Veri, centre, poses with fellow re-elected council members Alan Duthie, left, and Linda Vandendriessche during an election watch party in Simcoe.

Adam Veri is Norfolk's new mayor

J.P. ANTONACCI

Local Journalism Initiative Reporter

Adam Veri trusted that voters in Norfolk County could handle the truth.

The Port Dover councillor was elected the rural municipality's next mayor on Monday, Oct. 26, taking 5,884 votes - nearly 30 per cent - in a seven-candidate race where no rival cleared 20 per cent.

He did not shy away from Norfolk's financial challenges on the campaign trail.

But instead of pledging, as some of his mayoral opponents did, to keep future tax increases at or below inflation without cutting services, Veri touted the county's ongoing multi-year effort to replenish depleted reserve funds needed to repair and replace critical infrastructure.

That approach has meant steep property tax increases as Norfolk reckons with a legacy of past councils raiding the reserves to artificially lower taxes.

"This term of council, all nine of us,

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Norfolk's new mayor told voters hard truths

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

have worked hard to say, 'Look, this is what we're doing. This is what we're up against,'" Veri said on election night.

"I'm encouraged that people are saying, yes, you guys are on the right track. Keep going."

Veri has promised a comprehensive review of municipal services to determine which are valued by residents and which can be cut to save money.

Norfolk's financial plight is embodied by water rates that are among the highest in Ontario due to the cost of maintaining five separate water treatment systems in the sparsely populated but geographically large county.

"(Residents) don't want the big promises. They don't want to be pandered to or told what they want to hear," Veri said.

"My whole thing has been to tell people the truth. The community understands that there are challenges and they want us to deal with them. And to me, that's the bigger win."

Mayor Amy Martin's decision not to seek a second term opened the field for a new leader for Norfolk and eight people put their names forward (one withdrew).

Veri and Simcoe councillor Doug Brunton vied for the top job against former Grimsby councillor David Finch, former Port Rowan councillor Noel Haydt, former Haldimand mayor Ken Hewitt, and retired RCMP officer Keith Milner.

Ken Gilpin was on the ballot but did not publicly campaign.

Voters cast their ballots knowing they would choose Norfolk's fourth new mayor in as many elections, after Charlie Luke, Kristal Chopp and Martin each spent only one term in office.

Veri followed Martin's political trajectory by serving one term on council representing Port Dover before being elected mayor.

"I am sincerely grateful that people have the confidence and the trust in me," Veri said.

The mayor-elect said he was "relieved" the campaign had ended, adding that while he enjoyed chatting with residents about their priorities, the self-promotional side of campaigning is not his favourite part of politics.

"I'm just glad it's over and I can go work," Veri said.

In 2022, Martin won handily with 42.3 per cent of the vote, garnering 8,199 votes out of 19,401 total ballots.

This year, with no clear front-runner heading into election day, the vote split widely. No other mayoral candidate cleared 20 per cent.

There were 20,162 total ballots cast compared to 19,401 during the 2022 election.

For the first time, Norfolk offered advance online voting as an option for residents.

WARD 4

The biggest suspense on election night came in Ward 4, where incumbent Chris Van Paassen finished tied with challenger Jemi Lambert.

Each candidate received 858 votes, with Drew Hemsley taking 410.

A recount will take place in the coming days, said CAO Al Meneses, and if the results are confirmed, the clerk must determine how best to break the tie.

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

Norfolk County Clerk declares election results

On Oct. 28, Norfolk County Clerk William Tigert declared the 2026 Municipal Council and School Board Election results official, pending a recount in Ward 4.

Adam Veri was elected as Mayor, receiving 5,884 votes.

A total of 20,162 ballots were cast on Oct. 26, with 8,286 of those occurring during online advanced voting (Oct. 9-23). This is equivalent to 33.01 per cent of the 61,085 eligible electors in Norfolk County.

The race for Ward 4 Councillor resulted in a tie. As a result, a recount will be conducted in accordance with the Municipal Elections Act, 1996. The recount is required to be completed within 15 days after the Clerk's declaration of the results of the election. Further information regarding the recount process and procedures will be provided as it becomes available.

RESULTS

Ward Councillors with the most votes declared elected:

- Ward 1 Councillor - Tom Masschaele
- Ward 2 Councillor - Linda Vandendriessche
- Ward 3 Councillor - Hetty Verlinden
- Ward 4 Councillor **(Tie – Recount Required)**
- Ward 5 Councillor - Alan Duthie
- Ward 5 Councillor - Ryan Boyko
- Ward 6 Councillor - Zvonko Horvat
- Ward 7 Councillor - Kim Huffman

- **Trustees, English Public**
- Wards 1, 2, 4, 5, 6 - Elizabeth Whiton and Eva Dixon
- Wards 3 & 7 - Rita Collver and Lorraine DeJong

Trustee, English Separate

- Carol Luciani and Dennis Blake (Acclaimed)

Trustee, French Public

- David Andre Paradis (Acclaimed)

- **Trustee, French Separate**
- Dorothée Petit-Pas (Acclaimed)

Norfolk County Council will officially be sworn in during the Inaugural Meeting at Council Chambers on Nov. 17, 2026, at 6 p.m.

The full list of election results can be found at www.norfolkcounty.ca/vote/2026-municipal-election-results/



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Jeni Lambert, on the left, and Chris Van Paassen each received 858 votes in Norfolk's Ward 4, resulting in a tie. An official recount will be conducted on Thursday, Nov. 5. (FILE PHOTO)

Norfolk to conduct recount for Ward 4

Following the official declaration of the 2026 Municipal Election results, William Tigert, Norfolk County Clerk, is conducting a recount for the office of Ward 4 Councillor after the Oct. 26 election resulted in a tie.

A recount is required in the event of a tie where both candidates cannot be declared elected, in accordance with the Municipal Elections Act, 1996. The Act addresses recounts arising from tied votes under Section 56. The purpose of the recount is to verify the original election results and ensure that the votes have been accurately counted in accordance with the legislated election procedures.

The recount will take place on Thursday, Nov. 5, 2026. Under section 60(1) of the Municipal Election Act, the recount will be conducted in the same manner as the original count, with all marked ballots processed through vote tabulators and results tapes produced from the tabulators.

The recount will include the votes cast for the Ward 4 Councillor race during Advance Voting and Election Day, as well as online votes. The County's operating procedure states that the online votes will also be recounted using the same procedure conducted with the service provider for Election Day.

In accordance with the Municipal Elections Act, 1996 and its regulations, notice of the recount will be provided to the certified candidates whose election is subject to the recount. Section 61(1) of the Municipal Elections Act also permits candidates to appoint scrutineers and legal counsel to represent them during the recount, in accordance with the applicable legislative requirements and the Clerk's established recount procedures.

Should the recount result in the candidates remaining tied, Section 62(3) of the Municipal Elections Act, 1996 (established by the Province of Ontario), requires the Clerk to choose the successful candidate by lot. Norfolk County's current operating procedure provides that, if required, the lot will be conducted with candidates present on the night of Thursday, Nov. 5, 2026.

In practical terms, this involves placing the names of the tied candidates into an appropriate container and drawing one name to determine the successful candidate. The process is intended to provide an impartial and random method of resolving a tie where the voting process itself has not produced a difference in the number of votes received.

The Clerk does not establish the rules governing tied votes and does not have the authority to change those rules based on the circumstances or the concerns expressed by electors.

The Clerk cannot declare the position vacant or require another election. The election outcome - under mandated law - is determined by lot in the event of an official tie. There are at least three other situations in the 2026 Ontario Municipal elections where tied votes are going to be administered in the same fashion.

Further information and the results of the recount will be communicated by Norfolk County following completion of the process.

For information on the Municipal Elections Act, 1996, see www.ontario.ca/laws/statute/96m32



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EDITORIAL

Fall Economic Statement 'falls short'

Haldimand-Norfolk

MPP

Bobbi Ann Brady



After much conversing at fall fairs across Haldimand-Norfolk, one message was constant: people are having difficulty making ends meet.

So, when Finance Minister Peter Bethlenfalvy recently delivered the Fall Economic Statement (FES), I was hoping it would help alleviate financial pressures facing ordinary Ontarians. Unfortunately, I was disappointed.

I am a fiscal conservative. I believe hardworking Ontarians deserve more of the money they earn. Meaningful tax relief would not only put money back into the pockets of families, it would also give our economy a well-needed boost. Ontario's economic growth is lagging, our policies must encourage spending, investing, and building confidence.

The government was quick to promote the $12.5 billion it is providing in support for families and individuals. But let's take a closer look. That headline grabber bundles a broad range of measures, including previously announced programs and ongoing supports. The gasoline tax reduction, for example, has been in place since 2022. I call this what it is - re-announcements. Ontarians don't need another impressive-sounding number. They need meaningful, new relief in their monthly budgets.

Abundant attention was given to business and industry. The FES highlighted nearly $30 billion in tariff-related relief and supports, an additional $8 billion in provincial tax relief for business investment, and expanded HST relief for eligible purchasers of new homes worth up to $1 million.

Helping Ontario businesses and industries navigate economic uncertainty is vital. We need strong businesses, a competitive manufacturing sector, and good-paying jobs. But government cannot forget about the people who get up every morning, go to work in those businesses and industries, pay their taxes, and try to provide for their families. Supporting business and workers should never be mutually exclusive.

The province's financial picture causes concern. The deficit for 2026-27 is now projected at $16.9 billion, up from the $13.8 billion forecast in the spring budget. That's another $3.1 billion in deterioration. The government claims a return to balance in 2029-30, but that is a lofty goal, and taxpayers deserve to know how we'll get there.

The Finance Minister suggested that deficits simply "reflect the world we are in." Frankly, that wasn't particularly comforting. The FES did little to explain how Ontario got here beyond pointing to Donald Trump. Let's be honest, many of our problems were entrenched long before tariffs entered the conversation.

The Minister spoke about having a plan. I'm still trying to understand what that plan is.

Since my first election in 2022, this government has tinkered around the edges, reacted to problems rather than getting ahead of them. We see announcements, re-announcements, and new pots of money, but far too often there is little explanation of what success is supposed to look like or how it will be measured.

And this is perhaps my greatest concern: money flows out lacking proper attention as to whether it is producing positive outcomes.

Throwing more money at a problem does not automatically solve it. If a system is broken, we need to ask why, identify what needs to change, and measure whether those changes are working.

I will reiterate these concerns as a member of the Standing Committee on Finance and Economic Affairs. We will soon announce dates for public consultations before the spring budget. I intend to use that opportunity to push for a government that listens beyond the boardrooms and corridors of Queen's Park.

I want to hear from the small business owner, the farmer, the factory worker, the young family trying to buy a home, the senior on a fixed income, and the person working two jobs just to keep their head above water… the people who keep Ontario moving.

A budget is about choices. I believe it's time this government started making choices that put the people of Ontario first.

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Simcoe BIA – Treats in the Streets

(CHRIS ABBOTT PHOTOS)

On Saturday, Oct. 24, the Downtown Simcoe Business Improvement Area (BIA) hosted its annual Treats in the Streets, from 11 a.m. to 2 p.m. Families enjoyed time in downtown Simcoe collecting candy from participating businesses, and having some Halloween fun.



Dina Searle, Kierstynn Schofield and Travis Schofield were handing out candy at Bargain Boutique Thrift Shop on Peel Street during Simcoe BIA's Treats in the Streets.



Della Pollmann, Kinley Pollmann and Alexia Valverde enjoyed the Oct. 24th Simcoe BIA Treats in the Streets.



Brayden Roberts and Dylan Powell's bright orange Halloween costumes stood out in a crowd of Treats in the Streets participants at Kingfisher Café on Norfolk Street.



The Simcoe U13-1 house league hockey team and families, sponsored by The Menz Den, participated in the 2026 Simcoe BIA Treats in the Streets.



Tiana Moe, chair of the Downtown Simcoe BIA, with Treats in the Streets participants Adley, Amy and Mckinley Arsenault at Athletica on Norfolk Street.



Hazel Brisseau and Shannon Wynne dressed up for the Simcoe BIA Treats in the Streets on Oct. 24.



(CHRIS ABBOTT PHOTO)

Cassy and Mckenna LaCoste dressed up as a lioness and cub for the Simcoe BIA Treats in the Streets.



The Grinch, Tasha Smith (deer), and Nikki C. (piglet) handed out Treats in the Streets goodies at HNT Taxi on Peel Street.



Benjamin Rasooli hands out treats at Simcoe Tailoring and Alterations on Norfolk Street.



Pamela and Torie Fitkin joined the Simcoe BIA Treats in the Streets fun, which included 66 participating businesses.

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From left, Amanda Arsenault, Morgan Arsenault, Aubrey Castles and Patricia Castles stopped at Core Clarity Psychotherapy on Norfolk Street during the Simcoe BIA Treats in the Streets on Oct. 24.

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Monitoring Nanticoke's air quality

J.P. ANTONACCI

Local Journalism Initiative Reporter

For decades, people living in the village of Nanticoke in Haldimand County shared the air with one of North America's biggest industrial polluters.

And while Ontario Power Generation's coal-fired power plant stopped belching emissions in 2013, the village east of Port Dover still sits near Stelco's Lake Erie steelworks and an Imperial Oil fuel refinery.

So with heavy industry on Nanticoke's doorstep, how's the air quality?

"The air is very clean throughout Nanticoke," said Denis Corr of Rotek Environmental Inc., a Hamilton-based company that collects air-quality data from three monitoring stations located downwind of the industrial sites.

"There may be specific times and specific instances where you can smell different things," Corr told The Spectator. "But overall, the air quality is actually very good here."

Stelco, Imperial Oil and OPG each pays for a monitoring station calibrated to detect pollutants produced when making steel and refining oil.

The three companies make up the Nanticoke Environmental Committee, which held its annual open house in the village last month to present the 2025 air quality data.

Kaela Buck, a compliance supervisor with the Ministry of the Environment's Hamilton district office, said Nanticoke's 2025 data "is in line with previous years."

In operation since the late 1970s, Nanticoke's "ambient air monitoring network" provides "very focused monitoring" on the pollutants expected from the respective industries, Corr explained.

For example, the Stelco-funded station continuously measures levels of sulphur dioxide and total reduced sulphur - "the stinky stuff," Corr says - along with periodic measuring of volatile organic compounds and polycyclic aromatic hydrocarbons.

All levels are "well below" provincial minimum standards and have been for years, which is a point of pride for Stelco, said Trevor Harris, vice-president of communications.

All industries in Ontario are legally required to monitor source emissions to gauge the effect of industrial development on air quality and the environment.

Stations must be set up in locations projected to capture the highest levels of pollutants. Levels are measured across varying time frames, as the risk to human health changes based on whether a compound is airborne for a few minutes or days at a time.

Finding black soot - caused by oily carbons in the air - on vehicles and homes is obvious evidence of air pollution, but the province also monitors for microscopic pollutants that can have even more deleterious health effects.

"You're talking about parts per million or parts per billion in a cubic metre of air. Phenomenally tiny quantities of material," Corr said. "But the standards still need to be measured."

There are some limits to the data, namely that the annual air-quality report only includes information on pollution that can be conclusively linked to the companies involved.

"Fully 50 per cent of all the air pollution in Ontario, including here, is coming from the U.S.," Corr said.

"We're downwind of the entire Ohio Valley, with all of their power-generating stations and so on."

Buck said pinpointing the source of air pollution in Nanticoke is not as challenging as in Hamilton, where multiple industrial sites in the same geographic area emit the same chemical compounds.

Corr says residents often ask if the air-quality data can be trusted since the companies themselves pay for the monitoring.

He said the province has extensive regulations dictating what monitoring instruments can be used, how and where the stations can be set up, and how the data is analyzed.

The environment ministry inspected the monitoring equipment 36 times between the three stations in Nanticoke last year,



(J.P. ANTONACCI PHOTO)

Members of the Nanticoke Environmental Committee met with residents to present the 2025 air quality data at the Haldimand village's community centre. The committee is made up of Stelco, Imperial Oil and Ontario Power Generation.

and the ministry "frequently audits" data submitted daily by each company, Buck added.

Ministry experts specialize in inspecting steel plants like Stelco's Lake Erie Works, even going so far as to walk on top of the coke batteries and check for leaks, she said.

Buck said the three companies in Nanticoke are "quick to respond" to any issues flagged by the inspectors. But the province can also compel companies to make changes to reduce emissions and take action if those orders are ignored.

"We have one thing at the forefront, and that's the protection of the environment," Buck said.

From time to time, Nanticoke residents must contend with windblown particulate coating their properties. But Buck said her office only gets a "handful" of calls about industrial "fallout" in a given year.

"Residents tend to follow up with the companies directly and leave us out completely," she said.

Harris said Stelco responds to residents "when they reach out" and arranges to have their properties cleaned of dust that has drifted over from the steelmaker's coal piles.

"There's a mutual understanding that when there's an issue in the community, we come out and deal with it."

Teresa Cassar, plant manager at Imperial Oil's Nanticoke refinery, said the company's operations rarely affect residents.

"We don't get many complaints from the community, generally."

The refinery turns crude oil shipped via pipeline from Western Canada into gasoline, diesel, jet fuel and asphalt.

The monitoring station downwind of the refinery tests for sulphur dioxide, total reduced sulphur, oxides of nitrogen.

Cassar said Imperial Oil is "actively investing in reducing our emissions at the site," both to stay ahead of changing environmental regulations and "be good neighbours and most responsible operators in the communities we live in."

When Nanticoke residents call the province with complaints about black soot and other pollution, Buck's team analyzes samples of the particulate and looks at wind and weather data to determine its source.

If they can trace the particulate back to a specific company, the ministry can investigate and advise the company on how to improve operations or, if necessary, issue a notice of violation and force compliance.

But Buck said that more aggressive step is rarely called for.

With OPG's sprawling Nanticoke site sitting empty save for a solar farm, the OPG-funded monitoring station on Highway 3 mainly picks up vehicle exhaust.

But that station could get busier in the coming decades, as the province is considering Nanticoke for a new power station, whether nuclear or gas-powered.

And the sleepy village would change dramatically if developer Empire Communities were granted permission to build 10,000 homes inside the Nanticoke Industrial Park.

That proposal - which would also bring light industry to the area while adding thousands of new residents over a 50-year time frame - awaits a decision from the provincial housing minister on whether it can proceed to the planning stage with Haldimand council.

Buck said more housing in Nanticoke would likely mean more calls to the ministry about industrial pollution.

"The closer folks get and the more concentrated residents get in this area, I think the more complaints that we'll see."

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



Northern Venture documentary opens at The Strand

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would experience. He had seen pictures of the ship… but that was it.

"I went in cold. That's the best way to do a documentary – to experience it and to learn as you are experiencing. I had no idea how they drive these things. I call them 'drive,'" he said, prompting some laughter in the audience, and a helpful suggestion ('navigate').

"We see them going down the lakes and the rivers and we're all fascinated how these massive machines just work. One of my biggest concerns, when I saw her, was 'How am I going to get on this thing?' Because there is no dock. I actually went on at the same time as First Mate Carter – and First Mate Carter is here tonight. He is now a captain on the Northern Venture. We also have a few deckhands here… and they are characters you will see in the film.

"I just can't tell you enough how much preparation and how much thought go into every manoeuvre they make. They have to be so on top of things… I got a real appreciation of the hard work that these men and women do. And how far away they are from their families. Four to five weeks, on and off. At least now they have telecommunications, but I couldn't imagine it 30 years ago where you are so isolated from everything.

"Just know, these men and women do appreciate the support. When we went into ports, I saw the enthusiasm.



(CHRIS ABBOTT PHOTO)

Crew and representatives from McKeil Marine were on hand for Northern Venture's documentary debut in Simcoe on Oct. 26.

Those sailors appreciate that because it tells them, 'Hey, we recognize what you do. You have this really cool job to drive this big ship…'"

The isolation, particularly on Lake Superior, after Northern Venture travelled to Thunder Bay for a load of potash that would be transported to Hamilton, was something he was in awe of.

"Despite being in Canada, it feels like I am a million miles away from everything."

***

"It's quite amazing to actually see the internal workings, how everything works. It's amazing just how much cargo… everything about it is amazing," said Granger, who explored the ship from top to bottom, front to back, from the ship's kitchen to the captain's deck to the engine room and loading/unloading bays. Everything you would expect on a freighter – and so much more.

After explaining some nautical terms, Granger's documentary started at Northern Venture's beginning (it was originally a Chinese ocean freighter), its purchase by McKeil Marine, its rebuild and renaming, then coming to North America in 2023.

Granger also filmed and interviewed many of the crew, who shared their first-hand knowledge and experiences.

"I'm excited, I'm nervous, I don't know what to expect, but I am just pumped," he said on his first day, August 14th, 2025. "This doesn't come very often, so when you get an opportunity like this, you take it. So this is me taking it."

Sunrises and sunsets were spectacular, and if you are familiar with the Great Lakes, you will recognize many landmarks and features such as locks, canals and bridges.

When his journey ended, Granger admitted he felt a tinge of sadness as he said farewell to the crew and ship.

"Once back home, I did still feel the fluid motion of the ship. And I still thought I had the shakes. And I could still hear and feel the rumble of Northern Venture."

chris@granthaven.com

Northern Venture at The Strand Theatre:
Nov. 9, 12, 14, 22, 30
Dec. 10, 12
Jan. 4, 9, 14, 25, 28, 30



The sunrises and sunsets are spectacular in the Great Lakes freighter documentary Northern Venture.



A night scene near Detroit River's Ambassador Bridge.

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Norfolk joins Great Lakes cities coalition

J.P. ANTONACCI

Local Journalism Initiative Reporter

Two rural municipalities situated on Lake Erie's northern shore have joined an international coalition to protect the Great Lakes.

Norfolk and Haldimand counties have signed onto the Great Lakes and St. Lawrence Cities Initiative, joining more than 425 municipal governments and Indigenous communities on both sides of the border.

The two counties collectively account for nearly 40 per cent of Lake Erie's northern coastline.

The cities initiative aims to "advance economic prosperity across the Great Lakes and St. Lawrence River region while protecting the globally significant freshwater resources that sustain our quality of life," the group's website says.

Chair Mat Siscoe, the mayor of St. Catharines, said the vision is an "economic corridor" from Lake Superior to the Gulf of St. Lawrence, with a push to boost freshwater trade by 30 per cent and create jobs by attracting new "water-centred industries."

Between them, the Great Lakes and the St. Lawrence region hold nearly 20 per cent of the global freshwater supply and provide drinking water for some 40 million people, according to the International Joint Commission, a binational group guided by the Boundary Waters Treaty between Canada and the United States.

The cities initiative seeks to bring safe and affordable water to all residents who depend on the Great Lakes and St. Lawrence watershed by modernizing aging infrastructure while making communities in the region more resilient to the effects of climate change.

Haldimand joined the coalition last month after Norfolk signed on in July.

"As a community with nearly 100 kilometres of Lake Erie waterfront, we recognize both the environmental and economic importance of the Great Lakes," Haldimand Mayor Shelley Ann Bentley said in a statement.

Collaborating with municipal leaders will help Haldimand "advocate for sustainable policies that protect our water resources for future generations," Bentley added.

Norfolk Mayor Amy Martin said the waterfront municipality "understands the importance of sustainable water management and environmental stewardship" and the need to "protect our waterways while supporting community resilience."

Environmental groups have raised concerns about the health of Lake Erie, pointing to toxic algal blooms formed by pollution and excess nutrients ending up in the lake due to agricultural runoff and urban development. Hamilton hosted the cities initiative's annual conference in May, where officials touted efforts to modernize local wastewater infrastructure and revitalize the waterfront, including the decades-long cleanup of Hamilton Harbour.

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

Standing up for our steel workers, communities

Haldimand-Norfolk

MP

Leslyn Lewis



I am deeply concerned about what Stelco's planned job cuts will mean for workers and families in our community. When someone's job is at risk, so is their ability to pay the mortgage, buy groceries and plan for the future. That uncertainty affects the whole family.

Stelco's plans could affect up to 500 workers across its Hamilton and Nanticoke operations. The company plans to idle finishing operations in Hamilton and move more production to Lake Erie Works. Reports indicate that up to 80 jobs could be affected at Nanticoke alone. We need to know how many workers at each plant will be affected, whether Hamilton employees will be offered jobs in Nanticoke, and what that means for the people already working there.

Lake Erie Works has been part of our community since 1980. For 46 years, it has provided skilled, good-paying jobs and supported local businesses. Generations of workers have helped build Haldimand-Norfolk through their work at the plant.

That is why I wrote to Industry Minister Mélanie Joly. I asked what job protections the federal government secured when Cleveland-Cliffs bought Stelco, whether the company is meeting those promises, and what the government will do if it is not.

I also asked whether federal money, tax breaks or other incentives supported the purchase or the company's operations afterward. If public support was provided, Canadians deserve to know what conditions came with it and whether those conditions are being enforced.

We are still pushing for a response to these questions.

The government says Cleveland-Cliffs made binding employment commitments when it acquired Stelco two years ago. As of Oct. 26, Minister Joly has now given the company another 15 days before proceeding with legal action. That deadline must lead to action if the company fails to meet its obligations. A promise offers little protection unless the government is prepared to enforce it.

The problems extend beyond Stelco. Job losses at Algoma Steel and ArcelorMittal have also hurt Ontario families. Each lost job means less money coming into a household and less spending at local businesses.

Canadian steelworkers can compete with anyone in the world, but they should not have to compete against their own government. American tariffs and unfairly priced foreign steel are putting pressure on Canadian producers. Canada must respond while making it easier to produce steel and build projects here at home. Taxes, long approval processes and unnecessary red tape add costs at a time when our industry is already under strain.

Conservatives have proposed a steel plan to enforce Stelco's job commitments, stop unfair Chinese steel imports from undercutting Canadian workers, eliminate the industrial carbon tax, speed up approvals for liquefied natural gas projects that use Canadian steel, and get back to the negotiating table with the United States.

Protecting steel jobs requires both immediate action and a plan for the future. We must hold companies to their commitments, challenge unfair trade practices and create more opportunities to use Canadian steel.

I will continue pressing the Minister for a response to my letter and for action to protect workers at Lake Erie Works. Our community has helped build Canada's steel industry for decades. I will keep fighting for its future.

Girard appointed as Executive Director of Simcoe & District Chamber of Commerce

Renee VanKooten, President of the Simcoe & District Chamber of Commerce, announced on Monday, Nov. 2 that Lisa Girard has been appointed as the Executive Director to the Chamber.

"I am delighted to welcome Lisa (Girard) to the Chamber in this important leadership role," said VanKooten in a media release. "Lisa brings valuable experience in community engagement, programming and business development, along with a strong understanding of the people and organizations that make Norfolk County such a vibrant place to live, work and do business.

"Her previous work with Norfolk County Recreation, where she helped deliver programs and initiatives that brought residents of all ages together, and her more recent involvement with the Norfolk County Agricultural Society in business growth and community development, have provided her with a strong foundation in building relationships, creating opportunities and bringing people together."

The Executive Director at the Chamber plays a vital role in representing the local business community, supporting members, building strong partnerships, and advancing opportunities for economic growth throughout Norfolk County.

"We are confident Lisa's experience, community connections and enthusiasm will be tremendous assets as the Chamber moves forward," said VanKooten.

In accepting the role, Girard noted, "I am excited and honoured to be stepping into the role of Executive Director. I look forward to continuing to build relationships, support our amazing local businesses, and work together to see our business community strive."

Girard begins her role on Dec. 1.

***

The Simcoe & District Chamber of Commerce was formed in 1888. It strives to be the recognized voice of business committed to the enhancement of economic prosperity in Simcoe and surrounding districts.



(SUBMITTED PHOTO)

Lisa Girard has been appointed as the Executive Director to the Chamber.

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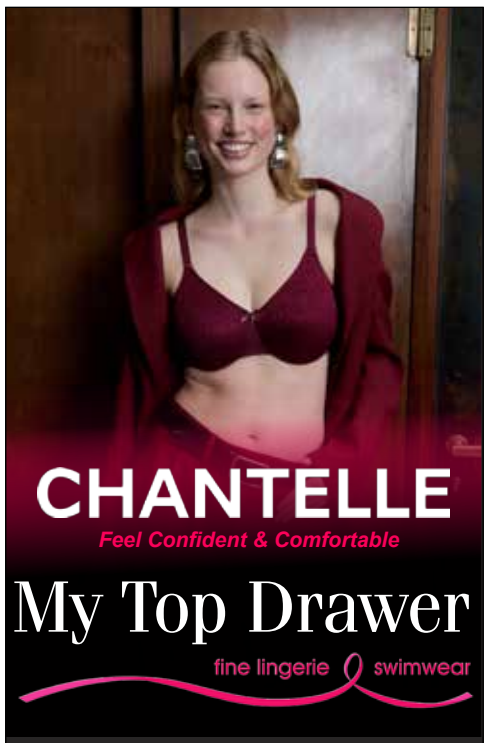
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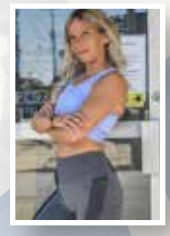
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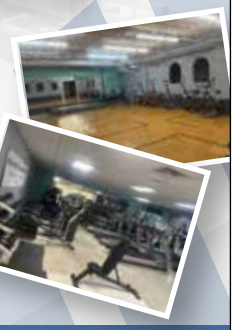
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With This Ring to be performed at Lynnwood, Nov. 12-15

Lynnwood Arts Centre will come to life in November with a theatrical production that tells the story of a wedding taking place against the backdrop of the Boer War and a missing best man.

Visitors will be taken from room to room in the historic downtown Simcoe mansion to watch 45 actors, including children, play out a touching story. The show, an immersive theatrical experience, includes an adult and children's choirs.

It marks the third time Lynnwood has done a play inside the National Historic Site it calls home, each time loosely basing the story on the lives of the people who actually lived in the building.

"The first two shows were a hit," says Jan Rainey, who works at Lynnwood and is the play's director. "We know our audiences will enjoy this one too."

In this play, titled With This Ring, Duncan Frederick Campbell, the grandson of the man who built the Lynnwood house in 1865, is about to get married. His best man – his cousin David – is nowhere to be found and nothing has been heard from him since he was deployed to the Boer War in South Africa.

"This play takes us back to 1902," says Rainey, who wrote the script with local resident Melissa Collver. "Back then, the wedding would have been the social event of the season."

Running time is about 90 minutes. Tickets are $40 and must be purchased ahead of time. You can get them by going to www.lynnwoodarts.ca. The show runs Nov. 12, 13, 14, and 15. Start times are 6:30 p.m., 7 p.m., and 7:30 p.m. on all four show dates. Accessible seating is provided at the 7:30 seatings. With This Ring runs at 21 Lynnwood Ave., Simcoe.

Lynnwood Arts is a charitable arts organization that started in the mid-1970s. It is scheduled to move from 21 Lynnwood Ave. to the former Eva Brook Donly Museum building, now the Norfolk County Archives, on Norfolk Street North in Simcoe, in early 2027. Lynnwood's current home is one of the oldest houses in Simcoe and was built by Duncan Campbell, the town's first postmaster.

"This show will be a great way for us to end our time at this grand building and pay tribute to the Campbell family," notes Rainey.

Norfolk Sunrise Coats for Kids distributes 800 coats

CHRIS ABBOTT

Editor

The Rotary Club of Norfolk Sunrise – and many generous community donors - helped share some warmth on Oct. 24th with their annual Coats for Kids campaign.

"About 800 coats this year, which is about the same as last year," said Sunrise Rotarian Jim Simpson, co-organizer of this year's Coats for Kids at First Baptist Church in Simcoe. "And we had probably around 200-250 pieces of knitted stuff, like toques and blankets for kids. More of that this year. There's a group of knitters in Langton and they provided a huge amount of support.

"I am delighted," said Norfolk Sunrise Rotarian co-organizer Cathy Harrop. "We had a great turnout – people were here from 7:30 in the morning… and one person made the comment that this was going to help them get through the winter – they had four kids.

"It's a big rush, and amazingly most of it is done 35 minutes after we start."

Simpson said Peerless Cleaners – Russ and Elisa Wilson, and their son Jacob - were once again tremendous supporters.

"All of these coats were cleaned by Peerless Cleaners!" said Simpson.

Coats were distributed free of charge on Oct. 24.

"It's open to the community, anybody who needs something to keep them warm over the winter. We encourage people to come out and select for themselves, select for their children, and if there are people they know who can benefit from being a little bit warmer… select something for them, too."

Local schools were also great supporters, said Simpson.

"We go through a collection phase, where we collect the coats. This year we included 15 different schools. We put collection boxes in the schools and coordinated with church offices and principals. I am thinking about half of the coats came from that source."

Simpson said the Rotary Club reached out to Youth Unlimited and Church Out Serving to connect with more people. They also coordinated with the local Women's Shelter and Norfolk Community Help Centre.

After many of the coats had been picked up, remaining coats were divided into bundles for various local groups, including Church Out Serving.

"Mostly the program is designed for people to come in off the street, let them help themselves. It gives us a chance to meet people, and gives them a chance to see something good going on in the community. They frequently bring their children."



(CHRIS ABBOTT PHOTO)

The Rotary Club of Norfolk Sunrise Coats for Kids campaign wrapped up on Oct. 24 at First Baptist Church in Simcoe. More than 800 coats were available this year.

The 9-10:30 morning event started early with about 60 people waiting outside the church hall.

"After that we lose track of how many people," Simpson smiled.

"The lap blankets were gone very quick, which was a surprise to us."

The Rotary Club of Norfolk Sunrise has been running the Coats for Kids program for more than 25 years.

"Next year we're thinking of making it a two-day event."

The final prep group, greeters and helpers included Pam Shantz, Keith Jones, Wolf Lindmann, Jim Dawson, John Wallace, Linda Muir, Marjorie Dawson, Mary Mercato, Nancy Sherwin, Gail Bouw, Harrop and Simpson.

Weekend Quiz

By Jake Grant

1. What are the two birthstones for November?
2. What is the more common name for the Fibonacci sequence?
3. What is the color of liquid oxygen?
4. What is the largest power plant in Canada?
5. In what year did Korea split?
6. What is a popular 1990's slang for very short cutoff jeans?
7. What is a full moon in November called?
8. What kind of stone is the Taj Mahal made of?
9. What are the small bones that make up a backbone called?
10. What continent is Andorra in?

This week's answers are found on pg. 27



Port Dover-born rocker getting his due in his hometown

J.P. ANTONACCI

Local Journalism Initiative Reporter

Spin the radio dial and you'll likely hear the voice of Rory Dodd.

The Port Dover-born singer was Bonnie Tyler's duet partner in her hit song "Total Eclipse of the Heart" and contributed his soaring vocals to Meat Loaf's debut album, "Bat Out of Hell."

Dodd, who now lives in Simcoe, also backed up hitmakers like Carly Simon, James Taylor, Celine Dion, Bon Jovi and Barbra Streisand.

At one point, the rock vocalist could be heard on the top three songs on the pop charts: the duet with Tyler, "Making Love Out of Nothing at All" by Air Supply and "Tell Her About It" by Billy Joel.

On Thursday, Dodd will headline the sophomore class of the Norfolk Music Hall of Fame during its second annual induction ceremony at Holy Trinity Catholic High School in Simcoe.

"Rory is unbelievable. He has so many gold records and platinum records," said Shari Cann, a board member with the Norfolk Music Hall of Fame.

Cann said Dodd is one of the many accomplished musicians and artists who walk around Norfolk without much fanfare.

"A lot of people that are very talented in our area don't get that kind of recognition," she said. "They get it worldwide, maybe, but they don't get it from their own hometowns."

The hall of fame, a project of the Norfolk Arts Council, is trying to change that, with inductees nominated by the community.

Last year's inaugural class included the late Rick Danko, bassist for The Band and arguably Norfolk's most famous musical export.

Joining Dodd this year are fellow honourees Tia McGraff and Ian Bell.

McGraff, who calls Simcoe home when not on tour, was discovered at age 19 when she won the Canadian Open Country Singing Contest at the Norfolk County Fair. The singer-songwriter has been on the road ever since, appearing with Johnny Cash and June Carter and recording with Randy Bachman and Dan Hill.

Bell is Norfolk's go-to guy for folk songs and stories of the lakeside county's seafaring heritage. Whether as a solo act, collaborating with numerous ensembles or leading a community musical collective called The Crooked Stovepipe Folk Orchestra, Bell is a fixture of the folk scene in Norfolk and well beyond.



(SPECTATOR PHOTO)

Rory Dodd, left, Tia McGraff and Ian Bell will be inducted into the Norfolk Music Hall of Fame at a ceremony in Simcoe on Thursday.

Thursday's ceremony starts at 7 p.m., with doors opening an hour earlier and musical entertainment by Denis LePage and Friends.

A meet-and-greet and autograph session with the three inductees will follow the ceremony.

Tickets are $45 and are available through eventbrite.ca or by calling 519-426-0305.

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

Award winning Tia McGraff to perform in concert

An amazing afternoon of music is coming soon to Brucefield Community United Church, featuring award-winning singer-songwriter, Tia McGraff. The Fields of Faith Growing Project, in conjunction with the Canadian Foodgrains Bank is hosting an afternoon concert on Nov. 15 at 2:00 pm.

Norfolk's Tia McGraff is a Canadian roots-based singer-songwriter incorporating blues, country and Celtic undertones into her folk music.

After winning the Canadian Open Country Singing Contest at the age of 19, this small-town girl from Port Dover, began making TV appearances with Johnny Cash and June Carter, writing and recording with musical icons Randy Bachman (BTO) and Dan Hill, placing songs with Anne Murray's publishing company, and singing the national anthems for the Blue Jays, Toronto Maple Leaf NHL team, Tampa Bay Rays, and Nashville Sounds.

Tia is known for her emotionally-charged music and her authentic personality. She has topped charts on both sides of the Atlantic and some of her early singles even "crossed over" to reach the Christian Music Weekly's Top 25.

Tia has garnered a place in the music industry with a global fan base. Her credits include over eleven international album releases, various film/TV placements, and numerous awards (including Social Justice and Peace Songs of the Year at the 2021 and 2022 Em Power Songwriting Awards; Hamilton Music Award; International Singer-Songwriters Association; and recognition as semi-finalist in the 2026 International Songwriting Competition.

In 2026, Tia's hometown is honoring her with an induction in the Norfolk Music Hall of Fame alongside Rory Dodd (Meatloaf), and Canadian folk artist Ian Bell.

Her recorded catalog is certainly a proud accomplishment, but where Tia truly shines is in her live performances. With her husband Tommy Parham, she has headlined main stage festivals in the USA/Canada/UK/and Wales with notables Steve Earle, Joan Baez, Ashley McIsaac, Sylvia Tyson, Fred Penner, and Valdy. Tia's recording of the song, "All of Us" was aired in 2010 at World Youth Day in Sydney, Australia.

Her love for performing has taken her far and wide, be it in huge concerts or personal, intimate venues.

The Nov. 15th concert at Brucefield is being sponsored by the Fields of Faith Growing Project in conjunction with the Canadian Foodgrains Bank and all funds raised will go to feed the hungry around the world. The Canadian Foodgrains Bank is a partnership of 15 Canadian churches and church-based agencies who work together in an ecumenical spirit, and it has been deemed one of the top 10 charities in Canada with regards to how donation dollars are spent.

At a time when hunger at home and abroad is at an all-time high due to international conflict, drought, floods and natural disasters, the Canadian Foodgrains Bank sets up programs to achieve sustainable food security, to Influence improvements in national and international policies that contribute to ending global hunger, and to Increase and deepen the engagement of Canadians in efforts to end hunger around the world.

Beginning with a modest donation from the Goshen UCW in 1987, the Fields of Faith Growing Project has expanded to include representatives from Clinton, Brucefield, Seaforth, Brussels and Blyth United Churches; the project has spanned 39 years, with several sharecropping partners, always dedicated to help end world hunger. As of last year, the overall amount donated over the years by Fields of Faith totalled $393,152.27. The continued support from the Federal Government of Canada, generally matching funds at the rate of 4:1, means that over the years nearly 2 million dollars from this one project have been used by the Canadian Foodgrains Bank to alleviate hunger in many parts of the world.

With Tia McGraff's social justice leanings, supporting the Canadian Foodgrains Bank through her music is a natural fit.

Tickets for award-winning singer Tia McGraff at Brucefield United Church on Sunday, November 15th at 2:00 pm are a bargain at only 25 dollars per person. Contact 226-378-4239 or 519-482-9265 for tickets. Or come early and get your tickets at the door. You won't want to miss this amazing musical event!

SOUNDBITES

"Tia McGraff is a multi-talented, award-winning singer, songwriter, performer, author and podcast host. Along with her husband and co-writer Tommy Parham, the skilled songstress has been making impactful and thought-provoking music for over twenty years. Bringing together a burning passion for the art of music and an honesty that is long lost on today's modern charts, Tia McGraff is a trailblazer in her genre, whose efforts have made her a beloved figure on the international music scene."

- Bluebird Café, Nashville

"Randy Bachman and Andrew Gold have written songs with Tia McGraff and it's not hard to see why they've collaborated with this native of Port Dover, Ontario: her tunes bring an engaging edge to alternative country. Country fare of a more pop-oriented persuasion may draw more fans than the Americana favoured by McGraff and her peers, but those whose tastes lean more toward authenticity will find much to like in her music."

- Mark Rheaume CBC Radio



Tia McGraff (SUBMITTED PHOTO)

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REMEMBRANCE DAY 2026

Lest we forget

Vittoria launches Veterans Banners

CHRIS ABBOTT

Editor

The inaugural launch of the Vittoria Veterans Banners on Old Brock Street was held Sunday, Oct. 25 with a formal introduction at the Historic Anglican Christ Church in Vittoria.

"Today we gather to mark a special occasion in our community," said James Christison, chair of the heritage committee for the Vittoria & District Foundation.

"These banners are not just a visual display, but they are an incredible living, historical overview of our area's proud military heritage," said Christison.

"These banners tell a story that literally spans centuries. They represent veterans from the dawn of our settlement, the upheaval of the War of 1812 to the Fenian raids, to the Northwest Rebellions, and the most horrific battles of the First and Second World Wars. This year's banners also honour veterans from every single branch of our armed forces."



It was fitting to officially launch the Veterans Banners inside the historic church, said Christison, with the Union Jack flag on the wall behind him that was present in the church at the start of The Great War, a gift from the Gundry family.

"The town hall next door, with its bell, stands as a silent witness to this history. Just a few days short of 108 years ago, that very bell would have joined a chorus of others across Norfolk and the entire nation to announce the end of The Great War.

"Ultimately, the banners serve a sacred purpose. They promote active Remembrance. These veterans were neighbours, sons, daughters, fathers and mothers, they walked our streets, they sat in these pews… The faces being displayed on Brock Street now invite our children, our visitors, our daily commuters to take note and remember our veterans."

"What a wonderful occasion, and the timing could not be more fitting to unveil these banners as we begin marking Remembrance Day," said Haldimand-Norfolk MPP Bobbi Ann Brady, "and reflect on the sacrifices made by those who have served our country."

The banners are visible reminder of the courage, the sacrifice and the service of men and women who helped shape the community and protect the country's freedom.

"As James was saying, Norfolk County certainly has, over time, made tremendous contributions to protecting those freedoms."

In 2024, Brady brought forward a private member motion at Queen's Park 'to find meaningful ways to remember those who have served our country.'

"It is so heartening that, even though the Legislature has not adopted the idea, people like you are actually making it happen without legislation. We can't just have Remembrance confined to one day on the calendar, it must be part of our everyday lives.

"And the banners that we are going to walk out and see today, they remind us not only of the contributions that came before us, but also of the challenges that remain. Today, men and women continue to serve at home and abroad, and they deserve our recognition, our support and our gratitude.

"May the banners here in Vittoria inspire a moment of reflection every time someone passes by. And may we

CONTINUED ON PAGE 17



(CHRIS ABBOTT PHOTO)

James Christison provided a profile of each Veteran honoured in Vittoria with a banner.

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REMEMBRANCE DAY 2026
Lest we forget

Smith siblings grateful for Veterans banner in Vittoria

CHRIS ABBOTT
Editor

When possible, Vittoria Veterans Banners were placed near former homes of veterans displayed on the banners.

That was the case for Chief Petty Officer Robert E. Smith's (1923-1986), who was 23 when the photo for his banner on Old Brock Street, at the corner of Francis Street, was taken. Smith, who was born in Vittoria, joined the navy in 1939.

"Aboard the Corvette Galt (during the Second World War), Robert was responsible for discipline, personal development, administration, morale and sailor training, an important role for that Corvette operation," said James Christison, chair of the heritage committee for the Vittoria & District Foundation, during the official launch of 10 Veterans Banners on Oct. 25.

"The Galt accomplished 13 Trans-Atlantic convoys, crossing without a single loss, an incredible feat given the dangers of the Battle of the Atlantic. We Remember Robert Smith."

"I think it's a great gesture," said Smith's daughter, Mary Beth Antonissen, who attended the banner launch with siblings Sally Chambers and John Smith - three of the six Smith siblings. "It's nice to see them."

"I think it's about time the village recognizes the Veterans that helped save this country," said John.

"Vittoria was always a tight little community," said Chambers, who grew up in the house near the banner – a historic home she lived in for 18 years. "There is so much history here… and everybody tends to forget about history."

"We were in Simcoe before we moved here in '63," noted Antonissen, the oldest of the Smith siblings who will be 79 in December.

"He (Robert) was a volunteer firefighter in Simcoe – they grew up living over top of the fire hall in Simcoe. After, mom and dad bought the house here."

All three siblings said their father never shared wartime experiences with his family."No, dad never talked about the war," said Antonissen.

"Not much," said Chambers. "He worked at American Can after the war until he retired. Out here, he had his own little refurnishing business. "I just remember, as a little person, every once in a while, I'd see my mom working the powder blast from the shells, little pellets, out of his skin."



(CHRIS ABBOTT PHOTO)

Siblings Mary Beth Antonissen, John Smith, and Sally Chambers stand next to a Veterans Banner in Vittoria honouring their father, Chief Petty Officer Robert E. Smith.

"It was just dad," said Antonissen.

"The people he associated with, the men he met in the war, they were very quiet about it," said Chambers. "They all became Legion members… and I think that's where they did their talking. Not at home with the families."

"No, they kept it more or less to themselves," said Antonissen.

"No, dad wouldn't talk about his service," said John, an army Veteran.

"Do you talk about yours?" Chambers asked. "No," John said.

"It must be a military thing," said Antonissen. "It's done… it's done."

"It's not something you talk about with people who have never served," said John. "You just don't."

John noted his father had been on a ship, training for about a month, when it was torpedoed and sunk. Surviving that, he transferred to corvettes.

"He (Robert) said, 'Nope, don't like the big boats."

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Legion poppy campaigns start early in 2026

CHRIS ABBOTT

Editor

Royal Canadian Legion, Delhi Branch 125, launched its 2026 Poppy Campaign on Oct. 23, presenting the first poppy to Mike Columbus, longtime Ward 3 councillor.

"The highlight of this poppy campaign is that we are starting a week early," said Trudy Ingraham, Poppy Chair. "Going forward, it's going to start every year on Oct. 24, which will give us a longer campaign."

Volunteers will be out on Nov. 7 for tagging day between 10-3, with poppies at 5-6 locations in Delhi, where they will be accepting donations. There are also more than 100 poppy donation boxes in various local stores.

New this year, volunteers will have an optional 'soft point of sale' app on their phones for poopy donations, for people who have 'tap' debit cards or credit cards.

This year is the 100th of the Royal Canadian Legion in Canada.

The Delhi Branch 125 will also be continuing its 'No Stone Left Alone' campaign, which started last year in the Delhi area.

"It's a stone, painted black, with a poppy and the words 'Lest We Forget.' Students from the local public and Catholic schools gather at the cemetery on Nov. 4 at 10:30. There will be a small ceremony, and each of the students will be playing a stone on the grave of one of our fallen soldiers that is laid to rest in our area. We will also add a stone to graves not in this cemetery."

On Nov. 11, Delhi's full annual Remembrance Day ceremony happens at the cenotaph starting approximately 10:40 a.m., with wreath laying for Veterans, first responders and dignitaries.

"After, everyone is invited back to the Legion for a light lunch. In the evening we will have our Remembrance Day dinner, which we do every year. All of these events are open to the public – everyone is welcome to take part with us, Remember with us. The whole idea is Remembering."

The Branch 125 poster contest is in full swing, featuring art, stories and poems. Students from any area school, or homeschool students, are eligible to enter. Reach out to Ingraham for more information.

"There's prizes at all levels. The winners even have the opportunity to represent us at the Dominion level.

"The idea is for the students to reflect on their Remembrance and what Remembrance Day means to them. And there are different ways. Not everybody is artistic to draw a picture. But others can be artistic in their voice, so a poem or small essay allows them to take part in the contest as well."

There will also be a public speaking contest coming up in the months ahead, open to Delhi and Courtland students.

2028 will be the 100th anniversary of the Delhi Legion. Ingraham can be reached through the Legion at 519-582-2740 or email br125poppy@outlook.com.



Linda Browning volunteered for the Royal Canadian Legion Delhi Branch 125 poppy tagging days, Oct. 31 and Nov. 7.



(CHRIS ABBOTT PHOTOS)

Presenting their first 2026 Remembrance poppy of the season are Rudi Haupert, Royal Canadian Legion, Delhi Branch 125, on the left, and Trudy Ingraham, Poppy Chair, on the right, to councillor Mike Columbus on Oct. 23.







REMEMBRANCE DAY 2026

Lest we forget

Honouring 10 Vittoria area Veterans with banners

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 14

never take for granted the freedoms that we enjoy today."

"It is an honour to have the banners up in the village to represent those people that served and made it possible for us to be here today," said Joan Norman, President of the Vittoria & District Foundation. "We can't thank you enough for supporting it and hopefully in the coming years there will be more banners to join. We will not forget, and we thank you for your help in making it possible."

Donna Kendall, President of the Vittoria Women's Institute, recited the Vittoria and Charlotteville honour roll.

"They are not forgotten, Vittoria Remembers," said Christison, noting the banners would go up annually during the Remembrance season. "We will be doing this next year as well."

2026 VITTORIA VETERANS BANNERS

Private Catherine (Aspden) Church
1924-2003
Served with the Royal Canadian Army Women's Corp. with active military service in Canada during the Second World War.

Leading Stocker Howard L. Knight
1915-1963
Served with the Royal Canadian Navy aboard the Corvette Amherst in the Atlantic theatre during the Second World War.

Sergeant Ernest Machon
Enlisted with the Canadian Engineers, serving overseas in WWI. Awarded the Military Medal. Killed Oct. 21, 1917, age 33.

Corporal Harvey A. Oakes
1925-2000
Enlisted and served with South Saskatchewan Regiment, Canadian Infantry, Second World War.

Colonel Abraham Rapelje
1772-1875
Served with the 2nd Norfolk Militia in the War of 1812. He was a Colonel of the 1st Norfolk Regiment in the 1837 Rebellion.

Private Elwood Smith
1893-1968
Served with the 39th Norfolk Regiment, enlisted for WWI with the 133rd Norfolk's Own. Overseas service included the Battle of Vimy Ridge. Wounded and gassed.

Corporal Otto E. Smith
1893-1973
Enlisted for WWI with the 133rd Norfolk's Own. Awarded Military Medal.



(CHRIS ABBOTT PHOTOS)

Vittoria & District officially launched its Veterans Banner program on Sunday, Oct. 25. Ten Veterans Banners went up this year, with more to come next year.

Chief Petty Officer Robert Smith
1923-1986
Enlisted with the Royal Canadian Navy, serving on the Corvette Galt in the Atlantic theater during the Second World War.

Lt. Colonel David Tisdale
1835-1911
Canadian Militia and 39th Norfolk Regiment, with service during the Trent Affair and Fenian raids. Became Canadian Minister of Defence in 1896.

Flying Officer Charles B. Wyckoff
Enlisted with Royal Canadian Air Force, Bomber Command. Killed with his crew over France on May 23, 1944, age 28.

Two generations in World Wars

Patrick Dickson was born on Jan. 1, 1891 in Belfast, Northern Ireland. He was the last man in Norfolk County who died in combat in WWI on Nov. 6th, 1918 just days before the armistice.

He is buried at Valenciennes (St. Roch) Communal Cemetery in France.

Alexander Dickson, born March 20, 1916 in Delhi, Ontario, entered military service in 1940. He did his basic training in Petawawa, and in 1941 he was sent to Aldershot, England, where he was stationed at Corona Barracks.

He trained in the town of Bows on the Isle Wight. This was the last place of training before the Dieppe Raid.

When he arrived at Dieppe beaches, and left the landing craft, a battle started 17 hours later. Alexander was taken prisoner by the Germans to the prison camp (Stalg VIIB). The first year, he was fed scraps of food. After the first year, he tended sheep for the Germans.

Later, they marched to an air force camp where the English liberated them, and he was no longer a prisoner. He was flown to England where he was hospitalized for three weeks to get used to food again. He signed up with Royal Hamilton Light Infantry in May 1945, and he was flown back to Canada.

He passed away at the age of 86 on June 30th, 2002.

- article courtesy of Jim Dickson, Kathy Beckham, Dan Taylor and Kim Taylor.



(SUBMITTED PHOTO)

Patrick Dickson's descendants visited his grave in France.



(BRENDA MOSER PHOTO)

Members of the Waterford Legion Branch 123 ride in the recent Pumpkinfest parade.

Santa to a Senior expands into Norfolk

Local grassroots initiative brings Christmas joy to seniors in need

Santa to a Senior is excited to announce the expansion of its annual Christmas gift-giving campaign into Norfolk County, marking an important milestone in the organization's continued commitment to supporting seniors and vulnerable individuals throughout local communities.

Through a new partnership with Senior Support Services in Haldimand-Norfolk, Santa to a Senior will begin extending its reach into the region for the 2026 holiday season, with plans for continued growth in 2027 and beyond.

Founded as a grassroots volunteer initiative in 2020, Santa to a Senior has grown into a cherished holiday tradition, providing approximately 400 to 500 personalized Christmas gifts per campaign to seniors and individuals in Long-Term Care, Retirement, Community Living, and independent living settings.

The program works closely with participating facilities and community organizations to identify individuals who may otherwise receive little to nothing at Christmas. Personalized wish lists are collected, then shared with the community on our website, www.santatoasenior.ca, allowing generous individuals, families, and businesses to become a "Santa" by selecting a participant's wish list and purchasing personalized gifts for them.

"What began as a simple idea to make sure no senior felt forgotten at Christmas has grown into something truly special," said Nicole Selby, President of Santa to a Senior, in a media release. "Expanding into Norfolk County is an exciting next chapter for our organization. With the support of Senior Support Services, we have an opportunity to reach even more people, build new community connections, and remind our seniors that they are valued, remembered, and cared for."

The 2026 expansion will take a phased approach, building toward more partnerships, community support, and resources for a broader expansion in 2027.

Santa to a Senior officially incorporated as a not-for-profit organization in October 2026 and is currently preparing its application for registered charitable status.

Despite its continued growth, Santa to a Senior remains entirely volunteer-driven and relies on the generosity of community members, local businesses, and corporate supporters to make the annual campaign possible.

"The magic of Santa to a Senior has always been the people behind it," added Selby. "Every gift represents someone in our community taking the time to think about another person. Our hope is that Norfolk County will embrace this program with the same incredible generosity we have experienced throughout Haldimand County and Six Nations."

HOW TO GET INVOLVED

The 2026 Santa to a Senior campaign officially launched on Nov. 1. Community members can participate by selecting a recipient's wish list, purchasing a personalized Christmas gift, making a donation, or becoming a business or corporate supporter.

For those choosing to make a financial donation they are unable to issue official donation receipts at this time. The goal is to be able to issue receipts in the future once charitable status is obtained.

The organization also welcomes opportunities to connect with Norfolk County businesses, community groups, and individuals interested in supporting the expansion. For more information, email santatoasenior.haldimand@gmail.com or visit their website at www.santatoasenior.ca.

TO ADVERTISE IN THE SIMCOE ADVOCATE EMAIL INFO@SIMCOEADVOCATE.COM

Swamped with OSAP concerns

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 4

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OSAP CONCERNS

I'm writing this column after seeing the latest update from Colleges Minister Nolan Quinn on the OSAP payment pause. Quite frankly, I was hoping for some good news. There wasn't any.

The province is extending the pause on OSAP financial assistance payments for students attending private post-secondary institutions until at least the new year. I have a real problem with that. These are students who are ready to get an education, build a future and get on with their lives. Instead, they're left wondering how they're going to pay for it.

Some readers have made it clear in the past that they believe students should pay their own way. Let me be clear: OSAP is a loan, not a handout. Students are expected to repay that money, and many are willing to take on that responsibility because they see education as an investment in their future. The economy is also far different today than it was when I was of post-secondary age. Tuition, rent, groceries and other basic costs have all increased, making it much harder for students to manage without financial assistance.

The reality is that many students simply cannot afford to go to school without financial assistance. You shouldn't have to put your education on hold because the government can't get this sorted out. Students deserve answers, and they deserve better. I'm hearing from many constituents who are up in arms as they banked on getting OSAP and now their lives are changing. It's one thing to tell people well in advance that they won't be getting help for next year, so they can make decisions and adjustments to prepare. But pulling the rug from under them after the school year has already started is cruel.

By way of background, for those who might not know: "(OSAP) is a government financial aid program in Ontario that helps students pay for college, university, or micro-credential programs through a mix of grants (money you do not pay back) and loans (money you must repay)."

Next is a background on why OSAP has been paused. Minister Quinn implemented the pause following KPMG audits, which identified suspected fraudulent activities, systemic deficiencies, and rapid or automated course completions at a small number of career colleges and a limited number of career-focused institutions. The moratorium applies to all 242 private career colleges and private institutions. The pause remains until the new year, 2027, while the province develops an enhanced student-verification model and collaborates with financial institutions to establish third-party financing options including reduced-rate transitional loans.

Let me be clear, I'm all for weeding out the bad actors and respecting both the original intent of OSAP and your hard-earned taxpayer dollars. Still, I think the Ford government is heading in the wrong direction pausing student financial assistance to all private post-secondary institutions. They're spanking everyone as opposed to dealing directly with the bad actors.

Along with me, some opposition politicians, and I bet some government MPPs on the sly, have been asking what happens to the funds the students have received from OSAP now that they've been detoured from pursuing their education? We know they'll still have to pay OSAP back. If the government had done the right thing in the first place, thousands of young folks wouldn't be in this predicament.

Further accusations have surfaced in news items that the Ford government ignored warnings dating back to January 2023. There are also opposition claims that hundreds of million of dollars went to certain career colleges as government MPPs helped to open new college locations and the college founders were making donations to the Ontario PC Party. The colleges responded that politicians of all political stripes are welcome and invited to campus openings and political donations are "personal, publicly disclosed, and within provincial limits."

I want to emphasize; I'm not making any accusations. I'm reading media and hearing from parents and students. I want the investigators to uncover any malfeasance and make sure the OSAP system is operating above board for the benefit of education and building a solid future workforce for Ontario. But I don't want the innocent punished for the wrongdoings of a few, which is now happening.

Rest assured I will be supporting questions regarding this subject when the Ontario Legislature resumes (Oct. 27).

'Raise a glass' at the Rotary Sunrise Whisky Tasting Night

Raise a glass of whisky at the 1st Annual Rotary Club of Norfolk Sunrise Whisky Tasting Night, an evening crafted for curious sippers and seasoned enthusiasts alike.

The fundraising event will be held at Waterford Old Town Hall on Nov. 21, starting at 7 p.m. The cost is $95 per person.

Discover rich flavours, swap stories, and savour every pour in great company, said co-organizer Randy Ongena from the Rotary Club of Norfolk Sunrise. "Whether you're exploring new drams or revisiting old favourites, this night promises warmth, laughter, and unforgettable whisky moments.

Secure your seat at the table by emailing whisky.folk@yahoo.com today.

It promises to be a night of 'rare and special whisky, paired with cheese, meats and other delights.'

All proceeds support the Rotary Club of Norfolk Sunrise and its community initiatives.

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Over 25 Vendors.
Sat. Nov. 21, 2026
10:00 AM till 3:00 PM
Free Admission

Chicken & Cabbage Roll Dinner
Fri. Nov. 20th, 2026 - By Reservation & Payment - Dinner Serving 5 to 6:30 P.M.
- Chicken & Cabbage Rolls
- Mashed Potatoes & Gravy - Coleslaw
Dinner Roll - Coffee, Tea & Dessert
- Adults $30.00
- $15.00 Children 6 to 12
- 5 and under Free

Bulk Xmas Orders
Wednesday December 23th, 2026
Breaded Chicken - $30.00 for 10 pcs.
Cabbage Rolls - $28.00 per. doz.
Breaded Pork Schnitzel -$6.00
Perogies - $15.00 per. package
ColeSlaw - $6.00 per container
Don't wait for the last minute to order



Simcoe Curling Club starts season, hosts open house

CHRIS ABBOTT

Editor

League play at the Simcoe Curling Club started Oct. 28, three days before the club's introductory open house on Oct. 31.

There is a very small window of time, explained Craig Thompson, past-president and draw chair, between the end of the Norfolk County Fair (Oct. 12), two weeks to make ice and a day to paint the ice, then more ice layers, and the start of the season.

"Once the fair ends, I think everyone at the club, we kind of watch the progress and think 'OK it's time, it's time, it's time.' We're absolutely excited," said Thompson. "We have six months to curl and everyone wants to get as much out of the ice as they can."

Nearly 40 people were on the ice Saturday afternoon learning the basics of the sport, including technique for delivering rocks.

"Once we press play on the season, it's difficult to join some leagues, but most of the leagues, like the recreational league, play in seven-week draws. We're in Draw 1 now, then it's Draw 2, then Draw 3 happens…

"But if you are looking to join our Learn to Curl program or our Adult Instructional program, you can do that. Or if you are a parent and you want to get your kids into curling, our youth curling runs all year, every Sunday, so you can sign up anytime for youth curling.

"We also have a program like Senior Men's, which runs Monday-Friday, and you can join anytime. And on Wednesdays we have drop-in curling, it's just pay to play."

Reach out to info@simcoecurlingclub.ca or membership@simcoecurlingclub.ca for more information.

On Nov. 7, for the first time, the curling club is co-hosting a bonspiel in Simcoe partnering with the Haldimand Curling Club, based in Cayuga. It will support Alzheimer organizations.

"They promoted it as the Haldimand Curling Club vs the Simcoe Curling Club. So we'll see what happens," Thompson smiled. "It's their event, but it will be here."

At the end of November, the club is hosting its Golden Gardens Cash Spiel, which features up to five Simcoe teams, and the rest from 'anywhere.'

Regular league play will continue into December when the club's leagues will take a short pause as Simcoe hosts the provincial Men's and Women's Masters Championship (Dec. 9-13), presented by Amplifon Hearing Care Experts.

"We did that four years ago, it was a great success. The winners of that event go on to nationals… so this is a BIG event. Eight men's teams, eight women's teams, ages 50-and-uo. If people want to come watch games, it's open to the public."

Qualifiers are held across the province leading up to the provincial finals and the event is run by Curling Ontario.

"We'll see some really good curlers, it's ridiculous. The quality of the curling is just crazy. You're watching people who played at The Brier, who played at The Scotties, or people who are well-established curlers. So the shot quality is way up. Anyone who is interested in curling, we highly encourage them to come watch it here."

For more information on the club, leagues, fees, curling guides, club history and more, visit their website at simcoecurlingclub.ca .

"People are always welcome to reach out to us. We have social dinners every Friday, open to the public, you just have to register. All the information is online.

"Our doors are always open to the public if you want to come watch curling, or if you want to come for Friday dinner. We are not a private curling club, we are here for everyone."

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(CHRIS ABBOTT PHOTO)

Simcoe Curling Club hosted an open house Saturday and Brenda Bradshaw was one of about 40 people on the ice trying the sport that afternoon.

Waterford's the place to be for Pumpkinfest

BRENDA MOSER

Advocate Contributor

Waterford is a relatively small, rural community that welcomes visitors all year round to their country location, but one October weekend (the weekend after Thanksgiving) every year it is THE place to be.

Waterford Pumpkinfest was created by Jean Kerr and is now put on by the Waterford Lions. It has been attracting thousands to our town for 44 years now and each year the crowds seem to get bigger. It's safe to say that this year was one of the best.

Not always the warmest of weather, with being in October, doesn't seem to stop people. This year, Oct. 16-18, was no exception thanks to the co-operation of Mother Nature. Friday night saw hundreds of vehicles roll into town early to check out the lighted Pumpkin Pyramids and decorated homes and businesses, and get a prime location to observe the fireworks. What a display it was! Year after year they deliver perhaps the best show around.

There was no shortage of things to do and see on the Saturday and Sunday as well with one of the town's biggest attractions being the Annual Pumpkinfest Parade.

While many checked out the Marketplace inside at WDHS, others watched the annual football game outside. Unfortunately, the Waterford Wolves fell 14-7 to the undefeated McKinnon Park Blue Devils from Caledonia, but there's always next year Wolves!

Sunday, the football field took on a whole new look as the popular Pumpkinfest Car Show took over the field and even some of the ball diamonds. Lion Al Nutbrown said, "Cars were lining up shortly after 6 a.m. to get in to the show. By 8 a.m. there were over 500 cars registered. When the weather is nice it's always a good show."

Various prizes were handed out with about 100 door prizes - donated mostly by local businesses in Simcoe, Waterford and Scotland. Nutbrown said the Lions appreciate each and every donation made. It took a while – actually quite a while - to stroll the rows and rows of vehicles and they were still loading in when I left. Congratulations on another great Car Show.



The parade is one of Pumpkinfest's highlight events. (BRENDA MOSER PHOTOS)

The arena parking lot on Church Street offered a variety of food selections while enjoying local talent on the entertainment stage. I have to admit that I always stop for an Elephant Ear and look forward to one every year. After all, you have to indulge yourself every once in a while.

St. James Street hill was, once again, the sight of the annual Soap Box Derby on Sunday - a fun and exciting event for kids and adults alike. A lot of work goes in to designing and building the cars.

Each race heat was a nailbiter right down to the final race. There were awards for the Junior Division, Senior Division, Best Decorated/Dressed, and Honourable Mentions. Spectators enjoyed watching the kids and you could tell the kids were having a blast. Look out Mario Andretti! Congratulations to all of the winners! A list of winners can be found on the Waterford Pumpkinfest site. Check them out.

There was certainly lots to see and do at this year's event and Mother Nature co-operated fully to give us some lovely fall weather and NO RAIN! We are fortunate to have a great Lions Club in Waterford taking on the task of bringing us Pumpkinfest. Hats off to each and every one of them! Thanks for all that you do for Waterford and community.

Sponsors are also an important part of helping to make Pumpkinfest a great event every year. A list of the 2026 sponsors can be found on their website www.pumpkinfest.com.



Cameron Tjepkema proudly displays his Best Decorated award at the Pumpkinfest soap box derby.



Allan Woods and his 1948 Pontiac Tear Drop Camping Trailer at the Waterford Pumpkinfest car show.



Abigail Greatrex and her 1965 Lincoln Continental.



The Pumpkinfest Marketplace at Waterford District High School.



Vehicles as far as the eyes can see at Pumpkinfest.

COMMUNITY CALENDAR

Email to inquire: info@simcoeadvocate.com

SPONSORED BY



FRIDAY, NOVEMBER 6

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

Waterford Legion 223 | Nichol Street

MUSIC BINGO
Fun starts at 7:00 p.m.
$5.00 per person Fun

Waterford Legion 223 Nichol St.

SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 7

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

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

SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 8

SUNDAY BRUNCH
9:00 a.m - 12:00 p.m
Adults: $15 Children: 6-12 - $8 Under 5 free

Waterford Legion 223 Nichol St.

MONDAY, NOVEMBER 9

DELHI & DISTRICT HORTICULTURAL SOCIETY MEETING
7:30 p.m
GUEST SPEAKER - Riem's Family Nursery Specializing in Canadian Roses - Come out and join us.

Delhi Friendship Centre, 418 Queen St., | Delhi, On (Enter at the parking lot off William Street.).

WEDNESDAY, NOVEMBER 11

SIMCOE AND DISTRICT HORTICULTURAL SOCIETY MONTHLY MEETING
7:30 p.m
Socorro and Gordon Chinnick of Dancing Pigs Farms will do a presentation on "Growing organic vegetables and flowers". Everyone is welcome. There will be a light lunch and refreshments. There will be door prizes and admission is free. For more info contact Helen at 226 440 2699 or helenuren@live.ca

Junior Farmers Building

SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 14

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

James United Church | 150 Colborne St. S. Simcoe

FRIDAY, NOVEMBER 20

QUIZ NIGHT
7:00 p.m
Bring your friends or join a group.

Waterford Legion 223 Nichol St.

SUE RIVARD OF REVEAL COACHING ONTARIO PRESENTS LIFE AUDIT AND RESET: MAKING MORE ROOM FOR WHAT MATTERS
7:00 p.m
An interactive evening of reflection and conversation to gain clarity, explore what matters most and make room for meaningful change. Free Event – Everyone Welcome!

Riversyde 83, 83 Sydenham Street, Simcoe

FRIDAY, NOVEMBER 27

WINGS & KARAOKE
Ticket sales at 4:45 p.m | Serving at 5:00 p.m
Wings: $15 Onion Rings: $6 Fries: $5 Cash Only
Karaoke to follow in Club Room

Waterford Legion 223 Nichol St.

SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 28

ROYAL CANADIAN LEGION LADIES AUXILIARY - ANNUAL CRAFT AND BAKE SALE
12:00 p.m - 4:00 p.m

223 Nichol St. Waterford

EVERY MONDAY & THURSDAY

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

Waterford Legion | 223 Nichol Street in Waterford

EVERY 2ND, 3RD & 4TH WEDNESDAY

DARTS
Registration from 6:45 p.m - 7:00 p.m
$5.00 Entry fee | Blind Draw Doubles |
Everyone Welcome

Waterford Legion | 223 Nichol Street in Waterford

EVERY MONDAY

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

Waterford United Church

THIRD WEDNESDAY OF THE MONTH

LYNN RIVER PROBUS CLUB
10:00 a.m - 12:00 p.m
Our retired and semi-retired members enjoy diverse interest groups, friendship and fellowship. We have interesting speakers at our monthly meetings as well as time to socialise.Current and prospective members are welcome to join us at the Army, Navy & Air Force Club, Simcoe, which is on the corner of Water St. and Culver St. Simcoe. Enter via Culver St. For more information, please visit our website at: lynnriverprobus239.com or email lynnriverprobus239@gmail.com.

SECOND SUNDAY OF EVERY MONTH

COURTLAND COUNTRY OPEN MIC JAM
Music starts at 1:00 p.m | Dinner at 5:00 p.m
All welcome!

Courtland Community Centre | 272 Main St., Courtland, ON

THURSDAYS

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

Waterford Legion 223 Nichol St.

LAST SATURDAY OF THE MONTH

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

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

EVERY OTHER FRIDAY

INGERSOLL COUNTRY MUSIC JAMBOREE
1:00 p.m - 4:00 p.m
Every other Friday, 1-4pm be fall-ish and come to the Ingersoll Country Music Jamboree at Masonic Hall, 190 Thames St. S. Ingersoll. Join us, walk ins welcome. Qualifications - love 50-70's country music. Perform, listen, dance & enjoy! September 4 & 18, October 2, 16 & 30, November 6 & 20, and December 4.

Masonic Hall | 190 Thames St. S. Ingersoll

ROTARY CLUB OF SIMCOE

Join a 100-year-old, community-focused club dedicated to supporting Norfolk youth, scholarships, the arts, and local and international initiatives. Mondays | 11:45 a.m.–1:00 p.m. Bi-weekly in July & August. Enjoy lunch, interesting speakers and great fellowship! Email: simcoe.rotary.club@gmail.com. Come see what Rotary is all about!

Simcoe Legion | 200 West St. Simcoe

BINGO PRESENTED TO YOU BY ABEL ENTERPRISES

Various Dates: Monday on September 14, 28, October 5, 19, November 2, 16 & 30, December 7, 21, 2026
January 4, 18, Feb 1 & 15 & March 1, 15, 29, 2027
Doors open at 5:00/Early bird 6:30/Main Games begin at 7:00. Concession goodies sold & provided by Simcoe & District Humane Society Come support your local non-profits. Thank you

Simcoe Legion, 200 West Street, Simcoe, ON

EVERY FRIDAY

CATCH THE ACE HOSTED BY THE ROTARY CLUB OF SIMCOE
4:30 p.m - 7:30 p.m
Proceeds support the Norfolk Haldimand Hospice, Norfolk General Hospital Foundation, the Simcoe Legion and the Rotary Club of Simcoe Norfolk Community Projects! $5.00 tickets are available in Simcoe at Kings Flower and Garden, Simcoe Pharma Save and Willeart Pharmacy in Port Dover. Lic. # RAF1589003
For more information, Google the Rotary Club of Simcoe.

The Simcoe Legion

Grenada's ever-changing Underwater Sculpture Park



OH, THE PLACES WE'LL GO

By Paul Knowles

There is a conundrum that faces travel journalists: should we constantly visit new destinations, or is it okay to return to those we love? Well, obviously, it's ideal when we – and therefore, our readers – discover somewhere new. And that's usually the goal, and I usually manage to accomplish it.

But there are some places so special that they almost demand our revisited attention. And the Underwater Sculpture Park at the Caribbean island of Grenada is one of those.

I first experienced the sculpture park in 2023. I had the great good fortune to be on the spot as many new sculptures were added to the attraction. And I was able to spend a lot of time with the primary sculptor who has produced the amazing works – Jason deCaires Taylor.

So when I got the invitation to return to Grenada, and pay another visit to the underwater attraction, I was delighted.

Here's the back story. Taylor, a very talented artist, is also an experienced scuba diver. He came to Grenada in 2004, planning to open a dive shop. That didn't happen.

But something much more significant did take place. He became aware of a bay on Grenada's west coast where all the underwater life had been decimated by a hurricane. To the artist in Taylor, this was an easel begging to be filled.

So he did. In 2006, the first sculptures were lowered into the bay. Life-sized or larger, they were intended to attract the attention of divers – including, of course, tourists – and also, to serve as artificial reefs that might encourage the regrowth and return of coral and other marine life.

The project grew – both expanding, and successfully fostering oceanic growth – eventually including over 40 sculptures by a number of different artists.

Then came 2023, when the "park" nearly doubled in size, with 31 sculptures added – again, most by Taylor – to bring the total to 75. The new sculptures included "Coral Carnival" – many large statues representing figures from Grenada's folk culture. The entire installation has been named one of the 25 wonders of the world, by National Geographic. And I was blessed to be on hand as the works were lowered into the sea, and then to be able to don my snorkel, and swim among them.

Taylor never sees his works as finished products. He loves the fact that as they remain in their aquatic setting, they inevitably change. Some of the changes to the earlier works involved the erosion of some features, but Taylor and his artistic colleagues have constantly improved their materials – always aware of causing no environmental damage – so today, the changes involve natural additions. Coral and sea plants grow on the sculptures, changing their appearance in often dramatic ways.



(PURE GRENADA PHOTO)

Vicissitudes by Jason deCaires Taylor is one of the early works in the Underwater Sculpture Garden, clearly visible to snorkelers as well as divers.

And I got to see this, up close and personal, on my return visit this year. I don't dive, but I do love to snorkel, and the works in the Underwater Sculpture Park are in water sufficiently shallow that snorkelers can get a very good look at each one without diving. Taylor says the sculptures are all at depths of no more than 8 meters.

During this 2026 trip, I and a few travel journalist colleagues went out on a tour with folks from Eco Dive, a dive shop deeply committed to environment protection and education. Led by a well-informed guide, we snorkeled around the Molinere Beauséjour Marine Protected Area (the official name of the bay) to see every one of the 75 works.

And yes, time and salt water have certainly collaborated with the original artists to bring continual change to the sculptures. The most exciting changes reflect the success this project has had in turning static pieces of art into living, artificial reefs. In my opinion, the pieces are continually becoming more beautiful, more interesting, and more compelling.

Taylor was also asked to create and place an underwater sculpture off the shore of another island – Carriacou – which is officially part of Grenada. Carriacou was slammed by Hurricane Beryl in 2024, but is well on the eay to recovery, and a visit – by small plane or ferry – can be a fascinating part of your visit to Grenada.

From time to time, I get asked for my opinion about travel destinations. Especially now, when many Canadians are avoiding travel to the U.S., people wonder about warm weather holidays including in the Caribbean.

I have not visited every Caribbean island. But having sampled quite a few, I can easily say that my favourites are the Windward Islands – those in the eastern Caribbean, including Dominica, Barbados, Grenada and their neighbours.

They are all great spots for a cold weather get-away. But Grenada is undoubtedly special, for a number of reasons – warm hospitality, superb beaches (especially Grand Anse), terrific food, unique culture, fascinating history (where else will you find a child's playground sharing a park with the hulks of abandoned Russian war planes?).

But first on my list of great Grenadian treasures is the ever-changing Underwater Sculpture Park. Grab your snorkel and go!

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

Delhi Firefighters Association Halloween Open House

(CHRIS ABBOTT PHOTOS)

Delhi Firefighters Association presented its 9th annual Halloween Open House on Saturday, Oct. 24, 11 a.m. to 2 p.m. at the Delhi fire station (Norfolk Station 5), 104 Argyle Avenue, Delhi. Activities included pumpkin carving, spooky games, a mini-obstacle course, face painting, fire truck tours, fire safety education, and a free barbecue.



Evelyn Carl, with Dylan Carl, decorated a pumpkin at the Delhi Firefighters Association Halloween Open House on Oct. 24.



Jamie Holbrook assists seven-year-old Hazel Holbrook carve a pumpkin at the Delhi Firefighters Association Halloween Open House.



A carved pumpkin big enough to wear!



Lily, Aurora and Scarlet Harvey toured the fire trucks at the Delhi Firefighters Association Halloween Open House.



Amber Parker helps Kai Thomas, in his alligator costume, carve a pumpkin at the Delhi Firefighters Association Halloween Open House.



Welcoming participants to the 9th annual Delhi Firefighters Association Halloween Open House on Oct. 24 are (front from left) Kenzie Robertson, Lily McGregor, (back) Savannah Hill, Sloane Chettle, and Maddy Robertson.

Simcoe Gliders Trunk or Treat



(CHRIS ABBOTT PHOTO)

Simcoe Gliders Gymnastics Club hosted its 5th annual Trunk or Treat on Oct. 24. Open to the community, it was a free event with good participation. Volunteers Isabelle Fisher, left, and Faith Taylor, right, stand in front of Teddy Gallagher's trunk of treats.



Haven Crandall checks out the inflatable Halloween props at the Simcoe Gliders 5th annual Trunk or Treat on Oct. 24.



Russell Andrews brought a few skeletons to the Simcoe Gliders Trunk or Treat event at 105 Donly South.



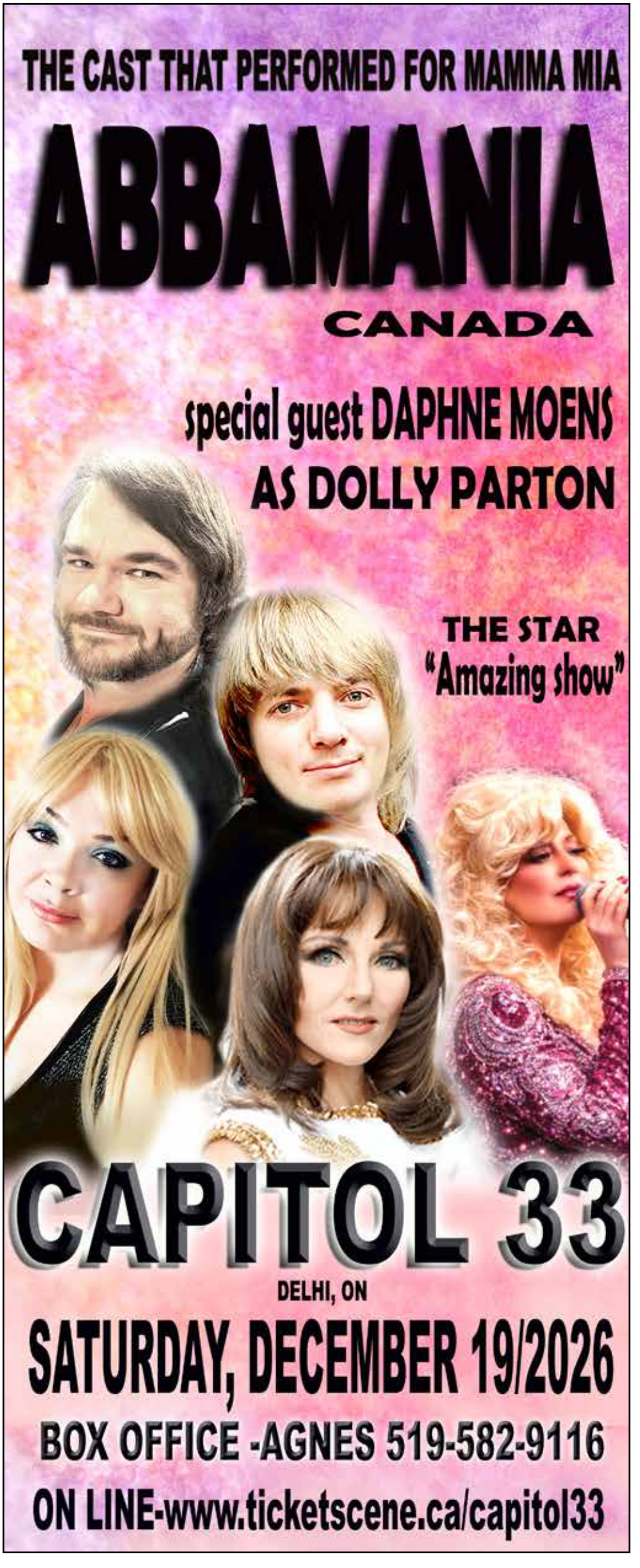
Holly Carpenter, holding a silky chicken, and Rikki Bridgewater, encouraging a shy lionshead rabbit, represented Norfolk 4-H at the Delhi Firefighters Association Halloween Open House.



Clara Visser carefully aims the fire hose, assisted by Station 5 volunteer firefighter Geoff Maes and Clara's mom Terra Visser.



Richard Churchmack, from Norfolk Station 6 (Courtland), assisted by Gavin Champman from Station 2 (Port Dover), provided fire safety information to participants at the 9th annual Delhi Firefighters Association Halloween Open House.



Jokes

I saw a 3,000 year old oil stain.

It was from Ancient Greece

--

What do you call having your grandmother on speed dial?

InstaGram

--

Why do cow-milking stools only have three legs?

The cow's got the udder.

--

What do you call a man who got attacked by a cat?

Claude

--

Why was the math book sad?

He had too many problems.

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RETRO TOYS AND GAMES

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

YOYO
SLINKY
ETCHASKETCH
JACKS
MARBLES
JACKINTHEBOX
TINKERTOYS
LINCOLNLOGS
HOPSCOTCH
PICKUPSTICKS
TIDDLYWINKS
JIGSAW
DOMINOES
CHECKERS
CHESS
MONOPOLY
SCRABBLE
BATTLESHIP
TWISTER
OPERATION
SIMON

QUOTE OF THE WEEK

"Nothing is ever really lost to us as long as we remember it."

—L. M. Montgomery

Sudoku

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

Solutions on page 27





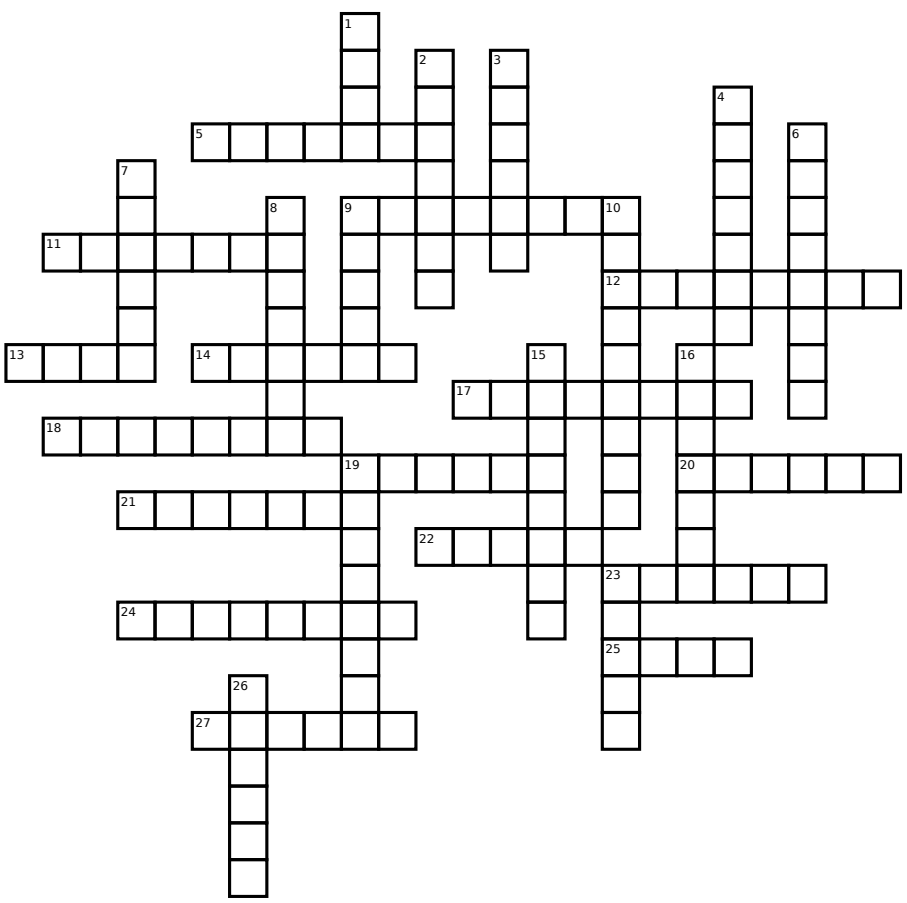
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Weekly Crossword

THE PRODUCE PUZZLE – HERBS, SPICES & SEASONINGS

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Answers found on page 27

DOWN

1. Herb commonly used in stuffing
2. Expensive spice that gives food a golden colour
3. Spice commonly used in eggnog
4. Green garnish often sprinkled on dishes
6. Sweet spice often sprinkled on toast
7. Licorice-flavoured herb and spice
8. Hot red pepper spice
9. Herb often paired with lemon
10. Spice made from cilantro seeds
15. Warm spice used in pies and baking
16. Classic Italian pizza seasoning
19. Fragrant spice used in chai tea
23. Spice commonly found in chili recipes
26. Common seasoning paired with salt

ACROSS

5. Leaf added to soups and stews
9. Golden-yellow spice
11. Flavouring used in cakes and cookies
12. Aromatic herb used with roasted potatoes
13. Herb often paired with pickles
14. Spicy root used in baking and cooking
17. Popular herb used in Mexican cooking
18. Dried herb used to flavour dips and dressings
19. Mild onion-flavoured herb
20. Pungent ingredient used in countless dishes
21. Red spice made from dried peppers
22. Popular herb used to make pesto
23. Spice often added to holiday baking
24. Mild herb related to oregano
25. Refreshing herb used in tea
27. Small seeds sprinkled on hamburger buns

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

ANNOUNCEMENTS

BI-WEEKLY PUBLICATION DATES

NOVEMBER 19

DECEMBER 3, 17 & 31

DEADLINE IS THE MONDAY PRIOR AT 3 P.M.

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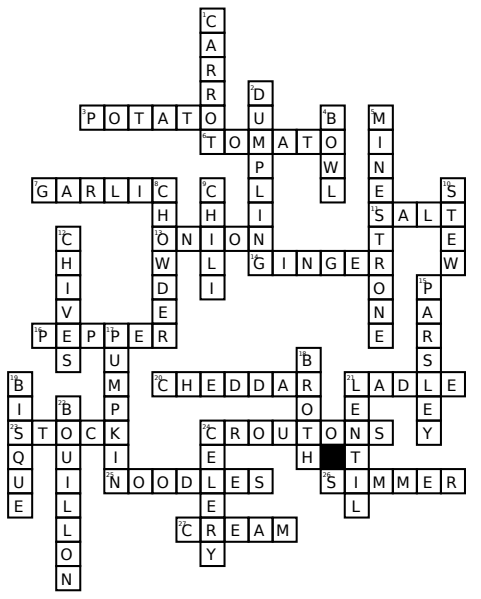
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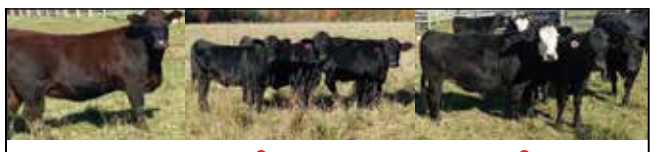
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