

Tillsonburg POST

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SUMMER CLEARANCE

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Mayor questions official plan's future vision

JEFF HELSDON

Editor

Tillsonburg Mayor Deb Gilvesy questioned if Oxford County's Official Plan is working during a presentation made on current work to update the plan at last week's council meeting.

County Senior Policy Planner Meghan House and Policy Planner Emily Sousa explained to council the work underway and sought input as part of the first stage of the update.

"In Oxford, we have one plan that serves as the official plan for the county and all eight lower-tier municipalities," House said.

Although the official plan is a county document, it is based on policies outlined in the Provincial Policy Statement and other provincial legislation. The final plan is then approved by the Ministry of Municipal Affairs and Housing.

"An official plan is the main land use planning document which guides how growth should occur, how land is used, how development is coordinated with the provision of infrastructure and public services, and also helps us articulate and set up processes to protect the things that are important to the community: farmland, nature, water and cultural heritage," House said.

Local zoning bylaws then put the official plan into action.

The current official plan was developed in 1995, but has been updated since then. The plan is based on an assumption of a county population of 200,000 over the next 20 to 30 years, including 30,000 in Tillsonburg.

CONTINUED TO PAGE 2



(CHRIS ABBOTT PHOTO)

TILLSONBURG FAIR

Finley Powell from Otterville gives it her best shot in the chocolatey first round of the Tillsonburg Tri-County Fair's ice cream eating contest on Saturday, sponsored by Shaw's Ice Cream. More photos on page 22-23.

Regional airport memorial garden receives council approval

JEFF HELSDON

Editor

A memorial garden with a full-size Spitfire model is one step closer to fruition after receiving conditional approval from Tillsonburg council.

The Canadian Harvard Aircraft Association (CHAA) released its proposal for the memorial garden earlier this year

after the full-size model aircraft was donated to it. The garden will feature memorial bricks and seasonal plants. The original plan was to locate it between the airport's terminal building and the association hangar.

Scott Gillies of the Oxford Historical Association led off the presentation, talking about the sacrifices of thousands of men and women during the war and how the memorial garden could be a tribute to all those who have served in the past and present.

CONTINUED TO PAGE 2



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SCAN



Mayor questions official plan's future vision

CONTINUED FROM FRONT

County staff is currently in the first phase of the project, gathering input from the community and council members. The goal is to complete the plan in 2028.

Sousa said community input to date includes meeting with municipal staff and gathering community input through the Speak Up Oxford web page.

"The intent is to gather broad feedback from the community on what the plan should look like," she said, adding input is being sought on what the county should look like in the future, what should be focused on, what should change and what should stay the same.

Coun. Kelly Spencer noted Oxford has grown so much and it's daunting to think Tillsonburg will have 30,000 people in

30 years. She asked what staff suggest council members should be answering to soothe residents' concerns about the growth.

Sousa answered that the growth projections are based on provincial numbers.

"It's best to plan for those scenarios because we don't know how that will turn out," she said. "However, through this process we get to define how this might occur."

Coun. Bob Parsons questioned if municipalities will have the opportunity to comment on other parts of the vision, such as sharing services to increase efficiency or border adjustments. He was told that wouldn't occur in this exercise.

Gilvesy was clear about her vision for

the future.

"My vision for Oxford County is to remain a rural community," she said. "I have a vision for 20 to 30 years, and we need to stop what we're doing. I don't think the official plan works in its capacity. I don't think roads are wide enough; I know parking is local. I would want to see a zoning change that would intensify or densify what we're already seeing in our communities."

She commented on the suggestion to mix residential and commercial uses in the same area, saying residents don't want to see increased traffic. Gilvesy questioned how official plans are tested to see if they are working.

"When you look at paper versus reality,

and then drive in a subdivision, you can see the plan didn't work," she said. "The plan failed. When we move forward, we need to create a plan that isn't going to create more problems in our communities."

House said these were valid concerns and noted it will be an exercise to see whether mixing commercial and residential work in rural communities is feasible.

"If it doesn't work, we have additional tools like official plan amendments," she added.

House said the plan has generally worked since 1995, with some updates.

The presentation was received as information by council.

Garden to include full-size Spitfire model

CONTINUED FROM FRONT

"Tillsonburg Airport played a significant role in the aviation history of Canada by being a secondary relief field for the Number 14 Service Flight School of the British Commonwealth Air Training Plan out of Aylmer during the Second World War," he said.

The airport was built for use as a relief field as part of the Commonwealth Air Training Plan. Pilots received basic flight instruction at this base and were then transferred to other locations to refine their skills as fighter pilots, bomber pilots, navigators, or in other roles.

CHAA vice-president John Britton is heading up the project and spoke of the association's 40-year history as a non-profit museum dedicated to preserving history. Amongst the group's past presidents are Charley Fox, the Second World War fighter pilot credited with wounding German Field Marshal Erwin Rommel and Cana-

dian astronaut Bjarni Treggvason.

Britton explained that the group was gifted the model Spitfire, one of the main fighter planes in the Second World War, by member Ray Whittemore, who owned K-W Surplus. He retired and allowed the association to have the plane if members undertook moving it.

"We thought why not use it as a centerpiece in a memorial garden at the airport," Britton said.

The group talked about their plans, and had solid interest from area Legions, school groups and others. They approached the town's Airport Advisory Committee, and were told to take their pitch to council.

Britton said members also talked to staff Windsor Parks and Recreation, where there is also a Spitfire on a pedestal in a park. They asked for engineering work to put the airplane on a a pedestal and sub-

mitted it to Tillsonburg's engineering department. In recent days, the engineering staff suggested moving the location due to its proximity to the terminal building and underground services. They were also told soil samples may be necessary, and they may need at minor variance.

"What we would really like is a quiet place for reflection to honour the veterans who served here at CYTB," Britton said, adding this will be completed at no cost to the town, and the association will maintain the garden.

President Walther Irie reinforced they weren't asking council for money, just permission. Volunteers are lined up to provide labour, and will look after ongoing maintenance.

"This is part of a long-term plan to improve the airport; it's just a step in it," he said, promising to provide the rest of the plan in the future.

Deputy Mayor Dave Beres asked if the garden could be relocated later if the terminal building was expanded.

Britton said the base is eight feet by eight feet of concrete and can't be easily relocated.

Mayor Deb Gilvesy told council that expansion of the terminal building is in the airport master plan in the future.

Coun. Chris Parker agreed this is a great opportunity for the town.

Coun. Chris Rosehart pointed out that the airport is in South-West Oxford and asked whether approval would come from the town or the rural municipality's engineering department.

Gilvesy answered that the town has full authority on airport lands, and she was hopeful the project could be completed without a minor variance.

Council passed a motion to approve the project in principle.

Big Cheese Days comes to Tillsonburg Aug. 22

EMILY STEWART

Post Contributor

Summer in the Tillsonburg area is about to get a little cheesier.

Tourism Oxford will hold a Big Cheese Day on Aug. 22, highlighting the seven Tillsonburg and area businesses included on the Oxford County Cheese Trail. Station Arts Centre, GoodPud, Coyle's Country Store, Red Dragon Dairy, New Galma Dairy, Makkink's Flower Farm and Bakery Cafe, and Dad's Ice Cream will either offer tasty treats and/or special activities available only on the upcoming Big Cheese Day, in addition to their summer programming and other services.

GoodPud will run mini dessert demon-

strations and samples of their chilled chocolate dessert. Makkink's will serve a brie croissant sandwich. Dad's Ice Cream's big cheese butter tart sundae will include maple cream cookie ice cream topped with a maple drizzle, nuts, whipped cream, and a cube of local cheddar.

Coyle's customers can get a free third cheesecake fudge square when purchasing two squares of cheesecake fudge. Red Dragon Dairy, near Salford, will serve a Welsh rarebit grilled cheese made with sheep's milk and New Galma Dairy will have samples of the Dutch treat known as bitterball made with their own cheese. Station Arts Centre will run a Bloom Bar, featuring a pick-your-own 2D paper flowers activity where guests can pick, colour,

and create their own bouquets.

"We've been playing around with the idea of offering a one-weekend, or one-Saturday event for some time, and we decided to try it out this year," said Meredith Maywood, tourism manager of Oxford County. "There's so much going on in Tillsonburg in the summer. We thought it was a great opportunity to see if there was an appetite for people to come out to another event later in the year in August."

Big Cheese Days, where Oxford County businesses and organizations on the cheese trail offer special products and promotions, is otherwise held on every Saturday in May.

Maywood said that during the summer,

the seven businesses in Tillsonburg and area flourish.

"For instance, Dad's Ice Cream is very seasonal, flowers are in full bloom at Makkink's, the farmer's market is in full swing at the Station Arts Centre," she said.

The web page for Tillsonburg Cheese Days on the Oxford County Tourism website said that it should take about 30 minutes of driving to visit all places part of the Tillsonburg Hub.

"It keeps your drive time short while you check out the most number of attractions," Maywood said.

More information can be found online by visiting <https://www.tourismoxford.ca/big-cheese-days/august>.

Prefer to read online? **tillsonburgpost.com**

EDITORIAL

Another successful fair in the books

With another edition of the Tillsonburg Tri-County Fair complete, it's time to examine the importance of seeing this annual tradition continue.

The fair is about rides, games of chance, and cotton candy for the younger crowd. The roar of engines and the smell of fuel burning in the demolition derby is the draw for some.

The Tri-County's Got Talent brings a talent contest back to the fair and will hopefully grow into an event that adds to the fair and draws a different crowd. And, of course, the music and beer tent is also another unique draw, although this is a more recent one.

There aren't many people who grew up in Tillsonburg who weren't part of the fair's baby show? Or kids who didn't enter their pets?

The fair is 172 years old, and traces its

origins back to a time when people were closer to the land. Horticulture displays pay homage to this tradition, as does the 4-H showmanship. Although it's a small part of the fair, the agriculture displays are vital to educating the public about our agricultural heritage.

Stories of well-educated people believing chicken is grown in trays, or corn in cans, are sadly not entirely fiction. As Tillsonburg grows and attracts more people with an urban background, this is a prime opportunity for education.

The fair board volunteers are vital to ensuring the midway, entertainment, and activities all come together. They need help, which was mentioned throughout the weekend. Now is a good time to contact the fair board and help ensure the fair reaches its 200th anniversary.

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



Monarch butterfly.

(LINDA SYS PHOTO)

Memories of the Tillsonburg fair's horticulture displays and midway



**WRITER'S
CORNER**

NORMA COLLIS

Tillsonburg Post Columnist

Reading about the recent Tillsonburg Fair brought back many memories from my youthful days in Tillsonburg.

Although it signaled that summer holidays were ending, the promise of a week-long event that offered all manners of excitement caused a warm glow of anticipation in everyone I spoke to.

Our church always had a food concession of some sort or another. One year, it was an ice-cream parlour on wheels, parked right underneath the seats of the grandstand. We volunteers were treated to the roaring of engines during the car races. The demolition derby often found us cringing and ready to "hit the deck" as the noise of crumpling metal drowned out the sound of the large milkshake mixers.

Making milkshakes was my specialty. I waited in anticipation for that one cus-

tomater that, when asked what flavour they would like, replied, "Oh surprise me." The surprise was on me when the same person returned the next night and asked for a repeat of the "surprise" I had created for them the night before. I had absolutely no idea what I had thrown into that previous frothy concoction.

One year, we served hot food inside a huge tent. There were tables and chairs, and I volunteered to be a waitress. The day we opened a very tall, muscular man entered the tent and asked to talk to the person in charge. The large man owned and managed all the carnival rides. Back in the day there were numerous rides to choose from.

"I will come here to have my dinner every evening," he told us. "I want a large steak at least an inch thick, plus two pieces of your homemade pie each time I come to eat. I will pay you \$20 each time."

Back in the mid 1960s, the average cost for a steak dinner was between \$2 to \$3.50. Homemade pie was usually 25 cents a slice. A quick call to Mr. Goodlett at his corner meat and grocery store guaranteed high quality, thick steaks that more than satisfied this discerning diner. Imagine my surprise when, after serving him his first meal of the week, he left a \$10 tip. In my eyes, he had just spent a fortune on his meal. I decided that perhaps I should investigate a career managing carnival rides

as it seemed to be a well-paid job and you ate well too.

In between my volunteering gigs, I had time to explore the various displays arranged inside the large barn-like buildings. Local school entries had been carefully transported to be on display in one of the enclosed buildings. Many local kids hoped that this year they might win a prized red ribbon.

All the amateur florists in town tended their gardens with extra care as they would soon be selecting their most prized blossoms to enter the flower arranging section of the fair. Amateur gardeners and farmers also entered their prized fruits and vegetables. There were various categories in each of the sections of the competitions.

I distinctly remember the "strangest-looking vegetable area. Who knew that carrots and cucumbers could grow into such weird and wonderful shapes. There didn't ever seem to be any 'naughty' shaped produce, so this area must have been carefully curated before the doors of the horticultural building were thrown open to the public.

A school friend, who was a rugged football player, warned me that I mustn't tell anyone that he had entered flowers to be judged. His flowers were magnificent, but he knew he would begin the new school year as the newest object of ridicule if any of his buddies found out about his secret

hobby. This friend went on to be a highly successful horticulturist, and is very well known in his field of expertise.

I remember my mother giggling as she told the story about an eager flower arranger who proudly presented her arrangement for the show. She had obviously been taught that the perfect arrangement should always include a focal point that stood higher than everything else in the arrangement. She followed this rule of "green thumb" and artfully placed in one back corner of her arrangement was a tall, green, leafy plant serving as her point of interest.

When questioned, she explained that she had found the wondrous plant growing wild when she was out foraging for other interesting grass and wildflowers for her arrangement. Imagine her dismay and indignation when she was told that her arrangement was banned from judging and absolutely could not be on display.

The co-coordinators in that display area had to carefully explain to her that the wondrous and unique plant taking place of pride in her entry was indeed a marijuana plant.

I don't know which shocked me more.... the fact that she had included such a plant or the fact that my mother even knew what marijuana was.

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

Annandale's hidden hands of the household

MUSEUM MUSINGS

LARISSA MCCABE

Summer Student, Annandale NHS

In the 1800s and early 1900s, upper-class Victorian families often had maids and butlers. These workers helped show that a family was wealthy and made daily life easier. Chores took longer without modern technologies like washing machines and vacuums, and big homes only made the work even harder.

Annandale House is very large, at 7,455 sq. ft., much bigger than most homes today, which average at 2,200 to 2,400 sq. ft. Due to this, many helpers were needed. Most of the workers were women, because jobs were split by gender in this period. At Annandale House, from 1883-1911, some maids lived in the home, while others traveled there to work.

In 1984, local historian Laurel Beechey interviewed one of the maids who had once lived in Annandale House and worked for Mary Ann Tillson, the original owner of the Annandale House. Her name was Myrtle Lillian Morden (1894 – 1993). She worked there from 1909–1911. Myrtle grew up on a farm west of Delhi, and due to family circumstances, Myrtle and her 12 siblings had to work to support the family. Myrtle worked at the Arlington Hotel, which stood at Broadway and Market Street in the area now occupied by the Tillsonburg Town Centre Mall. While working there, here she met John Loudon, an Englishman who was courting Rosalind Harrison, the granddaughter of Mary Ann Tillson. Loudon was concerned for Myrtle and got her a job at Annandale House in 1909, when Myrtle was 15 years old.

Servants had to follow many strict rules at this time. Myrtle could only go in certain parts of the house, and there were several rooms she never saw. Annandale House has a staircase specifically for servants, so that

they would not be seen by the family or potential guests. In addition to the maid's staircase, Myrtle was also restricted to work in places like the summer kitchen, the breakfast room, the dining room, and occasionally the basement. She also used a linen closet on the second floor and had a room on the third floor. This did not bother Myrtle as she told Beechey in the interview, “I was more interested in getting my work done and collecting my pay than examining the floors and ceilings.”

All good things come with time as 73 years later, Myrtle was able to tour the house during her interview with Beechey. She got to see rooms she had never seen before. But it was hard for her to walk to the basement and the third floor due to her age. It was also hard for her to remember details. At that time, the house was not fully restored, so it did not look the same as it did when she worked there.

Myrtle remembered doing many hard jobs. She scrubbed the kitchen floors until they were very clean and white. She ironed clothes in the basement and helped make butter. One year, she helped make a rich Christmas cake. It was wrapped in a cloth with brandy and kept in the basement. Myrtle said she felt this worked just as well as the frozen cakes in the 1980s.

Annandale House has servant bells in the kitchen and maids' bedrooms. These bells were used to call the workers. Each bell sounded different, so the servants knew where to go and what to bring. Myrtle called these bells “the intercom”, and she does not remember being called from her bedroom often.

Myrtle stopped working at Annandale House when she declined the offer to be Rosalind Harrison's maid on her honeymoon to Scotland. Myrtle said she was scared of sailing across the Atlantic, and later that same year, in 1911, she married Bill Dreyer.

Myrtle died in 1993 at 99 years old and is deeply missed by those who knew her. She helped people learn more about Annandale House by sharing her story.

Today, the museum shares her story with others. Annandale National Historic Site preserves the stories of more than just larger-than-life historical figures. Every seemingly ordinary person makes their mark in history and impacts those around them more than they know.



(ANNANDALE NHS PHOTO)

John William Dreyer (“Bill”), Myrtle Dreyer, and their children Lulu May, and Harold Stanley, 1916. Betty Lou Seargent's father or grandfather gave the picture to our collection.

Don't ever feel too small because you, too, make history every day.

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Publisher

Stewart Grant • stew@granthaven.com

Editor

Jeff Helsdon • jeff@granthaven.com

Graphic Design / Sales Inquiries

Stacie Eden • info@tillsonburgpost.com

Business Development

Heather Dunbar • heather@granthaven.com

Administration

Jen Gaetan • jen@granthaven.com

Contributors

Jeff Tribe, Laurel Beechey, Debbie Kasman,
Paul Knowles

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



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Tillsonburg POST

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8. Newspapers should be locally-owned and operated

Member of the public calls in suspected impaired driver

A member of the public called in a suspected impaired driver when they observed a vehicle stopped in the intersection of Simcoe Street and Vienna Road, in the Town of Tillsonburg.

On Aug. 11, at approximately 9:20 p.m., members of the Oxford detachment of the Ontario Provincial Police (OPP) responded to a report of a vehicle sitting in the middle of an intersection in Tillsonburg.

As a result of the investigation, Graham Proctor, a 43-year-old resident of London was charged with:

- Operation While Impaired
- Operation While Impaired - Blood Alcohol Concentration (BAC) 80 plus
- Dangerous Operation of a Motor Vehicle
- Drive Vehicle with Open Container of Liquor
- Drive Vehicle with Cannabis Readily Available

The accused was held for a bail hearing but has since been released from custody and is scheduled to appear before the Ontario Court of Justice, in Woodstock, on Sept. 1.

Single vehicle collision results in impaired charges

A driver is facing several charges after colliding with a hydro pole in Norwich Township.

On Friday, Aug. 7, at approximately 8 p.m., members of the Oxford detachment of the Ontario Provincial Police (OPP) responded to a report of a single-vehicle collision on Base Line.

A passenger vehicle left the roadway and struck a hydro pole, causing significant damage. The lone occupant sustained non-life-threatening injuries.

As a result of the investigation, Jit Meetro, a 35-year-old resident of Guelph was charged with:

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

The accused has been released from custody and is scheduled to appear before the Ontario Court of Justice, in Woodstock, on Oct. 6.

Collision in Tillsonburg results in charges

A driver is facing several charges after entering a ditch in the Town of Tillsonburg.

On Saturday, Aug. 8, at approximately 8:30 p.m., members of the Oxford detachment of the Ontario Provincial Police (OPP) responded to a report of a single vehicle in the ditch off Highway 3.

A passenger vehicle left the roadway and got stuck in the ditch.

The three occupants were uninjured.

As a result of the investigation, Daniel

Williams a 40-year-old resident of Norfolk County was charged with:

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

The accused has been released from custody and is scheduled to appear before the Ontario Court of Justice, in Woodstock, on Oct. 6.

Mischief at public school in Norwich

Police are looking for the individual(s) responsible for mischief caused at a Public School in Norwich.

Members of the Oxford detachment of the Ontario Provincial Police (OPP) have been notified that sometime between 9:30 a.m. on Thursday, Aug. 6, , and 3:30 p.m. on Wednesday, Aug. 12, unknown individual(s) attended a public school on Jerdon

Street in Norwich. Three windows and six screens were damaged from the roof.

Police are asking anyone with information about this incident, including video surveillance, to please contact Oxford OPP at 1-888-310-1122.

If you wish to remain anonymous you can call Crime Stoppers at 1-800-222-TIPS(8477)

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TDMH closes temporary transitional care unit

The Tillsonburg District Memorial Hospital (TDMH) of Rural Roads Health Services (RRHS) Transitional Care Unit (TCU), which opened on April 1, 2025, as a temporary, 12-bed unit for patients awaiting their next care destination whether that be Long-Term Care (LTC), Retirement Homes, or a return home with appropriate community support, will be closing with the opening of the new long-term care home in Tillsonburg.

The opening of the new LTC home in Tillsonburg, peopleCare Tillsonburg, provides the anticipated increased community capacity required to transition patients' safely. RRHS will work closely with health care partners to ensure safe transfer of each patient during this transition period.

Since opening, the hospital transitional care unit has experienced many positive patient outcomes with successful transitions. RRHS is grateful for the funding from the Ministry of Health since early 2025 that allowed this hospital unit to function. More specifically, \$1,648,718 was invested in fiscal year 2025-26 and up to \$824,359 was committed for fiscal year 2026-27.

"I want to commend Rural Roads Health Services for making this thoughtful and responsible decision as the temporary 12-bed transitional care unit comes to an end," said Ernie Hardeman,

MPP for Oxford. "With a new long-term care home opening in Tillsonburg, this transition ensures that health care resources continue to be used where they are needed most. I appreciate the leadership of the RRHS team and their ongoing commitment to providing quality care for residents in our community."

The agreement between Ontario Health West and the hospital leadership team upon opening of the unit was to fully ramp down the TCU beds as hospital access and flow operational efficiencies were achieved, as the Hospital to Home (H2H) (Announcing The New 'Hospital To Home' Program – Rural

Roads Health Services) program gained success at RRHS, and new LTC bed capacity was available locally.

Over the coming weeks, the RRHS leadership team plans to redistribute all remaining funded acute medical-surgical inpatient beds across all available patient care units (including the unit that housed the TCU) to create more private and semi-private patient rooms.

"We are very grateful for the funding and support to operate the temporary Transitional Care Unit at TDMH. Our teams have provided exceptional care to patients in the unit. We look forward to collaborating with our health care partners to ensure safe transitions of patients during this time", Nadia Facca, RRHS CEO/President.

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COMMUNITY UPDATE

Notices

Nomination Period for the 2026 Municipal Election Closes Tomorrow!

Thinking about running for municipal office? The nomination period for the 2026 Tillsonburg Municipal Election closes tomorrow **Friday, August 21 at 2:00 PM**.

Prospective candidates can pick up nomination forms at the Customer Service Centre, 10 Lisgar Ave. Candidates are encouraged to call ahead and schedule an appointment to ensure a member of the Clerk's Department is available to assist with the nomination process.

For a full list of offices open for nomination, candidate qualifications, required forms, and appointment details, visit www.tillsonburg.ca/election.

Bid Opportunities

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

Visit tillsonburg.bidsandtenders.ca.

Take the 2027 Budget Survey!

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

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

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



Property Tax Due Date Reminder

Property taxes are due August 31, 2026.

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

Celebrate the End of Summer at the Summer Send-Off Spectacular!

Enjoy an evening of family fun, live entertainment, great food, and fireworks at Memorial Park on Sunday, September 6, starting at 5:00 P.M.

Join us for food trucks, Backyard Games, and a spectacular fireworks display at dusk. The evening will also have family karaoke and live performances by Chase Beres and Kickin' Kountry, sponsored by The Copper Mug.

Don't miss this opportunity to come together as a community and celebrate another great summer. We look forward to seeing you there!

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Interested vendors must have proof of Commercial General Liability Insurance and be in compliance with all applicable Southwestern Public Health requirements.

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For more information or to reserve a space, contact recreation@tillsonburg.ca.



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Creek project reinforces sanitary sewer crossings

JEFF HELSDON

Editor

Astute observers traveling down Concession Street West by the Participark parking lot would have noticed large piles of stone and wondered if a landscaping project was underway.

Not so. In fact, the stones – which range from nearly two feet in diameter

down to a few inches – are being used to reinforce the spots where the town's sanitary sewer crosses the many waterways in town.

Logan Vandevyvere, the town's interim manager of engineering, explained that the sewer pipes cross under the creeks in several spots. Over the years, water in the creeks wears down the soil in the creek bed, which can expose the



(JEFF HELSDON PHOTO)

The pipe bringing water back into Stoney Creek can be seen on the right-hand side of the photo, downstream from a section where rock was added to protect sewage pipes.



(JEFF HELSDON PHOTO)

The upstream view above the construction area shows the temporary dam in place and the pump moving water downstream of the work area. The pump maintains flow in the creek and keeps the water from becoming stagnant, which could kill aquatic life.

pipes and increase the chance of damage.

"It's really just to protect the sanitary sewer, so if a big gush comes through with a log in it, it doesn't break it open," he said.

The sewer lines running through the gully are main lines that are fed by smaller lines coming out of subdivisions.

The work currently underway involves placing rock on the creek bed to protect the sewage pipes at nine sites between Quarter Line Road and Concession Street West.

"They've seen some of the pipe is close to being exposed, so they want to protect it," Vandevyvere said. **CONTINUED TO PAGE 9**

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Stoney Creek project reinforces sanitary sewer crossings

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 8

The challenge is that the creek needs to be temporarily dammed, and a pump used to move water from above the temporary dam to below the work site, where rock is being added. Electrofishing is used to move fish from the stagnant water above, where the pipe brings water back in, to the work site. Catfish,

crayfish, and small trout have been found, amongst other species.

The project started on July 16, as in-water construction can't start before that due to provincial government restrictions to protect fish during the spawning period. It's expected to take 12 weeks to complete.

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(JEFF HELSDON PHOTO)

A worker with J-AAR uses a backhoe to move one of the bags used to create a temporary dam in Stoney Creek to allow work to take place.



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TOWNSHIP OF NORWICH NEWS

Three-storey, mixed-use build proposed for Otterville

LUKE EDWARDS

Post Contributor

Despite some concerns about the wastewater system, Norwich council is allowing a proposed three-storey, mixed-use build in Otterville to move ahead.

Councillors at the Aug. 11 meeting supported two staff recommendations on the project, supporting an official plan amendment application and approving in principle accompanying zoning changes. A hydrogeological study and various reporting and maintenance requirements were enough to get three of five members of council to vote in support.

"As far as I can see they've jumped through

the hoops and have done all the studies that are needed to be done," said Coun. Lynne Deplancke.

"The way it's going to look from the front of the road looks amazing to me."

Developers are proposing a three-storey build with ground floor commercial space and six residential spaces above. To have the project move ahead they require various site-specific zoning provisions related to setbacks, lot frontage and depth, parking requirements for commercial and the maximum number of units allowed.

According to the staff report, the project would connect to municipal water services but contain a private septic system to handle

wastewater. The proposed septic system did create some concern among town officials, but planner Amy Hartley said the hydrogeological study showed the system won't have adverse impacts on the surrounding area's water supply.

"The hydrogeological study...has shown the proposed system can accommodate higher density within the village designation," she said.

Additionally, the system will be subject to monitoring and maintenance standards regulated by the province, said consultant Scott Puillandre, with G Douglas Vallee. Third parties, qualified through the province, will undertake monitoring and maintenance reviews.

"They are obviously legally obliged by provincial requirements to report back to, I be-

lieve, the MECP (Ministry of Environment, Conservation and Parks)," Puillandre said.

There were some other concerns about the height and setbacks, though Puillandre said there are buildings of similar height nearby and changing the setback rules will keep the building more in line with the neighbourhood.

"If we did meet the front yard setback the new building would be located behind the existing dwellings and looking directly into people's backyards," he said.

In a recorded vote, DePlancke, Mayor Jim Palmer, and Coun. Shawn Gear supported the staff recommendations. Councillors Karl Toews and Adrian Couwenberg were in opposition.



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(JEFF HELSDON PHOTO)

ANOTHER PACKED HOUSE FOR SPORTS FIELD PROPOSAL

Tillsonburg Development Commissioner Cephas Panschow again faced a packed house on the second public meeting on the proposed new sports field and proposal to turn the existing ball diamonds into housing with green space mixed in. A third meeting on the topic will be held in the Tillsonburg Community Centre on Sept. 9, starting at 4:30 p.m. These meetings are being held to hear from the public prior to council making a decision on the matter.

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Stunt takes second at Tri-County's Got Talent



BEN ADDRESS

Tillsonburg Post Columnist

MUSIC CORNER

Tillsonburg's Stunt has been a familiar name around the local music scene for the past five years, however the duo of Joshua Doyle and Elliott Hewitt have recently been showing audiences that there is much more to their act than their roots as a Barenaked Ladies tribute band.

Stunt earned a spot in the finals of Tri-County's Got Talent after performing at the competition's tryout night at The Copper Mug Pub last month. The duo went on to take second place at the

finals held during the Tillsonburg Fair this past Sunday.

JJ Staley took first place in the competition while local musician Dan Price finished third.

For Joshua and Elliott, the competition provided an opportunity to showcase a side of Stunt that audiences are beginning to see more often which is their original music. While Stunt has built its reputation performing songs by Barenaked Ladies, the pair has increasingly been writing and performing their own material.

"I was stoked to have the opportunity to play more originals at the Tri-County Fair," said Doyle.

"Given that we had played all original songs we were happy to see it was well received by the judges and the audience," Hewitt added.

That shift toward original music was particularly important for Joshua who felt the competition gave Stunt a chance to show the judges exactly what the duo is capable of.

"I think playing all originals we were able to demonstrate to the judges that we are more than just a cover band," Doyle said.

The duo's live chemistry also played a role in connecting with the crowd.

"I think we have a really fun live performance that engages the audience," Hewitt explained.

Stunt did not have much time to prepare for the competition. The pair only learned about it on the day of the tryouts which were held in Tillsonburg on July 11th.

"We played a show the day before which felt like a solid warmup having not found out about the talent show until the day of," Doyle said.

This competition was another extension of what Stunt has been doing throughout the community for years.

"We have been playing in the community for the past five years," Hewitt said. "Our goal is always just to have fun and make sure people have fun too."

That attitude appears to be at the heart

of Stunt. While the duo continues to perform locally its musical direction is also evolving. The pair says they are happy with where Stunt currently stands and are looking ahead to new creative opportunities.

"We are both really happy with what Stunt is right now and plan to continue working together on maintaining Stunt and a future new project with new members," Doyle states.

For a local band that began with a focus on celebrating the music of one of Canada's most recognizable groups, a second-place finish at Tri-County's Got Talent could mark an important next step. Stunt has shown that while the Barenaked Ladies connection may have helped introduce audiences to the duo, their own songs, personalities and live performances are what could keep people coming back. For upcoming shows and more information on Stunt you can follow them on their official social media page at www.facebook.com/STUNTOFICIAL

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WEEKEND QUIZ

by Jake Grant

- According to the Bible, what is the name of the final battle between good and evil?
- Which object, traditionally made of metal, is worn on a cowboy's boots to prod a horse?
- Who is the Roman god of love?
- How many lives do cats supposedly have?
- The Caribbean Island of Bonaire is a municipality of what country?
- When is the next leap year?
- Which superhero carries a shield made of vibranium?
- What do you call two words with the same definition?
- What game challenges players to remove wooden blocks without toppling the tower?
- What are the four main ingredients in beer?

This week's answers are found on pg. 30

Council to look at Annandale park agreement

JEFF HELSDON
Editor

Tillsonburg council called for a staff report on the original agreement when the land now used for the Annandale ball diamonds was donated to the town.

The move came in the wake of public outcry after the town released a plan to build new ball diamonds on land on Mall Road and build a residential development on the present ball diamond land to fund the new diamonds. When the plan was discussed at a public meeting, the majority of the residents in attendance raised concerns about losing the park land.

There were also concerns raised about the original agreement with the town when the

developers of the adjacent subdivision donated the land.

Mayor Deb Gilvesy vacated the chair to put forward a motion recognizing concerns raised by citizens, acknowledging and upholding the 1977 development agreement with Cyril Demeyere, and calling for a staff report on what is required for the town to meet its obligations under the original agreement.

“The agreement was complex as there was extra land dedicated,” Gilvesy said, adding she talked to Demeyere. “I think it’s really important we take a look at this agreement.”

She read the agreement, and urged other councillors to do likewise.

“Once parkland is gone, it’s gone, and we need to take a serious look at that,” she said.

The motion was passed by council.

Tillsonburg’s finances given passing grade by auditor

JEFF HELSDON
Editor

The town’s auditor gave a thumbs-up to the town’s financial position at the end of 2025.

Whitney Dean of Millard, Rouse and Roseborough provided an overview of the report to council at the Aug. 10 meeting. The town’s financial assets were \$4.68 million at the end of 2025. The non-financial assets, including buildings and equipment, were valued at \$47.9 million.

Coun. Bob Parsons questioned why accounts receivable were over \$7 million, which is 250 per cent higher than at the end of 2024.

Tillsonburg’s deputy treasurer/manager of finance, Cheyne Sarafinchin, explained that several grants for capital projects were still to

be received at year-end, totaling \$4 million. There was also \$1.5 million in transfer payments owing from Oxford County.

“It was just some timing of some of the grants owing,” he said.

Parsons also questioned the increase in amount owing for water and sanitary sewer usage, and if this would be collected.

Dean said if accounts are over the 90-- or 365-day mark, there is uncertainty about whether the amount owed will be collected, but noted it’s Oxford County that writes this down, not the town.

Mayor Deb Gilvesy asked if a report on the \$1.7-million year-end surplus will be coming to council at a future meeting. Sarafinchin confirmed this would occur.

Council received the report as information.

Council adopts cultural, Annandale House plans

JEFF HELSDON
Editor

The Town of Tillsonburg has a new cultural master plan and a strategic plan for Annandale National Historic Site.

Town council approved the Tillsonburg Cultural Master Plan and Annandale National Historic Site Strategic Plan after a presentation from the consultants who prepared the report. TCI Management Consultants completed the report, and teamed up with Canadian Museum Services for the Annandale plan.

Preparation of the plan included reviewing background documents, meeting with staff, conducting a community survey and meeting with community groups.

“The vision sees the arts as combining many different ideas that give the community dynamism that appeals to both residents and visitors,” Greg Young of TCI said.

He said the plan brings together different aspects of the community and highlights what is unique about it.

“What’s often not appreciated is arts and culture contribute to economic impact in the community,” Young added.

The plan is segmented into five areas of activity that reinforce one another: culture, identity, heritage, and storytelling; arts, creativity, and cultural expression; community participation and cultural inclusion; cultural tourism and economic development; and cultural leadership, partnerships, and sustainability.

Jon Linton of TCI said Southwestern Ontario sees \$3.9 billion added to its economy through the creative sector.

John Summers of Canadian Museum Services provided an overview of the Annandale National Historic Site plan, explaining its mandate is to “preserve, interpret and provide public access to the heritage of Tillsonburg

and the surrounding area.”

The new mission is: “We want to help connect the stories that are already here with people’s lives and tell them why it matters and why it’s important.”

A key outcome of the plan is to foster curiosity and create a sense of belonging and pride in the community’s shared heritage. It was emphasized that it’s important the history of the community is preserved and passed forward to future generations.

Action areas in the plan are:

- Heritage stewardship and collections care
- Interpretation, education and storytelling.
- Community engagement and cultural inclusion
- Cultural tourism, visibility and visitor experience
- Organizational capacity, leadership and sustainability

Several suggestions were made, including

addressing the acquisition backlog, making a two-year strategic investment in exhibit presentation, extending elevator access to the third floor, launching a digital archive of “stories of Tillsonburg”, developing heritage plaque and QR code trail, creating an Indigenous cultural partnership plan, and expanding events programming.

Coun. Kelly Spencer, who sits on the town committee overseeing culture and the museum, asked what aspects of the plan engage the town’s youth.

“There were a number of specific suggestions that would involve and engage youth,” Linton said.

Kate Bakos, cultural heritage manager/curator, explained the five-year strategic plan lays out a vision for Annandale House, but all expenditures still come to council for approval.

Council accepted the report as information.

Motion calls for review of traffic safety on Highway 19

JEFF HELSDON
Editor

Tillsonburg council endorsed a motion brought forward by Coun. Kelly Spencer is calling for an analysis of traffic volumes, collision data, and road safety measures on Highway 19 between Tillsonburg and the 401.

The motion also asked for consideration of possible engineering, operational and enforcement measures, such as intersection improvements, turning lanes, speed management measures, and others.

Highway 19 is a provincial highway, and it crosses through South-West Oxford Township from Tillsonburg town limits to the 401.

“This motion is not about assigning blame, or is it assuming the solution; it’s just asking the province for information needed to make informed solutions,” Spencer said after reading the motion.

She added the highway is the primary gateway to Tillsonburg, and many residents have shared concerns over the years. A friend of Spencer’s was in a serious collision on Highway 19 several years ago and was not seriously injured.

“Every collision is more than a statistic; it affects our families, our first responders and our community as a whole,” she said.

Spencer emphasized she is not saying the highway is unsafe, but it just asking for an examination of the data. She has already spoken with the MPP’s office about it, and the motion sought the county council’s support.

Coun. Chris Parker said he was supportive of the motion and pointed out that the town requested information on incidents at the intersection of Highway 19 and Quarter Town Line.

“I just don’t see them getting back to us in the

time frame,” he said.

Mayor Deb Gilvesy said she was supportive of the motion but noted a recent report that speeding is the number one cause of collisions. She suggested including a request for enforcement in the motion.

Parker said he saw in a recent report that speeding tickets were down by 700 from 2024 to 2025.

“That’s a scary thing to read when we see the number of incidents we have and the number of complaints we receive within our area,” he said.

Spencer countered that speeding is a separate issue.



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Working smoke alarms alert occupants in residential fire

Tillsonburg Fire and Rescue Services recently responded to a residential fire at a duplex located at 19 King Street, Unit A.

The occupants of the affected unit were home at the time of the incident and safely evacuated after working smoke alarms alerted them to the presence of smoke. No injuries were reported.

Oxford County EMS attended the scene and assessed the residents. All occupants declined further medical treatment or transportation to hospital. The Ontario Provincial Police assisted with traffic control while emergency crews operated at the scene.

Upon arrival, firefighters encountered moderate smoke conditions and a small kitchen fire within the unit. Crews quickly initiated an interior fire attack and brought the fire under control, preventing further extension of the fire and

limiting damage to the structure.

Firefighters completed searches of both units in the duplex and confirmed that no additional occupants or pets remained inside.

Tillsonburg Fire Prevention personnel are actively investigating the cause of the fire. At this time, the fire is not considered suspicious.

Damage is estimated at approximately \$50,000.

"This incident highlights the importance of working smoke alarms," said Deputy Fire Chief Fred Ten Eyck. "The early warning provided by smoke alarms allowed the occupants to evacuate safely and notify emergency services quickly."

Tillsonburg Fire and Rescue Services reminds residents to test their smoke alarms monthly and ensure they are installed and maintained on every level of their home.

Health unit trying to identify dog in bite incident on Aug. 13

Southwestern Public Health is seeking help to identify a dog involved in a bite incident on Aug. 13 in Tillsonburg.

The incident occurred on at approximately 9:30 p.m. on Quarter Town Line Road, near Southridge Public School.

The individual had parked his truck and was walking along the road when a large dog ran from a ditch, grabbed his right arm and dragged him approximately 10 to 15 feet. The dog was wearing a collar, but its owner is unknown.

The dog is described as large, with short black fur and a short tail. It is believed to resemble a Rottweiler.

Public Health wants to confirm the vaccination status of the dog to allow the victim and their health care provider to determine next steps related to rabies post-exposure prophylaxis.

If you are the owner of the dog or have information about the incident, please contact Southwestern Public Health at 1-800-922-0096 and ask to speak with a Public Health Inspector.

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Finding one's happy place upside down on a moving horse

JEFF TRIBE

Post Correspondent

Taken as a whole, equestrian vaulting is a thing of flowing, artistic interpretation.

But when you freeze a frame, one might come to the realization one's daughter is upside down on a moving horse, courageously hanging tight only to grips on a specialized 'aerobic' saddle.

"She loves it, she's fearless," said Juliet Steen's mother Annika. "That age, they're not too scared of things yet."

Equestrian vaulting originated in Europe says Steen, and is popular in countries including Holland and Europe.

"It's big there, not as big here."

But there are opportunities for those interested in a unique sport combining gymnastics, acrobatics and dance on the back of a moving horse. Juliet trains under Gerda Renkema at Hopes and Dreams Stables in Dereham Centre says Annika, relatively close to their Springford home. Juliet is following in the hoof prints - or handgrips - of elder sister Jasmine.

"I like how it has to do with horses but they can do their own thing too," Annika explained. "It gives them good balance and they can be really artistic too."

In basic terms, the human half of what is very much a team effort, performs a routine as their equine partner moves in a circle around a human 'lunger'. Annika



(JEFF TRIBE PHOTO)

Springford resident Aria Markvoort enjoys the combination of gymnastics, acrobatics and dance included within equestrian vaulting.



(JEFF TRIBE PHOTO)

Springford resident Juliet Steen performs a move during her equestrian vaulting performance at the recent Friesian Horse Show, north of Norwich.

was called into action in that capacity for an exhibition at the Friesian Horse Show north of Norwich, due to the fact Renkema was not available on the day, and also ownership and affinity with Leo, a mixed Friesian/Warmblood.

"He's really focussed and really takes care of the kids," said Annika, noting how well Leo had performed in a strange location, in front of hundreds of spectators and after a year's break from his last event. "It was quite amazing he was as calm as he was."

Juliet competes in three or four shows a year against other Ontario-based clubs, but there is also potential to go further, with practice and training.

Juliet's cousin Aria Markvoort was also drawn into the sport by Jasmine Steen,

and has been training for five years.

"I love the connection with the horses and the connections I make with the vaulters," said Markvoort, whose family also lives in the Springford area.

Although finding the sport 'very fun', it can also be challenging when she is getting onto the horse, maintaining balance or trying and perfecting new moves, 'the needle' (one leg up, one down) being her favourite. Markvoort competes three times a year, all three 2026 events in Clinton although she has gone as far afield as Ottawa. There are usually around 50 vaulters says Aria, who enjoys meeting new like-minded people as well as the competition itself.

"I like seeing how much I have improved since last time."

CONTINUED TO PAGE 17

Finding one's happy place upside down on a moving horse

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 16

Her friends all think what she does is 'cool', however when trying to explain the sport to others, Aria finds some repetition necessary.

"I have to re-tell them."

Seventeen-year-old Springfield-area resident Nick Vandebroek began equestrian vaulting four years ago, his coach noticing he was 'fooling around' with the stationary practice 'horse' while his sister Alissa was riding.

"She introduced me to the sport," he said. "Ever since I've been doing it."

Vandebroek currently trains six days a week in preparation for his first international event, Nov. 11 in Langley, B.C. He expects to mainly face North American competitors, preparing with a combination of ground training, muscle flexibility work and gymnastics. He also travels to Alberta four times a year for

two weeks of intensified sessions with mechanical and live horses.

Routines are scored on a combination of performance and difficulty of included elements, says Vandebroek, along with a 25 per cent component based on the horse.

"You have to have a really good connection with the horse," he emphasized. "If you're not working with the horse, things can look really bad, really quickly."

And while everyone's happy place might not be upside down on a moving horse, Vandebroek has found a feeling of exhilarating freedom within the sport.

"The idea of standing on a running horse was very scary," he concluded. "But when you are up there, it feels like you are unstoppable, can conquer the world and are flying."

"I love it very much."

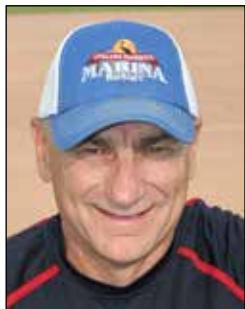


(JEFF TRIBE PHOTO)

Nick Vandebroek is training for his first international equestrian vaulting competition, November 11th in Langley, B.C.

tillsonburgpost.com

Tillsonburg slo-pitch players amongst gold medal winners



**EYE
ON
SLO-
PITCH**

DAVE WEAVER

Post Columnist

There were some happy Canucks as they captured the gold medal at the Canadian Championships in Niagara on Saturday.

After they came from behind on Friday night against rival Ontario Titans, they easily beat Alberta Cardinals in the championship game the next day.

Amongst the Canucks are, Jeremy Roy, a stalwart on The Mill squad in Tillsonburg, and Logan Kloet is also on the team's roster. Dave and Evan Boldt are former players in our league, and I have to personally give a shout out to my nephew Gary Money who was also a member on the winning team.

Ontario Lynx finished an impressive fifth place in the Ladies' Division. Ladies' executive member Maddi Obar was member of the team, Kayden Thornton a teammate from Cooks Concrete Jays also played. Former Tillsonburg players Kaitlin Kloet and Kasey McKenzie were also Lynx members.

Nathan Boldt, Kyle McDougall, Brent Sproule, Dallas and Alex Dalby made their first appearance at the Canadians.

Both leagues will be commencing their playoffs this coming week.

It is very hard to believe that we have hit mid-August already.

Ladies' Division

The standings were so tight for second to fourth place entering last week.

Foldens Machine Works knocked off Simmonds Mortgages in a big game on Monday night. They easily beat Queen Bees on the Wednesday, which gave them a glimmer of hope in finishing second or third, but as their game ended Sunspace/Bill Klyn Carpentry walked off Cooks Concrete Jays handing them their only defeat on the year.

Simmonds Mortgages mercy win over Resting Pitch Face moved them one point ahead of Sunspace with the two teams set to battle it out for second place this past Monday.

Cooks won by forfeit over Wildcats to round out the division results.

Foldens Machine Works-10, Simmonds Mortgages-7

Foldens-Ashley Aker 2-2; Mandi Vickers 3-4.

Simmonds-Jackie Wood-Van Santen 3-4; Corrie Tveit 3-4.

Game Synopsis-Mandi Vickers had a big night at the plate, doubling three times while scoring four runs for the winners.

Simmonds Mortgages-13, Resting Pitch Face-0

Simmonds-Jackie Wood-Van Santen 3-3; Tena Bueckert 3-3; Shannon Oneill HR.

Resting-Sara Sohm 2-2; Katie Depew 1-2.

Game Synopsis-Shannon Oneill hit a three-run second-inning homer and Tena Bueckert tripled and scored three runs for the winners.

Sunspace/Bill Klyn Carpentry-7, Cooks Concrete Jays-6

Sunspace-Nicole Morgan 4-4; Missy Falkins 3.

Cooks-Brandi Cook 4-4; Melissa Hughes 4-4.

Game Synopsis-Nicole Morgan had the walk-off base hit for Sunspace, plating Tammy Griswold, who scored three runs on the night.

Foldens Machine Works-15, Queen

Bees-3

Foldens-Mandi Vickers 4-4; Trisha McKenzie 4-4, HR.

Queen-Sam Norman 2-3; Deziray Legg 3-3.

Game Synopsis-Lead-off batter Trisha McKenzie homered and scored four runs for the winners.

Sunspace/Bill Klyn Carpentry-19, Wildcats-7

Sunspace-Nicole Morgan 4-4; Amanda Stubbs 4-4.

Wildcats-Christine Phillips 3-4; Danielle Jeromin 3-4.

Game Synopsis-Sunspace easily dominated the short-handed Wildcats, Amanda Stubbs tripled, doubled and scored four runs.

Men's Division 1

Hit N Run have locked up second place in the division after beating The Mill on Friday night. The Mill split a doubleheader with the Cubs. Cobra Chickens had an easy win over Leeswood Construction Dirty Mitts, and the Mitts won by forfeit over SunSpace/Bill Klyn Carpentry.

If The Mill wins against the Cubs on Tuesday, they will jump from fifth place to third. They hold the series tiebreaker against Cobra Chickens. This would set up a Mill versus Cubs encounter in the first round of playoffs.

1,2 Seal Insulation Hawks will receive a bye while Hit N Run are locked in to battle it out with Sunspace/Bill Klyn Carpentry.

Hit N Run-28, The Mill-16

Hit N Run-Franky Klassen 5-5, 2HR; Peter Klassen 5-5, HR; Daniel Unger 2HR; Diedrich Klassen HR; Jacob Klassen HR.

The Mill-Steve Derks 4-4, HR; Ethan Morgan 3-4; Bob Evans HR.

Game Synopsis-An eleven-run seventh won it for Hit N Run. Daniel Unger and

Franky Klassen each homered twice and drove in five for the winners.

Cubs-23, The Mill-14

Cubs-Ivan Dyck 4-4, 2HR; Jamie Teichroeb 3-4; Marcus Enns HR; Joel Dyck HR; Johnathan Dyck HR

The Mill-Ryan Black 4-4, 2HR; Steve Byron 3-4; Brooks Scharr 2HR; Bryan Deblaire HR; Steve Derks HR.

Game Synopsis-Ivan Dyck homered twice doubled and scored three runs. Joel Dyck homered, doubled and also scored three runs.

Cobra Chickens-22, Leeswood Construction Dirty Mitts-9

Cobra-Nathan Froese 5-5; Nathan Peters 5-5; Wyatt Blatz HR; Brian Dyck HR;

Leeswood-Thom Puhf 3-4, HR; Jarrett Anderson 3-4.

Game Synopsis-Lead-off batter Brian Dyck did his job, hitting for the cycle for the winners.

1,2 Seal Insulation Hawks-21, Leeswood Construction Dirty Mitts-6

Hawks-Johnny Epp 5-5, HR; Peter Epp 4-4; Ben Bueckert 2HR.

Leeswood-Jarrett Anderson 2-3; Ryan Blackman 2-2; Thom Puhf HR; Tim Townsend HR.

Game Synopsis-The top two in the winner's order, Cam Bueckert and John Klassen, each reached and scored four times.

The Mill-21, Cubs-20

The Mill-Darren Pace 4-4, HR; Steve Byron 4-5; Steve Derks HR; Bryan Deblaire HR; Josh Stubbs HR.

Cubs-Jamie Teichroeb 4-4, HR; Johnathan Dyck 4-5, 2HR; Chris Dyck HR; Ivan Dyck HR; Marcus Enns HR; Joel Dyck HR.

Game Synopsis-The Mill won it in the seventh. Brooks Scharr scored the winning run, while Darren Pace homered and doubled three times on the night.

Men's Division 2

CONTINUED TO PAGE 18

Tillsonburg slo-pitch players amongst gold medal winners

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 17

The Mavericks have locked up second place in the group after they knocked off first-place Pelicans and merciied Sticky Bandits. At My Playground/IQT Logistics won a pair of close ones over Pelicans and Strike Force, tying All Seasons Estate Care Bandits with identical records in the third position. All Seasons squeaked one out against Papa's Auto. Quackheads won by five over Designated Drinkers to sit in seventh.

The wildcard best-of-three round will feature Underhill Farm Supply versus Quackheads while Designated Drinkers will face Papa's Auto Spa in the other set.

Quackheads-21, Designated Drinkers-15

Quackheads-Phil Beauvais 5-5; Scott Mudford 5-5.

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

Game Synopsis-Mark Vanderhaeghe reached and scored in all four plate appearances for Quackheads.

Mavericks-28, Pelicans-16

Mavericks-Jason Landry 6-6; Ryan Sinden 4-5.

Bandits-Chris Parker 4-4; Jeff Cadotte 3-4, 2HR; TJ Neville HR.

Game Synopsis-Ten of the 11 Mavericks crossed the plate at least once. Chris Hass, Jason Landry and Dom Cunningham each scored four runs.

Mavericks-21, Sticky Bandits-8

Mavericks-Nick Dovsek 4-5; Jason Landry 4-5, HR; Doug Falkins HR.

Bandits-Aiden Guenther 3-4; Jeff Heide 4-5; Tyson Krahn HR; Jordan Weibe HR.

Game Synopsis-A 10-run seventh for Mavericks decided this one, Jason Landry led off the rally with a homer and Doug Falkins hit a three -un shot later.

At My Playground/IQT Logistics-24, Strike Force-23

AMP-Brandon Balazs 5-5; Duncan McLean 4-4.

Strike Force-Peter Klassen 5-5; Henry Klassen 5-5; Abe Hamn HR.

Game Synopsis-Brandon Balazs had the walk-off base hit, plating the tying and winning runs.

At My Playground/IQT Logistics-13, Pelicans-11

AMP-Duncan McLean 3-3, HR; Logan Savoy 3-3; Logan Partlo HR; Landon Partlo HR.

Pelicans-Joe Kingsbury 3-3; Ryan Marques 3-4; Steve Leacock HR; TJ Neville HR.

Game Synopsis-A seven-run fifth keyed AMP's win, Landon Partlo closed out the rally with a homer.

All Seasons Estate Care Bandits-10, Papa's Auto Spa-9

Bandits-Aaron Hildebrandt 4-4; Caleb Dyck 3-4.

Papa's-Jake Rempel 3-4; Peyton Harris 3-3.

Game Synopsis-Bandits had three extra base hits in their three-run fifth, Alex Friesen tripled and Luke Neufeld and Caleb Dyck hit back to back doubles.

Men's Division 3

The division got turned upside down as Sandy Shore Brew Jays knocked off first-place Sluggers and swept Bird's Golf in a doubleheader to secure second place in the group. John Beere had a costly loss against Bird's that took them out of the second-place conversation, and they defeated NAPA/Coward's Pharmacy Maulers to secure third. Beer Bombers finished off their inaugural season with a five-run victory over Bird's, placing fourth. The best-of-five series will be Bird's Golf against Sandy Shore Brew Jays, Wolfpack will match up with John

Beere while Beer Bombers will entertain NAPA/Coward's Pharmacy Maulers.

John Beere-24, NAPA/Coward's Pharmacy Maulers-16

John Beere-Tristan Healy 4-4; Brandon Reaney 4-4.

NAPA-Ryland Vandergulick 4-4; Dillon Outerbridge 3-4.

Game Synopsis-Eleven of John Beere 's 12 batters scored at least one run. Tristan Healy scored four runs.

Bird's Golf-15, John Beere-10

Bird's-Charles Zarb 5-5; Adam Mann 4-5.

John Beere-Shaun Elliott 4-5; Jesse Anderson 3-4.

Game Synopsis-Bird's came out on top in the nine-against-nine battle, leadoff batter Joshua Townsend tripled and scored four runs.

Sandy Shore Brew Jays-18, Bird's Golf-5

Brew Jays-Mike Schmeltz 4-4; Josh Mahee 4-4; Devon Schultz HR.

Bird's-Adam Mann 3-3; Joshua Townsend 2-4.

Game Synopsis-A seven-run fourth keyed the Brew Jays win.

Sandy Shore Brew Jays-24, Bird's Golf-6

Brew Jays-Brian Redecop 5-5; Devon Schultz 5-5, HR.

Bird's-Matt Wood 3-3; Jake Froese 3-3.

Game Synopsis-Devon Schultz was a triple shy of hitting for the cycle and scored five runs for the winners.

Sandy Shore Brew Jays-25, Sluggers-12

Brew Jays-Brad Schapp 5-5; Brian Redecop 5-5.

Sluggers-Alex Barnes 3-3, HR; Jake Superales 3-3.

Game Synopsis-Brew Jays started off the game plating seven in their first two at-bats.

Men's Division 4

The division closed out its regular season last week with their playoffs starting on the Sunday. First-place N.I.M., and second-place Brickhouse Boys receive a bye after successful regular seasons. Tornadoes will take on R.L.P. Melanie Luksys and Smokin Bases will meet in the other series.

Brickhouse Boys-13, Smokin Bases-9

Brickhouse-Luke Thomas 4-4, 2HR; Aiden Hoshal 3-4; Shawn Knelsen HR.

Smokin-Tim Miners 3-4; Reg Burnett 3-3.

Game Synopsis-The highlight of this night was the class exhibited by the Brickhouse Boys joining with Smokin Bases to honour the memory of Smokin Bases player Brodie Chambers in a moment of silence prior to their game.

Brickhouse Boys-19, Tornadoes-4

Brickhouse-Cooper Desroches 3-3; Tanner Lammens 3-3; Shawn Knelsen HR; Parker Morris HR.

Tornadoes-Tyler Bouck 2-2; Steve Voth 2-2.

Game Synopsis-Tanner Lammens tripled twice, singled and scored three runs. Parker Morris and Shawn Knelsen homered and doubled.

N.I.M.-15, R.L.P. Melanie Luksys-13

N.I.M.-Jeff Wheeler 4-4; Justin Grzech 3-3.

R.L.P.-Braeden Redling 3-4; Travis Dobbelaar 2-3.

Game Synopsis-Jeff Wheeler and Brodie Earls scored three runs for the winners.

N.I.M.-26, Tornadoes-20

N.I.M.-Cory Chambers 5-5; Joe Allin 4-4.

Tornadoes-Tyler Bouck 5-5; Jack Soares 4-5.

Game Synopsis-Joe Allin crossed four times for the winners.

LADIES	W	L	T	PTS
COOKS CONCRETE JAYS	22	1	1	45
SIMMONDS MORTGAGES	16	6	1	33
SUNSPACE/BILL KLYN CARPENTRY	15	6	2	32
FOLDENS MACHINE WORKS	14	8	1	29
RESTING PITCH FACE	7	15	1	15
WILDCATS	5	19	0	10
QUEEN BEES	0	24	0	0

MEN'S DIVISION 3	W	L	T	PTS
SLUGGERS	14	5	1	29
SANDY SHORE BREW JAYS	12	8	0	24
JOHN BEERE	11	8	1	23
BEER BOMBERS	10	9	1	21
NAPA/COWARD'S PHARMACY MAULERS	9	11	0	18
WOLFPACK	6	13	1	13
BIRD'S GOLF	6	14	0	12

MEN'S DIVISION 1	W	L	T	PTS
1,2 SEAL INSULATION HAWKS	18	2	0	34
HIT N RUN	11	8	0	22
COBRA CHICKENS	10	10	0	20
LEESWOOD CONSTRUCTION DIRTY MITTS	9	10	1	19
THE MILL	9	10	0	18
CUBS	7	11	1	15
SUNSPACE/BILL KLYN CARPENTRY	3	16	0	6

MEN'S DIVISION 4	W	L	T	PTS
N.I.M.	19	1	0	38
BRICKHOUSE BOYS	14	5	1	29
R.L.P. MELANIE LUKSYS	7	11	2	16
DIAMOND KINGS	7	13	0	14
SMOKIN BASES	6	14	0	12
TORNADES	5	14	1	11

MEN'S DIVISION 2	W	L	T	PTS
PELICANS	14	5	0	28
MAVERICKS	13	6	0	26
ALL SEASONS ESTATE CARE BANDITS	11	6	1	23
AT MY PLAYGROUND/IQT LOGISTICS	11	6	1	23
STRIKE FORCE	11	8	0	22
STICKY BANDITS	8	10	0	16
QUACKHEADS	8	11	0	16
DESIGNATED DRINKERS	6	13	0	12
PAPA'S AUTO SPA	5	12	1	11
UNDERHILL FARM SUPPLY	4	14	1	9



Red Sox fall short at end of regular season

GRAHAM NICKERSON

Post Contributor

Frailty, thy name is Red Sox.

And so ends the regular season for Tillsonburg that started with great much promise and a winning record, only to see abdications and injuries pile up to the tune of a ten-game slide.

The tournament to decide the Southern Counties Champions took place at Simcoe's Owen Street Grounds, Saturday. It saw the Red Sox play their tightest defensive game of the year, but baffled bats were only good for four hits and a 2-1 defeat to the Simcoe Seniors.

Young right hander Paxton Bale turned in his best performance of the year going the distance allowing five hits, no walks, while striking out three. Not to be outdone, Simcoe called on Jared Knelsen for mound duty and he hurled seven fine innings with one walk and three punch-outs.

The teams were deadlocked at zeros after two innings when Simcoe drew first blood with a two-out rally in the third. Lead off man Sean Knelsen singled and advanced to second when Tom Martinow was plunked in the back. Spencer Wall smacked his offering to right to send the speedy Knelsen across for the games first run.

In the top of the fourth, Tillsonburg evened the scoring starting with Fish Verschueren's base hit up the middle. A wild pitch put Verschueren into scoring position, then Rob Verhoeve laced the ball into left to plate Fish.

The Seniors retook the lead in the home half of the fourth when Ty Hare led off with a single, followed by a sac bunt that placed him on second. Seth Barnard's fly to deep center was enough to move Hare to third. With two away, Dylan Boyd hit a sinking line drive to left that outfielder Owen West made a miraculous effort on, but the ball fell in and Hare scampered home.

Tillsonburg rallied in the sixth when Digger Thomp-

TILLSONBURG	AB	R	H	PO	A	E
RACHAR, SS	1	0	0	0	0	0
VITIAS, C	2	0	0	3	1	0
DECLARK, DH	3	0	0	0	0	0
VERSCHUEREN, 1B	3	1	1	8	0	0
VERHOEVE, CF	3	0	1	1	0	0
OATWAY, 2B	3	0	2	2	3	0
DAVIS, 3B	3	0	0	1	1	0
WEST, LF	2	0	0	1	0	0
APPLEFORD, RF	2	0	0	2	0	0
THOMPSON, EH	0	0	0	0	0	0
TOTALS	22	1	4	18	7	0

Summary: ER, Tillsonburg 1, Simcoe 2; LOB, Tillsonburg 5, Simcoe 4; 2B, Martinow; RBI, Verhoeve, Wall, Boyd;W, J. Knelsen; L, Bale; BB, Knelsen (1); K, Bale (3), J. Knelsen (3); Time, 1:39

son came within 90 feet of scoring but two consecutive groundouts nipped the momentum.

Keep your heads held high boys, your practice and determination are slowly righting the ship.

One bad inning and so goes the season

There was considerable buzz in the Red Sox dugout before their afternoon game with the Port Dover Clippers when ace Verschueren was announced as moundsman. The Sox were especially licking their chops when they saw Sam Wilson was the starting hurler for Dover. Wilson is one of the slowest slow-ball pitchers this side of the Lynn River.

TILLSONBURG	AB	R	H	PO	A	E
RACHAR, SS	3	0	1	1	2	1
VERSCHUEREN, P, 1B	3	0	0	1	0	0
OATWAY, 1B, P	3	0	1	4	0	1
VITIAS, C	3	0	0	9	0	0
VERHOEVE, CF	3	1	2	0	0	0
DAVIS, 3B	3	1	2	0	3	0
WEST, LF	3	0	1	0	0	0
APPLEFORD, RF	1	0	0	1	1	0
HEPDITCH, 2B	2	0	0	1	1	0
THOMPSON, EH	2	0	1	0	0	0
TOTALS	26	2	8	18	6	3

Summary: ER, Tillsonburg 1, Port Dover 5; LOB, Tillsonburg 4, Port Dover 4; 2B, Verhoeve; 3B, Andrello; RBI, West, Andrello (2), Clarkson (2); W, S. Wilson; L, Verschueren; BB, Verschueren (3), Oatway (1); K, Verschueren (9), Wilson (1); Time, 1:54

But the game on paper is purely theoretical. The combatants had to do battle to see who would face the Seniors in the crowning contest Saturday night.

Before Tillsonburg could make an out in the first, Port Dover had pushed across a staggering seven runs on two hits, two walks, two errors and a hit by pitch. A ball to the backstop resulted in the eighth run of the frame and stunned Tillsonburg beyond recovery.

In the second, the Clipper's sloppy defence and a trio of singles by Verhoeve, Jim Davis and West were good for two runs. Tillsonburg nearly tacked on a third run on a tag up, but West was called out at the plate on a dust-raising slide that appeared to avoid the swipe of the catcher's mitt.

CONTINUED TO PAGE 20

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Red Sox fall short at end of regular season

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 19

Verschueren settled in after the first-inning blowup. Over the next four innings, the lefty allowed just one base runner via a walk, while racking up a total of nine strikeouts.

The 'Burg bats rattled off hits sporadically in the remaining innings, but were unable to string enough together for any runs. Hard hits balls were speared, scooped and slung dashing all hopes of a comeback.

Club Oxford registration open

Tillsonburg's Club Oxford Hockey League will be starting up soon as it enters its 44th year of operation.

The league is for players 19 years of age and up. The "Rookie Skate" for new players will be held on Sunday, Sept. 27, and teams will be drafted

on Wednesday, Sept. 30. Regular-season play begins on Sunday, Oct. 4.

Application forms are available at Tillsonburg's Source for Sports location. All the information you will need can be found on our site <https://www.cluboxfordhockey.ca>

The Red Sox have a week off then travel to Port Hope for the OBA "C" division playdowns Aug. 28-30, where they'll be playing teams more their own size and hope to salvage their year.

Tillsonburg.....020 000 0 – 2 8 3

Port Dover.....800 000 – 8 3 2



(CHRIS ABBOTT PHOTO)

Port Dover catcher Gavin Barnard makes the tag at home plate Saturday.



(CHRIS ABBOTT PHOTO)

Tillsonburg's Braydon Verschueren pitches against Port Dover Saturday afternoon in a Southern Counties senior semifinal at Simcoe Memorial Park. Verschueren had nine strikeouts.

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MINOR SPORTS

SCRAPBOOK

(STUART BLOWER PHOTOS)



A batter with the J.L. Scott McLean U9 team swings on a ball that's a little low in a game against Optometrists on Broadway.



McFarlan Rowland second baseman Gavin Benoit #4, has some advice for the Tigers runner during a recent U-7 game. Or were they discussing the latest Blue Jays trades?



Otters player #66 Kaiden Gunby slides into second base ahead of the ball in an U-13 rep game against Ingersoll.



It appears a 3-E Power Service base runner is about a second too late with the Tillsonburg Hogarth Insurance first baseman having the ball in a U-15 game.



Royal Canadian Legion player second base Liam Laraway #7, tags the Ingersoll runner in a U-9 game.



A Tillsonburg Otters player reaches for the sky during a recent game against Caledonia.

TILLSONBURG FAIR 2026



(JEFF HELSDON PHOTO)

For the first time in decades there were no entries into the competition for the Tillsonburg Tri-County Fair Ambassador. Last year's ambassador, Kylie West, left, crowned Dylan Reid as the Junior Ambassador while Rosemary Dean watches. Carson Foster was also named Junior Ambassador.



(JEFF HELSDON PHOTO)

While there were no entries for fair ambassador, the competition was intense for Mini Queen and Mini King. Contestants answered questions to assist judges with picking the winners. Ellie Smith was crowned the new Mini Queen and Dorian Smoke the new Mini King.



(JEFF HELSDON PHOTO)

Connor Gunkel, center, steals the ball during the annual basketball game between Tillsonburg Special Olympics athletes and emergency responders. Members of the Oxford OPP, Tillsonburg Fire Department and Bayham Fire Department took part in the game, which is a tradition at the fair.



(STUART BLOWER PHOTO)

Tri-County's Got Talent Show award winners from left included honourable mentions Liam Mitchell, and two band members from STUNT on each side of Tillsonburg's New Country 107.3's host Randy Owen. On the right side of banner, first place winner Jeff Staley, and judges Daniel Jones and Sally-Jo Atkinson.



(CHRIS ABBOTT PHOTO)

Jonathan Hilliker performed in the Tri-County's Got Talent show Saturday at the Tillsonburg Fair.

TILLSONBURG FAIR 2026



The Parachute Wheel Ride at the Tillsonburg Tri-County Fair. (STUART BLOWER PHOTO)



Magical Midways' Scrambler ride is always popular at the Tillsonburg Tri-County Fair. (CHRIS ABBOTT PHOTO)



Supervised by Auxiliary Staff Sergeant Angela Thompson and Auxiliary Constable Nathan Pye, Sally Jones and son Daniel view a revolving police exhibit at the Tillsonburg Fair that demonstrated the danger of not wearing seat belts. (STUART BLOWER PHOTO)



David Snyder holds up his son Allen to get a good look into the window at Lightning McQueen's Toy car Collection. (STUART BLOWER PHOTO)



These friends arrived a bit late for the Tillsonburg Fair Ice Cream Eating Contest, sponsored by Shaw's Ice Cream, but were still able to race against each other. Lucas Verhoeve, right, seems to be leading with big hand-scooped bites while Thomas Dickson takes a steady approach. (STUART BLOWER PHOTO)



Tom Carpenter devours a bowl of Shaw's ice cream, finishing first in the second round of Saturday's ice cream eating contest at the Tillsonburg Tri-County Fair. (CHRIS ABBOTT PHOTO)

COMING EVENTS

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AUGUST

AUGUST 22 | 1 - 4:30 PM KICKN KOUNTRY LIVE BAND Tillsonburg Legion, 16 Durham St, Tillsonburg, ON

Only \$8 cash at the door. 19+ event. Cash bar open. Call 519-842-5281 for more information.

AUGUST 23 | 11 AM COMMUNITY INVITED TO HEAR GUEST SPEAKER & AWARD- WINNING AUTHOR DANNY COVEY

New Hope Baptist Church, 56675
Green Line, Tillsonburg

Join us for a special community event featuring guest speaker Danny Covey. Everyone welcome! For more information call (519) 842-3251 or email office@newhopetillsonburg.com

AUGUST 28 | 1 - 4 PM KEN LIGHTEART AND THE NORTHSHORE RAMBLERS DANCE

Tillsonburg Legion, 16 Durham St,
Tillsonburg, ON

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

SEPTEMBER

SEPTEMBER 5 | 10 AM - 12 PM MESSY CHURCH

"ALL TOGETHER NOW"
St.Paul's United Church, 88 Bidwell
St.,Tillsonburg

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

SEPTEMBER 9 | 12 - 1 PM TILLSONBURG LEGION LUNCH Tillsonburg Legion, 16 Durham St, Tillsonburg, ON

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

SEPTEMBER 12 | 9 AM - 4 PM (Rain Date: Sunday, September 13) OPEN HOUSE AND FAMILY FUN DAY

Tillsonburg Regional Airport, 244411
Airport Road, Tillsonburg

Join the Canadian Harvard Aircraft Association for its biggest event of the year, their Wings & Wheels Family Fun Day,

September 13. (Rain date: Sept 14). World War II Harvard aircraft, along with hundreds of classic cars will be on display in one location. Bring your classic car or peruse those brought by others. Harvard flights will be available all day long. A great day's outing.

Activities:

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

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

In case of inclement weather, check their Facebook page for RAIN DATE updates. Cost: Cash donation, Contact: info@harvards.com / 519-842-9922, For more info: www.harvards.com

SEPTEMBER 16 | STARTS 11 AM 136TH LANGTON FALL FAIR Langton arena

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

SEPTEMBER 19 TILLSONBURG LEGION GOLF TOURNAMEN Tillsonview Fairways

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

ONGOING CLASSES, CLUBS & ORGANIZATIONS

WEDNESDAYS | 6 PM FRIDAYS | 10 AM INTRODUCTION TO TAI CHI

Canadian Tai Chi Academy Tillsonburg
St Paul's United Church, Fox Alley
South entrance, off Ridout Street.
Wednesdays at 6:00 pm and Fridays at 10 am for Practice. From May through September, Friday class moves outdoors to Memorial Park near the Picnic Shelter at 10 am. For information: tillsonburg@canadiantaichiacademy.org, 519-688-2877,

519-983-3381, & canadiantaichiacademy.org. The next 4 month class begins Wednesday, September 9th. Everyone Welcome. Improve your Health.

3RD TUE. OF MONTH | 6:30 - 8:30 PM CAREGIVER CONNECTION Revel Realty Woodstock, 111 Huron Street (Virutal/hybrid options available)

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

STARTS 7 PM THE TILLSONBURG & DISTRICT HISTORICAL SOCIETY PRESENTS MUSIC ON THE LAWN Annandale N.H.S. , 30 Tillson Avenue AUGUST 16 – “North Shore Ramblers”

BEGINNING AT 6:30 PM AUGUST 23 – “George Fulop” AUGUST 30 – “Blue Sky” – Archie Wright

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

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

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

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

Thames Valley Dance Club
Looking for something to do in the evening or something new to try? Modern square dancing is a great way to learn something new, have fun, meet new friends, relieve

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

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

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

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

If you have never belonged to a stamp club, now's the time. Meet new friends, grow your knowledge and collection. Contact: Don Eaton dheaton3e3@gmail.com. Website: <http://www.rpsc.org/chapters/oxford>

3RD WED. OF MONTH | 10 AM - NOON LYNN RIVER PROBUS CLUB Army, Navy & Air Force Club, Simcoe, ON. Corner of Water St. and Culver St. Simcoe. Enter via Culver St.

Our retired and semi-retired members enjoy diverse interest groups, friendship and fellowship. We have interesting speakers at our monthly meetings as well as time to socialise.

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

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

North Broadway Baptist Church

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

COMING EVENTS

ca/nbmfa, <https://www.facebook.com/northbroadwaymfa>, <https://www.instagram.com/northbroadwaymfa/> Inquires can be made at: nbmfa@northbroadwaychurch.ca

EVERY OTHER FRIDAY | 1 - 4 PM
BE FALL-ISH AND COME TO THE INGERSOLL COUNTRY MUSIC JAMBOREE
Masonic Hall, 190 Thames St. S., Ingersoll

Join us, walk ins welcome. Qualifications - love 50-70's country music. Perform, listen, dance & enjoy! September 4 & 18, October 2, 16 & 30, November 6 & 20, and December 4.

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

SATURDAYS, JUNE 6 - SEPT. 19 | 10 AM - 4 PM
PLATTSVILLE & DISTRICT HERITAGE SOCIETY
2026 EXHIBIT - HOLIDAYS & CELEBRATIONS THAT BRING US TOGETHER
Archive & Museum at Chesterfield, 816661 Oxford Rd 22, Bright (June 20 - visit us at Plattsville 175)
Donations accepted. Refreshments.
For private viewing email plattsvilledistrictheritage@gmail.com or call 519.535.1417.

1ST AND 3RD TUES. OF MONTH
TILLSONBURG LIONS
The Tillsonburg Lions meet on the 1st and 3rd Tuesdays. You are invited to their dinner meetings in the Lion's Den at the Community Centre. If you are interested in giving back to your Community contact Jim

at 519 409 0876 for more information.....all are welcome.

1ST WED. OF MONTH | 7 PM
WAGNER MEMORIAL TEETERVILLE LEGION BRANCH 526 - MEMBERS GENERAL MEETING
The Wagner Memorial Teeterville Legion Branch 526 - 3890 Teeterville Road, Teeterville, ON
Not a member? Contact us to join. For More Information Call, the Legion 519-443-5588. www.teetervillelegionbranch526.ca

WOULD YOU LIKE TO VOLUNTEER TO HELP AT ONE OF OUR EVENTS? WE WELCOME YOU!
The Wagner Memorial, Teeterville Legion Branch 526 - 3890 Teeterville Road, Teeterville, ON
You do not need to be a member to Volunteer, Just contact the legion and leave your name and number and purpose of your call. Someone will get back to you as to where you might be needed. Students and Adults welcome. **Open hours. Wed.- Fri. 3 pm-10 pm, Sat.1 pm-10 pm, Sun.1 pm-6 pm.** For More Information call, the Legion at 519-443-5588 or teetervillelegionbranch526.ca

VON OXFORD SUPPORTIVE CARE PROGRAMS
Navigating any form of grief can feel overwhelming; however, with the right support, guidance, and education, individuals can discover a pathway to help in the healing of grief.
VON Oxford Supportive Care Programs offer assistance for grief stemming from various circumstances, such as the death of someone, caregiving, serious illness diagnoses, and life transitions. Through education, connection, and compassion, our programs create a safe space for individuals to explore their emotions and learn effective coping mechanisms during the grieving process.
Contact us today to learn more about VON Oxford Supportive Care Programs:
Email: oxford.griefsupport@von.ca
Phone: 1-888-866-7518
All Programs are Free-of-charge.



(JEFF HELSDON PHOTO)

CHAMBER CELEBRATES ITS 50TH ANNIVERSARY
(Top photo) A good way to immortalize a group's 50th anniversary is to take a photo with the members spelling out the number 50. Chamber members did that under the direction of chamber executive director Rocio Salinas and Aaron McFerran from Lucid Intent Productions. (Bottom photo) The Tillsonburg District Chamber of Commerce held a special Business After 5 meeting at the Tillsonburg Soccer Club to celebrate the organization's 50 anniversary. Chamber president Lindsay Tribble addressed the crowd, speaking about the original formation of the chamber, and hitting a few of the highlights over the years.

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NOTICE OF BANKRUPTCY AND FIRST MEETING OF CREDITORS

IN THE MATTER OF THE BANKRUPTCY OF 1000210860 ONTARIO INC. OF THE TOWN OF TILLSONBURG, IN THE PROVINCE OF ONTARIO

Notice is hereby given that the bankruptcy of 1000210860 Ontario Inc., formerly located at 1 Vance Drive, Tillsonburg, ON N4G 4M4, occurred on August 11, 2026. The first meeting of creditors will be held on September 1, 2026, at 10:00 a.m. (EST), Meeting to be conducted Via Conference Telephone:1(833) 215-3238, Conference ID: 109 439 096#.

Dated at Toronto, Ontario this 20th day of August 2026.

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Soothing your spirit – and wearing a monkey – in Grenada's rainforest



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

PAUL KNOWLES

Tillsonburg Post Columnist

It's not a surprise that, when travellers visit Caribbean islands, they often have two thoughts in mind: the beach, and rum punches. And there is no doubt that most Caribbean islands have great beaches, and no lack of rum drinks.

But the best Caribbean destinations offer so much more, and it would be a shame to miss the wonders you will find if you dare to leave the beach resort and start to explore.

In my view, Grenada is definitely one of "the best Caribbean destinations." I have a special fondness for the "Windward Islands" – the nations that are in the eastern part of the Caribbean. And when I was in Grenada, earlier this summer, the beach played very little part in a menu of fantastic activities – although there is no doubt that the four-kilometer-long Grand Anse white sand beach is one of the best in the world.

But we turned our focus inland, and spent one of our days exploring Grenada's spectacular rainforest.

Grenada has 3,800 acres of protected rainforest. The diversity of plants is mind-boggling: there are over 100 varieties of ferns, alone.

One of my favourite stops was at Annandale Waterfall and Forest Park. This being the rainforest, it wasn't too surprising that it was, in fact, raining. But this being a tropical island, it also wasn't too surprising that the rain was warm, and nobody seemed to care that we were getting wet. Because the plants and flowers were astonishing, and the waterfall is beautiful.

Annandale is a 30-foot waterfall on a stream that emerges from the rainforest, and plunges into a beautiful, emerald pool below... open for swimming if you so choose. It's one of nine waterfalls in Grenada, which is a volcanic island (there are hot springs you can visit), and so, rises sharply from the oceanfront to the heights of the rainforest.

Not to wax overly botanical, I wandered along paths bordered by dramatic heliconia, lush bougainvillea (the national flower of Grenada), "shampoo ginger", bird of paradise flower, torch ginger, and large, bright yellow flower called "buttercups" that bear no resemblance to any buttercup I have encountered in Canada. Plus dozens of plants I wouldn't even begin to try to identify. The rainforest is simply beautiful, and I noticed that all of us travel-writing colleagues almost immediately relaxed, and stopped to savour the visual delights around us – in spite of the rain.

Annandale Falls is just a small part of the large rainforest, which includes the Grand Etang National Park and Forest Reserve. There, visitors will encounter a cornucopia of unique delights.

There is an extensive lake that is actually a volcanic crater. There are beautiful birds, Rainbow Eucalyptus trees with bark the colours of the rainbow, and rather shockingly large Giant Frangipani caterpillars.

But the highlights are the Mona monkeys.

As you enter the park, you encounter this posted warning: "Notice. The Mona monkeys within the Grand Etang National Park live in the wild and can be very unpredictable. If you choose to interact with them, you are doing so at your own risk. The management of the park assumes no liability for any injury sustained as a result of such interaction."

That notice certainly echoed in my head a few minutes and a short distance away, as a Mona monkey sat on top of my head. Because there are some gentlemen who have apparently trained the wild monkeys to prance about on visitors' heads, arms and shoulders in return for food.

Or perhaps – and I might actually lean toward this explanation – the monkeys have trained the gentlemen. It sure seemed like the monkeys were in charge, at any rate.

Our minibus driver stopped where these monkeys are likely to be found, and next thing we knew, we had become climbing posts for Mona monkeys. It was a ton of fun – and no tourists were hurt in the making of those photographs. Nor were any Mona monkeys.

Grand Etang National Park features several walking and hiking trails. The hikes through the rainforest range from relatively easy walks to a challenging trail that climbs up Mount Saint Catherine, the highest peak on the volcanic island.

Of course, as wonderful as the rainforest is, Grenada offers a lot more for visitors to enjoy (including, naturally, the beach). There is the unique and astonishing Underwater Sculpture Park (which I had the chance to re-visit, and which I will write about in a subsequent feature). The island is home to seven chocolate factories (and once you have had Grenadian chocolate, you may never go back), and – you knew we're get back to this – five rum dis-



(PAUL KNOWLES PHOTO)

Annandale Falls, one of nine waterfalls in the rainforest of Grenada.

tilleries, which offer the most generous tasting experiences you are likely to encounter anywhere.

The tours of the chocolate factories are fascinating, and the tours of the rum distilleries are tasty, as well. Our visit took us to Belmont Estates for chocolate, and to Clarke's Court rum distillery.

But tempting as those options are (and yes, you should yield to temptation in this case), nothing will soothe and inspire your soul like spending time in Grenada's amazing rainforest.

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



(PAUL KNOWLES PHOTO)

Tropical beauties: heliconia and red ginger lily.



(PAUL KNOWLES PHOTO)

Bougainvillea is the national flower of Grenada.



(PAUL KNOWLES PHOTO)

These flowers, called Buttercups, bear little resemblance to the small flowers of the same name in Canada.





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RIDDLES

What has many rings but no fingers?
A telephone

What can you hold without ever touching it?
Your breath

What can you break without touching it?
A promise

What has a head and a tail but no body?
A coin

What question can you never answer yes to?
Are you asleep yet?

What is easy to lift but hard to throw?
A feather

What has 13 hearts but no other organs?
A deck of cards

What can you keep after giving it to someone?
Your word

What comes at the end of everything?
The letter G

What has keys but no locks, space but no room?
A keyboard

What kind of coat is always wet when you put it on?
A coat of paint

What starts with P, ends with E and has thousands of letters?
A post office

What has a bottom at the top?
Your legs

What can be seen once in a year, twice in a week and never in a day?
The letter E

SUDOKU

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			2				3	7

Solutions on Page 30

Level: Beginner

PET OF THE WEEK



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MARLEY

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

WORD SEARCH

PAR FOR THE COURSE

G	R	Y	A	W	R	I	A	F	W	S	Y	S	O	S	A	E	H	P	R
K	T	W	R	R	W	Z	T	S	U	R	T	P	W	I	F	R	N	D	D
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ALBATROSS

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BOGEY

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DRIVER

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FAIRWAY

FORE

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**TRUDY
TREPANIER**
(JANUARY 2, 1944
- AUGUST 2, 2026)

The family of the late Trudy Trepanier wish to express their sincere thanks and appreciation to all relatives, friends and neighbours for their kindness, cards, memorial donations and heartfelt condolences. Thank you to all the staff of Maurice J. Verhoeve Funeral Homes for their excellent service and help during this difficult time. Thanks to the Sakura House Nurses, PSWs and Staff for the excellent care provided to Trudy. Thank you to Father Seejo John, Deacon Brian Hanley and St. Mary's Resurrection Choir for their prayers and the meaningful Funeral Mass to honour Trudy. Also, we want to thank the ladies of the St. Mary's CWL who provided the lovely luncheon following the service.

PATRICIA I'OLA (JENSON) MEDAI

(OCTOBER 30, 1938 - AUGUST 15, 2026)



It is with great sadness that we the family announce the peaceful passing of Patricia (Pat) I'ola (Jenson) Medai on August 15, 2026 surrounded by her family at the age of 87. Pat was born in Brownsville, the daughter of the late William and Flossie (Dalby) Jenson. Pat married the love of her life, the late James "Jim" Medai Sr. and together they raised their children on the family dairy farm working side by side, milking cows, raising pigs, horses, chickens, chores of bailing hay and straw. They also worked alongside Lillian and James including the 10 children between them with the tobacco crops, from planting to stripping. They moved to Burford in 1975 where they share-grew tobacco for George Gilvesy Sr. Pat and Jim returned to the family farm in 1987. They had the joy of spending just shy of 67 years together when he passed away April 29, 2023.

Pat also worked at Fleck Manufacturing and TDMH in the SPD Department before retiring at the age of 65. Pat was a member of the Tillsonburg Lioness Club for 10 years including being President for 3 years.

Pat is lovingly remembered by her children and their partners: late Cynthia; Liz (Al Clark), of Straffordville, Christine (Ron Nutbrown) of Burford; Stephanie (Greg Lounsbury), of Tillsonburg; James 'Jim' (Jackie) Medai Jr, of Tillsonburg. Proud and loving grandmother of 13, great-grandmother of 24 and a great-great grandmother of 1: AnnMarie McKenzie (Clay R. Carroll) (daughter Maya Carroll-Salazar), Nathen Crooker; Derek Clark (sons Brandon (fiancé Selena), Owen (fiancé Aubrey), Jennifer (Jeremy Prouse) (children Katelyn (Reilly Marsh and son Waylon), Delia (Hayden Kwarcianny), Xander; Katrina Simpson (children James, Madison), Natasha Davis (children Quinn, Sloane); Amanda Plunkett (Mike Hollingshead) (children Austin, Emma, Natylee), Claire Plunkett (fiancé Cody Ball) (their children Brynlee (late), Raelynn, Brantley), Morgan (Tyler Saltzberry) (their children Ryder, Sadie), Nicole Lounsbury; Chris Suich, Miranda Medai (late Andrew Heubach), (their children Cohen, Paige, Lucas, Myles, Cole), Stephen Medai (fiancée 'Megs' MacDuff), (their daughter Nikkita). Also survived by her sister-in-law Lillian Biro, as well as by several nieces, nephews and cousins. Pat was also predeceased by her siblings, Georgina Jenson, Bernice Fardella and Shirley Vanderhoeck, special niece Joyce McMurchy and sisters-in-law Dorothy Bossence, Helen Peterson and Virginia Danko.

Relatives, friends and neighbours are invited to attend public visitation to be held on Thursday, August 20th from 2:00 to 4:00 pm and 6:00 to 8:00 pm in the Maurice J. Verhoeve Funeral Home Chapel at 262 Broadway St., Tillsonburg. A funeral Mass of Christian Burial will be held on Friday, August 21st at 10:30 am in St. Mary's Roman Catholic Church, 51 Venison St. W., Tillsonburg by Father Seejo John. Burial follows in New Road Cemetery. All funeral attendees are invited to join the family for a reception held immediately following the interment in the St. Mary's R.C. Church basement hall.

Everyone who knew Patricia is invited to share a favourite memory and photo, express personal condolences or contribute memorial donations to Nursing Services Inc. - CarePartners (If a receipt is required - Cheques can be made out to CNS Nursing - If no Receipt is required cheques can be made out to CarePartners Nursing), Alzheimer's Society or a charity of your choice via Patricia's online tribute page at www.verhoevefuneralhomes.com or by contacting the Maurice J. Verhoeve Funeral Homes - Burial and Cremation Services Inc., (519) 842-4238, entrusted with all funeral arrangements with confidence.

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