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Tillsonburg POST

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Tillsonburg Hydro/ERTH merger approved by OEB

JEFF HELSDON

Editor

The proposed merger of Tillsonburg Hydro Inc. with ERTH Corporation has been approved by the Ontario Energy Board (OEB).

In a decision released Oct. 15, the OEB concluded that the transaction satisfies its "no-harm" test and is not expected to adversely affect customer prices, reliability, service quality or financial viability.

"This approval represents an important step forward for Tillsonburg and our residents," said Mayor Deb Gilvesy. "The partnership with ERTH positions Tillsonburg Hydro to benefit from greater scale, shared expertise and increased resources, while continuing to provide the reliable service our community depends on. We're particularly pleased that local customers will continue to receive the high-quality service they expect throughout the transition."

"This is an exciting opportunity for Tillsonburg, and I am thrilled that we had the opportunity and vision to make it happen," said Dan Rasokas, THI board chair.

Customers will see no immediate changes. Tillsonburg Hydro will continue operating under its existing name and electricity distribution licence during the transition period, with ERTH Power branding introduced gradually over time. Customers should continue to pay their electricity bills as usual and can expect the same reliable service, customer support, and outage response. Customers and employees will continue to be kept informed as plans progress.

CONTINUED TO PAGE 2



FARMERS' MARKET WINDING DOWN (JEFF HELSDON PHOTO)

It's a sure sign winter is coming when the Tillsonburg Farmers' Market closes for the season. Several vendors were on site Saturday morning selling fall fruits and vegetables. Brittany McDonald was at the Belkerke Farms and Orchards stand, retailing five different varieties of apples grown on the farm outside Tillsonburg on Highway 3, as well as fresh-pressed cider. This Saturday is the last Saturday for the market in the 2026 season.

Council defers pay increase to after election

JEFF HELSDON

Editor

Tillsonburg council deferred a decision on the next council's remuneration rate.

A report from Ryan Wood, the town's budget and finance planning coordinator, was on the agenda of the Oct. 13 meeting, and outlined the bylaw that requires setting the remuneration for the 2026-2030 council. The bylaw requires a review in the final 24 months of the current council, with the new remuneration rate taking effect on the first day of the new council.

Wood sent surveys out to 250 municipalities for comparison, and received 54 responses. Based on the information provided, including a comparison of capital and operating budgets, he recommended keeping the mayor's remuneration the same and increasing pay for the deputy mayor and councillors.

CONTINUED TO PAGE 2

OVER 50 YEARS OF TRUSTED VEHICLE MAINTENANCE IN TILLSONBURG



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55 BROADWAY, TILLSONBURG, ON
tillsonburg-tire.ca | 519-842-5943

Remuneration rates left to new council to decide

CONTINUED FROM FRONT

The mayor's current remuneration is $47,283. The deputy mayor receives $23,621, and councillors receive $22,019. All elected officials have $1,440 in expenses, receive health benefits, a laptop, a per diem for traveling to conferences or meetings on town business and mileage at the CRA rate. Wood suggested the deputy mayor receive $32,209 and councillors $27,059.

Mayor Deb Gilvesy pointed out Carleton Place has a population of 12,500, but an operating budget of $34 million and a capital budget of $113 million, and said this was high. She added the town is roughly the size of Tillsonburg and has five times the budget.

"Some of these numbers are actually astounding," she said.

Wood said the municipalities provided the numbers, but there's potential that other associated areas could be included. He gave Tillsonburg Hydro as a local example.

Gilvesy also noted Middlesex Center has about the same population as Tillsonburg but a $75,000 combined operating and capital budget.

Director of Finance Renato Pullia said capital budgets change year to year and clarified that the scoring process used only operating budgets to determine recommended remuneration.

Deputy Mayor Dave Beres suggested deferring the report, saying it could come back before year-end, which is the requirement.

"We're going to defer it, and for the most important reason is we have two councillors not here tonight, and it's not fair to do this without our full complement of council members," he said.

Councillors Bob Parsons and Chris Parker were absent from the meeting.

Council passed the deferral.



BOOK RELEASE (JEFF HELSDON PHOTO)

Tillsonburg author and Post columnist Norma Collis, right, signs a copy of her new book Holly Cottage Goes on Vacation during a release party at St. Paul's United Church. The book is available through local retailers and from the author.

Ontario Energy Board approves merger with ERTH

CONTINUED FROM FRONT

The possibility of the merger first came up last fall, with needed upgrades to the Tillsonburg transformer station as one of the main reasons. Preliminary estimates for adding more capacity through that project are $29 million. If the upgrades were spread across THI's existing 8,600 customers, they could have doubled rates, whereas ERTH's larger customer base could fund the upgrades without impacting rates. Two public meetings about the merger drew little resident turnout, but one concern raised was response times in the event of an outage.

The THI negotiating team returned to the table seeking, and receiving, response-time guarantees.

"The need for additional capacity is imminent – it is a question of when, not if," Gilvesy said. "The IESO is currently reviewing Tillsonburg's capacity requirements and is expected to release its findings and recommendations in the not-so-distant future. The IESO will determine the timing and scope of the required infrastructure."

The collaboration will see Tillsonburg acquire shares in ERTH Corporation, a municipal holding company that owns ERTH Power Corp. and other unregulated companies under the corporate umbrella. Tillsonburg will be the second-largest shareholder among the 10, behind Ingersoll.

"By becoming the second largest municipal shareholder in ERTH, the town will continue to have a vested interest in the utility's future while creating opportunities to leverage the benefits of a larger organization operating in an increasingly complex utility environment," said Kyle Pratt, Chief Administrative Officer for the Town of Tillsonburg. "This outcome reflects council's commitment to ensuring the long-term sustainability and success of Tillsonburg Hydro."

The mayor explained that a solution was needed, but it would come with financial implications.

"This is precisely why pursuing a hydro partnership with ERTH and THI is so important," she said. "By sharing the cost burden across a broader customer base, this partnership can help mitigate the financial impact, support long-term rate stability, and protect our residential, industrial, and commercial customers from disproportionate increases."

"Tillsonburg was able to find a solution to a problem being faced by many smaller local distribution companies," Rasokas said. "Capacity and cost constraints would have weighed heavily on the utility in the future. This gives us the ability to face those pressures without adding costs to our ratepayers, AND it gives Tillsonburg a voice at the table of the utility."

ERTH Power began in 2000 as the former Erie Thames Powerlines, when the utilities for Ingersoll, Thamesford, Otterville, Norwich, Tavistock, Aylmer, Belmont, and Embro amalgamated. The name changed to ERTH Power, and Clinton, Mitchell, Dublin, and Goderich joined. Once the merger with THI is complete, ERTH will serve 60,000 customers across 31 communities.

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EDITORIAL

Letter to the Editor

Poppy donations assist with Legion programs

At this time of year, the Royal Canadian Legion Varnavair Branch 153 is busy preparing for the upcoming Poppy Campaign. The 2026 Campaign runs from Oct. 24 to Nov. 10.

Thanks to local businesses that made contributions, local merchants that allowed us to display poppy boxes, and to the general public of Tillsonburg and area, the 2025 campaign raised $28,000.00. These funds are used to support the Veterans Care & Comfort Fund and the veteran's arts program at Parkwood Institute; local veteran's needs; sponsoring of bursaries at Glendale High School; Varnavair Air Cadet Squadron; veteran's coffee hour every other Thursday morning and a Veterans' Dinner on November 11, 2026.

Again, this year the Royal Canadian Legion and the Tillsonburg Military History Club worked together to honour our local veterans with a Banner Program. You can see these banners on Veterans Memorial Way going north from Baldwin to North Street on Quarter Town Line. It is a beautiful sight to see.

Anyone wishing to donate two-and-a-half hours of their time to man one of the four locations in town can contact the Legion office at 519-842-5281 or drop into the canteen and add their name to the volunteer list.

This year the Legion has metal lawn poppies available for $20 each. They can be purchased through the office or canteen during regular business hours.

Once again, thank you to all for your support of the 2025 Poppy Campaign and we look forward to your continued support this year!

Yours In Remembrance,
Don Burton,
Royal Canadian Legion Poppy Chairman Branch 153

tillsonburgpost.com



(ANDREW STANCEK PHOTO)

Former farmer and local realtor says being involved with our community is good stewardship



EVERYONE HAS A STORY TO TELL

ROBIN KRAFFT

Tillsonburg Post Columnist

With our municipal elections underway, Alex Visscher has been interviewing local mayors, candidates, and councillors throughout Oxford County to provide insight for the public.

Visscher was born in Holland and moved to Canada when he was just six months old, the youngest of seven siblings. His parents established Sundown Farms, an apple, strawberry, and raspberry farm on Cranberry Line.

Sadly, five years after the move, Visscher's father passed away, and his mother took on running the farm with the children.

"We had 87 acres. 30 acres of apples," Visscher said. "We were too small to be big and too big to be small. It's a lot of work to run yourself, but my mom is a strong lady. She'll outwork anybody, me included."

Alex was driving the tractor by age 10 ,and later worked markets from St. Jacobs to the Toronto Food Terminal.

"A lot of people from town came to the farm to buy berries," Visscher said. "They'd buy flats for canning. In those days you didn't have it if it wasn't in season, but that changed over time."

Ten years ago, Alex got into real estate to earn some extra income. He went into it full time after finding that it suited him.

"I think I was born to be a salesman," Visscher said. "Looking back, it's funny how things come full circle. I went from knocking on doors selling strawberries to knocking on doors selling real estate. I guess sales have always been in my blood. The product has changed, and the price tag has gotten a little bigger, but I've been doing pretty much the same thing since I was a kid."

Alex also learned how to be a self-starter in those early years, by necessity. Around the time he became a realtor, he also tried his hand at broadcasting. He created a podcast, highlighting local business owners, but it fell by the wayside after about 10 episodes.

"I also do a lot of videos for real estate," Visscher said. "It took a while to get comfortable, but I think I'm getting better at it. I've been getting involved in local politics lately."

Visscher's recent long form political interviews are available on YouTube, with shorter versions on a variety of social media platforms. He noted that local decisions affect building, growth, housing, and taxes.

"But it goes beyond real estate," Visscher posted. "I live here. I work here. I raise my family here. I think paying attention, asking questions and being involved in your community is simply good stewardship."

Visscher pointed to a recent interview, admiring candidates who have a passion for something specific, like recreation."It's good to have a diverse range of interests represented," Visscher said. "In a democratic society, we need to represent everybody. We need a lot of voices around the table."

Although Visscher and his wife Christy currently live in Otterville, his office is in town and his five children participate in sports and recreation here, so he spends a great deal of time in Tillsonburg. He has a vested interest all of Oxford County, and he says we all should.

"There are 10 seats at county council," Visscher said. "The mayors of each town/township represent the county and make overriding decisions. We should know who is running the county. I've learned a lot. My goal is to humanize it a bit, to have a conversation. If all you have is a scripted answer, you're not really getting to the person."

Visscher tries to be impartial as he provides a platform for people to talk. He's planning to continue to do interviews after the election.

"I enjoy having productive conversations with anybody who wants to sit down and talk for an hour," Visscher said. "Entrepreneurs, business owners, public figures and planners - I'm down to talk."

Meanwhile, Visscher's phone never stops. He has a big busy life, but he enjoys it. He plays pick-up hockey on the weekends, and coaches hockey and soccer.

"On the farm, I learned to do anything, without formal training," Visscher said. "I learn by doing. Looking back, I can see how far I've come. If I'm going to be scared, I'm never going to start. It's the school of life."

Exploring and observing the Tillsonburg cemeteries

TILLSONBURG CULTURE AND COMMUNITY

JASON PANKRATZ

Tillsonburg Post Columnist

Everyone has a different experience when in a cemetery. Our emotions change by virtue of the reason for being there. They represent final resting places, lineage, and can be deeply emotional and personal. They are a definitive link to people of the past and their lives and stories. They are landscaped places of intrigue and seasonal beauty.

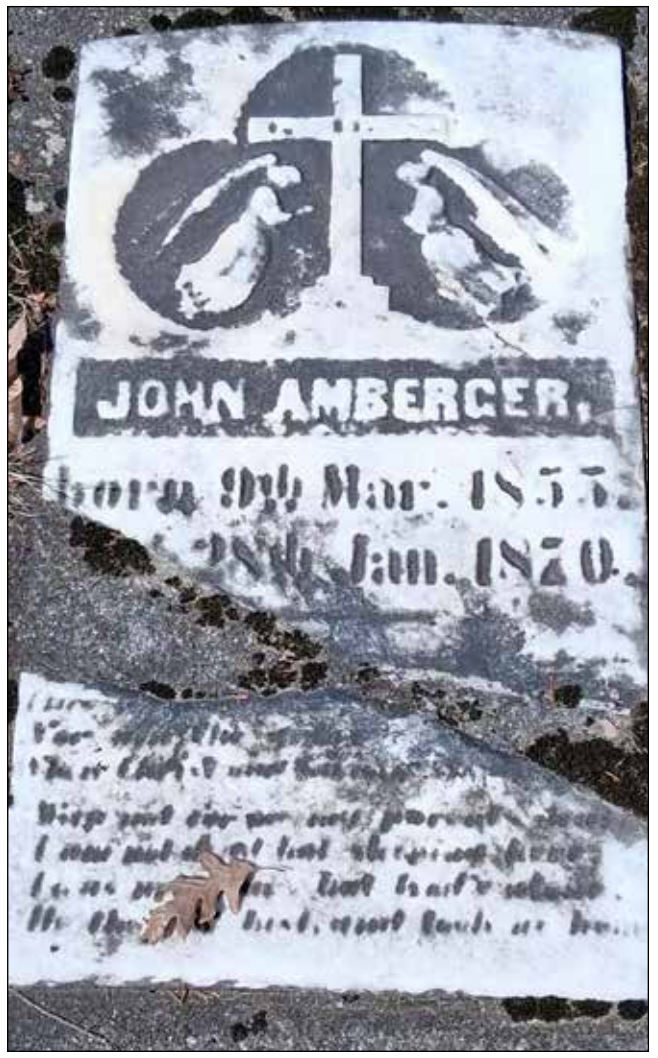
I don't know the last time you explored the Tillsonburg cemeteries. Last month, Annandale House led a wonderful tour explaining the architecture and art of grave markers. The study and observation of gravestones, crypts, columbarium and other markers is fascinating.

A stroll through the Tillsonburg Cemetery and the Pioneer Graveyard is wonderful this time of year. As you explore the markers, you recognize names, some of those who you may have known personally, or had been aware of the surname.

Here are a few places that I want you to seek out for historic interest.

1) Tamsen Tillson, May 8, 1818 - July 17, 1838, in the Pioneer Graveyard. She was the fourth child of George and Nancy Tillson. She died at the age of 20. Records site two possible causes of her death: tuberculosis or typhoid fever. She was the first person interred in the Pioneer Graveyard. Her grave marker is now located in the fenced "Founder's Plot". But we do not know where her actual resting place originally was. They cemetery has been restored and headstones relocated over the years. Someone once speculated that she was likely interred at the highest point on that hill as "she would have had a full view of her family's growing settlement" at that vantage point.
2) Have you ever wandered around the big crypt on the hill, near the office, in the Tillsonburg Cemetery? This is the resting place of Dr. Sylvanus Joy. He was born in 1833, in Utica, New York, and came to Canada in 1856 to attend medical school at Queen's University in Kingston. He settled in Tillsonburg becoming the primary physician in town, and later the lead coroner for Oxford County. He soon became a surgeon of the Great Western Railway of Canada. In the mid 1860s, he developed a vineyard in south Norwich and his wines travelled to the 1889 World's Fair in Paris (not Ontario) and won awards. He died on October 31, 1919. This year will mark the 107th year of his death. It is no wonder why his crypt is so monumental; to honour, remember and house, a monumental man.
3) The grave of John Amberger: born March 5, 1855, and died January 28, 1870. John was killed that winter morning. We know that: John was attending school on Harvey Street between Brock and Oxford. John got into a fight with Wesley Darling (a passive last name for the crime he would commit). John was pushed and kicked by Wesley. John retaliated by hitting Wesley with a piece of firewood. Wesley then pulled a knife and stabbed John in the thigh, causing him to bleed out and die within minutes. Wesley ran home and was later arrested there with the murder weapon. An autopsy showed that John's femoral artery was severed, and additionally the mark left on the femur matched the bent tip of the knife; thus, proving that Wesley and his knife had caused the death. Wesley was convicted of manslaughter and sentenced to three years. What we don't know is: the rest of Wesley's story. Newspapers indicate he was sent to the 'penitentiary', likely in Kingston. We do know he was held and tried at the Oxford County Gaol in Woodstock. What did he do afterwards? John was originally buried in the Pioneer Graveyard. But when did his gravestone come to the Tillsonburg Cemetery? And did his body come too? We know that both bodies and stones, not necessarily together, were transferred over the years of cemetery renovations.

John's grave is a broken marble slab encased in concrete that is laying flat on the ground. See if you can find it located diagonally southwest from the old Cemetery Office along with a few more Amberger graves: a grey tall marker, a red granite one and an eroded slanted standing stone, next to his, for his sister Nancy. More research is needed to tell the stories of these interred.



Grave of John Amberger. (CONTRIBUTED PHOTO)

The Pioneer Graveyard and the Tillsonburg Cemetery are full of stories and mysteries, beautiful architecture and forgotten monuments. It is our duty to preserve these tangible artifacts and the fascinating stories of people from our community's history.

Dr. Jason Pankratz is a local historian and published author of several articles and books, including Tillsonburg at 200.

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8. Newspapers should be locally-owned and operated

OPP West Region releases Operation Impact campaign results

Ontario Provincial Police (OPP) West Region has released results from the "Operation Impact" Thanksgiving long weekend traffic campaign.

The campaign, which ran between Oct. 9 and 12, focused on the leading negative driving behaviours that contribute to death, injury and property damage on Ontario roads and highways: speeding, failure to wear a seatbelt, distracted driving, impaired driving and fatigue.

Figures from the 2025 campaign are in parentheses for comparison, and show charges have increased.

Officers from OPP West Region's 13 detachments laid a total of 2,152 (1,832) charges for a variety of infractions after making 2,251 (2,089) traffic stops over the course of the campaign

OPP West Region "Big Four" traffic campaign charges are below:

- Speeding: 1030 (911)
- Failure to wear a seatbelt: 83 (75)
- Distracted Driving: 15 (35)
- Impaired Driving: 41 (36)\

West Region members also charged 36 (41) individuals with Stunt Driving/Racing.

In Oxford, there were 37 speeding charges laid, three seatbelt charges, three impaired driving charges and one stunt driving charge.

"Operation Impact" is led by the Canadian Association of Chiefs of Police, in support of "Canada's Road Safety Strategy". West Region Command Staff is thankful that most drivers chose to drive safely over the Thanksgiving weekend.

Project Safe Haul focusing on unsafe commercial motor vehicles

The Ontario Provincial Police West Region is launching Project Safe Haul, a coordinated commercial motor vehicle (CMV) enforcement initiative running from Oct. 13 to Nov. 1, aimed at enhancing road safety and reducing risks associated with unsafe commercial vehicles.

Throughout the three-week campaign, OPP detachments across West Region will conduct coordinated CMV inspections at various locations. Officers and CMV inspectors will focus on identifying vehicles that do not meet provincial and federal safety standards, ensuring compliance with legislation, and removing unsafe commercial motor vehicles from service.

Commercial motor vehicles play a vital role in moving goods throughout Ontario. Ensuring these vehicles are properly maintained and operated is essential to keeping roads safe for all users. Defects involving brakes, tires, steering components, cargo securement, and driver compliance can contribute to serious collisions and place motorists at risk.

Project Safe Haul will include a highly visible enforcement presence, with officers conducting inspections, educating drivers and carriers, and addressing violations that may compromise public safety. The initiative reinforces the OPP's commitment to preventing collisions before they occur and promoting a culture of safety within the commercial transportation industry.

"Commercial vehicle safety is a shared responsibility. Through Project Safe Haul, OPP officers will be working proactively with industry partners to identify safety concerns, ensure compliance and remove unsafe vehicles from Ontario roads. Our goal is simple: safer highways for everyone," said Staff Sergeant Lynn McNichol, West Region Traffic and Marine.

The OPP encourages all commercial vehicle operators and carriers to ensure vehicles are properly maintained, required inspections are completed, and drivers are adhering to all applicable safety regulations before travelling on Ontario highways.

Updates and enforcement results from Project Safe Haul will be shared throughout the campaign.

WEEKEND QUIZ

by Jake Grant

1. Leonardo da Vinci's "Mona Lisa" hangs in what museum?
2. What is the only food that can never go bad?
3. Nearly all fossils are preserved in what type of rock?
4. What is the fifth sign of the Zodiac?
5. Who is Barbie's little sister?
6. Which month of the year is National Ice Cream Month?
7. The first iPhone was released in what year?
8. Whitney Houston went to the top of the music charts in 1992 with which Dolly Parton song?
9. What is the name of Elvis Presley's Memphis home?
10. Who wrote "To Kill a Mockingbird"?

This week's answers are found on pg. 24



Calling all sleuths: Museum event could lead to Tillson fortune

KATHLEEN WATKIN

Culture and Heritage Program Coordinator, ANHS

When a wealthy man or woman passes away, there is always one big question: Who will inherit their fortune?

The Tillson family is facing just such a mystery.

After the deaths of Edwin Delevan and Mary Ann Tillson, the family lawyer has discovered something very unusual. E.D. and Mary Ann have left behind more than a fortune–they have created a test to decide who is clever enough to become their true heir!

Somewhere inside Annandale are the true Last Will and Testaments of E.D. and Mary Ann Tillson. But they will not be easy to find! The family lawyer knows that the Tillson's have hidden the wills and left behind a series of puzzles and challenges for their future heirs to solve.

Do you have the wit, teamwork, and critical thinking skills needed to claim the Tillson fortune?

Your challenge awaits at Annandale National Historic Site on Friday, Oct. 23 from 4 p.m. to 9 p.m.!

Gather a group of up to six people and enter Oscar's Puzzles. You will have 45 minutes to search for clues, solve puzzles, and find a hidden will.

But beware! When your 45 minutes are over, your chance to claim the Tillson fortune is gone. The family lawyer will ask you to give up your claim to the estate and leave empty-handed.

Will you prove that you are a worthy heir, or will the Tillson fortune remain hidden?

The clock is ticking. The fortune is waiting. Your fate is in your hands.

Reserve Your Place

Sign up to solve the mystery through your Rec2Connect account at https://townoftillsonburg.perfectmind.com/ or call Annandale National Historic Site at 519-842-2294. Pre-registration is required.

Gather your fellow detectives, sharpen your wits, and prepare to claim your fortune!



PIE FACED (JEFF HELSDON PHOTO)

As part of its Terry Fox Friday fundraiser Glendale High School holds a student vs. teacher field goal kicking contest. The winners had the opportunity to smear whipped cream pies in the face of the losers. Left to right are student Richard Heleniak, supply teacher Logan Partlo and teacher Ryan Sproul. The day also included an opportunity for students who raised more than $20 to walk around Lake Lisgar. The school raised $1,500 for the Terry Fox Foundation through the day.

Avondale United Church
60 Harvey St.
(519) 842-5532

Sunday Service 10:30 a.m.

All are Welcome

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Tillsonburg

COMMUNITY UPDATE

Notices

Final Reminder: Election Day is Approaching

Time is running out to participate in the 2026 Town of Tillsonburg Municipal Election. **Voting closes at 8:00 p.m. on Monday, October 26, 2026**. Eligible voters can continue to cast their ballot online or by telephone until the deadline.

Need assistance? The Voter Help Centre is located at 10 Lisgar Avenue and can help voters confirm or update their information, obtain or replace a voter PIN, and answer questions about the internet and telephone voting process. Election staff can also assist eligible voters who need to be added to the voters' list. Looking for a place to vote? The Voter Help Centre has secure voting stations as well.

The Voter Help Centre is open during regular business hours, with extended hours until 8:00 p.m. on Election Day, Monday, October 26. Voters can also contact the Voter Help Line at 519-688-3009 ext. 4790 for assistance. **Learn more at www.tillsonburg.ca/election.**

Fall Water System Maintenance

Our annual Fall Watermain Flushing program is now underway. Each week, a different area of Town will be flushed as part of this routine maintenance. Flushing will take place between 7:30 AM and 4:00 PM daily.

October 28 - 30 - All areas East of Broadway between North St and Concession St East. (Including Beckett Blvd).

Visit **www.tillsonburg.ca/news** for the full flushing schedule and map.

Loose Leaf Collection Begins October 13

The Town's annual Loose Leaf Collection Program has begun and runs through November 27. Leaves will be collected using the Town's leaf vacuum machine, with crews working throughout the community on an ongoing basis. There are no scheduled collection zones, so residents are encouraged to place leaves at the curb and leave them out until they are collected. As a reminder, leaves, brush and other yard waste can be dropped off at the Transfer Station, 50 Newell Rd.

Property Tax Due Date Reminder

Property taxes are due October 30, 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.

Culture Corner

Trick-or-Treat at Annandale

Saturday, October 31 | 4:00 p.m. to 7:00 p.m.

Get ready for a spooktacular evening at Annandale National Historic Site! Put on your favourite costume and make your way through the first floor of the museum to collect treats along the way. Open to trick-or-treaters of all ages, this family-friendly event is a fun and festive way to celebrate Halloween in a unique historic setting.



Road Closure Begins for Old Vienna Road Construction Project

Construction is now underway on the Old Vienna Road Trunk Inlet Sanitary Sewer Replacement Project and is expected to continue through mid-December. The project requires the closure of Old Vienna Road and the sidewalk between Van Street and Vienna Road, with detour routes in place for motorists.

The trail connecting the Coronation Park parking lot and Carroll Trail remains open; however, residents are asked to use caution as contractor vehicles will be accessing the Tillsonburg Wastewater Treatment Plant during construction.

For construction updates and project information, visit **www.tillsonburg.ca/news**.

Give Your Pumpkins a Second Life After Thanksgiving

As Thanksgiving decorations make way for Halloween, start planning what to do with your pumpkins when the season is over. Through The Great Pumpkin Rescue, pumpkins can be repurposed instead of ending up in the landfill. Use them in recipes, compost them, or donate unpainted and untreated pumpkins to help feed local farm animals.

From November 1 to 7, residents can drop off pumpkins at the Tillsonburg Transfer Station during regular hours.

Active Living & Learning Opportunities

Family Fitness Swim- NEW!



Looking for a fun way to stay active together? Join our new Family Fitness Swim, designed for families who want to enjoy the pool while building confidence and swimming skills. Participants can practice swimming skills, swim laps together, or simply enjoy recreational swimming in a family-friendly environment.

When: Sundays, 9:00 a.m. to 10:30 a.m.
Dates: September 13 to December 20*
Age: 8+ years
Fee: Children $4.60 | Adults $7.30 | Family $15.10
**No swim October 25 or November 22.*

Make a Splash with Aqua Fitness



Looking for a fun way to stay active this fall? Aqua Fitness combines cardio, strength, and flexibility training in a low-impact environment that's easy on the joints. Designed for ages 13+, evening classes are offered Monday through Thursday from 7:30 to 8:30 p.m. Visit **www.tillsonburg.ca/guide** to learn more and sign up.

Adult Swimming Lessons Start This November



It's never too late to learn to swim! Designed for ages 14+, Adult Swimming Lessons provide a supportive environment for all experience levels, with program options to help participants build confidence and improve their skills at their own pace. A new session begins in November, with daytime and evening classes available throughout the week. Register at **www.tillsonburg.ca/guide**

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Senior of the Month



Jean Tutt

Jean has called Tillsonburg home all her life, building a lifetime of memories, friendships and connections within the community. For more than 20 years, Jean and her husband, Ron, owned and operated Broadway Photo. Through the store, Jean had the opportunity to meet thousands of people, many of whom became lasting friends.

Family was also an important part of the business. Their son, Jamie, worked alongside them and helped out at the store, making Broadway Photo a true family affair.

Jean and Ron also shared a love of travel. Together, they explored many parts of the world and enjoyed creating wonderful memories along the way. Even after all their travels, there are still a few places on the bucket list!

With a lifetime filled with family, friendship, community and adventure, Jean has made a lasting impression on so many people. Congratulations to Jean Tutt on being named Senior of the Month!

If you would like to nominate someone for Senior of the Week, contact us at info@tillsonburgpost.com

TOPS holds regional meeting in Tillsonburg

The local chapter of TOPS held a regional rally in Tillsonburg in late September.

TOPS, short for Take Off Pounds Sensibly, is a non-profit weight-loss support group that was founded in 1948 by Esther Maz in Milwaukee.

Every year TOPS members are recognized for their successes locally, provincially and internationally. This year awards were presented in Tillsonburg to recognize members in their weight-loss journeys.

Carol Rockx of Tillsonburg spoke of her journey through weight loss. Dianne Mackeigan, a volunteer at Annandale National Historic Site, spoke on the history of Tillsonburg. In attendance at this year's rally were chapters from Tillsonburg, West Lorne, Simcoe, Port Rowan, St. Thomas and Strathroy.

For more information on TOPS, visit the website at tops.org.

Prefer to read online?
tillsonburgpost.com



FIRST POPPY (DEBBIE KASMAN PHOTO)

Don Burton, poppy chairman for Tillsonburg Legion Branch 153, continued the tradition of pinning the first poppy on the mayor prior to the start of the annual poppy campaign when he pinned a poppy on Mayor Deb Gilvesy, and presented poppies to council members. The poppy campaign will run from October. 24 to Nov. 10.

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Changes to emergency medical dispatch in effect

Oxford County Paramedic Services began using a new system this month to prioritize emergency medical calls received through 911. The new system, which does not apply to calls made for police or fire, will help ensure those with the most serious medical conditions continue to be seen first.

Under the new Medical Priority Dispatch System, emergency communications dispatchers will continue to take all emergency medical calls to 911. Calls involving life-threatening emergencies, such as cardiac arrest, difficulty breathing, stroke symptoms, severe allergic reactions or unconsciousness, will continue to receive the highest priority response, as they do now.

A new protocol started on Oct. 14 that saw callers to 911 for a medical emergency, asked more questions at the time of the call to help dispatchers understand how serious or severe a condition is. Less urgent conditions, such as flu-like symptoms or sprains, may experience longer wait times for an ambulance if the current call volume for paramedic services is high. Callers may also receive basic guidance over the phone while paramedics are on their way and may receive a call back to check on their status during longer waits.

If a health condition changes or becomes more serious while waiting for an ambulance, callers should contact 911 again to update their status. The new system is designed to ensure that the most serious patients at any moment are seen first.

Medical Priority Dispatch System (MPDS) is an internationally recognized software system designed to prioritize medical emergencies based on urgency. The system supports faster response to life-threatening emergencies while improving the overall efficiency of emergency medical services. MPDS is used in thousands of dispatch centres around the world and is already being used in many other Ontario communities.

Kim Sage withdraws from council run

JEFF HELSDON

Editor

Kim Sage, who was running for one of Tillsonburg's six council seats, has decided not to serve if elected.

Sage posted on Facebook last Monday, saying she would not take a council seat if elected. Since it's too late to withdraw, she asked people not to vote for her.

"My family needs me more is the gist of it," she said Thursday. "Something came up, I knew I would have to highly focus on, and I didn't know how long I would have to focus on it."

Sage said if her personal issues dragged on for a longer period, it would be difficult for her to focus on family and, if elected, council.

"Without being able to give 110 per cent to council, I wouldn't be effective and it's not worth me doing it," she said.

Sage hopes to run again in the future. She noted that her family situation would not affect the operation of the Copper Mug.



THANKSGIVING DRAW WINNER (CONTRIBUTED PHOTO)

Linda Potts was the winner of the Dinner On Us Thanksgiving draw at My Motors, and received a complete Thanksgiving dinner. Left to right are: Finance Manager Tanya Gould, Potts, Sales Representative Andrew Eynon and Auto Sales Coordinator Leia Dare.

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Authorized by Katherine Englander.

FOR TILLSONBURG TOWN COUNCIL

COUNCIL BRIEFS

Zoning change approved

A zoning change was approved by council for JM Braun Inc. to allow retailing of commercial trailers in a property on Innovation Way in the new industrial park.

Planner Amy Hartley provided an overview of the application, explaining JM Braun, which owns Triumph Trailers Canada, has a large facility on Clearview Drive for manufacturing industrial-scale trailers. That plant is reaching capacity, and although an expansion is planned, the new building is needed for finishing the trailers and for a sales centre. The application was to allow outdoor sales in the industrial zone.

With Tillsonburg's available water allocation being used, Mayor Deb Gilvesy asked if there is a way that industrial development can be prioritized over residential.

Hartley said it's first-come, first-served.

Council granted the zoning change and recommended proceeding with an official plan amendment to county council.

Conservation authority changes

With the Long Point Region Conservation Authority's draft budget being one of the information items in the Oct. 13 council package, Tillsonburg Mayor Deb Gilvesy asked how this will work with the pending amalgamation.

Deputy Mayor Dave Beres, the council rep on the authority board, said the budgets of the four conservation authorities being amalgamated – Long Point, Kettle Creek, Catfish Creek and Grand River – will be amalgamated when the new larger entity starts in February 2027.

"Each conservation authority will create their own budget and will circulate it to each municipality and have it approved by the end of the calendar year," he said.

Beres said the present cost of the conservation authority is $21 per capita for Tillsonburg residents.

After the changes, he said the services will be unchanged.

"As far as the science people, the boots on the ground won't be affected and the amount of spending will be about the same as other years," Beres elaborated.

Gilvesy asked if any more information was known about how the board would be structured. Beres said Oxford County will have only one representative on the new board.

Strategic plan on track

An update on completion of Tillsonburg's strategic plan showed it as 49.1 per cent complete, 43.9 per cent in progress and seven per cent not started.

Initiatives completed in the last six months were securing a new walk-in clinic, a feasibility study on cultural amenities, completion of the transportation master plan and increased public engagement.

Mayor Deb Gilvesy asked CAO Kyle Pratt if the plan will be completed by 2030, which is the goal. With 49.3 per cent complete and much in progress, Pratt answered, "We're making great progress."

Mayor to be appointed to ERTH board

Town council approved a concept for appointments to the ERTH board with the transition from Tillsonburg Hydro Inc.

The motion directed the new mayor will be appointed to the ERTH board of directors, and staff were directed to solicit interest from existing hydro board members and new council members for a director for the transition board and the Tillsonburg Hydro/ERTH board.

Tillsonburg CAO Kyle Pratt said his suggestion is it would be good to have a person who is familiar with the issues on the board during the transition period. Who the directors are will be determined at a future council meeting.

Request for more accessible parking deferred

A request for more accessible parking spots at the Tillsonburg Town Centre was deferred.

The request was made to the accessibility committee by a citizen. Members of the accessibility committee referred the matter to the traffic committee. This committee thought it best this was dealt with once suggestions from the Bridge Street Reimagining Committee are put into play.

Council meeting cancelled

The Nov. 9 Tillsonburg town council meeting was cancelled by a motion of council.

Manager of Legislative Affairs/Clerk Trisha McKibbin explained the date of Nov. 9 was previously approved, but election day is on Oct. 26, and the swearing-in of the new council on Nov. 9. She said typically meetings aren't held after the election take place.

Upcoming town events

Two upcoming town events were highlighted by Andrea Greenway, the town's Director of Recreation, Culture and Parks, at the last council meeting. There will be trick or treating at Annandale National Historic Site on Oct. 31 from 4-7. The first free skate of the season, which is sponsored by Thriver Company, will be on Nov. 1.

Police services board purchases e-bikes

JEFF HELSDON

Editor

Local police officers have a new way of patrolling.

The Tillsonburg OPP Detachment Board purchased three e-bikes for officers. Board chairman Larry Scanlan said the board purchased three pedal bikes for officers to patrol several years ago.

"It's probably time for an upgrade, and the e-bikes are being used in other communities," he said.

The purchase of three bikes in Tillsonburg will be used in the southern half of Oxford County by OPP officers, and will complement three purchased by Ingersoll's board for the north part of the county.

"The Tillsonburg OPP Detachment Board is pleased to support our local OPP detachment by recently donating three new e-bikes," Scanlan said. "The addition of these e-bikes is to enhance community safety, boost proactive policing efforts, improve response times in high-density areas and foster stronger community connections."

Scanlan said the bikes are much quicker than foot patrols, and offer other advantages.

"They also have much better visibility when they're up on bikes," he said. "They can duck into allies where a car can't go, and trails, things like that."

Officers on bikes can also see into cars to spot people on their phones.

For instance, Scanlan said shortly after the photo accompanying this article was taken, the officer received a call for an incident in Participark.

"His response time would be almost as good as a cruiser, but then he could go into Participark on the bike," Scanlan said.

The bikes arrived in September, and then five officers were trained to use them.

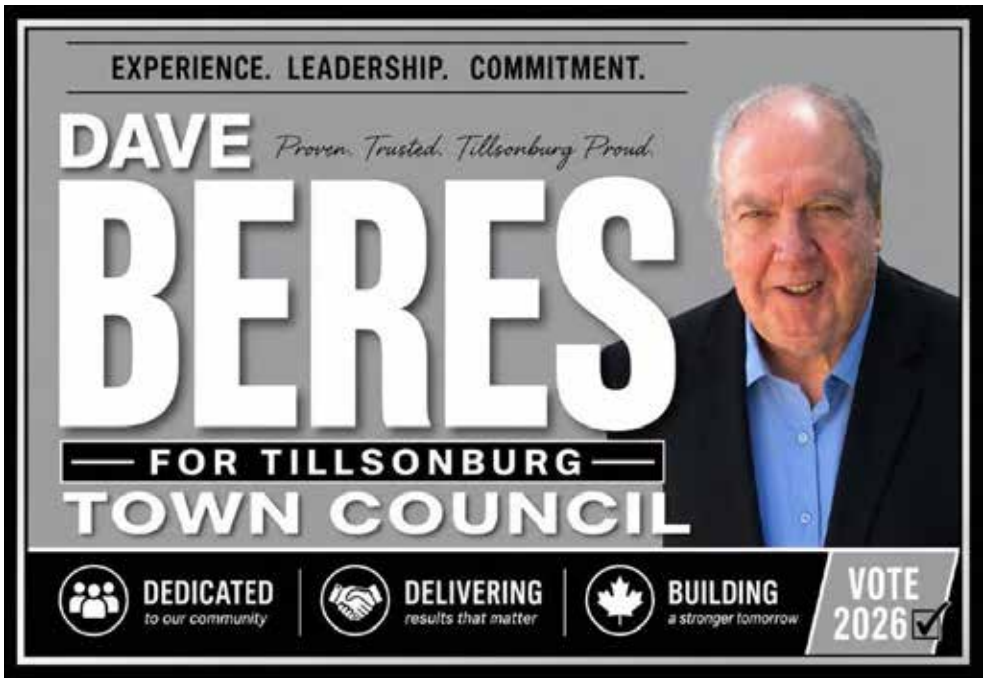
The $12,000 cost of the three bikes was paid through proceeds from the police auction, which is an annual auction of items that weren't claimed. Scanlan said the local board has made many purchases over the years with the auction funds, including the two storage sheds adjacent to the station.

Unfortunately, recent changes to the Police Services Act direct proceeds from the auction into general coffers. Scanlan said the board wrote a letter to the province, raising concerns about the changes.



(CONTRIBUTED PHOTO)

The Tillsonburg Police Services Board recently purchased three e-bikes for use by local OPP officers. Left to right are: Larry Scanlan, Oxford OPP Sergeant Steve Smith, Mayor Deb Gilvesy, and board members Councillor Chrissy Rosehart and Art Baumunk.



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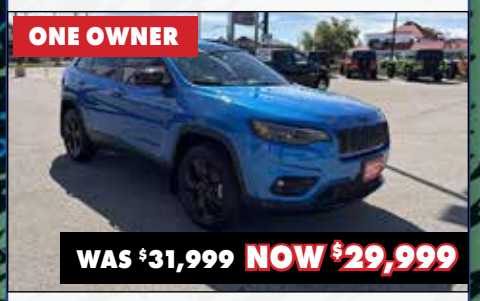

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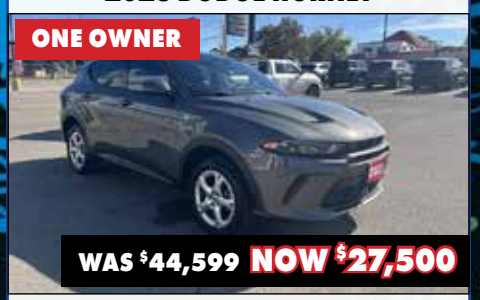

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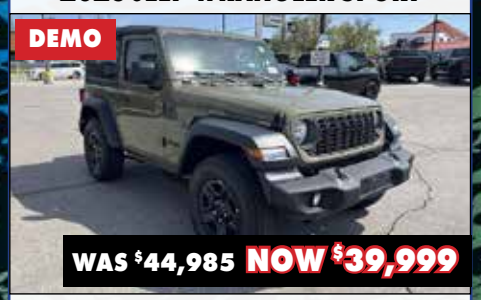

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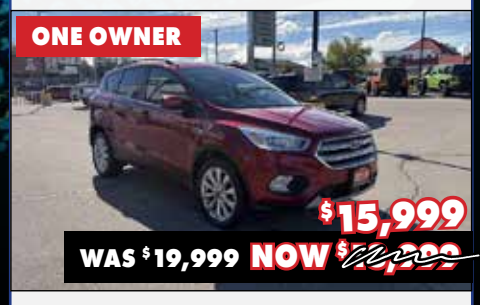

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Food Bank event brings in 1,500 pounds of food

SAMANTHA HAMILTON

Tillsonburg Helping Hand Food Bank Coordinator

Last month our food bank, in partnership with the BIA and Tillsonburg Town Center hosted a Can-struction event, where businesses and organizations were invited to raise food and/or money to purchase food, and to build a fun structure out of non-perishable food items, which were on display for a week in the Tillsonburg Town Center.

We had two teams participate, the Tillsonburg Multi-Service Centre and Baldwin Place residents. The Multi-Service Center built bee (picture attached) hoping to inspire people to "bee" the change in our community. Baldwin Place built a slice of pumpkin pie, with the theme of taking a slice out of hunger.

The structures were voted on by judges and a public vote, and Baldwin place were the winners. Baldwin Place have always been big supporters of HHFB, donating weekly.

This is something we will be doing annually, as it's a fun way to not only collect food and funds, but raise awareness in Tillsonburg. We collect donations on site as well, and this year brought in over 1,500 pounds. Next year we hope to have at least five organizations and businesses take part.



(CONTRIBUTED PHOTO)

The Baldwin Place team were the winners in the Tillsonburg Helping Hand Food Bank's Can-struction event. Left to right are team members: Skip Chevrette, Doreen Handsaeme, June Stanhope, Jeanine Webber, Jim Crocker, Christine Urquhart, Sheryl Chevrette, and Kelly Isacsson. The event was presented in partnership with the BIA and Tillsonburg Town Centre.

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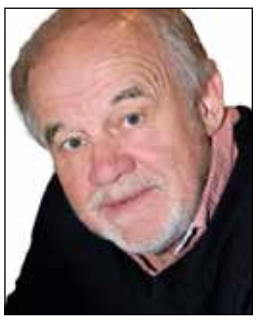
Living Retired: 'Knickers In A Knot'



LIVING RETIRED

GARY CHALK

Non-Pulitzer Prize Winning Columnist

What a schmozzle! I discovered that at our house I wear the pants — as it turns out, not well! — and Jan, well, she has her knickers in a knot. This is what I mean…

A couple of months ago, I had emergency dental work. I left the dentist office with six teeth wired together and strict instructions to follow a soft food diet.

My recovery also included a visit to an optometrist to rule out any eye damage from my mishap. So, for the three days leading up to the eye appointment I remained inside nursing my scrapes and bruises, eating Jello, soup, Kraft Dinner, and porridge.

On the day of the optometrist appointment, I awoke and stepped on the bathroom scale. I had lost five pounds. YES! I slipped into a pair of skinny-fit blue jeans that Jan bought me. They felt great, for a change. I posed in front of the mirror. As a Living Retired guy, I felt, well, hip!

At the optometrist office I didn't walk in. Instead, I held my head high, tried to put my chest out, and strutted in wearing my skinny-fit blue jeans.

Soon, I had drops in my eye and was told to wait in the reception area with three other patients. We all chatted, while I fumbled trying to put my key fob in my skinny-fit blue jeans pocket. It wouldn't fit. Strange.

Good news: the eye looks fine. Feeling pretty good in my skinny-fit blue jeans, with a spring in my step, I pranced to their frame shop thinking new glasses would complement my weight loss. The female sales associate sympathized with me not being able to fit my key fob into the pocket, and, I am not making this up, she said, "You look great for your age wearing skinny-fit blue jeans." I felt like a whole new man!

Back home, I continued to fumble with the key fob. I realized the front pocket of my skinny-fit blue jeans seemed small. I stood at our bed and collapsed onto my back. I flailed my legs in the air, eventually yanking the skinny-fit blue jeans down to my ankles. I looked: the pocket was half the normal size. That is when I saw the tag. It read, '30 Tall.'

OMG!

I ran to Jan's office and blurted out, "Jan. Sorry, I need to interrupt. I don't want to be a smart ass but am I wearing your skinny-fit blue jeans?"

Jan looked up. She took one look at me modelling her favourite skinny-fit blue jeans. She laughed uncontrollably. I could hardly understand her say, "Gary, please don't tell me you wore my skinny-fit blue jeans to your appointment at the optometrist!"

I have done some dumb things in my life like the time in high school I organized a parade and halfway along the route the police arrived and told me I needed a permit – that is a Living Retired column for another time. But wearing Jans skinny-fit blue jeans was a first. Once and done!

That night I got into bed first. Jan was frustrated, "Gary, I can't find my pyjamas. Have you seen them?" (Pause.) "Please, please, PLEASE don't tell me you're wearing them."

Who wears the pants at your house? At our place I wear the pants. Both mine and Jan's.

Living Retired is written by Gary Chalk and published throughout Canada and USA. To receive Living Retired by email each Monday, or to book Gary to speak at your service club, corporate event, or retirement party contact Gchalk@me.com

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Luciani gives parting remarks at last council meeting

JEFF HELSDON
Editor

Coun. Pete Luciani offered positive remarks about what council has accomplished over the last eight years and expressed optimism about the future.

The two-term councillor is not running again in the upcoming municipal election, meaning the Oct. 13 meeting was his last. He spoke during the open round table at the end of council meetings, where council and staff speak about community events.

He began by thanking current and former council members.

"We've made good progress in the town over the last eight years," he said. "When I look back over what I originally ran on, which were basically quality of life items, dealing with transit, dealing with downtown, dealing with keeping the town vibrant, I think we've accomplished a lot of that, and the town has moved in a positive direction."

He acknowledged some will say council moved in the wrong direction on particular issues.

"I know all the votes we weren't always in alignment, but that's the way councils work, and I know that we are in alignment on what we are voting on, which is the best for the town," he said.

Regarding town employees, the ones he said drive the town, Luciani was complimentary of the good job they do.

Reflecting over the past eight years, he said two points stick with him. First was the "apathy for municipal politics, surveys" and that only 3,000 people voted in the last election, which he said was surprising for a town of over 20,000. He encouraged people to get out and vote. The other thing he said was that the town was managed well.

"I am proud to call Tillsonburg home, and I do thank everybody for the privilege of being here," he said, adding that it was good to see so many people running for council.

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Gemini junior 'thicker kicker' scores football 'goal and an assist'

JEFF TRIBE

Post Correspondent

The Tillsonburg Gemini junior football version of their 'thicker kicker' padded his stats with the football equivalent of a goal and an assist through a 16-0 Thames Valley Regional Athletics Southeast victory over Woodstock St. Mary's Warriors Friday, Oct. 16 at Glendale.

The nickname was coined for former Los Angeles Rams placekicker Harrison Mevis, released after recent struggles in a game against the Buffalo Bills. His six-foot frame reportedly carried 245 pounds, a body shape belying the traditionally slight place kicker's physique.

Gemini punter Lane Pellaboer would be described as trim and athletic rather than 'thicker', but also with the height and strength to play both offensive and defensive tackle. Pellaboer had already punted for one first-half point, a rouge into the Warriors' endzone and was looking for a second on a fourth-down kick roughly from the St. Mary's 35.

"I wanted it to go straight into the end zone," said Pellaboer, whose high punt came down near the right anchor (facing in) of the field goal post in the west endzone. That proximity appeared to contribute to struggles fielding the ball, which then glanced off the upright, before continuing on into the endzone.

"I was disappointed until I saw him fumble it and hit the post," said Pellaboer.

"The receiver missed it," continued Gemini kick team member James Hamilton, who alertly headed toward the loose ball. "It started bouncing around - jumped on it."

Hamilton's touchdown was converted by place-kicker Cohen Hall, and combined with an earlier two-point safety, gave Tillsonburg a 10-0 halftime lead.

That result stood until a ten-yard Vincent VanHooydonk rushing major on a sweep around the left end. It was the product of field position set up by an Ethan Rocco interception and 34-yard return to the Warriors 23.

VanHooydonk had run strongly throughout, happy to finally hit paydirt late in the contest.

"Just to settle the game."

Defensively, the Gemini held the Warriors off the scoresheet, hard-hitting Jacob Tremblay among the standouts.

"I always try to make it a physical game," he explained.

"It's football," added lineman Bentley Vantyghem. "It got a little rough near the end of the game, but pulled it off.

"It was a good game."

Tillsonburg was coming off a tough 34-14 loss to London Clarke Road the previous week, Logan Thompson and Tremblay scoring touchdowns, Lucas Thompson adding a two-point convert.

"It was good to get a win back on the board," said Gemini coach Jordan Fitzpatrick, looking ahead to this week's 'Battle of 19', a Thursday, October 22 date with the host Ingersoll DCI Blue Bombers. The Bombers enter with a 3-1 record, their lone blemish a 20-14 setback to London St. Thomas Acquinas.

"A good squad," credited Fitzpatrick.

He is definitely not taking IDCI lightly, looking forward to three solid days of preparation including watching some game film of their opponents.

"And see what we can figure out."

"I've heard they're tough," Tremblay concluded. "But we're going to do the best we can and of course, try and come out with the win."



(CONTRIBUTED PHOTO)

Jack Bruder (left) and Lennon Reimer show off their Tri-County Tennis Championship gold medals.



(JEFF TRIBE PHOTO)

Gemini Silas Hawel (left) struggles to gather in a loose ball, along with St. Mary's quarterback Callum Lawton (right).

Gemini Senior 35, Woodstock College Avenue 15

Gemini quarterback Landon Dodsley threw for two touchdowns (Kypton Lofthouse and Kiah Cato) and ran for two more, with Mateo Barnaby added two more rushing touchdown and James Strathearn three point after tries.

Like the juniors, the senior Gemini look to a Thursday matchup with the IDCI Blue Bombers, who share a 3-1 record with Tillsonburg heading in.

"A big one next week," said coach Sean Van Beers of a game which has standings and post-season implications for both squads. "That's going to be important for us."

Tri-County Tennis

Gemini Jack Bruder and Lennon Reimer captured the boys' doubles title at Tri-County championships in St. Thomas' Pinafore Park. Kailey Clark's fourth-place finish in girls' singles and Lizzie McSpadden and Deegan Murray's shared fourth-place performance in mixed doubles added points to Glendale's fourth-place finish (11 points) in the team competition.

Bruder and Reimer advanced to Western Ontario Secondary Schools Athletic Association (WOSSAA) tournament Thursday, October 15th back at Pinafore Park, but did not place in the top four.

JUNIOR GIRLS BASKETBALL	
THURSDAY, OCTOBER 15	
GEMINI	**39**
LORD DORCHESTER	**30**
SENIOR GIRLS BASKETBALL	
THURSDAY, OCTOBER 8	
LORD DORCHESTER	**32**
GEMINI	**28**

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Thunder battle but lose home opener to Seaforth

MICHAEL HOLLY

Post Contributor

The Tillsonburg Thunder Home Opener was on Sunday, Oct. 18 with a large crowd for the game against the reining OEHL Champs the Seaforth Centenaires.

The seven new Thunder players are Tyler Bouck, Jordan Medeiros, Matt Montgomery, Alden Cloet, Dylan Watson, Liam Kidder, Tyler Alexnder, and Jeff Leaist. A new head coach, Terry Corbin and General Manager Joe Ryan, were all thrown into the buzzsaw of the Cents.

The Thunder were clearly the dominate team on the ice the first period with Luke Sinclair from Braden Roberts and Derek Slaght at 11:43 with a laser through the five-hole on Cent goalie Tyler Parr. Parr redeemed himself through the rest of the period with some outstanding saves. Not to be outdone, Thunder tender Ben Blacker kept Seaforth off the board with solid goaltending of his own.

The wheels came off for the Thunder in the first four minutes of the second, with Seaforth adding three unanswered goals. Seaforth added four more over the second and third for a 7-1 loss for the Thunder. Seaforth showed why they are the champs. The Thunder are certainly a much improved team, but still have a way to go. The Thunder record is now 1-1 after beating the Delhi Flames last weekend 7-3.

The Thunder hit the road for an extended period with games against Dunnville, Oct. 23, Elora, Oct. 30, Milverton, Nov. 1, and new OEHL team Ridgetown, Nov. 7. The Thunder have great fan support with many fans joining us for the road games. In some cases, Thunder fans outnumber the home team fans. This always makes an interesting game…in the stands as well as on the ice.

The next Thunder game is not until Saturday, Nov. 14 at 7:30 versus the Milverton 4 Wheel Drives. This is the Remembrace Day game. The Tillsonburg Legion will have an Honor Guard at the game so this is certainly not a game to miss. All home Thunder games are live streamed on YouTube if you cannot make the game. The Thunder have fans across Canada, as well as in the UK watching.



(STUART BLOWER PHOTO)

Tillsonburg Thunder held their home opener against Seaforth Sunday night, and lost 7-1. From the left, Seaforth Goalie Alex Hutchinson needs a bit on help from teammates #13 Reid Oliver and #4 Braydon Blight as Thunder players #37 Liam Kidder, #25 Hunter Monkhouse, #27 pile on the pressure to get the puck in the net.

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Club Oxford hockey sees three games

JEFF GWYN

Post Contributor

The only games in Club Oxford hockey were Wednesday night's A Division games due to Sunday games

Royal LePage 2, Fody's 1

A close game. Royal LePage seemed to have more rush chances but also buckled down defensively to keep Fody's at bay. Fody's did have some chances in deep but couldn't get those second chances they needed.

John Bouck and Brian Velthove had two points for Royal LePage. Evan Prouse had the goal for Fody's.

Health Hut 6, ReMax 0

Health Hut didn't waste time getting on the board in this one. They kept their foot on the gas the whole game. ReMax was on their heels and had trouble breaking into the zone. A tough night for the ReMax team.

Gus Ford had a hat trick for Health Hut. Cole McDonald had the shutout for Health Hut.

Birds Golf 4, Source 1

Birds was short a couple players, but they picked the right spares to help out. Cashing in on outlet passes was key. Source couldn't get sustained pressure but did have a few rushes that gave them chances at times.

Gus Ford had four goals for Birds. Nate Bisschop had a goal for Source.

CLUB OXFORD A DIVISION	GP	W	L	T	PTS
BIRDS GOLF	2	2	0	0	**4**
HEALTH HUT	2	1	1	0	**2**
ROYAL LEPAGE REALTY	2	1	1	0	**2**
SOURCE FOR SPORTS	2	1	1	0	**2**
RE/MAX REALTY	2	1	1	0	2
FODY'S AUTOMOTIVE	2	0	2	0	0

CLUB OXFORD B DIVISION	GP	W	L	T	PTS
B-LINE TRUCKING	2	2	0	0	**4**
RND CONSTRUCTION	2	2	0	0	**4**
TILLSONBURG GLASS	2	1	1	0	**2**
AIRMOUNT FARMS	2	0	1	1	**1**
JEFF PROUSE MORTGAGES	2	0	1	1	**1**
CARQUEST AUTO PARTS	2	0	2	0	**0**

Curling club planning for Community Service Bonspiel



ON THE BROOM

NORA PETER

Tillsonburg Post Columnist

As I sit down to write this column, I'm also keeping my eye on the television watching the Co Op Grand Slam from Alberta on Sportsnet.

It's interesting to check out the latest combination of players as the teams try to get the best foursome leading up to the Olympic trials – one notable change that has taken place since the season began was Botcher now playing second for Team Gushue after being fired from his Alberta squad last season; his former squad has taken on Brad Jacobs as skip. The women's teams haven't seen as many changes but because of injuries and babies being born there have been some super spares added to different line-ups.

Recently, TSN, SN and Curling Canada faced criticism from curling fans for not airing any of the games from the Pan Continental Cup which determines the representatives to the World Curling Championships from the Americas and Pacific-Asia zones. Gushue represented Canada on the Men's side and finished fourth but because Canada is hosting the World Men's, Canada was guaranteed a berth. Team Homan represented the women, and the team finished in first place ensuring the spot at the Worlds in Korea in March.

Other countries represented on the A side of this event were Taipei, New Zealand, Australia, Mexico along with China, Korea, USA and Japan. The next curling that can be seen on TV will be the Kioti Grand Slam on Sportsnet Nov. 26-Dec. 1.

I mentioned last column that there are two major bonspiels hosted by the TCC in November. The Mixed Fall Classic takes place this Saturday and I will look forward to sharing info about that event in my next write-up.

The other major bonspiel is the Community Service Bonspiel, which has a great history with the club as it is the longest running bonspiel (67 years) for the club and has had the same sponsor awarding the trophy for those 67 years.

The original sponsor firm was Judd & Co. which over the years with retirements and new partners has today become Good Redden Klosler – while the names have changed their commitment to the bonspiel has continued uninterrupted except for the Covid years. The trophy is a fur-lined chamber pot atop several stacked pedestals with many layers of winners on it. In the early years, the winning teams logo was hand painted on the highly-contested trophy.

Original entries were community service clubs like the Lions, Rotary, Kinsmen and Kiwanis but as times have changed other service groups have joined including the food bank, churches, hospital foundation, minor ball, Knights of Columbus etc. Fourteen years ago, one of the named sponsors, Steve Good, and bonspiel chairperson Les Peter talked during the spiel and devised a plan to change the prize structure of the bonspiel. They chose to change from prizes for each team member to be more community friendly and more in keeping with the 'service to community' aspect of the spiel.

Teams continued to play for points to win the right to have their name put on the coveted trophy, but the sponsor and the curling club joined together to award $2,000 in 'prize' money $1,000 on each draw to teams who are drawn from the bowl of the chamber pot. That amount of money has now increased to $3,000, so $1,500 per draw is divvied out $500 down to $75 as teams come out of the pot. Each team in the bonspiel designates a charity or project to donate to and if their team is drawn the cheque is written to that charity.

Over the years since the change was made, the bonspiel has given out $30,000 to the community. Examples of some of the charities that have benefitted from the draw are Meals on Wheels, C. of C. Junior Achievement Program, TDMH Foundation and Lions Seeing Eye Dogs. The participants in the spiel include curlers and non-curlers, both men and women and a variety of organizations from the community. The partnership formed 67 years ago continues as strong today as the year it started. This year's spiel happens on Wednesday, Nov. 27.

An update for Team Ontario/King Mixed- the team did not qualify for playoffs with a record of 2-5. Team King Men's finished second at the Stu Sells Port Elgin Tournament, which helps to build their points to qualify for the Ontario Tankard.

Curling rocks! See you on the ice!

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Baseball teams pay tribute to Hendricks

JEFF HELSDON
Editor

Family and a handful of baseball fans gathered recently to pay tribute to Chuck Hendricks.

A sign with Hendricks' jersey was hung on Sam Lamb Field on Oct. 10. He passed away March 25 of this year.

Hendricks played third base with the Red Sox, and with the Old Sox.

"He played softball in between," said Pat Hendricks, his wife.

In this case, softball means fastball. Hendricks won the world senior championships with the Toronto Gators in 2013.

"It was like the seniors Olympics," said his daughter Melissa Dewachter.

He played catcher when playing fastball. Besides Toronto, he played fastball in Norwich, Owen Sound and St. Thomas.

Hendricks owned J/E Bearings and lived in town. His dedication to baseball meant travelling out of town for practices for the teams he played for in other centers. He won the Canadians in 1992/93 in fastball.

After Hendricks won with the Gators in 2013, he retired from playing, but coached the Straffordville U-18 team.



(JEFF HELSDON PHOTO)

Former Tillsonburg baseball player Chuck Hendricks was honoured with a replica of his jersey fastened to the fence of the Sam Lamb Diamond. Left to right are: brother-in-law and Old Sox player Dave Pittock, daughter Nadine Jendricks-Sena, Old Sox player Glen Rohrer, wife Pat Hendricks and daughter Melissa DeWachter.

Summer pickleball league winners recognized

Tillsonburg's top pickleball players were crowned following a tournament last month.

In A League, it was a battle to the end, with Diane Peacock and Kent Wheeler coming out on top. Jordon Hunter and Doug Hubbles were second, with Dale Prouse and Bob Horvath finishing in third.

B League saw Sandy Prouse and John Petropanagos finish in first. Carolijn Verbakel and Carla Cameron were second and Andy Wilcox and Brenda Seitz ended up in third.

THANK YOU
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Public asked to vote for BIA awards

JEFF HELSDON
Editor

The public is being asked to pick their favourite downtown business as part of the BIA's Downtown Achievement Awards.

The program is a revamp, a new and improved version of the business award program the BIA ran up until Covid.

"We're bringing it back at a higher level," said Vanessa Fortner, events and marketing coordinator for the BIA.

The awards will be presented at the Downtown Tillsonburg BIA's annual general meeting on Nov. 5. In the meantime, the public is asked to vote on the awards.

The award categories are:

Community Impact Award – This will recognize businesses that consistently give back to the community through partnerships, initiatives, sponsorships, volunteering or other contributions.

Trusted Professional Award – This category is to recognize professional service providers who earned the trust and confidence of its clients and communities.

Customer Experience Award – This category recognizes an exceptional customer service experience and contributes positively to the downtown shopping or dining experience.

Legacy Business Award – Recognizes a long-standing business that has contributed to the history and identity of Downtown Tillsonburg.

In addition, there is a BIA Champion Award that will be decided by the BIA staff and board. It will recognize a business that takes part in BIA initiatives, promotes other businesses and is a good downtown citizen.

Voting is through links on both the downtowntillsonburg.com web site and through the BIA's social media. Only downtown businesses are eligible for the awards.

The public can attend the awards presentation, which will be presented following a dinner held at the Tillsonburg Senior's Centre on Nov. 5. Tickets are $40, and are available by contacting the BIA office.

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Autumn leaves starting to turn has many meanings



IT'S STILL JUST DIRT

CRYSTAL TROJEK

Tillsonburg Post Columnist

Autumn steps quietly into the garden, when the leaves start to turn colour and all of us begin contemplating how many mornings there could be from today before we stare through the window at first light and discover a frosty world.

A frozen froth, instead of a peaceful dew washed triple fog dipped sunrise. Leaves, it will be the time of year when leaves dominate the garden. Relentless in their mission, leaves will return to the earth no matter how warm the sunny autumn days. Their light grows dim with each passing hour, they know it. Each leaf yields the threads of its fine green coat to orange, gold, or crimson blood, for a few days the leaves shine brightly before falling to the earth, returning to its maker without protest. A leaf, it's just a leaf.

It's common now to see almost straight rows of stocky brown paper bag families lining the street curbs, stuffed with leaf corpses, some of which are employed to camouflage a few old branches, trimmings, and finished annuals. The composter is just not large enough for all the garden debris this time of year, creative dispensation of current garden waste is necessary. Compostable paper bags, they say.

In the small town where I grew up, leaves were for after-school and weekend play. Jumping and rolling and lying in them, I can still remember that curious sweet death scent that summer was over. Leaves suddenly found themselves living a different life, overnight they were transformed into bright oranges, flaming reds, and gold blood flowing through their leafy veins.

The softness of them when they first fell, the different shapes, the way a leaf family occasionally leapt from a tree overnight at the same time, a leaf carpet glowing under the naked branches of a neighbourhood tree passed on the way to school. (I never met a kid who came to school on the bus until I was a teenager, everyone walked)

Leaves in your hat, hair, the special ones, leaves in your books, leaves in your shoes and leaf bouquets. I'm old enough now to hear the echo of my mother's voice telling me, "There's bits of leaves in your hair, and stuck to your socks."

Leaves were scarecrow stuffing, lined paths for a game of tag, piles to hide in, wooly bear caterpillars might be found sleeping in curled leafy hands, they rested deep and thoughtful and quiet in all sorts of places. Leaves slept obediently, on frosted mornings when they were painted white, over and over again. Leaves shivered on cool nights as campfire smoke sought them in the deepening twilight, they waited in the dark for the rising moon, wished on stars.

Leaves sometimes went to school, special leaves. The school assignment of creating leaf collections was always exciting, pressed between two sheets of wax paper, iron, trim, and paste into a little book of paper sheets. They must be named, the library was wise. We learned about Canadian leaves, the forest, wrote poems and stories about leaves, carefully printed with fat red pencils and then cursive lines with newly distributed pens. We memorized leaf poems, took home little books of leaf stories and proudly shared them with our parents. Leaves had something to say, something worth knowing.

Today's searchers google strange leaves on their phones, tis a pity. Leaves have so much to say, even my dogs know that. Autumn walks include the exploration of leaves, ingestion of leaves, decorating themselves with leaves. Dogs wear leaves home like they mean it. They're not wrong.

Sandwiched between the bluest of skies and the cooling earth, the autumn landscape is a living fire, but just for a time. These are days when one notices the quietness of the season, time passes in a garden world teeming with silence. I pause in a favourite garden chair with a hot cuppa, in between the digging, sorting, labelling, and storing of dahlias. Prying dahlia tubers from the reluctant earth, packing in pine shavings, stacking the totes in the fruit cellar is a solemn affair. Numerous jars of pickles, jams and such will keep dahlias company in their solitude. Spiders not welcome, I whisper in the dark. I turn off the light, close the door and remember the orioles always come back to the garden as do the dahlias.

Many birds have returned south, insects have found a new place in the garden world, bees have their hives. A few months ago, the spring air was fretfully churned with sounds of returning birds, winter will soon come calling. I often sit in the back garden and listen to the sound of a few leaves falling, a soft trickle as unsettled air nudges them from faltering branches, or a small band of chilled raindrops drags leaves to the earth, neatly quilting them in place.

I must go inside shortly, I have a collection of bags and boxes of floral material waiting for me. Milkweed pods set in the garage to finish drying in the house. Beautiful pine cones, who knew there were so many? Free ones, purchased ones at thrift stores, lovely cones born in other climes.

Acorns, chestnuts, hickory nuts, seeds bedded down with comforting leaves, all the priceless gifts of autumn. Lost broken branches and bark pieces, friends to the inevitable imagination of Christmas decorators and designers. Sustainable decor at its finest, and a long time trend in European design, use it for the season and compost.

I still wax a few leaves with an old iron, I now experiment with glycerine preserved leaves. Soft and pliable, truest depth of colour, sorted in labelled cardboard boxes. Retrieve the dehydrators from the darkness of the spare room closet, I need many trays of dried oranges very soon. The season of autumn, inspiring our time in the kitchen with the recipes of fall: stews, home made soups and biscuits, canned preserves, baked beans, squash, pies, and visits to fall fairs. Leaves make the trip memorable, they wait in the garden not with sadness, but celebration.

When: Next Meeting November 3, 2026
Guest Speaker. Jason Overdevest, Nanticoke Nursery
Topic: Horticultural Pruning Techniques of Hydrangea Shrubs."
Time: 7:30pm Tillsonburg Horticultural Society Meeting
Where: Seniors Centre ~ Tillsonburg Community Centre (Entrance with green awning)





Critical Hits with all your dance-floor favourites



MUSIC CORNER

BEN ANDRESS

Tillsonburg Post Columnist

Tillsonburg is in for a night of loud guitars playing some familiar rock anthems this weekend when London's Critical Hits make their debut in town. The band brings together five musicians, each contributing to the band's approach. Jennifer Warzonek handles drums and backing vocals, Jon Lariviere takes on lead guitar, Jay Murray plays rhythm guitar and provides backing vocals, Jake Sunstrum is fronting on the vocals while Adam Tierney holds down the bass.

The five-piece band looks forward to getting out of their hometown and Tillsonburg is a destination the group has been eager to visit. With a sound that pulls from rock, metal and punk, Critical Hits always aims to deliver a show that gets people out of their seats and into the action.

"We have been wanting to expand our shows outside London for a while now," says Murray. "Tillsonburg was high on the list. With a great music crowd, we plan to bring our high energy rock covers to get the crowd up and rocking out."

Together the group delivers a mix of recognizable hits and heavier material drawing from multiple generations of rock music. Rather than sticking to one particular style, Critical Hits builds its performances around variety. The band's set list is designed to appeal to a wide range of listeners whether they grew up with classic rock, gravitate toward punk, or prefer the heavier side of metal.

"Our set list consists of something for everyone for all ages and all generations," explains Murray. "Rock, metal, punk. High-energy dance tunes and heavy metal hits. We will throw in a few original songs to promote our sound. 'Blame it on the Kids' we wrote about generational scapegoating. We strive to encourage people to get up out of their seats and party."

While cover songs are an important part of the band's live show, the band is also working to introduce audiences to its own original material. One of those songs titled 'Blame it on the Kids' adds a more personal and socially conscious element to the band's repertoire.

The group is also looking ahead to its next chapter. In addition to playing more shows, Critical Hits has plans for its first full-length album and an ongoing commitment to giving back locally.

"Our 2027 plan is to record our debut album. We also have our third annual fundraiser that supports a local organization," Murray states. "We strive to continue to expand our following by playing shows outside of London and surrounding cities."

For the upcoming Tillsonburg performance the band is promising a show that will bring a different kind of atmosphere to The Copper Mug.

"We have certainly heard a lot of acoustic acts and karaoke nights happen at The Copper Mug," Murrays says. "We are going to be something that I guarantee Tillsonburg has never seen."

"We are excited to perform in Tillsonburg," adds the band's drummer Warzonek. "We already cannot wait to be back. Let's rock."

The band's concert this weekend offers an opportunity to discover a London group eager to grow its audience, and one that intends to make its first impression with volume and a whole lot of rock 'n' roll.

Critical Hits performs Saturday, Oct. 24 with Voltage Line at The Copper Mug. The show starts at 8 p.m. and is a free event with no cover charge. You can follow the band on their official social media page at www.instagram.com/criticalhitsband

UPCOMING SHOWS IN TILLSONBURG

OCTOBER 22 - DANIEL HAMM
The Copper Mug
Free Entry – 8 p.m.

OCTOBER 23 - MUSIC BINGO
The Copper Mug
8 p.m.

OCTOBER 24 - KIDS HALLOWEEN KARAOKE
The Copper Mug
Free Entry – 2 p.m.

OCTOBER 24 - CRITICAL HITS W/ VOLTAGE LINE
The Copper Mug
Free Entry – 8 p.m.

OCTOBER 28 - DAYGLO ABORTIONS W/ DESTINED FOR THE THRONE
Paddy's Underground
$20 – 8 p.m. – 19-plus

OCTOBER 30 - RIGHT TURN CLYDE
The Copper Mug
Free Entry – 9 p.m.

OCTOBER 31 - HALLOWEEN KARAOKE
The Copper Mug
Free Entry – 9 p.m.

NOVEMBER 5 - ALEX HURDING
The Copper Mug
Free Entry – 8 p.m.

PADDY'S UNDERGROUND TILLSONBURG, ON EST. 2018
20 John Pound Road
Tillsonburg
Live Music • Comedy • Pub

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• Fundraisers • Birthdays • Anniversaries
• Meetings • & More
Fresh made foods, in house smoked meats and lot of love, just like Mom used to make.
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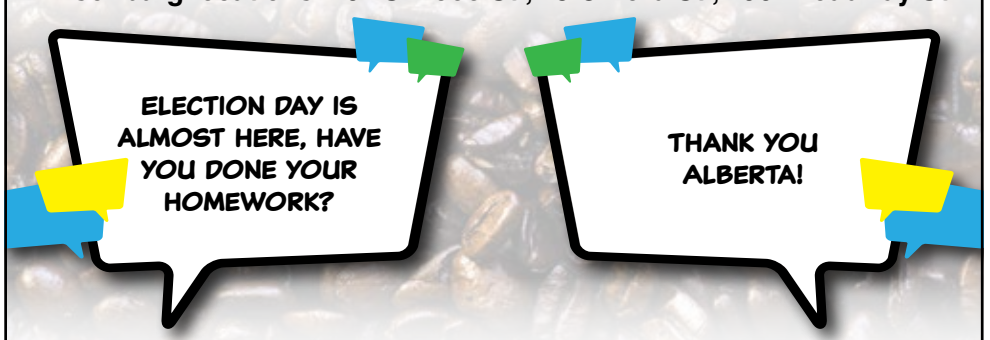

Have you heard something humourous around town that you think might be of interest to others? Either email them to us at info@tillsonburgpost.com with the title "Overheard at the Coffee Shop" or call 519.655.2341.

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RIDDLES

I welcome the day with a show of light, I stealthily came here in the night. I bathe the earthy stuff at dawn, but by noon, alas! I'm gone.

The morning dew.

What goes through cities and fields, but never moves?

A road.

When it is alive we sing, when it is dead we clap our hands. What is it?

A birthday candle.

What can go through glass without breaking it?

Light.

I have no life, but I can die. What am I?

A battery.

What kind of room has no walls, door or windows?

A mushroom.

It belongs to you, but your friends use it more. What is it?

Your name.

SUDOKU

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4		3		8		2	7	
2	9				4			
1				5	6			

Level: Beginner

Solutions on Page 24

PET OF THE WEEK



JUNIPER AND HARLEY

SPONSORED BY:

ELECT
Stephen
MOLNAR
COUNCILLOR

*"The Voting Period for the 2026 Municipal Election remains open until Monday October 26 (8:00 PM). With the opportunity to still elect a strong, accessible and experienced representative on Council, I ask for your support as we once again work together to make Tillsonburg the '**Place to Build Your Future**'. Your support is appreciated."*

- Stephen

519-983-VOTE (8683)
votemolnar@execulink.com
Authorized by Stephen Molnar.

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

WORD SEARCH

FALL EVENINGS

M	H	R	F	D	I	V	K	K	G	N	K	L	Z	M	R	F	K	Z	A
K	F	H	T	N	A	R	B	I	V	T	S	K	H	E	U	W	I	D	A
W	K	D	N	C	I	N	N	A	M	O	N	K	T	Z	Y	V	R	I	S
P	T	I	H	I	K	S	Y	G	W	C	Q	A	R	Z	R	L	E	Q	G
X	S	W	E	U	K	T	E	E	Y	Q	E	S	O	Q	F	K	X	W	T
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E	A	F	Y	H	G	Q	K	N	P	Q	R	N	O	E	D	G	F	P	A
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ACORN
AMBER
AUTUMN
BONFIRE
BREEZE
CHILLY
CIDER
CINNAMON
COZY
CRISP
EQUINOX
FLANNEL
FOLIAGE
FROSTY
GOLDEN
HARVEST
HAYRIDE
LEAVES
NUTMEG
PUMPKIN
SCARLET
SWEATER
TWILIGHT
VIBRANT

COMING EVENTS

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SCAN TO VIEW MORE OFFERS

OCTOBER 30 | 7 PM
KNIGHTS OF COLUMBUS BINGO
Saint Mary's Parish Hall [Church basement], 137 Rolph Street, Tillsonburg.
Cost $2 for 3 card strip per game. Doors open 6:30 for 7 pm game. Prize $30 per "BINGO". Sponsored by Tillsonburg Knights. Food and cash bar available.

OCTOBER

OCTOBER 19 - 24
ROTARY BOOK FAIR
Located at Tillsonburg Town Centre Mall - new location by the LCBO.
Give your used books, CD's, puzzles and board games a new home. Proceeds go to community projects. Please bring your own reusable bag.

OCTOBER 24 | 10 AM - 3 PM
OXFORD PHILATELIC SOCIETY CIRCUIT BOOK (STAMP) FAIR
Church of the Epiphany, 560 Dundas Street, Woodstock Ontario N4S 1C7
Free Admission & Parking. Stop in and buy some stamps and meet fellow stamp collectors. About 8 participating stamp clubs.
Contact: dheaton3e3@gmail.com
Website: http://www.rpsc.org/chapters/oxford

OCTOBER 24 | 9 AM - 1 PM
TILLSONBURG CATHOLIC WOMEN'S LEAGUE FALL RUMMAGE SALE
St. Mary's Church, TILLSONBURG
Please come join us at our fall rummage sale. Clothing and footwear for the family. Housewares, glassware, bedding, home decor, toys and trinkets, jewelry, books and much more. Everyone is welcome. Fully Accessible. Admission is free. Please bring a bag (or two) to carry home your treasures. Thank you for your continued support

OCTOBER 31 | 7 - 11 PM
LEGION HALLOWEEN DANCE
Tillsonburg Legion, 16 Durham St, Tillsonburg, ON
featuring Kickn' Kountry Live! This is a 19+ event. $10 cash at the door. Cash bar open from 7:00 pm to 11:00 pm. Prizes for best dressed!

OCTOBER 31 | 6 - 8 PM
TRICK OR TREAT AT BALDWIN PLACE
Baldwin Place Recreation Centre, 142 Weston Drive, Tillsonburg.
The Baldwin Place Residents' Association invites our neighbours to join us for some "Trick or Treat" fun! Our building is filly accessible.

NOVEMBER

NOVEMBER 6 | 10 AM - NOON
MESSY CHURCH
"WE HEAR YOU"
St.Paul's United Church 88 Bidwell St., Tillsonburg
Fun crafts, a chance to do some early Christmas shopping, snacks, games, music, story and of course... a hot meal. Children should be accompanied by an adult.

NOVEMBER 9 | 6 PM
TILLSONBURG FAIRBOARD ANNUAL MEETING & ELECTIONS
Tillsonburg Fairboard Office

NOVEMBER 14 | 9:30 AM - 1:30 PM
'MISTLETOE MAGIC' CHRISTMAS BAZAAR
St. Mary's Church, TILLSONBURG
St. Mary's CWL would like to invite you to their annual Christmas bazaar. With two locations you are sure to find something special. **In the Parish centre** you will find the Penny Table, handcrafted items made especially for you, greenery for all your outdoor Christmas decorating needs, homemade baked goods, fresh produce and preserves. **In the church hall** we offer indoor and outdoor Christmas decorations, tables laden with quality jewelry, fine clothing, as well as kitchen and miscellaneous items and the Silent Auction. A delicious lunch will be also be available. Join us for soup, sandwich, dessert and coffee or tea in the Bistro. We are fully accessible, with free admission. Please bring a bag or two to carry home your purchases. Located on Rolph St. in Tillsonburg. We thank you for your continued support.

NOVEMBER 14 | 10 AM - 2 PM
PEACE LUTHERAN CHURCH CHRISTMAS BAZAAR
60 Young St., Tillsonburg
Baking, Cabbage rolls, Canning, Crafts, Gently used Christmas decor. Luncheon available, Soup, Roll & Dessert, Tea & Coffee.

ONGOING CLASSES, CLUBS & ORGANIZATIONS

MONDAYS & THURSDAYS
OTTER VALLEY TAI CHI
St. John's Anglican Church, 46 Ridout St. W., Tillsonburg
Spots still available in new Monday morning and Thursday afternoon classes. Mondays 9:00 – 10:30 am Introduction, 10:30 – 11:30 am Foundations. Thursdays 2:00 – 3:30 pm Introduction, 3:30 – 4:30 pm Foundations. Enjoy gentle exercise with others as you work to improve flexibility, balance and stamina. Call 519-688-9779, email ottervalley@canadiantaichiacademy.org, visit canadiantaichiacademy.org

WEDNESDAYS | 6 - 7:30 PM
CANADIAN TAI CHI ACADEMY TILLSONBURG
Classes take place at St Paul's United Church, Fox Alley South entrance off Ridout Street
Continuing sessions and Lok Hup occur from 7:30 – 8:30 PM. Additional practice sessions are available Fridays from 10:00 – 11:00AM. For more information: Email: tillsonburg@canadiantaichiacademy.org, Website: canadiantaichiacademy.org. Everyone welcome. Improve your health.

3RD TUE. OF MONTH | 6:30 - 8:30 PM
CAREGIVER CONNECTION
Revel Realty Woodstock, 111 Huron Street (Virutal/hyrbid options available)
Are you worried about your child or youth? Parents and Caregivers for Mental Health (PCMH) is here to listen, support, and walk alongside you on this journey. Our free Caregiver Connection peer support groups offer parents and caregivers a community of support. Can't make it in person? Join one of our virtual or hybrid groups! **Visit family.cmho.org or email oxfordcounty@pcmh.ca for more information.**

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

MONDAYS | 7 - 9 PM
MODERN SQUARE DANCING IS FOR YOU!
Thames Valley Dance Club
Looking for something to do in the evening or something new to try? Modern square dancing is a great way to learn something new, have fun, meet new friends, relieve stress, and get some exercise! All you need is comfortable shoes and casual clothing. No experience or partner is required and anyone over the age of 12 is welcome (children from 12-15 with an adult, please). **The 2025-2026 season has started at the Ingersoll Pipe Band Hall, 108 Wonham St. S. Ingersoll.** The first night is free, and after that the cost is $7.50 per person each Monday, paid monthly at the start of the month. For more information, contact Julie at 519-535-3314.

2ND TUES. OF MONTH (SEPT. TO MAY) | 2 - 4 PM
4TH TUES. OF MONTH (SEPT. TO MAY) | 7 - 9 PM
OXFORD PHILATELIC SOCIETY
Church of the Epiphany, 560 Dundas Street, Woodstock Ontario N4S 1C7
If you have never belonged to a stamp club, now's the time. Meet new friends, grow your knowledge and collection. Contact: Don Eaton dheaton3e3@gmail.com. Website: http://www.rpsc.org/chapters/oxford

SUDOKU

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

QUIZ ANSWERS

1. The Louvre Museum in Paris.
2. Honey.
3. Sedimentary.
4. Leo.
5. Skipper.
6. July.
7. 2007.
8. "I will always love you"
9. Graceland.
10. Harper Lee.

COMING EVENTS

3RD WED. OF MONTH | 10 AM - NOON
LYNN RIVER PROBUS CLUB
Army, Navy & Air Force Club, Simcoe, ON. Corner of Water St. and Culver St. Simcoe. Enter via Culver St.
Our retired and semi-retired members enjoy diverse interest groups, friendship and fellowship. We have interesting speakers at our monthly meetings as well as time to socialise.
Current and prospective members are welcome to join us at the Army, Navy & Air Force Club, Simcoe, which is on the corner of Water St. and Culver St. Simcoe. Enter via Culver St. For more information, please visit our website at: lynnriverprobus239.com or email lynnriverprobus239@gmail.com

TUESDAYS & THURSDAYS | 7 - 9 PM
SATURDAYS | 10 AM - 12 PM
LEARN BRAZILIAN JIU-JITSU (BJJ)
North Broadway Baptist Church
Thanks to donor support, we've been able to purchase mats and uniforms, and our instructors generously volunteer their time. This isn't a business—any donations go straight back into the program to help buy more uniforms, mats, and equipment. If it's within your means, a $20 monthly donation helps support the program, but if not, classes are completely free. **Classes are open to anyone 14 and older.** If you'd like to try a class, please arrive about 15 minutes early to sign waivers and get fitted for a uniform. Information can be found at: https://www.northbroadwaychurch.ca/nbmfa, https://www.facebook.com/northbroadwaymfa, https://www.instagram.com/northbroadwaymfa/ Inquires can be made at: nbmfa@northbroadwaychurch.ca

EVERY OTHER FRIDAY | 1 - 4 PM
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! October 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.

AI and municipal elections in Ontario

It's the Wild West as province has no rules over its use or abuse

LEE GRIFFI
Post Contributor

The emergence of Artificial Intelligence in literally every facet of life is upon us amid warnings of how powerful the technology could become. Now, there are warnings AI has landed in municipal election campaigns.

Ontario's Municipal Elections Act has no provisions addressing AI-generated content, synthetic media, or deepfakes in campaign advertising.

Carmi Levy is one of Canada's top tech experts and said there isn't a sector anywhere immune to the encroachment of AI and we all would have had to have been naïve to think politics would escape its spread.

"The sad reality is we are seeing more and more AI being incorporated into political messaging up to and including the dissemination of misinformation and disinformation and deep fakes. The use if synthetic assets within political advertising and the use of social media for non-legitimate content is designed to sway political opinion."

He added voters can no longer believe what they see and can't assume the message in their inboxes or social media feeds are legitimate. Levy said it's hard to figure out who to trust these days.

"It's pretty much a buyer beware and voter beware scenario where we literally have to mistrust at first glance what we see and consume until it is proven otherwise."

Levy admitted it is becoming increasingly difficult to tell the difference between something legitimate and something AI generated. He added we need to look for the origins of an asset.

"When you receive a message that is politically motivated and you want to look at who sent it, is it a recently created account? Does it use original assets or were these assets scraped off existing accounts? Who is interacting with this account, is it part of a large network or is it known as a zombie account which doesn't have a lot of interaction but has a significant amount of content posted recently."

He said legitimate accounts have a years long footprint and others will post and react on the content whereas fake accounts show none of those signs. Levy added humanity is very difficult to recreate in a human space and with a little bit of investigation it is easy to determine all is not what it seems. He also offered some advice to eager voters.

"Verify before you engage. Make sure you are absolutely certain it is in fact a legitimate account, human, and political candidate before you decide to engage with them. By responding to non-synthetic content you amplify the algorithms of others and make it easier for non-legitimate content to be distributed and find its audience."

Levy said everyone can be part of the solution by simply changing behaviours, very slightly, in the digital space.

"By verifying first we ensure false content doesn't find an audience and others are not duped. By reporting content to the platforms they are on we also ensure the algorithm dials them down so they don't find an audience."

He added it is better to not respond and instead click in those three dots to report questionable content that tells the social media platform to reduce its priority in the algorithms so it won't find an audience.

"That is an absolutely critical step toward ensuring we do not give power to the benevolent actors who use misinformation to misinform us. Unfortunately, as the tools become more powerful, accessible and easier to use, they are going to become more widespread and we are going to have our eyes wide open."

Some municipal candidates are not overly savvy in the ways of IT but Levy said everyone on a ballot needs to keep their eyes wide open for bad actors in the race who will use digital tools against their opponents.

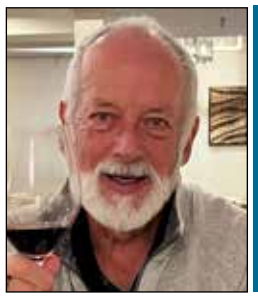
"Make sure you are scanning social media platforms for signs your content is being lifted and misused. In many cases we have seen ghost accounts created by political opponents made to look like the original one but spewing content that increases the likelihood of them being perceived in a negative manner."

He added candidates need to keep an eye out to make sure they are not being targeted as they run their campaigns and skills needed as candidates build their campaign team.

"Its bad and its going to get worse. I hope voters are smart enough to see through this," added Levy.

tillsonburgpost.com

Controversial attraction re-opened in Baden



OH, THE PLACES WE'LL GO!

PAUL KNOWLES

Tillsonburg Post Columnist

One of the most controversial visitor destinations in Canada is located about 10 minutes from my front door. It's the Prime Ministers Path, an installation of statues of Canadian Prime Ministers in Baden, Ontario. It has generated a ton of debate, which at one point resulted in the dismantling of the whole thing – the Prime Ministers were relegated to an unidentified storage unit. Then, this September, came the reestablishment of the installation.

The Prime Ministers Path was conceived in 2013, a plan that would eventually see sculptures of all Canadian Prime Ministers (currently numbering 24) exhibited in an outdoor setting.

The launch of the project took place in 2016. It's understandable that the first statue put in place was of Canada's first Prime Minister – Sir John A. Macdonald. But it's also understandable that this installation proved to be the most controversial, because of Macdonald's undeniably horrendous policies concerning Native Canadians.

Three more statues were added in 2017 – Robert Borden, William Lyon MacKenzie King and Lester B. Pearson – and Canada's first and only female Prime Minister, Kim Campbell, was added the next year.

But controversy was brewing, and as the nation became more aware of the horrors of Residential Schools and other national policies that had caused incredible harm to Native Canadians, protests erupted across the country, including in Baden. The statue of Macdonald attracted the most push-back, as protesters coated the sculpture in red paint.

By 2020, the local municipal council voted to remove all five statues and place them in storage in a secret location. But that action, too, prompted push-back from the community.

The most recently development has involved turning the project over to the original sponsor, Createscape Waterloo Region, which led the re-installation of the statues, plus a new work featuring four more Prime Ministers. The Path was re-launched in September of this year. As before, it sits beside Castle Kilbride, the National Historic Site which adjoins the Wilmot Township Municipal Office. But where once, Macdonald's statue stood at the front of the property, facing Snyder's Road, now, the orientation has been shifted 180%, with the Prime Ministers Path sign and Macdonald's sculpture facing north, onto Wagler Avenue.

So, is this all a good idea? Opinions about this will always be strong, and varied.

The Prime Ministers Path website openly admits that history is challenging. It contends that "History is complex," and adds "Understanding our history also means understanding how it has affected Canadians and how those Canadians perceive Canada's history."

I was never comfortable with the decision to dismantle the Path. In doing so, the very positive stories of Lester Pearson (who won the Nobel Peace Prize) and Kim Campbell (who broke the gender barrier) were shoved into dusty storage. But I am also not comfortable with glorifying Canadian politicians who have made horrible decisions, chief among them Macdonald and King.

Createscape says that they have worked with Indigenous groups in re-introducing the Path, and that the full, complex stories of these leaders will be told. That is crucial.



(PAUL KNOWLES PHOTO)

The newest addition to the Prime Ministers Path in Baden – Nathan Scott's "The Unfortunate Four". Four Canadian Prime Ministers who served briefly in office – from left, Sir MacKenzie Bowell, Sir John Abbott, Sir Charles Tupper, Sir John Thompson.

I think it highly appropriate that the statues of Macdonald and King were designed by their artists (local sculptor Ruth Abernethy for Macdonald and Morgan MacKenzie for King) to include seats for visitors. I know these will be treated as selfie spots for many, but I also hope that folks will sit and ask themselves (and the spirits of the late PMs) the tough questions. "Why did Macdonald decide to strip Indigenous people of their heritage?" "Why did King think it okay to send a shipload of Jewish refugees back to Germany, where most died in concentration camps?"

These are the reality of the history of these Canadian leaders – but as historians will tell you, the story is more complex, and we need to grapple with all of this. We recently did a walking tour in Kingston, Ontario, where our guide acknowledged the evils of Macdonald's tenure, but also insisted, "Without John A. Macdonald, there would be no Canada." And that is also, I suspect, the truth.

So, properly considered, the Prime Ministers Path presents a unique opportunity for visitors to consider – in fact, to confront – the complicated history of this country. Perhaps even to realize that the evils of the past created problems and challenges still calling for solutions, today. I hope that visitors will leave the Path with their heads fully out of the sand, and full of thoughts about the realities of Canadian history.

And – that this is an issue largely overlooked in the controversy – they will also have the opportunity to appreciate some very fine works of art. Ruth Abernethy, a Wilmot resident, (Macdonald and Pearson) has been made a Member of the Order of Canada for her work. Other artists represented here include MacKenzie (King) Nathan Scott (Borden), and Darren Byers and Fred Harrison (Campbell). As well, when the Path was re-opened, a terrific new piece was added – Nathan Scott's "The Unfortunate Four", four PMs who had short terms and lesser impacts on our history.

The plan is for the Path to continue to grow over the next four decades. I hope there will be thousands of meaningful conversations and personal reflections, sparked by this controversial but important installation.

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)

Morgan MacKenzie created the statue of William Lyon Mackenzie King, the Waterloo Region native who was Canada's longest-serving Prime Minister.



(PAUL KNOWLES PHOTO)

Canada's controversial first Prime Minister, Sir John A. Macdonald, sculpted by Ruth Abernethy.

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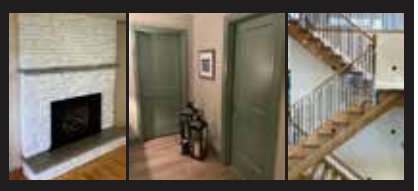
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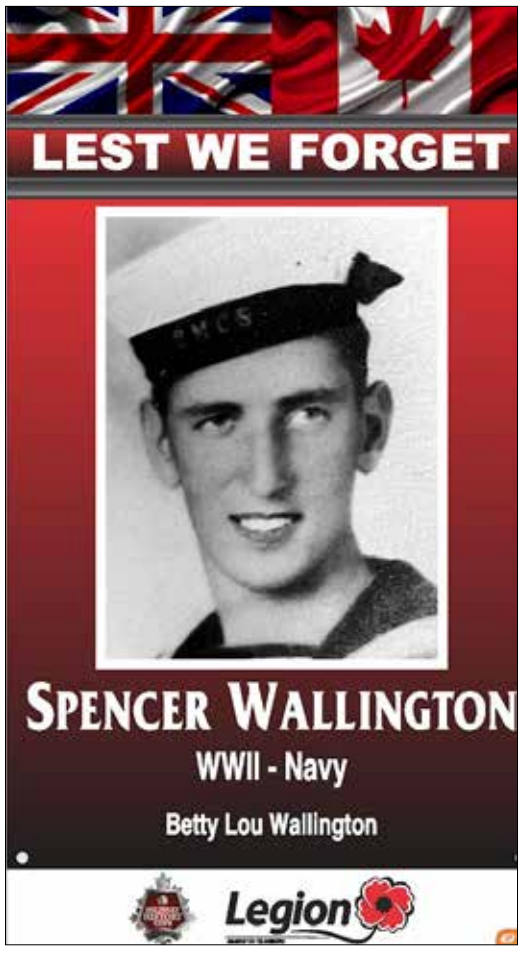
MEET THE PEOPLE OF THE MEMORIAL VETERAN BANNERS

SPENCER WALLINGTON

Spencer was born on April 27, 1913 in Vienna, Ontario. While working as a section man, for the railroad, he enlisted in the Naval Service on June 6, 1942 at HMCS Prévost, in London Ontario.He was drafted to HMCS York, HMCS Cornwallis and HMCS Stadacona, for training.On November 26, 1942 he was drafted to the English battleship HMS King George V as Stoker first class. He served in the Mediterranean and Baltic Sea's. He was drafted September 29, 1944 to the Corvette HMCS Shawinigan (K136) as Leading Stoker. The Shawinigan was charged with protecting ferries that sailed through the Cabot Straight between Sydney, Nova Scotia, and Port Aux Basques, Newfoundland from German U-boats.

On November 24, 1944, U boat 1228 was exiting the Saint Lawrence after being ordered home and spotted the Shawinigan and fired a torpedo. Four minutes later, the ship and crew of 90 was sunk with all hands lost. After three days of searching, six bodies were found. Spencer was survived by his wife (30) a daughter (6), a sister (49) and a brother (41).



Job Fair+ shows many jobs available

JEFF HELSDON
Editor

Indicators from the recent Job Fair+ show the local job market is in good shape despite the pandemonium in the national economy.

Organizers of the event, put on by the Multi-Service Centre, the Town of Tillsonburg and multiple partners, said spots for employers to find employees filled up quickly. And the 300-plus people who attended the event were down from more than 500 at the last job fair in the spring, although Randi-Lee Durham, director of employment and literacy programs, admitted people seeking employment at PeopleCare may have boosted the numbers in the spring.

One big factor in the mix is those who worked at CAMI, many of whom Gail Lonsberry, manager of employment services, said may still be in a holding pattern to see whether production starts at the Ingersoll facility again.

"They haven't all found employment, but they're trying to wait and see," she said.

The Sept. 30 event featured a wide variety of potential employers in the industrial sector, including Fleetwood Metal Industries, Future Transfer Co., Coilplus Canada, Rhythm Automotive, Stubbe's, Soprema, Townsend Lumber and Toyotetsu.

Several employers were looking to fill positions in health services, including Rural Roads Health Services, CarePartners, and Stonebridge. Circle of Care Support Services, the Multi-Service Center, VON, and Bayshore Home Care Solutions were recruiting for personal support and developmental support workers. The Canadian Armed Forces was on site, raising public awareness of opportunities within the military.

Educational institutions, such as the Ontario Truck Driving School, Academy of Building Technology, Contact North, and Fanshawe College, shared information about their programs. There were unique opportunities in other fields, such as school bus drivers, farm positions, and deaf/blind intervenors.

Job Fair+ by the numbers

- Nearly half of all attendees were under the age of 36
- 63 per cent were Tillsonburg residents, and 37 per cent came from surrounding communities and beyond
- Healthcare, manufacturing/trades/logistics, and office/admin/business were the strongest identified industries of interest.

Employer/Exhibitor stats:

- 26 exhibitors attended: 22 employers, three education/training providers, and one community partner
- Overall event satisfaction was very positive.
- When asked "Approximately how many applicants did your team speak with today?", 23 exhibitors answered this question, and the combined total was 806 connections made.
- When asked "How many applicants will you be contacting for next steps/interviews?", 16 exhibitors quantified their answers with a total of 101 applicants moving to "next steps".



(JEFF HELSDON PHOTO)

The Job Fair+ held on Sept. 29 was another success, drawing nearly 300 people and 26 exhibitors.

CLASSIFIEDS

OBITUARY

MARJORIE JEAN LOUISE STEVENS

OCTOBER 28, 1927 – OCTOBER 19, 2026



Peacefully at the Tillsonburg District Memorial Hospital on Monday, October 19, 2026, Marjorie Jean Louise Stevens of Delmer passed away in her 99th year. Predeceased by her loving husband Russell (2007). Loving mother to David Stevens and his wife Lorraine, Lynne Breddy and her friend Fred Priester, Mary Scott and her husband Dwight. Grandmother to Stephanie (Jeff) Middleton, Melanie Weger (Colin Lindsay), Elaine Weger and her friend Rob Stevens, Carrie (James) Poole, Joel (Nicole) Breddy, Melissa (Eric) MacFadden, Nikki (Muhamed) Amin, Tina (Dave) Jantzi. Great grandmother to 20 great grandchildren. Aunt to many nieces and nephews. Predeceased by her son-in-law Blair, her grandson Darren, her parents Wilmont and Priscilla Reid, 3 brothers and 1 sister.

Marjorie's greatest joy was her family. She cherished every opportunity to be surrounded by those she loved, taking great pleasure in sharing in their lives, their milestones, and their everyday moments. Being part of their world brought her immeasurable happiness and the love she had for her family was at the very heart of who she was.

Friends and family will be received at Ostrander's Funeral Home, 43 Bidwell Street, Tillsonburg, ON N4G 3T6 (519) 842-5221 on Friday October 23, 2026 for visitation from 3:00pm until 5:00pm and then again from 7:00pm until 9:00pm. A Funeral Service will be held in the funeral home chapel on Saturday October 24, 2026 at 1:00pm with Cheryl Buchner to officiate. Interment to be held at Springfield Cemetery following the service. Those wishing to make a donation may do so to a charity that has special meaning to them. Condolences and memories may be shared at www.ostrandersfuneralhome.com



OBITUARY

TWILA NADEEN HOLBROOK KITCHING



Twila Nadeen Kitching. age 81, passed away peacefully at Terrace Lodge in Aylmer, Ontario, surrounded by the love and memories of her family.

Twila was born on February 1, 1945 in Ingersoll Ontario to proud parents Howard and Marie Holbrook. Twila was a loving wife, mother, grandmother, sister and friend. She was married to the love of her life Robert Kitching, for 64 years. Together they built a family and life filled with countless memories. She was happiest when she was surrounded by family and enjoyed making others feel welcome and appreciated. She had a genuine love for people, and wherever Twila was, there were no strangers. Her warm and caring personality made people feel welcome, valued and loved. She had a special love for gardening, taking great pleasure in watching things grow and tending to the beauty around her.

Above all, Twila treasured her relationship with her God, Jehovah. Her faith was an important part of her life, and she loved sharing her hope and faith with others. Her love for Jehovah and confidence in his promises brought her comfort and strength throughout her life.

Twila will be lovingly remembered by her husband, Robert Kitching, and her children: Lisa (Stephen) Vyse, Troy (Manuella) Kitching, Tessy (Randy) Marleau, Cindy (Bill) Rose, Kevin (Tracy) Kitching, Kelly (Steven) Albani, Julie (Brian) Henhawke, David Kitching, Andrea Kitching, and her brother Steve (Barb) Holbrook. She will be deeply missed by her 17 grandchildren and 6 great grandchildren, who brought her great joy and were a cherished part of her life. She will also be missed by the countless friends she made throughout her life. Twila is predeceased by her parents, Howard and Marie Holbrook; her siblings, Rhoda Marlene Holbrook, John Howard Holbrook, and David Allen Holbrook; and her beloved grandson, Eric William VanDriestan.

Twila leaves behind a legacy of love, faith, kindness, and devotion to her family. She will be remembered for her warm heart, her love of people, her enjoyment of gardening, and especially her deep love of Jehovah and the hope found in his promises.

A memorial service will be held at 1:00 p.m. on Saturday October 24, 2026 at the Kingdom Hall of Jehovah's Witnesses, 1162 Nellis Street, Woodstock, Ontario. Twila will be deeply missed by all who knew her and loved her. Her family finds comfort in the precious memories she leaves behind and, in the Bible's promise of a future when death will be no more (Rev 21:3,4). Wareing Cremation Services, 161 Broadway St., Tillsonburg has been entrusted with Final Arrangements. Your messages of remembrance and condolence may be shared at wareingcremation.ca

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OBITUARY

HARRY "BUD" BAXTER

MAY 2, 1934 – OCTOBER 16, 2026



Harry "Bud" Baxter passed away at the age of 92 years with his family by his side at Woodingford Lodge in Tillsonburg.

Bud was born in his grandmother's house in Tillsonburg and lived in town for his whole life, happily married to his late wife Marilyn (Bain) Baxter (2017) for 60 years. He was a proud and loving father to Michael Baxter (Linda Lovegrove) of Kitchener and Teresa Baxter of Richmond Hill. He was like a brother to Marilyn's sister Julia Buchan, and is also survived by several nieces and nephews.

Predeceased by his parents Harry and Nora (Scott) Baxter, his siblings Scott Baxter (Daisy), Violet Jackson (Howard), Jack Baxter (Phyllis), Bill Baxter (Betty), Ilene Pearson (Don), Leone Anderson (Roy), Verla Visosky (Bill), and Vera Vank (Steve) and his son-in-law Pat Chester.

Bud loved to hunt and fish, and he was a proud founding member of the Outdoorsman's Club. He and Marilyn spent many summers at their trailer in Port Ryerse, and in later years he enjoyed driving along the shores and countryside of Lake Erie. He loved all dogs and enjoyed visits from Teresa's black lab Scooter at Woodingford. Missing only a few years between 1989 and 2024, Bud and Mike took a yearly trip south and visited numerous Caribbean, Mexican and Central American destinations.

Around the age of 17, when the Loblaws grocery store opened on Broadway in Tillsonburg, Bud took a part-time job. When Loblaws closed that store, he was still employed there as the Assistant Manager. He continued to work for Loblaws in St. Thomas until age 55. For the next 10 years he worked at the Zehr's grocery store in Tillsonburg. In all, he was employed by the Weston group of grocery stores for over 48 years, and when he fully retired in 1999, he was their longest tenured employee.

The family would like to extend their appreciation to the staff at the Tillsonburg District Memorial Hospital and Woodingford Lodge for their compassion and care for Bud. The family would also like to thank his neighbours Ron and Debbie Paret, and community service staff who helped him remain in his home until recently.

In keeping with Bud's wishes, cremation has taken place. Please join the family for a celebration of his life on Sunday, November 15, 2026 at the Tillsonburg Legion, between 1pm and 4pm.

At a later date with family and close friends, inurnment will take place at the Tillsonburg Cemetery. Memorial donations to Woodingford Lodge, Tillsonburg District Memorial Hospital or the Canadian Cancer Society would be appreciated by the Baxter family and may be made by contacting Ostrander's Funeral Home (519-842-5221). Condolences can be made at www.ostrandersfuneralhome.com

OBITUARY

AUDREY ELLA CAMPBELL (NEE PIFKO)

MAY 16, 1927 – OCTOBER 18, 2026



Peacefully at the Tillsonburg District Memorial Hospital on Sunday October 18, 2026, Audrey Ella Campbell (nee Pifko) after a brief stay at the hospital, passed away in her 100th year.

Predeceased by her loving husband of 70 years, Lorne (2020).

Godmother and aunt to Sherry Denstedt, Chuck Pifko and his wife Debbie and Ralph Schleuter. Loving aunt to many nieces and nephews.

Predeceased by her parents, Charles and Emily and her in-laws Edward T. and Rachel Campbell.

An avid nature lover, Audrey enjoyed bird watching, gardening and knitting. At the age of 99 years, she was still very active in her gardening and kept her own home.

A special thank you to the staff and doctors at TDMH and to Peace Lutheran Church members for their outstanding care and compassion.

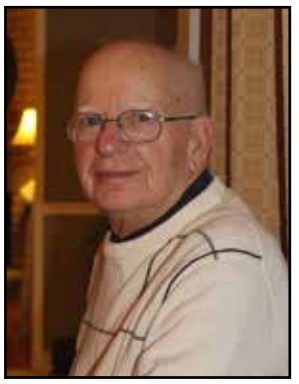
The family received friends and relatives for visitation on Tuesday October 20, 2026 from 6:00pm until 8:00pm at Ostrander's Funeral Home, 43 Bidwell Street, Tillsonburg, ON N4G 3T6 (519) 842-5221 and again on Wednesday, October 21, 2026 from 3:00pm until 4:00pm at Peace Lutheran Church, 60 Young St, Tillsonburg, ON N4G 3H7. The funeral service for Audrey was held at 4:00pm at Peace Lutheran Church. Pastor Paul Schallhorn officiated. Private family interment will be held Thursday, October 22, 2026 at Glendale Memorial Gardens, Etobicoke. Donations in memory of Audrey can be made to the Peace Lutheran Church, Tillsonburg District Memorial Hospital Foundation or the Tillsonburg Royal Canadian Legion Branch 153 directly or via cheque payable to the charity by contacting the Funeral Home. Condolences may be shared with the family at www.ostrandersfuneralhome.com



OBITUARY

MICHAEL "MIKE" SKUPNY

OCTOBER 17, 2026



Passed away peacefully on Saturday, October 17, 2026, at Woodingford Lodge in Woodstock, Michael "Mike" Skupny, formerly of Tillsonburg and Windsor, in his 100th year.

Born in Zagorow, Poland, Mike was a member of St. Mary's Roman Catholic Church in Tillsonburg.

Family was always at the centre of Mike's life and remained his greatest joy throughout the years. He was happiest when keeping busy, whether tinkering, fixing, building, or assembling something. Mike had a remarkable desire to be useful and helpful to others, often preferring to visit family when there was a job waiting for him. He found great satisfaction in lending a hand and making life a little easier for those around him. Mike also had a deep appreciation for the outdoors, particularly enjoying fishing and taking walks with his beloved wife, Alina.

Mike is lovingly remembered by his wife and best friend, Alina (Kostrzewa) Skupny, with whom he shared a lifetime of love and companionship.

He will be deeply missed by his children: Lorraine Skupny-Garnham and her husband Steve Garnham, of Mount Elgin; the late Ursula Nix (2020), whose partner was Richard Hikele, of St. Thomas; Diane Skupny-MacBride and her husband Mike MacBride, of Oakville; and Greg Skupny and his wife Carla Skupny, of Whitby.

He was the cherished dziadzi of Rob (Gillian), Andrew, and Alina, children of Lorraine and Steve; Alex (Sarah) and Jacob (Tara), children of Ursula; Erin (Jeff), Joel (Rachel), and David (Polina), children of Diane and Mike; and Jacqueline and Lauren, children of Greg and Carla.

He was also the proud pra-dziadzi of Steven and Jasmine, children of Rob and Gillian; Arielle, Elodie, and Remi, children of Erin and Jeff; Penelope, daughter of Joel and Rachel; and Percy, son of David and Polina.

Mike was predeceased by his beloved daughter Ursula, as well as his siblings, Richard and Barbara.

He will be remembered for his devotion to family, his hardworking and helpful nature, and his willingness to lend a hand whenever needed. His love, kindness, and the many memories he created with those closest to him will remain a lasting part of his legacy.

Cremation has taken place. Friends, neighbours and relatives are invited to attend public visitation on Saturday, November 7th, 2026, from 9:00 a.m. to 10:45 a.m. in the Maurice J. Verhoeve Funeral Home Chapel, 262 Broadway, Tillsonburg. Complete Funeral Mass will be celebrated on Saturday, November 7th, 2026, at 11: 00 a.m. at St. Mary's R.C. Church, 51 Venison St. W., Tillsonburg, by Rev. Father Seejo John. Private inurnment will take place later in Tillsonburg Cemetery. All funeral attendees are invited to join the family for a reception held immediately following Mass in St. Mary's R.C. Church basement hall. Everyone who knew Mike may share favourite memories and photos, express personal condolences or order flowers via Mike's online tribute page at www.verhoevefuneralhomes.com. Memorial donations (by cheque only) to "Woodingford Lodge Woodstock- Resident's Activity Fund" or the "Woodingford Lodge Woodstock- Palliative Care" can be made through 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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OBITUARY

ALBERT TOYNE

Albert Douglas Toyne, born on March 9, 1954, in Leamington, Ontario, passed away peacefully on October 16, 2026, at Riverview Gardens, Chatham.

Albert was a beloved son, brother and uncle. Predeceased by his parents Doug (1984) and Rita (2015). Survived by his siblings, John (Justina), Roberta (Paul), and Bill (Colleen), as well as his nephews Johnathan, Joshua, Jude and Marc.

The family wishes to express their heartfelt thanks to the staff of Riverview Gardens 4 West for their exceptional care and compassion during Albert's final days. Their dedication and kindness provided comfort to both Albert and his family.

Cremation will take place.

Donations to the Royal Canadian Legion would be appreciated. Online condolences welcomed at www. peseski.com

OBITUARY

ROSE MARIE McNAUGHTON

Rose Marie of Tillsonburg and formerly of St. Thomas, passed away on Friday, October 16th, 2026, at the Tillsonburg Memorial Hospital, at the age of 86. Beloved wife of McRae McNaughton and loved mother of Joseph Kampers, Wilma Kampers Weisz (Joel) and Hugh Kampers (Marg). Dear sister of Paul Sterling (Marg) and Deloris Beacock. Also survived by a number of grandchildren and great grandchildren. Rose was born in Wallaceburg on October 15th, 1940, the daughter of the late Jeffrey and Eva Sterling. She was retired from Weatherhead.

Private cremation. Remembrances may be made to the Canadian Cancer Society. Williams Funeral Home, 45 Elgin St., St. Thomas in charge of arrangements.

OBITUARY

FAYE LOUISE WIRTH



We are saddened to announce the passing of Faye Louise (née Gaskin) Wirth on Monday October 12, 2026, at the age of 85.

Born on July 9, 1941, in Tillsonburg, Ontario, Faye grew up on the family farm with her parents, Harvey and Elba, and many cousins in the close knit community of Guysborough, Ontario. As an only child, she formed deep and lasting friendships that enriched and supported her throughout her life. Faye loved her family and friends wholeheartedly. She married Herman "Bud" Wirth on July 3, 1963, and together they built a life on the Goshen Road grounded in love, kindness, and devotion. Faye was a dedicated mother to her daughters, Tracy and Tia; her sons in law, Brian Ready (Tracy) and Jim Alexander (Tia); and a proud, doting grandmother to Andrea, Erin, and Sawyer. She will be missed by many cousins, in-laws, nieces and nephews.

Faye earned her degree from the University of Western Ontario and later completed Teacher's College. Her career as a teacher brought her immense joy and introduced her to many cherished friendships. She began her career teaching high school French in Smithville, Ontario, before returning to Tillsonburg, where she spent most of her teaching career in local public schools, including Elliott Fairburn Public School, Tillson Avenue Public School, and Rolph Street Public School. "Madame Wirth" held countless little hands on the playground and was always quick to offer warm hugs to students and colleagues. Her classroom balanced fun with respect, and she enforced her rules with the help of her trusty "Brick." Former students often shared that "Madame was my favourite teacher," and many credit her with fostering their independence and confidence by being a strong, compassionate role model. She had boundless energy, cared deeply for those around her, and was generous with her time. Faye befriended so many and maintained meaningful relationships with colleagues and students long after they left her classroom.

Faye found joy in the simple pleasures of everyday life — family, gardening, reading, friendships, dancing, socializing, and hosting gatherings. She cherished many friendships and memories made during her retirement; friends at Saddlebag Lake, participating in yoga, dancing and varied exercise classes, attending dances and travelling with friends and family. Faye loved her family and friends deeply and valued every moment spent with them. She was a firecracker with a sharp sense of humour, blessed with confidence and fierce honesty. Her home was always open, filled with hugs, laughter, light hearted conversation, great music, and refreshing floats in the pool.

Faye shared her energy, humour, and kindness freely. She made life brighter and better for everyone who knew her. She will be deeply missed by her family, friends, and colleagues.

Friends and family are invited to attend Faye's Celebration of Life on Saturday November 7, 2026, from 1:00 PM to 4:00 PM at the Carriage Hall, 25 Brock St. W., in Tillsonburg. If people would like to donate on behalf of Faye, her family is asking to please consider VON Sakura House, Woodstock. Wareing Cremation Services, 161 Broadway St., Tillsonburg, Ontario was entrusted with Final Arrangements. Your messages of remembrance and condolence may be shared at wareingcremation.ca

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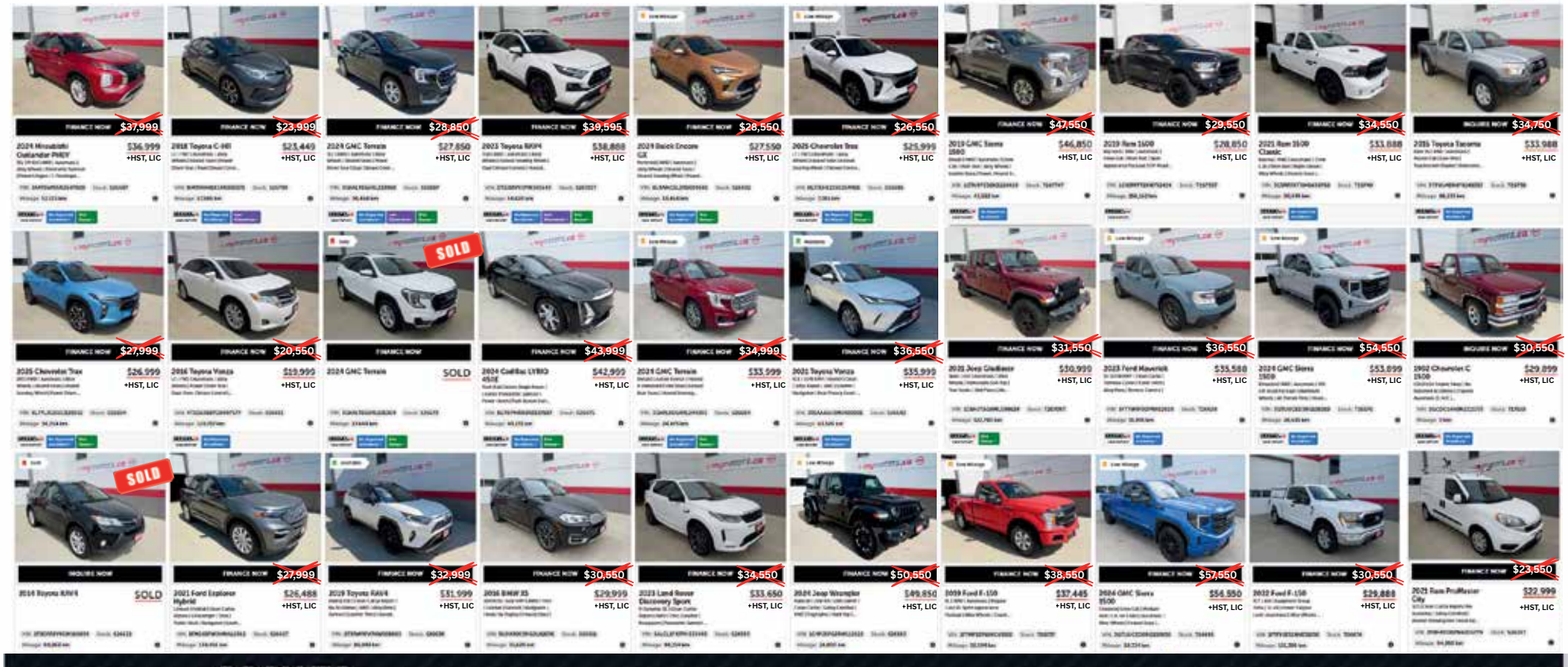

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