

Woodstock Ingersoll Echo

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Oxford County Warden tackling trustee issue

LEE GRIFFI

Local Journalism Initiative Reporter

Marcus Ryan recently took to social media to share an idea proposing that municipal governments take on some of the responsibilities currently managed by school boards. The county's top elected official is a long-time critic of how boards are governed.

"It's no secret that I think changes are needed to our school governance system. But a loss of local democracy by a transfer of decision-making to Toronto is not the answer," he explained in the video. "The good news is we can both change the governance system and keep a local democratic voice."

Ryan admitted the local decision-making performance by the Thames Valley District School Board has been consistently flawed, but he is concerned about Toronto bureaucrats stepping in.

"If it is replaced with someone at Queen's Park deciding where a school goes in Oxford County, that's not better. If you want to have a local elected voice making decisions about school property, transportation of schools

In April 2025, Ontario's Education Minister Paul Calandra announced the government would place the Thames Valley District School Board (TVDSB) under supervision due to what was described as financial mismanagement and misalignment of priorities. The move followed provincial investigations into TVDSB's finances, including criticisms of spending on retreats for board officials and other discretionary expenses while facing budget shortfalls. The province has reduced the power of elected trustees and shifted authority over many day-to-day decisions to an appointed supervisor.

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(LEE GRIFFI PHOTO)

STREETSCAPE PHASE 2

Phase 2 of the City of Woodstock's Streetscape is nearing completion, but part of the poured concrete sidewalk at Light and Dundas Streets will need to be redone, thanks to footprints.

Streetscape Phase 2 nearing completion

LEE GRIFFI

Local Journalism Initiative Reporter

The second phase of the \$50 million Streetscape project in downtown Woodstock is expected to be finished soon. The city released an update on the project last Friday.

"The south sidewalk and coloured concrete have been completed. Traffic light poles, junction boxes, cabinets, and fixtures have also been installed. The next two weeks will be quite busy on the site. Sidewalks and coloured concrete will be completed on the north side. Street light poles and fixtures will be installed as well as tree grates, guards and trees. Site furnishing will be installed as well as the stamped asphalt."

The information did warn that much of the outstanding

work is weather-dependent, but the schedule should allow for completion of Phase 2 over the next couple of weeks.

Not everything has gone smoothly, however, as a section of the concrete sidewalk at the southeast corner of Dundas and Light Streets will need to be redone after a person or people decided to walk on concrete that wasn't set. The added cost will be absorbed by Armstrong Paving and Materials Group, who were awarded the tender for Phase 2.

"It's up to the contractor to replace at their expense. It is their responsibility, and to their benefit since they are responsible for the cost, to protect the area to avoid that type of thing from happening."

It is standard practice for construction companies to staff concrete areas until they are fully set.

CONTINUED TO PAGE 3



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Motion passed by council to potentially scale back city hall addition

CONTINUED FROM FRONT

The south block of Dundas Street, between Finkle and Perry Streets, was not included in Phase 2 of the project. While this may not make sense to the average onlooker, City Engineer Harold de Haan explained that there is a practical reason for the decision.

"There is a power divide for the lighting along the south side (Finkle to Perry), as these lights are energized from the east. Since Museum Square is not done yet, the power supply to the lights between Finkle and Perry would not be updated to accommodate the new lights on this block."

De Haan added the proposed grading of Finkle Street is such that it does not easily blend in with the existing grading to the east.

"With the road grade dropping a couple of inches along this section, including the south side between Finkle and Perry, would have created a grade change in the south lane that would have resulted in poor roadway drainage during the interim between Phase 2 and 3, but also would have resulted in a transition that would have been uncomfortable to drive due to the grade change."

He added the situation will require reworking the south lane between Finkle and Perry.

"This is very similar to what occurred within Phase 1 between Riddell and Reeve," explained de Haan.

Coun. Mark Schadenberg brought forward a motion at last week's regular council meeting to direct staff to bring back options to scale down the proposed city hall expansion. The expansion is being proposed to accommodate the growing population and staff complement, improve public access to services, and create a larger council chamber with additional seating for the public. Staff will report back to council with options.

Part of the thinking for the city hall expansion is to bring as many staff members as possible back under one roof. Currently, some employees are working out of differ-

ent locations, such as the nearby 21 Market Street, where the city's economic development and human resources departments perform their duties.

"In a perfect world, it would be terrific and wonderful to have everybody in one building. The problem is it costs way too much, there is no money in any kind of a budget for it, just like there's no money for the downtown revitalization to the extent it's gone to," explained Schadenberg, who added his motion was two-pronged. "If they already have a nice new building (21 Market Street) with a new elevator installed, why the heck would we even think about bringing all those people back to City Hall. They're just across the street."

Woodstock awarded the tender to renovate Market Street in the fall of 2023 at a cost of just under \$1.5 million.

"Motion number one is for the City of Woodstock to at least explore the opportunity or possibility of taking our city council and planning meetings across the street to the Oxford County Administrative Building. They have a space there that is underutilized."

Schadenberg said it doesn't make sense to spend millions of dollars on a new council chamber just for the city to use. The proposal is to construct a new chamber with just over 80 spectator seats, about 50 more than the current site. He added utilizing the OCAB building is a money-saving proposition. The second part of the motion was to look at new designs for the expanded city hall.

Schadenberg voted against the Streetscape project since day one, citing the cost to taxpayers.

Phase 3 (Graham to Riddell), Phase 4 (Vansittart to Light) and Phase 5 (Wellington Street to Beale Street) are included in the capital budget forecast for 2026 to 2028. Each phase will come back for approval as part of the annual budget process over the next three years. The estimated cost of the next three phases is about \$10 million.



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Ontario Provincial Police briefs

LEE GRIFFI
Local Journalism Initiative Reporter

Ingersoll disturbance leads to charges

An Ingersoll man is facing charges after a report of a disturbance at a home in the town.

Police were called to a Thames Street South residence on Oct. 3 at 6 p.m. and charged a 41-year-old male with assault with a weapon and uttering threats to cause death or bodily harm.

The accused was released from custody and will appear before the Ontario Court of Justice in Woodstock on Dec. 9. No

Ingersoll resident charged after 401 altercation

An Ingersoll man is facing an assault charge after a report of a disturbance on the side of the 401 in South-West Oxford Township.

Police were told two people were involved in an altercation and one suffered serious injuries. A 27-year-old male has been charged with assault causing bodily harm. He was released from custody and will appear before the Ontario Court of Justice in Woodstock at a later date.

Mini putt targeted in distraction theft

Police are asking for the public's help following an alleged distraction theft at a business in Ingersoll.

Police responded to a report of a theft at the Ingersoll Mini Putt on Sept. 27 after unknown suspects entered the premises and took various items, including lawn maintenance tools. The theft took place between Sept. 21 and 27.

The Oxford OPP are seeking the public's assistance to identify the suspects involved in this incident. Anyone with information is asked to

contact the Oxford OPP at 1-888-310-1122 or Crime Stoppers at 1-800-222-TIPS (8477).

Fail to remain collision

Police are hoping for some help from the public after a fail to remain collision that left a motorcycle driver with serious injuries.

Members of the Oxford OPP, Oxford Emergency Medical Services and the Drumbo Fire Department responded to a report of a collision involving a motorcycle in the westbound lanes of the 401 on Sept. 25 at 6:30 p.m.

The driver was trans-



(OPP PHOTOS)

Police have released photos of two suspects in connection with an alleged distraction theft at the Ingersoll Mini Putt late last month.

ported to hospital and sustained serious injuries. It is alleged a blue pickup truck, possibly a GMC Canyon or a Toyota Tacoma, caused the motorcycle to lose control before exiting the 401 at Oxford

Road 29.

The investigation is ongoing, and the police are asking the driver who failed to remain at the scene to contact the Oxford Detachment of the OPP or Crime Stoppers.

Woodstock Police briefs

LEE GRIFFI
Local Journalism Initiative Reporter

Police target enforcement at new all-way stop signs

The Woodstock Police Service is advising motorists of new all-way stop signs installed at the intersections of Springbank Avenue North and Cree Avenue, and Hunter and Graham Streets.

Since installation, police have received numerous complaints from residents reporting that drivers are failing to stop at the intersections. Officers will be conducting targeted enforcement to ensure compliance with the Highway Traffic Act.

Failure to stop at a stop sign carries a fine of \$110 and three demerit points. Beyond the fine, drivers who do

not stop put pedestrians, cyclists, and other motorists at risk.

Arrest made in weapons incident

Police responded to a report of a male pointing what appeared to be a weapon on Sept. 29, around 11:00 p.m., in the area of Montclair Drive.

Officers attended the area and searched with the assistance of a police drone. Police were able to locate and safely arrest a male suspect in possession of a pistol-style BB gun and parts of a rifle-style BB gun.

A 39-year-old male has been charged with possession of an imitation weapon for a dangerous purpose and failing to comply with a probation order. The suspect was released on an undertaking with conditions.

Youth Charged Following Trespassing Investigation

Woodstock Police officers observed several youths acting suspiciously in the area of Adelaide Street and Victoria Street North early in the morning of Sept. 30. When officers attempted to engage with the group, the youths fled on foot.

Police later located three youths hiding on private property and took them into custody without incident. During the investigation, officers recovered a brass knuckle switchblade, which is a prohibited weapon.

A young offender from Woodstock has been charged with trespassing at night, unauthorized possession of a weapon and failing to comply with a sentence. The youth was released on an undertaking with conditions and is scheduled to appear in court at a later date.

Theft and Breach Charges Laid

Police were called to a business on Dundas Street on Sept. 19 after store employees observed an individual concealing merchandise. Officers located the suspect outside the business with stolen goods.

Further investigation revealed the person was bound by both a probation order and a release order with conditions not to attend the location. As a result, a 34-year-old male has been charged with theft under \$5,000, failure to comply with a probation order and failing to comply with a release order. The accused was held in custody pending a bail hearing.

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Woodstock Ingersoll Echo

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GRIFFI'S GRIPEs: What's going on at the Woodstock BIA?



LEE GRIFFI

Editor

Many cities have what's called a Business Improvement Area, or a BIA. I suspect many of you have no idea what it is, but I will explain.

In Woodstock, the group's vision is to make downtown Woodstock a destination of choice for residents and visitors for shopping, dining, entertainment, diverse activations, and cultural experiences. Its directive is to improve and sustain the vibrancy and prosperity of downtown Woodstock through beautification and promotional efforts. I should point out the BIA board is made up of volunteers, many of whom run their own businesses and likely don't have the time to stay on top of every detail.

Is that happening here? From what I can see, it is not. I am not saying something nefarious is occurring, but the lack of financial information, planning, and communication is very concerning.

I am in the downtown core three to four times a week. As I have mentioned, I grew up in Stratford, which is one of the most beautiful and vibrant downtowns in the province and likely the country. I realize we can't compare the two since Stratford has its world-famous theatre, but I am growing increasingly concerned about the lack of accountability from the Woodstock BIA.

I have reached out to the city and BIA staff several times over the past few weeks for a finalized 2024 budget and a year-to-date 2025 budget, but I have yet to receive either. What I do know is the organization appears to be in serious financial difficulty. According to the Sept. 22 agenda, the BIA is running a deficit of about \$21,372. I would gladly point out where the overruns are occurring, but without an updated budget, that's impossible to determine.

The agenda added "no new spending as of September 2025. Any subscriptions be suspended. May need to cut existing line items. Outsourcing of printing to stop immediately."

What's strange is that the minutes from that meeting make no mention of

the deficit at all. With a total budget of just over \$200,000, a shortfall of roughly \$21,000 is significant. You'd think it would at least be acknowledged in the record. Yet, there's not a single reference to it.

I reached out to Colleen Collins, the city's Manager of marketing and communications, and received this response.

"Our treasury department provides monthly financial statements to the BIA finance committee. These reports are provided to Kerry (Baird), who passes them along to the BIA finance committee. The finance committee is supposed to circulate it to their board/membership. From what I understand, it doesn't appear that circulation has been happening, and since the information has not officially been made public, I was told you'll have to ask the co-chairs for that information."

Kerry Baird is listed on the BIA website as an employee, and she is also Woodstock's Downtown Development Officer. \$50,000 of the BIA budget goes to the city to pay for staff support from Baird and others.

"In all honesty, as you may be aware, Fall Fest has just wrapped up and was a great success. I hope you had a chance to make it out and see what this first-time event was like, it was a great atmosphere downtown." That was part of an email from Duane Kumala-Thomas, the BIA's operations

manager. What I find confusing is Fall Fest was not a BIA event. It was a City of Woodstock initiative.

"It was a wonderful showcase of what the BIA and the city can accomplish together to support our downtown. It's been an extremely busy time leading up to and throughout the event, hence why I'm taking a brief moment to attack a few emails while coming up for air, since Monday is shaping up to be a full one as well. That being said, making your requested deadline may be difficult to meet," he added.

In other words, everyone is too busy to tell me how the BIA is spending tax dollars, and I shouldn't expect a budget update any time soon.

"However, in an attempt to not address the matter, I've forwarded your message to our Co-Chairs and Finance Committee in an effort to help move things along and ensure your request gets the attention it deserves," added Kumala-Thomas.

The city and the BIA have what is called a Shared Services Agreement (SSA), an 11-page document that, on the surface, doesn't seem to be followed.

My concerns include the lack of a clear marketing or communications plan. Any organization looking to generate interest in anything, especially in a downtown area, has a plan. I spent 20 years in the communica-

tions world, and if I didn't have a plan, I would be fired. It appears the BIA is flying by the seat of its pants.

I would like our readers to compare the websites of the BIAs in Stratford and Woodstock. Stratford is at <https://downtownstratford.ca/> while Woodstock's is at <https://downtownwoodstock.ca/>. There is no comparison. Stratford's is engaging and vibrant. Woodstock's is bland and not up to date. The events calendar is empty and it just doesn't look professional.

The city provides some Streetscape updates on its website, but there has been very little activity on the BIA's social media and nothing posted on its website recently. I'd encourage you to take a look at the Downtown Paris website, downtownparis.ca, and its social media channels to see how they've promoted local businesses during what they call the "Downtown Dig," a major renovation of their core. Their marketing approach is absolutely brilliant — creative, consistent, and deeply supportive of their businesses.

There is more to this story that I hope to share in the coming weeks. My hope is the city and BIA can figure out how to work best to support the businesses in the downtown core. I see very little in terms of the organization doing what it is supposed to do. What I do see is a BIA that should perhaps be completely renovated, just like downtown Woodstock.



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Ryan lobbying for municipal governments to take on some school board responsibilities

CONTINUED FROM FRONT

Ryan said he would have no interest in getting involved with curriculum decisions or labour negotiations, but he added schools are part of community planning, something local governments do every day.

“If we want to have a local democratic voice for our school boards, we already have local democratically elected councils. Oxford County administers a \$400 million budget and the school board’s budget is over \$900 million. The county portion is probably 100 to 200 million. We could add that on to an Oxford County budget.”

He added that one of the province’s main concerns is fiscal responsibility, noting that many school boards are currently running deficits, while municipalities have maintained a strong track record of managing funds prudently and spending taxpayer dollars wisely.

“Oxford County, for example, has a AAA credit rating for a third year in a row. We manage physical assets like buildings and properties very well. The province of Ontario does not have a AAA credit rating. If you are looking for financially safe hands and local democratically elected people who are accountable, I think we already have an answer to those things.”

Changes would need to be made to Ontario’s Education and Municipal Acts for Ryan’s idea to come to fruition, something he doesn’t take lightly. He added his lobbying has already begun and is gaining some traction.

“I have talked to mayors and wardens in the Thames Valley area and so far, every one of them is at least open to the idea. They see the value in gymnasiums that are only utilized during school hours for part of the year. There are soccer fields we duplicate. A lot of

them share the same frustrations towards building schools in the wrong places, closing a school and then five years later, they come back and say enrolment is up and they buy land to build a new school.”

Ryan added if the province decided to embrace his idea, taxpayers would pay less in property and education taxes and other shared spaces, such as parking lots and classrooms, could be better utilized by the entire community, not just students.

“In 30 or 40 years, the amount of duplication of physical assets would be dramatically reduced and the amount of access for residents for similar tax dollars would be dramatically higher. I have talked to people about this for so long, I just think it’s a no-brainer.”

Ryan said his next steps are to keep talking to other councillors, mayors, wardens, MPPs and ministers.

“I have been having those conversations, and I will continue to have them.”

The Echo reached out to Woodstock Mayor Jerry Acchione for his thoughts on the idea.

“I appreciate the conversation around how we can better support local education, but I’m extremely cautious about municipalities taking on even partial control of schools.”

He added local governments are already handling growing responsibilities with limited resources.

“Before anything moves forward, we need a clear understanding of what’s being proposed — and whether municipalities could realistically deliver better outcomes than the province. Right now, I don’t believe the City of Woodstock is in a position to take on responsibilities of this scale without clear, very strong evidence that it would truly benefit students and families.”

TVDSB receives funding for land for new elementary school in Thamesford

STAFF
Woodstock Ingersoll Echo

The Ministry of Education has approved an additional \$10.5 million of funding for the Thames Valley District School Board (TVDSB) to acquire land for a new elementary school in Thamesford. TVDSB originally received approval for \$23.4 million in funding for the construction of a new elementary school and child care

centre from the Ministry of Education in January 2025. Located on a 7.7-acre site at 149 Brock Street in Thamesford, the new school will accommodate 479 students from Junior Kindergarten to Grade 4 and will include a five-room child care facility with space for 88 children.

“We are very excited to announce this milestone related to building a new school. It shows our board’s continuing commitment to provide quality education

for all students,” said Bill Tucker, TVDSB Director of Education.

The new school will be in a new, transformational development for Thamesford and Zorra Township, called Riverside Village. More than 1,000 residential units are expected to be developed in this area.

“This is a great collaboration between the Thames Valley District School Board and the community of Thamesford and all of Zorra,” said Marcus Ryan, Mayor of Zorra Township. “The additional investment by the Ministry of Education will provide further resources to get this build underway. Together, we’re building more than just a school, we’re building a vibrant future for generations to come.”

Construction on the new Thamesford school will begin once development in Riverside Village moves forward. An opening date will be confirmed at that time. When the new school opens, Thamesford Public School will be converted into a school for students in grades 5 through 8.



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Big Brothers Big Sisters Oxford receives \$67,800 OTF grant for Teen Literacy Program

EMILY STEWART

Echo Correspondent

Big Brothers Big Sisters (BBBS) Oxford's Teen Literacy program launched after receiving a monetary boost from the Ontario Trillium Foundation.

The organization was given \$67,800 from the foundation's seed grant to launch a pilot project of the Teen Literacy Program. BBBS Oxford announced on Sept. 25 that Oxford MPP Ernie Hardeman met with members of the organization to celebrate. The Teen Literacy program connects students in Grades 1 through 6 with their high

school student mentors for weekly one-on-one support sessions regarding literacy, numeracy, and study skills.

"Every young person deserves to feel connected, capable, and valued. Through mentoring, we see teens step into leadership roles and younger students rediscover a love of learning," executive director Kristen Ralph said to the Echo. "The support of the Ontario Trillium Foundation ensures that these connections continue to grow, sparking confidence, curiosity, and community pride that lasts far beyond the classroom."

The funding allowed the pilot project to

run in three Oxford County schools and supports training, evaluation, materials, and caseworker supervision. The high school students receive leadership training and continuous guidance from professional caseworkers.

"Our evaluations consistently show that mentees build confidence, resilience, and a stronger commitment to school, while teen mentors gain leadership experience, empathy, and a sense of purpose," Ralph said. "These are not short-term benefits, they're investments in the mental health, educational success, and civic engagement of our youth. Without sustained funding, oppor-

tunities for mentorship and skill-building would be limited for many students who need this kind of positive, consistent support to reach their full potential."

There were 19 mentors and 20 mentees during the 2024/2025 school year, when the Teen Literacy program pilot project was launched. There are 19 mentors and mentees matched for the 2025/2026 school year so far, with more applications for both positions coming in.

Anyone looking for more information about the Teen Literacy program can either call 519-537-6404 or visit the BBBS Oxford website www.bbbsoxford.ca.

New Art exhibit showcases 30 years of collaboration, innovation, and friendship

ALEX HUNT

Echo Contributor

Three artists. Thirty years of friendship. One exhibition that ties it all together. Together Apart | Under One Roof

Woodstock Art Gallery brings the distinct yet connected practices of Winnipeg artists Aganetha Dyck, Reva Stone, and Diana Thorneycroft to the gallery floors this fall, celebrating their creative bond and the shared ideas that shaped their work for decades.

The exhibition is set to open on Nov. 1 and will feature a visitation reception of Reva Stone and Diana Thorneycroft. Aganetha Dyck recently passed away over the summer, but her work will live on with her two best friends at the Woodstock Art Gallery, set to conclude its exhibition on March 7 of next year.

"I started designing their showroom at the beginning of September, had a couple of conversations with the artists on what artworks they want in the show," said Braeden Gruber, exhibition designer. "The exhibit is going into a large gallery divided up by three separate galleries. We figured it would be perfect to have one of those spaces for each of the artists."

Alexandra Hartstone, director and curator at the Woodstock Art Gallery, said the team began identifying the subtle connections to the artists' distinct practices. While each approaches her work from a different perspective.



(ALEX HUNT PHOTO)

Bold ideas and bright energy fill the Woodstock Art Gallery's newest exhibition, Together Apart | Under One Roof. From left to right, Braeden Gruber, exhibition designer, and Alexandra Hartstone, director and curator at the Woodstock Art Gallery.

Reva Stone shows creativity through artificial intelligence and technology, Diana Thorneycroft through photography and sculptural dioramas, and the late Aganetha Dyck with bees and environmental themes. The exhibition blends these ideas through shared explorations of feminism, connection, and the relationship between humans and the natural world.

"These three artists have worked together in a studio and have created this long friendship and bond that has lasted almost 30 years, but they all have very different practices," said

is why she finds her work interesting. Stone's interactive sculptural works invite viewers to engage directly with technology, reinforcing the idea that what we put into it determines what we get out of it.

Hartstone says she finds this embrace of technology inspiring and looks forward to seeing how audiences respond to the artist's thought-provoking approach.

"I think there is a wow factor that guests will be taking away from it, a very unique exhibition. Some people feel intimidated to come see the arts, and it's one of the best ways to show off cool things," said Gruber. "This is going to be a very three-dimensional setting; it won't just be artworks on a wall. The presentation is going to have something for everyone."

Hartstone added she hopes people will feel welcome and can return anytime to ask questions. She particularly hopes that people appreciate bees, especially the impact some of these topics can have on a person's life.

Gruber says many people believe art to be inaccessible or hidden behind complex meanings. He hopes Together Apart | Under One Roof will challenge that perception by offering visitors an experience that can be appreciated both for its ideas and visual impact.

Hartstone. "With Aganetha passing, it's a very meaningful project to Reva and Diana. I think they have been really happy with what we have been doing so far."

In connection with Stone's work, Hartstone says artificial intelligence is a growing field that is both useful and controversial, which

JOIN THE WOODSTOCK HOSPITAL FOUNDATION BOARD OF DIRECTORS

We are currently seeking a dedicated and engaged individual to join the Woodstock Hospital Foundation (WHF) Board of Directors.

The WHF is a registered charity that has been serving the community since 1988. Our mission is to raise funds in support of equipment, technology and capital needs of the Woodstock Hospital through annual events and support from individuals in our community.

For the full job description and details on how to apply please visit www.whfoundation.ca



WOODSTOCK HOSPITAL FOUNDATION

Weekend Quiz

By Jake Grant

1. Where was Marco Polo born?
2. What is the name of Taylor Swift's newest album?
3. What is the maximum number of bitcoins that can exist?
4. How many US voting members of congress are there?
5. Who directed Casablanca(1942)?
6. Who is the Greek God of food?
7. What brightly colored monkey is the world's largest?
8. On what island was Jurassic Park located?
9. The Amazon river dolphins are what colour?
10. How many years did the "Great Plague of Milan" last?

This week's answers are found on pg. 31

Lions Club holds Dog Guide fundraiser



Walking side by side, Fran with Pesto and Jennifer with Tatum supported the Woodstock Walk for Dog Guides.

The Woodstock Walk for Dog Guides took place on Sept. 27 at Southside Park, bringing together walkers, volunteers, and supporters in a show of community spirit. The event raised funds and awareness for the Lions Foundation of Canada Dog Guides, an organization dedicated to empowering Canadians with disabilities. Attendees learned about the vital role Dog Guides play, from assisting with daily navigation to responding in emergencies. Each Dog Guide costs \$35,000 to train and place, but thanks to the generosity of donors, these companions are provided free of charge to individuals in need.

The Lions Foundation, headquartered in Oakville with a breeding and training facility in Breslau, is the only school in Canada to train Dog Guides in seven specialized programs. Since its founding program, Canine Vision Canada, was established in 1985, the Foundation has expanded to include hearing, service, seizure response, autism assistance, diabetes alert, and facility support dog guides. The Woodstock Walk was a celebration of these programs and a reminder of the profound difference Dog Guides make in the lives of Canadians living with disabilities.

(RON YUZARK PHOTOS)



Morning participants and volunteers, Peter, Joyce, and Natalie, brought along Dobby for the event.

Echo

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Oxford County employee information likely compromised by attackers

LEE GRIFFI

Local Journalism Initiative Reporter

“Through the ongoing forensic investigation of Oxford County’s cyber incident, we have determined there is reason to believe that the personal information of our current and former employees may have been compromised as a result of this incident.”

That was the opening of a county press release providing an update on the cyber-attack that was first noticed just over two weeks ago.

“We are deeply sorry to share this news with our current and former staff,” it added.

Warden Marcus Ryan explained the county continues to walk a tightrope between being transparent and releasing too much information.

“We engaged cybersecurity experts and they said don’t say anything because the threat actors are listening and we could release information that could be useful to them. We’ve been constantly balancing that.”

He added the idea of being fully transparent by releasing all details surrounding the potential staff information breach was just too dangerous.

“There is a risk in that that whoever did this knows that we know they accessed certain files. We have offered (current and former staff) credit protection, mon-

itoring, and identity protection on our dime. As the Warden, I am sorry people’s information has been compromised.”

The Echo again reached out to IT expert Carmi Levy, who said anyone affected should take the county up on its offer and go a step further.

“The damage has already been done. If you are a current or former employee, your data is already out there. It makes sense to take them up on that offer. It almost acts like another set of eyes. If you have been victimized yourself, you should have your eyes wide open and your head on a swivel, looking for strange transactions, messages in your inbox, and signs your data is being used against you.”

Levy added that even people who haven’t had their personal information stolen may want to be proactive by purchasing some form of protection.

“It certainly doesn’t hurt that, as a matter of course or routine, you would subscribe to a service like this because anything that gives you additional visibility is a good thing. It reduces your risk of falling victim to future attacks. That being said, there is no way for anyone to ever completely reduce the risk to zero. All of us are at risk of having our data compromised.”

Behind the scenes, the tech expert painted a picture of what the thief or thieves are doing with the information

they have managed to steal so far.

“They are assessing the data that was obtained during the breach. They are likely using it to prosecute further attacks by creating customized phishing messages to victims. Current and former employees might see a rise in the number of fraudulent messages showing up in their email, texts and social media inboxes.”

Levy added the data is likely being consolidated with other data sets obtained illegally and being sold to other criminal organizations.

“That’s the way the cybercriminal industry works. It’s based on data, and as new breaches occur, it is sold and shared on the dark web.”

Current employees have been contacted by email, while the county had planned to reach past employees by mail at their last known address — a step made impossible by the ongoing Canada Post strike. Ryan said an online portal is now being offered for former staff to update their contact information.

“We have a sub-group working on alternatives for that. There’s no conclusion yet, but it might be multiple different responses to reach as many people as possible. If former employees read this in the paper, they can go to the Oxford County website and update their information.”

Former employees can visit www.oxfordcounty.ca/it-incident-updates and

click on Update Your Information Now to provide their details.

“At this stage, we are still investigating whether and to what extent the personal information of other groups may be compromised. If it is determined that the personal information of other individuals has been compromised, we will carry out notifications as quickly as possible to those affected,” added the county press release.

Ryan added he has spent hours on the ground with staff since the beginning of the incident and has been impressed with “As the Warden, obviously, but also as someone whose personal information is in the county system and a resident, I have left every single one of those meetings with absolute confidence in what staff have been doing.”

Ryan said they had identified the issues and put a plan in place as soon as possible and added his confidence has not been shaken.

“Obviously, I am saying that partly to you because it’s my job to express confidence in staff, but I have felt that every single day when I left. Every single thing we can do is being done and being done quickly.”

He added the cost of the response is operating within the 2025 contingency budget for emergencies, but that could change down the road.

IT expert urging Canadians to focus on cybersecurity 12 months of the year

LEE GRIFFI

Local Journalism Initiative Reporter

October is Cyber Security Month across Canada and this year’s theme is Get cyber safe – for future you.

The federal government’s campaign aims to set Canadians up for a safer and easier future by shedding light on the practical benefits of cybersecurity that can prevent people from becoming victims.

Carmi Levy is a leading IT expert and said setting aside 30 days to highlight safety in the cyber world is great, but it isn’t enough.

“What do we do for the other 11? The reality is cybersecurity awareness needs to become not just something we do once a year, but something we incorporate into our habits every single day of the year. We have to shift from awareness to accountability.”

He added accountability means people being responsible for their own digital security 365 days a year.

“Once you do that, make it part of your daily routine, and it becomes a lot easier to ensure those lessons from Cyber Security Month aren’t forgotten.”

Those lessons include securing online accounts, educating yourself about current cyber threats, and ensuring your devices have the latest security and software updates. Levy explained human error is almost always involved in successful attacks.

“We’re not going to solve this by installing new technology. We are going to fix this by changing behaviours, and we do that by exposing people to resources, raising their training level. The Canadian Anti-Fraud Centre, for example, is great for learning how to recognize threats when we

see them in our inbox or when we are online.”

It can be overwhelming for the general public to decide what supports to purchase. There are VPNs and anti-virus and security platforms. Levy said they do serve a purpose but added everyone needs to do more.

“We can reduce the risk by going into our settings and turning on features that aren’t normally activated by default. Things like dual-factor or two-factor authentication, sometimes known as multi-factor authentication. That adds an additional lock on the door in addition to your password. You can use a fingerprint, voice authentication or a PIN, so even if your password is compromised, the bad guys aren’t getting into your account.”

The Canadian Anti-Fraud Centre advises people to implement strong passwords that don’t come from a pet or family member’s name. Levy said the best course of action is to have different passwords or passphrases unique to each system and changed at least once every three months.

“Ideally, once a month. If that’s too difficult, use a password management app like One Password to manage those passwords in one central place.”

Levy added it’s also a good idea to share less personal information on social media as it is harvested by criminals and used against people in targeted attacks.

“Look at your online activity and ask yourself if you are oversharing. If the answer is yes, you are putting ammunition into the hands of cybercriminals to use against you.”

Municipalities also need to be prepared for attacks as they are constantly targeted by cybercriminals. Experts like Levy say it isn’t a matter of if, but when.

“It has taken these institutions months, if not years, to recover from and in many cases, they may never recover



and the cost to taxpayers is significant. We are already seeing the victim’s list pile up, and no one wants to be the next one.”

Stratford and St. Marys have both been victims of ransomware attacks in recent years. The Festival City was attacked in April of 2019 when several of its servers became unresponsive and unavailable. The city shut down its servers’ internet connections and disconnected computers, laptops, and printers from the network to contain the damage.

The attacker demanded 10 Bitcoins as ransom. At that time, each Bitcoin was worth about \$7,500 Canadian, making the demand total roughly \$75,000. The city complied and paid the ransom in exchange for decryption keys.

Oxford County is currently in the midst of a cyberattack where employee information was compromised. Current and former staff have been offered free credit protection, monitoring, and identity protection, paid for by the county. No new updates have been provided by the county.



COMING THIS FALL

Green bin containers for organic waste

For South-West Oxford and Woodstock

Oxford County's new green bin program for organic waste collection starts in January 2026 for residents of South-West Oxford and Woodstock.

The green bin program will collect food scraps and other biodegradable materials -- excluding leaf and yard waste -- in a separate container on the same day your regular garbage is collected. The new program will help reduce the amount of garbage each household sets out at the curb, helping to reduce the amount of garbage sent to the landfill.

What to know

- If you are on a garbage collection route now, you will receive your new 45-litre green bin container along with a 7-litre kitchen container in October or November.
- Your containers will include easy-to-follow instructions for sorting organic waste, like food scraps, and samples of certified compostable bags that are acceptable to use in green bin containers.
- Green bin collection will not be available to apartment buildings with six or more units until later in 2026.
- Residents living above businesses in downtown core areas should call Oxford County to arrange for bin delivery: 1-800-755-0394

South-West Oxford and Woodstock start green bin organics collection in January 2026. All other Oxford municipalities will start green bin collection in May 2027.



For more information visit
www.oxfordcounty.ca/new-waste-collection

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Dr. Grace Vincent receives King Charles Coronation Medal



(CONTRIBUTED PHOTO)

Dr. Grace Vincent recently received a King Charles Coronation Medal from Oxford MPP Ernie Hardeman.

CONTRIBUTED

Woodstock Ingersoll Echo

“Dr. Grace Vincent is an inspiring member of the Oxford community,” said MPP Ernie Hardeman at a recent Medal Awards Ceremony, hosted by Woodstock-Oxford Rotary. “A retired dentist and maxillofacial surgeon from the Philippines, she immigrated to Canada in 2010 and has since become a Canadian citizen, a dedicated volunteer, performer and global ambassador of goodwill,” he continued.

Grace is a longtime member of Rotary and has served as both Past President and current President of Woodstock-Oxford Rotary. She has volunteered her professional skills on numerous medical and dental mission trips to developing countries, exemplifying Rotary’s motto of ‘Service Above Self.’ Locally, she has also given her time at Woodstock General Hospital and taught senior exercise classes through the VON’s SMART program.

“Her vibrant spirit is well known throughout the region. Dr Grace regularly shares her

talent as a singer and performer at community events, church gatherings and with the Embro Thistle Theatre,” said Hardeman. “She is also a part-time television host and entertainer, whose presence uplifts and connects audiences across cultures.

“I am both honoured and humbled by this distinguished recognition,” said Dr Grace Vincent. “Since childhood, I was taught to help others with compassion and Rotary provides this opportunity for me. My medical career, television and fashion activities have also provided a platform for me to assist others.”

In 2024, Grace brought international recognition to Oxford County when she competed at the Dubai World Pageant, earning multiple titles — Mrs. Global World, Mrs. Queen of Hearts, and Mrs. Best Talented.

“Dr Grace is a remarkable example of service, resilience and creativity,” said Hardeman. “Our community is fortunate to call her one of our own and she is richly deserving of this King’s Coronation Medal honour.

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Woodstock Museum's new Fall Series kicks off with lunch, learn and local lore

ALEX HUNT

Echo Contributor

Woodstock Museum's Lunch and Learn Fall Series invites residents to discover local history through talks by community historians and experts. Sessions combine education and social time, with lunch provided.

The Woodstock Museum National Historic Site (NHS) kicked off the series on Sept. 16 with James Gordon's Songs of Our Hometown. The next session will focus on the secrets of the Woodstock Cemeteries, featuring local historian guest speaker Scott Gillies. The event will take place on Oct. 21 from 11 a.m. to 1 p.m.

"That's going to be interesting. He's been doing Woodstock and Oxford County history for many years, so he's going to focus on the local cemeteries and the people that are buried there," said Kerrie Gill, education officer at the Woodstock Museum NHS. "He will be talking about the type of headstones in the different areas. He's got a lot of stories to share on the subject."

The final session of the current series will take place on Nov. 18 from 11 a.m. to 1 p.m., featuring guest speaker Chris Harrington. He will discuss the soldiers commemorated on the Woodstock Cenotaph and share insights into the lives of

local servicemen, along with the research tools he helped develop to assist others in exploring the community's military history.

Gill said that military history can generate strong interest among visitors, but she adds that it can be a sensitive subject, as it involves both the experiences of people in the past and the ways in which war continues to affect communities today.

"We are also doing a partnership with him to do a school program on the World Wars for High School students, so he's compiled a lot of research on the people that are listed on the cenotaph and made the research available for students and the wider community. There is always something to learn," said Gill.

Gill said that the museum seeks speakers from the community, drawing on local historians, authors and experts with specialized knowledge of Woodstock and the surrounding area. The program features a variety of presenters who return regularly, offering topics that continue to engage and interest visitors.

"We're hoping to give the idea to people that the museum is involved with research and the community and provides a fun place to learn and show some of those interesting, sometimes difficult historical questions and comments," said Gill.



(ALEX HUNT PHOTO)

Kerrie Gill, education officer at the Woodstock Museum, said the Fall Lunch and Learn Series provides education, socialization and a light lunch.

"Canadian history as we know, is all very fraught with great and awful parts, so we like to touch on all of those things and we like that to be a relevant part of the community and it's all been going very well so far."

"We are talking about burials and cemeteries, which can be a touchy subject for a lot of people. Many individuals have different cultural beliefs about that sub-

ject. We can learn about the past from how people used to do things and how they have also changed and evolved to shape what our community is today."

Gill said she pays close attention to audience questions following each talk, using the feedback to gauge public interest. The information helps guide future programming, ensuring events remain relevant and engaging for the community.



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PUBLIC NOTICE

St. Mary's Cemetery

(Administered by Holy Trinity Parish, Woodstock, Ontario)

Proposed Cemetery By-law Amendments

TAKE NOTICE that St. Mary's Cemetery, located at 584872 Beachville Road, Woodstock, Ontario, has submitted amendments to its Cemetery By-laws to the Registrar of the Funeral, Burial and Cremation Services Act, 2002 (FBCSA), Bereavement Authority of Ontario (BAO).

The proposed By-laws, including the amendments, are available for review or can be copied at the Cemetery Office, located at:

Holy Trinity Parish Office 1420 Devonshire Avenue Woodstock, ON N4S 7V9 Office Hours: Tuesday to Friday from 9 AM to 4 PM, Telephone: 519-539-0876

Any interested parties may contact the Holy Trinity Parish Office for more information.

The proposed By-laws are subject to the approval of the Registrar, FBCSA, BAO.

For further information, you may contact the Bereavement Authority of Ontario (BAO) at: Telephone: 647-483-2645 or 1-844-493-6356 (Toll-Free) Website: www.thebao.ca

DATED this 10th day of October, 2025

Laurie Jaszczur, Cemetery Manager / Holy Trinity Parish, St. Mary's Cemetery



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CEDARVIEW

Artists Transform Ingersoll’s Lawson Trail into outdoor gallery

KYRAH SMITH
Echo Correspondent

Ingersoll’s second annual Nature Art Walk took place October 2 to 5 along Lawson Trail, welcoming visitors daily from 10 a.m. to 6 p.m. The event was hosted and organized by local tattoo studio Aftermath Tattoo Studios, bringing together art lovers and families for a creative outdoor experience.

“It’s been a great turnout,” remarked Izzy Skinner, an artist from Aftermath. “My boss was walking along here earlier, and she ran into 30 families!”

With 36 submissions this year, the event saw even more participation than last year, and organizers hope it will continue to grow in the years ahead. The exhibit featured a variety of works by local artists, each showcasing unique styles and mediums. Even several local businesses joined in with creative displays. From paintings to resin pieces and mixed 3D installations, there was truly something for everyone to enjoy.

“It’s a great way to get the community together,” Skinner added. “Everyone gets a little creative and you get to see cute dogs along the way!”

The fall weather couldn’t have been more perfect. With the leaves just beginning to turn, the colourful scenery made the walk and art-viewing experience even more enjoyable. During my stroll through the exhibit, I met a fellow community member who had stumbled upon the



(KYRAH SMITH PHOTO)

Mixed Media piece from Izzy Skinner of Aftermath Tattoo Studios.

Art Walk by chance. She shared her excitement about the event and her eagerness to take part in next year’s edition. In the end, it was inspiring to see so much local tal-



(KYRAH SMITH PHOTO)

Another gorgeous piece from this years Nature Art Walk by local artist Adelle Creates.

ent and support for the arts, all surrounded by the beauty of nature. Here’s hoping the Nature Art Walk becomes an annual tradition for Ingersoll for years to come.

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Woodstock Ingersoll Echo SPORTS

New roster, division for WCI senior girls, but same game and goals

JEFF TRIBE

Echo Correspondent

Seven club players have graduated, and instead of a large A school, Woodstock CI is now a small AA entity. But the game and the goals remain the same for the Red Devils senior girls' basketball team.

"Still get to WOSSAA (Western Ontario Secondary Schools Athletic Association) said veteran forward Kate Hooker. "Hopefully OFSAA (Ontario Federation of School Athletic Associations provincial championships)."

"Try our best," Avril Craven continued, adding with a smile, "look good doing it."

While the fundamental goals remain the same, much has changed for the Red Devils. Coach Jason Poole concedes they might not be the smoothest-shooting squad.

"But we're a good rebounding team. We rebound and transition."

In practice, that realization and modified approach translated into a 65-22 victory over the visiting Ingersoll DCI Blue Bombers on Oct. 2 at the WCI Devildome. Poole ran successive waves of mixed lineups at the Blue Bombers. Although IDCI had a clear height advantage, WCI's aggression and court awareness—skills honed through the Red Devils program—propelled them to a commanding 21-0 lead after the first eight minutes, an advantage they eventually stretched to 31 points.

"We're doing pretty good as a team," said Craven.

"Coming together using everyone, I think that's our strength," agreed Hooker. "We're all hard workers and everyone has experience."

"Definitely different," Craven admitted.

"But it's working," Hooker concluded.

Ingersoll's Bryer Fleming broke off the shutout with under three minutes remaining in the second quarter, following up an initial shot with considerable tenacity.

"Like four (putbacks)," she smiled. "But I did get the first four baskets."

The Blue Bombers actually

outscored the Red Devils 11-10 in the second quarter, playing a much better second half.

"It wasn't a great game, but... just keep going," Fleming added.

She finished with a team-high eight points to lead the Bombers. C. Nicholls added six, K. Lindsay five, B. Csincsik one field goal and C. Garcia one free throw. Hooker had a dozen for WCI, Lilli Taylor, Mikaela Runstedler and Kathleen McCreery ten apiece, Ava Bickell eight, Natalia Thomson five and Addison Trepanier, Mallory Hagen-Johnson and Eden Fraser one field goal each.

IDCI guest coach Becky Elliott credited the Blue Bombers for working hard throughout the contest.

"We have a lot of athletes, they have a lot of basketball players," assessed Elliott, a Blue Bombers alumnus who can regularly be found on the Blue Bombers junior girls basketball bench, looking to help build the program up from that level.

"That's the goal."

As the players mentioned, the Red Devils' senior goal remains WOSSAA and OFSAA. Historically, their pathway to the former was either via an effective bye or qualifying game against what tended to be a weaker opponent.

"We're not going to get that this year," says Poole, welcoming the additional challenge - and he believes reward - of their new AA reality.

"Now it's like if we get there, we've earned it."

TVRA Junior

Tillsonburg Glendale 33, Woodstock College Avenue 13

Although not where they want to be, the Thursday, October 2 game represented progress for the Woodstock College Avenue Knights.

"We did better than other games," said the Knights' Aaliyah Thompson. "We all worked together today."

She led the Knights offensively with five points, teammates Claire Bigham, Adelyn Horinga and Breanna Nevill adding a field goal apiece. S. Monsere had eight to pace the Gemini.

"Are we making progress, are we having fun?" Knights coach

Colin McKinnon asked rhetorically. "There you go."

A 'football guy' at heart, McKinnon stepped up to fill a need in the basketball coaching ranks, looking to contribute to the overall program.

"We're trying to build some skills up so they can go on and join the seniors," he concluded.

TVRA Southeast Girls Basketball

Senior

Woodstock CI 65, Ingersoll DCI 22

Woodstock College Avenue 32, Tillsonburg Glendale 12

Aylmer East Elgin 34, St. Mary's 14

Tuesday, September 30

St. Mary's 37, Glendale 30

Woodstock Huron Park 32, Ingersoll DCI 12

St. Thomas St. Joe's 32, College Ave 12

Sept. 25

St. Joe's 34, Ingersoll DCI 14

College Ave 37, St. Mary's 33

Sept. 23

St. Mary's 41, Ingersoll DCI 21

Woodstock CI 29, College Avenue 27

St. Joe's 30, Huron Park 10

Sept. 18

St. Thomas Parkside 38, Woodstock CI 31

Junior

Oct. 2

Woodstock CI 34, Ingersoll DCI 14

St. Thomas Central Elgin 20, Woodstock Huron Park 16

Aylmer East Elgin 33, Woodstock St. Mary's 24

Sept. 30

Woodstock St. Mary's 16, Tillsonburg Glendale 13

St. Thomas St. Joe's 28, Woodstock College Avenue 8

Ingersoll DCI 27, Woodstock Huron Park 20

Sept. 25

St. Mary's 24, College Avenue 4

St. Joe's 40, Ingersoll DCI 20

Sept. 24

Woodstock CI 49, East Elgin 29

Sept. 23

Woodstock CI 23, College Avenue 3

Ingersoll DCI 35, St. Mary's 26

Sept. 18

Woodstock CI 56, St. Thomas Parkside 36



(JEFF TRIBE PHOTO)

Woodstock College Avenue Knight Aaliyah Thompson cuts to the basket against Tillsonburg Gemini Z. Zwicker.



(JEFF TRIBE PHOTO)

Ingersoll DCI Blue Bomber C. Bolton moves the ball under pressure from WCI's Kathleen McCreery.

Warriors sitting atop a highly competitive senior boys volleyball loop

JEFF TRIBE

Echo Correspondent

It's always fun to play against friends, said Woodstock St. Mary's Warriors senior boys volleyball middle hitter Jack Verberne.

Particularly when you win.

"Oh yes, 100 per cent, 100 per cent," he agreed following a 25-15, 25-17, 25-21 Thames Valley Regional Athletics Southeast victory over the visiting Tillsonburg Gemini Sept. 30 at St. Mary's.

Pals Liam Nunn and Waylon Homenuik suit up for Tillsonburg, one of whom gave Verberne's hand a hard squeeze in the post-game handshake line, opening up the possibility for a responsive chirp via text.

"I probably will," Verberne smiled. "I probably will."

The victory lifted the Warriors' regular season record to a perfect 4-0, extended to 5-0 two days later with a 25-22, 25-21, 25-12 win over the visiting Aylmer East Elgin Eagles. A fast start, including earlier match victories

over perennial TVRA Southeast powers from Ingersoll DCI and Woodstock CI, combined with bragging rights among friends, may have elevated Verberne's mood, expectations and a lofty early-season goal.

"I want to win WOSSAA (Western Ontario Secondary Schools Athletic Association) at least," he said. "Love to go to OFSAA (Ontario Federation of School Athletic Associations provincial championships).

"Good team, good team this year," Verberne added with a smile. "Have to set it (his goal) high."

With 25 years of coaching experience, including an OFSAA AA boys' soccer championship run this past spring, Warriors senior boys' volleyball coach Valerie Popovich knows exactly what it takes to get to and be successful at the provincial level.

"Got a little work to do," she understated, emphasizing the difficulty of matching goal with reality.

The Warriors do have lots of potential, she said, starting with a potent offence.

"We just need to work a little bit more on defence and just get more experience, more touches in."

Happily, the TVRA Southeast is anticipated to provide a measure of the high-level competition every team looking to move forward seeks. Woodstock CI is up to AA this season, said Popovich. Woodstock Huron Park appears very strong, joining Ingersoll DCI, St. Thomas St. Joe's and East Elgin on an incomplete list of potential contenders.

"Probably the strongest this division has been since I was coaching," credited 'Coach Pop', who began with senior boys volleyball in 2017.

While some might consider that elevated standard a negative given the difficulty presented to advancing past WOSSAA and onward to provincials, Popovich welcomes the challenge as an opportunity to prepare for the post-season.

"The sport must be growing, which is always good."

The junior Warriors completed a St. Mary's sweep in their adjacent half of the gym, downing the junior Gemini 25-15, 25-13, 25-15.

"We had better fundamentals today, improved a lot on that from the start of the season," said Warrior Ethan Van Rooyen.

The junior Warriors likewise added a victory over the East Elgin Eagles on Oct. 2 (25-15, 25-14, 22-25, 25-15) and also sit atop the TVRA Southeast standings in a three-way tie at 4-0 with WCI and St. Thomas Central Elgin.

The juniors are a comparatively young squad, said coach Denys Reid, with four returnees and a Grade 9 majority.

"But they're stepping up, they're all stepping up."

His focus is on defence, theorizing with that approach, the offence will follow.

"And not trying to do too much, I guess," he added. Keeping it simple."

TVRA Southeast Boys Volleyball

Senior

Oct. 2

St. Mary's 25, 25, 25; East Elgin 22, 21, 12

Woodstock CI 25, 18, 17, 25, 15; Ingersoll DCI 23, 25, 25, 19, 5

Tillsonburg Glendale 25, 25, 25; College Avenue 22, 19, 23

Sept. 30

Woodstock Huron Park 23, 25, 25, 25; Central Elgin 25, 23, 15, 19

Woodstock CI 25, 23, 25, 25, 15; St. Thomas Parkside 16, 25, 21, 23, 7

St. Mary's 25, 25, 25; Glendale 15, 17, 21

Sept. 25

Woodstock CI 25, 25, 25; East Elgin 20, 20, 13

St. Mary's 25, 25, 25; College Avenue 9, 19, 18

St. Thomas St. Joe's 25, 25, 25; Ingersoll DCI 18, 17, 16

Parkside 25, 25, 25, 25, 13; Glendale 19,



(JEFF TRIBE PHOTO)

St. Mary's Warriors senior Destiny Omirigbe digs up a first pass against Tillsonburg Glendale.

9, 27, 24, 15

Sept. 23

Woodstock CI 25, 25, 25; College Avenue 14, 15, 20

St. Mary's 25, 27, 25; Ingersoll DCI 23, 25, 23

Huron Park 23, 25, 13, 25, 15; St. Joe's 25, 22, 25, 16, 12

Sept. 18

St. Mary's 25, 14, 20, 29, 15; Woodstock CI 22, 25, 25, 27, 6

Junior

Oct. 2

St. Mary's 25, 25, 22, 25; East Elgin 15, 14, 25, 12

Central Elgin 24, 25, 25, 25; Woodstock Huron Park 26, 17, 16, 23

Woodstock CI 22, 25, 25, 25; Ingersoll DCI 25, 23, 20, 23

Sept. 30

St. Thomas St. Joe's 25, 25, 22, 25; Woodstock College Avenue 17, 16, 25, 17

Woodstock CI 25, 25, 21, 25; St. Thomas Parkside 19, 17, 25, 15

Ingersoll DCI 26, 25, 25, 19, 15; Huron Park 24, 18, 27, 25, 10

Sept. 25

St. Joe's 25, 28, 22, 25; Ingersoll DCI 18, 26, 25, 20

St. Mary's 25, 25, 25; College Avenue 8, 23, 19

Woodstock CI 25, 25, 25; East Elgin 22, 15, 20

Sept. 23

Woodstock CI 25, 25, 25; College Avenue 6, 13, 13

St. Joe's 25, 25, 25; Huron Park 15, 7, 13

St. Mary's 25, 25, 25; Ingersoll DCI 15, 20, 22



(JEFF TRIBE PHOTO)

St. Mary's Warriors hitter J. Mazurkiewicz puts the ball away against a tandem Tillsonburg Gemini block.

Blue Bombers survive 'gut-check' with last-second win over Knights

JEFF TRIBE

Echo Correspondent

One second. One yard. One play.

And one of the best high school football games one may hope to see, coming down to the wire.

"We stop that, what a game, we let it in, what a game," Woodstock College Avenue Knights coach Jaimen Allison summed up following a 24-19 Thames Valley Regional Athletics (TVRA) senior boys football loss Oct. 3 to the visiting Ingersoll DCI Blue Bombers. "You tip your hat."

Cameron Delwo carried the winning touchdown over the goal line for IDCI on a final-play, all-or-nothing quarterback sneak. Operating exclusively out of the shotgun (snapping the ball to the quarterback a few yards deep) until this point, the 'under-centre' exchange was inserted into the Blue Bombers playbook during a hasty couple of practice runs in front of his team's bench during a defensive time out called by the Knights.

"We saw them watching, but you've got to believe in the guys up front," said Delwo, who followed his centre James Lyttle's lead block in for the score.

Although giving up size along the line, Lyttle credited the Knights for being 'solid in the trenches' all game long. Lyttle snapped the ball, put his head down and drove, finding himself amidst a pile of humanity, uncertain who was yelling in celebration until he saw an official raising both arms to signify an IDCI touchdown.

"Just a sigh of relief," said Lyttle.

On paper, IDCI had come into the game as favourites. Still, Bombers coach Nick DiCiocco pointed to the Knights experiencing a tougher schedule, and as expected, rising to the inter-county challenge.

"This was our first gut-check," said DiCiocco. "Hats off to CASS."

The Blue Bombers built a 12-0 lead on late first-quarter touchdowns by wide receiver Gavin Laidman and running back Nathan Burton, answered with 4:24 remaining in the half by CASS quarterback Teshaine Peach, converted by place-kicker Kaleb Krupp.

Peach gave the Knights their first lead of the game on a third-quarter four-yard keeper to the right, cutting up and crossing the goal-line with a second effort. The point after try was blocked (unofficially by Laidman), leaving the score at 13-12 in favour of the home team.

The ensuing Blue Bombers drive stalled, but a quick kick pinned the Knights on their own 10-yard line, negative field position exacerbated by the loss of Peach for the series, who took a knee to the chest. CASS picked up one first down, but Ingersoll's Spencer Krajewski turned a second-and-ten pass attempt into a 37-yard pick six, lifting IDCI into an 18-13 lead.

Following the ensuing kickoff, the Knights took over on their own 23, Peach linking up with Krupp on a second-and-seven pass and run play covering 64 yards to the IDCI 20. Peach picked up a crucial third-and-one first down before breaking outside to his right for a ten-yard major and a 19-18 CASS advantage, held there as Lyttle (unofficially) blocked Krupp's PAT.

An IDCI fumble and CASS recovery by Ryan Austin on the ensuing kickoff was negated via an offside penalty, the Blue Bombers subsequently taking possession on their 40 with 2:40 remaining in the fourth quarter. On third-and-ten from there, Delwo linked up with Laidman on a crucial 43-yard pass completion to the CASS 27, the Grade 11 Bombers receiver essentially winning a jump ball in double coverage to find redemption for what his own high standard considered earlier 'drops.'

"That's exactly how it feels," Laidman agreed following the contest. "Struggled all game, but what matters is how you finish, and we finished strong."

The Bombers drive continued on a third-and-one-half-yard option pitch to Burton who got around the right end, cutting back to the middle of the field where Krupp made a touchdown-saving tackle at the two. With time winding down, the Knights defence drove the Bombers back on first and goal from the two and subsequently five, however a face-masking penalty on the second play gave IDCI a first-and-goal from the one with one second remaining.

"We put our O-line to the test and they came through," Di-



(JEFF TRIBE PHOTO)

Ingersoll DCI Blue Bombers wide receiver Gavin Laidman skies to pull down a crucial third-and-ten 43-yard reception during his squad's final drive against solid double coverage from Woodstock College Avenue defensive backs Kaleb Krupp (19) and Kole Phelps.

Ciocco summed up succinctly.

The Bombers lifted their TVRA Williamson Division record to 3-0 with the victory, the Knights standing at 1-2. Despite the result not going their way, Peach said the game had been 'amazing', offering many positives for CASS to build on.

"We've just got to go back to practice, clean up a few things and we'll be ready to go next week."

"That was a great showcase for what football has become in Oxford County," Allison added in conclusion, a competitive yet respectful contest. "You tip your hat to them, a great game... great game."

TVRA Southeast Senior Football

Sept. 25

Aylmer East Elgin 18, Woodstock College Avenue 6

Sept. 24

Ingersoll DCI 35, London Beal 0

Sept. 18

Woodstock College Avenue 35, Tillsonburg Glendale 28

Sept. 17

Ingersoll DCI 42, London Montcalm 7

IDCI touchdowns: Dominic Espino 2, Burton, Logan Janzen, Qurron Kelly. PAT Connor Thomson 6.

TVRA Southeast Junior Football

Oct. 3

Ingersoll DCI 21, Woodstock College Avenue 7

Oct. 1

Strathroy DCI 19, Woodstock St. Mary's 6

St. Mary's touchdown: Noah Simas.

Sept. 25

Aylmer East Elgin 35, Woodstock College Avenue 0

Ingersoll DCI 35, St. Mary's 0

Sept. 18

Tillsonburg Glendale 16, Woodstock College Avenue 0

Sept. 17

Ingersoll DCI 43, London Montcalm 8

Woodstock St. Mary's 6, London Regina Mundi 0



Family, legacy front and centre as St. Mary's Warriors return to gridiron

JEFF TRIBE

Echo Correspondent

Somewhere, Mike McMahon was smiling.

The celebrated late Woodstock St. Mary's principal - inducted into the Wilfrid Laurier University sports hall of fame for prowess as a middle linebacker during his own playing days - had been instrumental in bringing football to the school. And he would have been thrilled with its return, particularly with grandsons Milton (son of Patrick McMahon) and Corall (son of Nolan McMahon) taking to the field for the junior Warriors.

"That's why I'm repping 54," said Milton, proud to wear the number his grandfather had worn at Laurier. Carrying on the legacy," added Corall.

Legacy and family were consistent themes through the Sept. 24 Thames Valley Regional Athletics Walzak Division contest at Ingersoll DCI, an important backdrop to a 35-0 final score in favour of the home team. The latter wasn't unexpected given the Warriors comparative level of inexperience, against an established team

which subsequently ran its TVRA Southeast record to 3-0 with a 21-7 road victory over Woodstock College Avenue on Oct. 3.

"They (St. Mary's) have a good core of athletes," credited Blue Bombers junior coach Ben Griffiths following the Warriors game. "You can tell they want to work hard, are well coached and in years to come, will be a force."

Blue Bombers wide receiver Cody Fleming gathered in three touchdown passes to lead IDCI offensively against the Warriors, with Grayson Burton and Noah Rodgers adding one major apiece. Dean Janess kicked all five point after tries.

"Our tackles were pretty good, can still do better," summed up Burton, pleased at the time with his team's 2-0 start to the season. "Still learning from it though, taking the little mistakes we're making and trying to learn to do better."

The Bombers are a young team, said Griffiths, with just seven returnees from the 2024 season, but are progressing through a willingness to work hard. His goal is to get to the championship game and improve

the program as a whole, contributing to the quality of the Bombers program and the game in Oxford County. "Football just doesn't happen in London," said the first-year Bombers coach, who has both his own family connection and passion for the sport. Playing throughout high school at London Central, Ben elected to row in university, but his brother Oliver is a punter/place-kicker with the UWO Mustangs, and their father Jason, a former full-back with the team.

"In the world we live in today, having kids who want to be in sports and learn and grow as a group and be role models is my ultimate goal," Ben summed up. "Be better people, that's it."

Beyond roster members named McMahon, the Warriors return to football contains an additional legacy connection. Head coach Jeff Almeida played at Woodstock Huron Park under Lorne Jenkins and Al Huras before enjoying a post-secondary career as a defensive corner with the University of Waterloo Warriors from 1991-95.

"Look at these guys, they're excited about playing foot-



(JEFF TRIBE PHOTO)

Family and legacy were front and centre as the Woodstock St. Mary's Warriors took on Ingersoll DCI on Sept. 24 at IDCI. From left, are program founder Mike McMahon's grandson Milton McMahon, Kobe Almeida, head coach Jeff Almeida, who played at Woodstock Huron Park under coaches Lorne Jenkins and Al Huras, and at right, Milton's cousin Corall McMahon.

ball again," Almeida said. "It was something that was missing for so long, but we finally have it back and they're just excited to play." The list includes his son Kobe, a member of the Woodstock Warriors football program, as soon as he could start playing, a family tradition including siblings Finlay and Brady.

"The whole family plays football," said Kobe, a

Grade 9 pivot adjusting to a challenging position and game at the high school level. "Harder than any league I've been in."

"It's fun - I love it," added Warriors tight end/linebacker Noah Kratz, who enjoys learning as he goes. From practice, he expected a lot of physical action, and while nervous, enjoys the heightened stakes and intensity of game action.

"By the second half, I was trying to put out a lot more." Kratz's statement could be applied to Jeff Almeida's approach to the season, in essence, getting onto the field, getting the nerves out and continuing to improve. "I want to teach these kids to play the right way," he concluded. "And build blocks - every step we take forward is a good step as far as I'm concerned."

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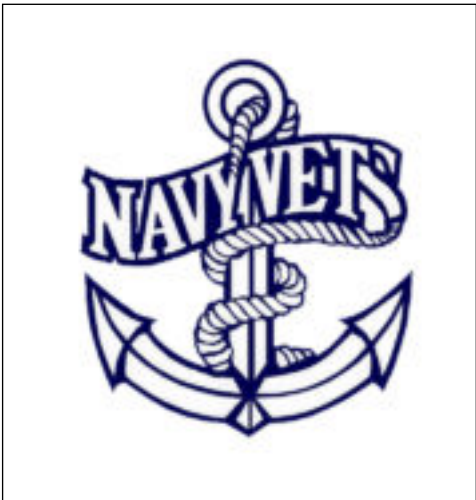


Navy Vets win streak
reaches three

JIM TAYLOR

Echo Contributor

After a slow start to the season Woodstock's win streak has them in a tie for fourth in the Provincial Junior Hockey League's Doherty Division. Dailen Fousek scored three times while Brodie Kearns and Cooper Vickerman each had two goals as Woodstock blanked Hespeler 10-0 at Southwood on Friday night. Kearns added 3 assists for a 5-point night while Vickerman extended his division scoring lead by also adding 2 helpers for a 4-point night. Rookie defenceman Colin Shaw buried his first junior goal and added 2 assists. Owen Ireton had a 3-point game and sits in second place behind Vickerman in the division scoring race. Gavin Birmingham scored the other Vets goal. Tyler Bouck made 27 saves for his first shutout of the season and the 11th of his career. On Saturday in Dorchester, Charley Barnes scored with just over three minutes left to give the Vets a 3-2 win.



Liam Gorman had opened the scoring for the Vets midway through the first period, but the Dolphins tied it on the powerplay late in the period before taking a 2-1 lead early in the second. Dailen Fousek scored his fourth goal in two games to tie the score for Woodstock early in the third frame, setting up the game for Barnes' heroics.

STANDINGS

SOUTH DOHERTY DIVISION	GP	W	L	OTL	T	SOW	SOL	PTS
1 - WELLESLEY APPLEJACKS	8	7	1	0	0	0	0	14
2 - TAVISTOCK BRAVES	6	5	0	1	0	0	0	11
3 - NORWICH MERCHANTS	8	4	3	0	0	0	1	9
4 - WOODSTOCK NAVY VETS	8	4	3	1	0	0	0	9
5 - PARIS TITANS	8	4	4	0	0	0	0	8
6 - NEW HAMBURG FIREBIRDS	7	2	2	3	0	0	0	7
7 - DORCHESTER DOLPHINS	7	2	4	0	0	1	1	5
8 - HESPELER SHAMROCKS	8	2	5	1	0	1	0	5

WEST YECK DIVISION	GP	W	L	OTL	T	SOW	SOL	PTS
1 - NORTH MIDDLESEX STARS	8	6	1	1	0	0	0	13
2 - THAMESFORD TROJANS	8	5	1	2	0	0	0	12
3 - PORT STANLEY SAILORS	9	5	3	1	0	0	0	11
4 - AYLMER SPITFIRES	7	4	1	2	0	0	0	10
5 - EXETER HAWKS	6	4	2	0	0	0	0	8
6 - PETROLIA FLYERS	6	3	3	0	0	0	0	6
7 - LUCAN IRISH	6	1	4	1	0	0	0	3
8 - MT. BRYDGES BULLDOGS	8	1	6	1	0	0	0	3



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OFA Viewpoint: Ontario agriculture is worth celebrating this week — and every week

CLINT CAMERON

Director, Ontario Federation of Agriculture

This week is Ontario Agriculture Week, leading us into Thanksgiving — one of the most food-focused times of the year. It's a perfect reminder of just how much our province has to be thankful for when it comes to agriculture and food.

Ontario farmers grow and raise more than 200 different food and farm products. That's an incredible depth and breadth of diversity that few other places in the world can match. It means we're fortunate to enjoy a wide variety of locally grown and raised food and beverages right here at home, no matter what season it is.

Ontario's agricultural story stretches across the entire province. In northern Ontario, livestock and crop farms supply beef, pork, lamb and grains to local and regional markets. Eastern Ontario is well known for its dairy and poultry farms. Apple orchards in midwestern and central Ontario are bursting with crisp, sweet fruit at this time of year.

Southern Ontario has long been the heart of fruit, vegetable, and grape production — think tender fruit in Niagara and along the Lake Erie shore, tomatoes and peppers in Chatham-Kent, greenhouses in Leamington, and the world-class wine industry those grapes support.

Whether it's maple syrup from Lanark County, wild blueberries from Sudbury, or pumpkins from Norfolk, every corner of the province contributes something unique to Ontario's harvest.

Agriculture isn't just about what ends up on your plate, though. It's also a powerful economic engine.

Our province's agri-food sector contributes more than \$51 billion to the provincial economy every year and supports over 867,000 jobs. Farming businesses don't stand alone — they connect to food processors, transporters, retailers, farm suppliers, equipment dealers, and countless others.

That's why we like to say that everyone in Ontario is part of agriculture. You might not milk cows or drive a tractor, but if you work in a food plant, drive a truck, stock grocery store shelves, serve a meal in a restaurant, or simply sit down to enjoy breakfast, you are part of the food system that agriculture makes possible.

One of the best ways to connect with Ontario agriculture is to meet the people who grow your food. This year, the Ontario Federation of Agriculture (OFA), where I'm part of the provincial board of directors, once again partnered with Farmers' Markets Ontario to help markets across the province promote their farmer vendors.

Following a successful launch year in 2024 with \$50,000 of funding from OFA that was matched by the 28 markets who participated, 14 new and 20 returning markets took part in the 2025 program to strengthen connections between farmers and Ontarians.

Visiting a farmers' market is a chance to ask questions, try something new, and build a direct relationship with the people who produce your food. It's also a great way to support small businesses and keep food dollars circulating in local communities.

Ontario Agriculture Week is about recognizing the care and commitment farmers put into raising livestock, tending orchards, planting fields, and harvesting crops. It's about



(CONTRIBUTED PHOTO)

acknowledging the truck drivers, millers, processors, retailers, and chefs who all play a role in moving food from farm to table. And it's about celebrating the incredible variety of wonderful farm products — from food and fibre to flowers and fuel — that are produced close to home.

Equally important is recognizing agriculture

as the powerful foundation of a thriving economy in our province, supporting jobs, healthy communities, and a resilient future. When we support food and farming, invest in rural infrastructure or work to preserve our farmland, we're also strengthening our province.

Happy Ontario Agriculture Week — and a happy Thanksgiving.

Ukrainian culture celebrated in the Friendly City

The Gromada Ukrainian Association of Oxford County hosted Ukrainian Heritage Day at Museum Square in downtown Woodstock on Sept. 27. The event, held in recognition of Ukrainian Canadian Heritage Month, welcomed the public to celebrate and experience the richness of Ukrainian culture. Attendees enjoyed an afternoon of folk dancing, traditional and contemporary Ukrainian songs, instrumental music, and a showcase of arts and

crafts. A special children's corner, featuring unique games, made the celebration a family-friendly experience for all ages. Chairperson Svitlana Paziuk expressed gratitude for the strong community turnout and enthusiasm, noting the importance of sharing Ukrainian traditions in Oxford County. The free event drew residents and visitors alike, filling Museum Square with color, music, and cultural pride.

(RON YUZARK PHOTOS)



The intricate embroidery of Valeriia Kolesnyk was on display, with Svitlana and Natalia watching nearby.



The crowd was delighted by traditional music from William and Anna.

Woodstock Museum Halloween escape room draws crowds and new audiences

ALEX HUNT

Echo Contributor

Visitors to the Woodstock Museum are teaming up to tackle a new Thirteen Ghosts Escape Room, a Halloween-themed fundraiser designed to appeal to teens, adults and families.

A fundraiser for the Woodstock Museum National Historic Site, the activity draws inspiration from the 2001 horror film of the same name. Running until Oct. 25, the spooky experience challenges participants to solve clues and puzzles—no prior knowledge of the movie required.

“The escape room is continuing to be a success and a fundraiser for us. We have often done a Halloween theme and Christmas theme,” said Kerrie Gill, education of-

ficer at the Woodstock Museum. “We also wanted something that fit the teen to middle-aged crowd that we weren’t getting. Seniors often come to the lunch and learn and we provide programs for the children on P.A. days. The Escape rooms are great at bringing in a new demographic.”

The clues in the Halloween-themed escape room are inspired by the classic horror film 13 Ghosts, though participants don’t need to have seen the movie to take on the challenge. The Woodstock Museum frequently changes up its escape room themes—past editions have included a festive “Elf” Christmas version. Each session is booked for a one-hour time slot, giving participants 45 minutes to solve the puzzles and make their escape.

“A challenging aspect is making a series of puzzles and making them flow together so that they are in a cohesive order,” said Dariel McIntyre, clerk at the Woodstock Museum NHS. “We have been doing the escape rooms since 2026. It’s fun to come up with different puzzles and clues.”

He added people are getting close to making it through this year.

“These escape rooms really promote team building with people working together and listening to each other’s ideas. We want people to have fun and provide them with something different to do.”

One-hour sessions of the escape room are available Fridays and Saturdays from 4 p.m. to 9 p.m. The cost is \$20 per person for groups of four to six, aged 14 and older.



(CONTRIBUTED PHOTO)

Participants tackle clues, ciphers and collaborative challenges in the museum’s immersive escape adventure.

Reservations can be made by calling 519-537-8411 ext. 2901. A \$40

booking fee is required to secure a time slot, covering the cost for two par-

ticipants. Payment for any additional group members is due upon arrival.

Doors Wide Open at St. David’s



Community spirit was on display as the Optimist Club of Oxford County grilled for guests.



Church members offered tours throughout the afternoon, giving visitors a closer look at Doors Wide Open.

St. David’s United Church opened its doors on Sept. 27 for the first-ever Doors Wide Open event. Designed to bring the community together, the afternoon invited neighbours to step inside, meet members, and explore the wide range of programs and activities the church has to offer. Guests explored 21 interactive stations, 10 showcasing church ministries and 11 hosted by local groups that gather regularly at St. David’s. The Optimist Club of Oxford

County kept visitors well fed with a delicious BBQ, adding to the welcoming atmosphere. The event drew close to 50 attendees, including children and families, who enjoyed learning more about both the church and its partners. St. David’s extends heartfelt thanks to everyone who contributed to the success of the day. Given the success of this inaugural gathering, organizers are already looking ahead to next year’s Doors Wide Open.

(RON YUZARK PHOTOS)

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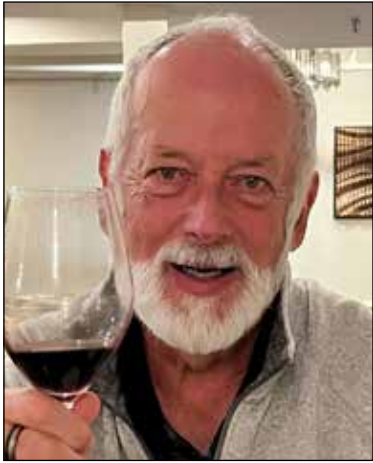
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OH, THE PLACES WE'LL GO: Taste sensations in the south of Spain



PAUL KNOWLES

Echo Contributor

I came home from Spain determined to replicate at least two of the amazing taste treats we had enjoyed there: paella, and sangria. I didn't know what I was setting myself up for.

It goes well beyond paella and sangria; the south of Spain is a cornucopia of flavours, and we had the chance to sample many of them. The sundry small dishes, both hot and cold, served as tapas, either as appetizers or gathered on a larger plate to make up a delicious meal. The fruits and vegetables, especially the citrus fruits. The fresh fish of all kinds. Meats, cheeses, and olives, olives, olives.

And, of course, wine. Especially the very good, very cheap Rioja wine.

But let's start with paella. Paella is a very common Spanish rice dish. You start with rice,

and add stuff. Okay, perhaps the recipe is a bit more complicated than that. As ably demonstrated by the chef in Torremolinos who gave us a lesson in making paella.

First point – this ain't any ordinary rice. This is round rice, or bomba rice.

In our particular case, the chef must have had some of his budget left over from the previous fiscal year, because he splurged. The ingredients of this particular paella included astonishingly big (and, it turned out, over-the-top delicious) prawns that cost 200 euros, just for this paella. He then added two others kinds of shrimp, mussels, clams, three or four kinds of fish, calamari, onions, red peppers, garlic, saffron – probably more expensive than the prawns – olive oil (of course) and broth. Each added at just the right time.

And then – this is one of the tricks of paella – it sits and simmers in the shallow frying pan for a long time, without burning.

It was amazing.

And then, the sangria. I have always enjoyed sangria, or at least I thought I did. But what I have enjoyed here has been a concoction of red wine, some kind of juice, and chopped fruit. Our Spanish hosts would use this to water grape vines. Maybe.

Our young, jovial sangria mentors broke out bottle after

bottle, in the end producing utterly delicious and significantly powerful sangria. Red wine, of course. Rioja, in fact, specifically Anciano Old Oak Tempranillo. Fanta orange, of all things. And then, the alcoholic dynamite: generous, 10-second pourings of Triple Sec, another of Sweet Vermouth, and perhaps a bit longer pour of a Spanish liqueur called "Licor 43". Add four spoonfuls of sugar for each jug, and sundry fruits – we had apple, oranges and perhaps some other unidentified species. All we knew, after generous tastings, was that this was sangria to die for. And our home-grown, simple recipes would never again suffice!

We brought these recipes home with us. But one highlight of the trip – a lunch-time repast served in the home of Maria, our Spanish hostess – brought us no new recipes.

That doesn't mean we didn't want them. But friendly, jolly, lovely Maria absolutely refused to share her secrets with us. The meal began with a board of cold meats, cheeses, bread, olives and a salad. Second course, an egg soup. The main included pork and scalloped potatoes. Dessert, we called Custard de Maria, because it was wonderful and unidentifiable. And Maria was no help – just as she was not when we asked for the recipe for her amazing cookies, served with coffee.

By the time she had smiled



Our chef in Torremolinos, with spectacular paella. (PAUL KNOWLES PHOTO)

and refused to divulge secrets through several courses, we gave up, and enjoyed the post-meal liqueur, a home-made taste treat made from locally grown quinces. To get to Maria's dining room, we had climbed long, cobbled streets in a downpour. We all agreed it was more than worth the effort.

The adventures in cuisine never stopped. We sampled about every citrus fruit known to humanity at the Finca Juanito orchard. We wandered through a market in Ojen stocked with every kind of fresh fruit and vegetable. We tasted olive oil at the Mon Dron Co-op (there are 350 million olive trees in the country. In fact, Spain exports olive oil to... of all places... Italy.) And at the Hotel-Restaurant Balcón de los Montes, we started the day with churros, a fried dough pastry which may not sound too exciting, but when coupled with coffee well laced with brandy, are a great treat. Or it may have been the brandy.

As I said, I came home deter-

mined to create some of these great tastes in my own kitchen. I started with paella. And quickly discovered that virtually no grocery store in this area sells round rice. Many, many, many other kinds of rice, but no bomba round rice.

I even made several excursions to stores where the internet affirmed the presence of round rice. Nope.

Finally, I found it in a little Portuguese grocery store in Kitchener. I launched the experiment. I did not buy million-dollar prawns, but that didn't seem to matter, because my paella worked, much to my surprise – and that of my partner.

But for the real stuff – skip my kitchen and go straight to Spain.

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.



A typical tapas lunch, this one served in Malaga.

(PAUL KNOWLES PHOTO)

Route to the Past – Bearing the Burden of Barrow and Burdon

SCOTT GILLIES

Contributor

Archie was one of eight children born to Charles and Mary (Saunders) Barrow. His parents had emigrated from England and were living at 201 King Street West. Charles worked as a coat maker for the large local tailoring firm of Smith and Kerr located on Thames Street.

One of Archie's brothers had a good paying job at the Kirwin House Hotel on Oxford Street while two more of his siblings were working at the nearby St. Charles Condensing plant, also known as Borden's. Meanwhile his married sister Laura was living in Niagara Falls.

When the Great War began in 1914, the Barrow family doubtless held firm to their loyalty to the King.

As a teenager, Archie was probably itching for a bit of adventure by the time he reached the age of majority when he could enlist. His brother-in-law was already doing his part. Archie was likely overflowing with enthusiasm when he signed up with the 168th Battalion on January 20, 1916.

In all likelihood, his mother was none too pleased. The burdens of a mother's concern for her loved ones must have weighed heavily on her heart. Not only did she have a son-in-law in the army, but now her son had taken the oath of allegiance to His Majesty King George V and to top it all, her husband was not in the best of health. Fact was, Charles had been ailing for nearly 3 years. Within three months of Archie's enlistment,

she was a widow.

Casualties on the front lines in France and Belgium were mounting up. The need for reinforcements was paramount. Once they got overseas, members of the 168th were split up and sent to fill the ranks of other regiments. Archie Barrow was taken on strength by the Eastern Ontario Regiment, the 21st Battalion.

Archie's brother-in-law, Harry Burdon, had been part of the 86th Machine Gun Battalion. They had been in England since May of 1916. While Archie was a Private, Harry had been appointed an Acting Corporal. There may have been some good-natured rivalry or resentment between the two men given that Corporals were often the non-commissioned officers who goaded the privates up and out of the trenches during an assault, or who led the troops on nighttime raids.

Back home, on King Street, the widowed Mary Saunders kept busy running her household and caring for her daughter Laura and granddaughter Ruth who had moved home from Niagara Falls during Harry's absence.

As fate would have it, Harry missed most of the action. His military records show that he had been diagnosed with heart disease and was hospitalized for most of his time in the service. His ailment was such that he was invalided back to Canada in 1917 for further medical treatment in Hamilton. His wife and daughter hastened to the steel city to prepare for a warm homecoming.

Harry Burdon only got as far as Que-



Harry Burdon.

(CONTRIBUTED PHOTO)

bec City. He died shortly after arriving on the Canadian shores.

At the same time, her brother Archie Barrow was charging up the slopes of Vimy Ridge with thousands of other fellow Canadians, in what would be one of the finest but costliest hours of the Canadian war effort during World War One.

At 05:30 on April 9, 1917, all four Canadian divisions launched their attack.

It was the first time that they had all fought together as one army. Within half an hour they had captured their first objective, and within four days total victory was theirs. Henceforth they earned and deserved the reputation of being the elite storm troopers that struck fear in the hearts of the Germans.

April 9th however would turn out to be Private Archibald Barrow's last day of earthly existence. Eighteen-year-old Archie, along with 10,600 other Canadians were killed or wounded in this battle. He was the first member of Oxford's Own to be killed in action. His remains were buried near the battlefield in Zivy Crater.

Back in Hamilton Ontario, his sister Laura prepared to bury her husband in the Hamilton Cemetery.

When names were being collected for the Ingersoll cenotaph, Mary Barrow may have put forth the name of her son Archie as well as that of her son-in-law Harry. Mary had lost her husband from poor health during the years of trial of the Great War. She had also lost her youngest son, and she had lost a favoured son-in-law. We can only imagine the sense of grief which must have permeated the rooms of the Barrow family home. The loss of three loved ones must have been unbearable, made all the more excruciating by the fickle finger of fate which had pointed at Archie and Harry.

While separated from each other by thousands of miles of land and sea, they both died on the same day!

Route2thepast@gmail.com

A celebration of fall in Woodstock

Downtown Woodstock came alive with the sights and sounds of autumn during the inaugural Woodstock Fall Fest, held in Museum Square on Saturday, Oct. 4. The event invited families, visitors, and community members to take part in a day of festive fun and Halloween excitement. The celebration began with Trunk or Treat, transforming Museum Square into a Halloween village where costumed children collected sweets and treats. Nearby, the Pumpkin Carving Contest showcased artistic flair,

with visitors casting votes for their favorite designs. The HOWL-O-Ween Dog Parade delighted the crowd, as pets strutted their stuff in clever costumes, earning smiles and applause. Beyond the festivities, participants explored Woodstock's rich history through Doors Open Woodstock, which featured heritage tours and exhibits. For those seeking adventure, the Thirteen Ghosts Escape Room provided spooky problem-solving fun for brave participants.

(RON YUZARK PHOTOS)



Disney favorites welcomed families and children to Fall Fest.



Amelia and Maya picked out pumpkins with Paul to carve for Halloween.

With over 30 years of industry experience, my goal is to work together with you to develop a successful marketing strategy for your business needs.

Contact Lisa Roberts

Marketing Media Specialist

lisa@granhaven.com | 416.455.4687



GRANT HAVEN MEDIA

.....



(CONTRIBUTED PHOTO)

NURSING SCHOOL REUNION

Several 1970 graduates from the Woodstock School of Nursing gathered at the Elm Hurst Inn in Ingersoll to celebrate the 55th anniversary of earning their degrees. Pictured, from left, back row: Rosemary Douma (née Benjamin), Wanda Schram (née Gray), Bev Delmelo (née Bonnell), Cassie Louie (née Desjardine), Marilyn MacHutchon (née Cumming), Judy Arnold (née Hay), Gail Stephen (née Rinn), Eleanor Paterson (née George), Marie Weigel (née Archer), Lynn Stepien (née Nagy), Linda Brogden (née Laver). Front row: Mary Lynne Kennedy-McGregor, Nancy Wilson, Rita Henry (née Burns), Carol Tabor (née Masters), Joan Murphy (née Walker), Marg Cumming (née Roberts), Susan James (née Perry).

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Keep being you **Love your ears**

COMING EVENTS

SACRED HEART PARISH EUCHRE

Henderson Hall, 133 John Street Ingersoll.

Tuesday, October 14 and 28: Starts at 1:00 p.m.

We invite everyone to join us for a Euchre afternoon. Refreshments provided. Contact: Martha 519-320-0785

Hearts for Ethiopia Hosts:

A WALK IN THEIR SHOES

Register today for Hearts for Ethiopia's A Walk in Their Shoes! This meaningful community event is happening soon on **Saturday, October 18 in Woodstock**, and individuals and teams are encouraged to sign up today at www.heartsforethiopia.com. A Walk in Their Shoes invites participants to step into the daily experiences of women and children in Ethiopia, while raising vital funds to support those living in extreme poverty. The event features a family-friendly walk, interactive education, a silent auction, an Ethiopian Merkato, refreshments, and opportunities to learn how the money raised will change the lives of women and children in Ethiopia.

REVEREND MARK CURTIS WITH HIS MUSICAL SERMON, "SONGS MY FATHER SANG TO ME"

Saturday, October 18, starting at 2 p.m.

**Old St Paul's Anglican Church,
723 Dundas Woodstock, Ontario**

Come visit our historic church to worship with this talented priest and singer-songwriter. Good will offerings only. All are welcome. Refreshments will follow.

LET'S FALL INTO COUNTRY MUSIC WITH THE INGERSOLL COUNTRY MUSIC JAMBOREE

Every other Friday: 1 to 4 p.m.

Masonic Hall, 190 Thames St., Ingersoll

Join us. Walk ins welcome. Qualifications, love 50-70's country music, perform, listen, dance, and enjoy. **October 17 & 31, November 14 & 28, and December 5.**

CONDEMNED: WOODSTOCK'S WICKED PAST

Wednesday, October 29: 6:30 p.m.

Chartwell Gardens, 423 Devonshire Ave. (Main Entrance)

Special Guest Jennie Grevers - Uncover the gripping stories behind the executions that shaped Woodstock and Oxford County's past. Dive into the fascinating historical accounts from people who faced the gallows and learn how their lives – and deaths impacted our community. Join us for an evening filled with dramatic tales, historical insight, and a deeper understanding of Woodstock and Oxford's most somber chapter. Free Event, Donations Welcome!

TREATS 'N' TREASURES CHRISTMAS BAZAAR

Old St Paul's Anglican Church

723 Dundas Woodstock, Ontario

November 8: 11 a.m. - 2 p.m.

We will feature a silent auction, baking, frozen meat pies and soups, candy, books and a Café. All are welcome. No entry charge.

KNOX YULETIDE BAZAAR & LUNCH

November 8: 10:30 a.m. to 2:00 p.m.

Knox Presbyterian Church, 59 Riddell St. Woodstock

Baking, Crafts, Quilts, Preserves, Frozen Food, and much more

16TH ANNUAL TREATS & TREASURES EVENT

November 8, 9am-3pm

Maranatha Christian Reformed Church

735 Frontenac Cres., Woodstock (Just off Juliana near the new hospital!)

Lots of variety! Returning vendors and "newbies"! You don't want to miss this event!! Free admission!! Free coffee! Vendors

in front foyer, the east and west hallways, the youth room and the gym!! ?'s: contact church at 519-539-5301 or organizer 519-536-0493

CHRISTMAS BAZAAR

Saturday, November 15

Doors Open 10:00 a.m., Draws at 2:00 p.m.

Holy Trinity Church, 1420 Devonshire Ave, Woodstock

Penny Sale, Raffle, Baking, Crafts, Gift Baskets, Silent Auction, Yesterday's Treasures, Religious Goods and our Tea Room.

19TH ANNUAL OXFORD CREATES ARTISAN MARKET

South Gate Centre, 191 Old Wellington St. South, Woodstock

Saturday, November 15: 10 a.m. to 4 p.m.

Sunday, November 16: Noon to 4 p.m.

Oxford County's creative spirit will be on full display this fall as the 19th annual Oxford Creates Artisan Market returns, bringing together more than 30 artists under one roof. Visitors can explore an impressive selection of paintings, pottery, fibre arts, jewellery, drawings, photography, collage, and much more. For nearly two decades, Oxford Creates has offered a stage for both emerging and established artists to connect with the community, while giving residents and visitors the chance to discover unique, one-of-a-kind pieces. Admission is free, and all are welcome to attend this much-anticipated cultural event.

FAMILY FUN DAY @ EMMANUEL REFORMED CHURCH

170 Clarke St. Woodstock, ON

November 22: 11 a.m.-2:30 p.m.

Penny Sale - Silent Auction - Bake Sale

Games for all Ages

Delicious Soup - Chili - Hot Dogs - Buns

Yummy Desserts - Drinks

FREE ADMISSION - EVERYONE WELCOME

OXFORD GOES TO WAR

Wednesday, November 26: 6:30 p.m.

Chartwell Gardens, 423 Devonshire Ave. (Main Entrance)

Special Presentation by Scott Gillies, Chair OxHS.

Free event, Donations welcome!

WOODSTOCK COIN CLUB PRESENTS

A CONTEST OF MEDAL DESIGN

CELEBRATING OUR CITY'S 125TH ANNIVERSARY

THEME: **WHAT DOES WOODSTOCK MEAN TO ME?**

WHO CAN ENTER? ANYONE! And as often as you like.

TWO CATEGORIES: ADULT (18+) AND YOUTH

One winner from each category will receive a set of medals with their design and initials on the medal itself, plus a numismatic prize.

DEADLINE FOR SUBMITTING YOUR DESIGN:

DECEMBER 1, 2025

Designs to be submitted to: wcc2026contest@gmail.com

MONTHLY VON BLOOD PRESSURE CLINIC

Last Tuesday of every Month:

10 a.m. to Noon

Ingersoll Pharmasave

19 King St. E., Ingersoll

TILLSONBURG DUPLICATE BRIDGE CLUB

Interested in Bridge? Join us every Friday at the Tillsonburg Duplicate Bridge Club at 1 p.m. at The Senior Centre. Don't

have a partner? Come anyway and we will match you up with someone. For more information, visit their Facebook page: TburgBridge.

THE OPTIMIST CLUB OF OXFORD COUNTY

The Optimists bring out the best in Youth, Community, and Themselves. If anyone is interested in coming out to meet us and learn more about us please email brenda7621@outlook.com

REPAIR CAFÉ - TOSS IT? NO WAY!

1st Saturday of each month: 9 a.m. to Noon

St. John's Church 685860 Oxford Highway 2, Eastwood, ON N4S 7V9

St. John's, Eastwood, now affiliated with Repair Café International (look for us at repaircafe.org). Meets the first Saturday of every month 9am to noon at St. John's Church 685860 Oxford Highway 2, Eastwood, ON N4S 7V9. Repairs made to clothing, linens, household items, toys, musical instruments etc. Save money, learn how to make your own

repairs. Volunteers welcome. Payment by donation.

CALLING ALL LOCAL VENDORS!

511 Finkle St., Woodstock, ON

Saturday, December 6: 1 - 4 p.m.

Cedarview's Annual Christmas Bazaar is back, and we're on the lookout for talented vendors to join us! We're seeking: Artisan goods, Crafts, Holiday décor, Homemade goodies, Unique gifts & all things Christmas! Apply by November 1st to secure your spot! To join, send your info + business details to: lisa.ec-cleston@bwliving.com, (226) 458-3294. Don't miss this chance to be part of a festive community event full of holiday cheer!

GRIEF SUPPORT FOR MAID RELATED LOSS

This monthly in-person grief support group for loss related to Medical Assistance in Dying (MAiD) offers a compassionate, safe space to explore this unique loss. **The group will meet the 4th Wednesday of the month from 1-2:30 p.m. at the Thamesford Library, 165 Dundas St., Thamesford.** The group is free of charge. Pre-registration is requested. The next meeting is Wednesday, September 24th. To register or inquire about an evening group, contact 519-866-3016 or email faye@compassionategriefsupport.ca.

PEER SUPPORT GROUP FOR PARENTS & CAREGIVERS

Third Wednesday of each month:

6:30 p.m. to 8:30 p.m.

**21 Wellington St., Woodstock
(Virtual options available)**

PCMH is a peer support program providing support to parents and caregivers across Ontario with lived experience raising children and youth with mental health challenges. For more information, please visit family.cmho.org or oxfordcounty@pcmh.ca. We are also on Facebook: Parents for Children's Mental Health ~ Oxford County

VON OXFORD GRIEF CARE:

FREE MONTHLY GRIEF SUPPORT GROUP

Register at: oxford.griefsupport@von.ca or 519-539-1231

Ext 6299 or 6296

TILLSONBURG

WHEN: 2nd Tuesday of every month

WHERE: VON Oxford Office 24 Brock St. W., Tillsonburg

TIME: 6:30PM-8:00PM

INGERSOLL

WHEN: 4th Tuesday of every month

WHERE: Ingersoll Public Library 130 Oxford St., Ingersoll

TIME: 10:30AM –12:00Noon

WOODSTOCK

WHEN: 3rd Saturday of every month

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

TIME: 10:30AM-12:00 Noon

THE LIONS CLUB OF WOODSTOCK

The Lions Club of Woodstock has been serving the community and Oxford County with kindness and generosity since 1931. The Lions always place the needs of neighbours and communities first. Through the dedication and hard work of our volunteer members, we are serving those in need together. If you are interested in becoming a member or simply wish to learn more by attending one of our monthly meetings, please email Steve Iorio at steveiorio4@gmail.com for more information.

COLOURING THROUGH GRIEF

Caring Hearts Support Network:

St. David's United Church,

190 Springbank Ave., Woodstock ON

Third Wednesday monthly. One time fee of \$15. Registration is required.

Call 519-536-3370. Check out website

www.caringheartssupportnetwork.com

OXFORD PHILATELIC SOCIETY

Meetings: 2nd Tuesday (2 to 4 p.m.) and 4th Tuesday (7 to 9 p.m.)

September to May

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 dhfe@silomail.com

Website: <http://www.rpsc.org/chapters/oxford>



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COMING EVENTS

OXFORD COUNTY BRANCH OF ONTARIO ANCESTORS

Are you looking to start a summer pastime? Are you interested in your family history? Oxford Branch has an extensive collection of family history and genealogical resources that can help you. Come visit our Resource Centre at 82 Light Street, Courthouse Square, Woodstock. We are open Tuesdays to Thursdays 10:00 am to 4:00 pm where volunteers are ready to help you get started or help you research for missing information. You can also connect with us on the web at <https://oxford.ogs.on.ca>. We are dedicated to supporting and promoting genealogical research in Oxford County. Hope to see you through the summer!

BEACHVILLE LEGION EVENTS: 434852 ZorraLine, Beachville

EUCHRE
Thursday nights 7 p.m.

DARTS
Friday nights 8 p.m.

FREE POOL

GENTLE CHAIR YOGA
Wednesdays till October 22: 7-8 p.m.

BBQ BEEF ON A BUN DINNER
October 24: 5:30 p.m.

LINE DANCING
Thursdays till November 6: 7-8 p.m.

INTRO TO BALLROOM DANCING
Thursdays till November 6: 8:15-9:15 for 6 weeks.
No partner required.

HAM AND SCALLOPED POTATO DINNER
October 10: 5:30 pm

BLUEGRASS AND OLDE TIME COUNTRY JAM
October 18 and Oct 26: 1-4 p.m.
Come play with us in Open Mic (acoustic only) or come and enjoy the music.

KARAOKE WITH KEN PYLE
October 18: 7-11 p.m.
BBQ BEEF ON A BUN DINNER
October 24: 5:30 p.m.

ROYAL CANADIAN LEGION BRANCH 55 EVENTS: 642 Dundas St, Woodstock

SHUFFLEBOARD
Thursdays at 1:30 p.m.

DART LEAGUES
Every Tuesday, Wednesday, Thursday, Friday evening.

MEAT DRAW
October 11: 3 p.m.

CADETS
Every Monday night.

BRANCH GENERAL MEETING
October 14: 7:30 p.m.

MONTHLY DINNER
October 26: 5 - 6 p.m.
Cabbage Rolls Mashed Potatoes with Veggies & Cole Slaw.
Please contact the Office.

PRIVATE FUNCTION
October 25th. Canteen will be closed that day.

OPTIMIST CLUB HALLOWEEN DANCE (DRESS-UP)
October 31: 7:30-11:30 p.m. Open to the Public.

SATURDAY NIGHT ENTERTAINMENT
October 11: 7-11 p.m. - Jeff Dawdy
October 18: 7-11 p.m. - Blue Sky

HALLOWEEN DANCE
November 1: 7 - 11 p.m.

POPPY CAMPAIGN
Starts October 31 and runs for 2 weeks
Please come out and sign up and help our Veterans' and their families.

CEDARVIEW RETIREMENT HOME EVENTS: 511 Finkle St, Woodstock

PINK OUT PARTY FOR BREAST CANCER AWARENESS MONTH
EDUARD KLASSEN ON THE HARP
Thursday, October 16: 2:30-3:30 p.m.
Call to RSVP at 519-602-0282
Wear Pink! Accepting non perishable food items for the food bank. FREE event

EUCHRE TOURNAMENT
Sunday October 26: 2-4:00 p.m., followed by dinner
Call to RSVP at 519-602-0282
Accepting non perishable food items for the food bank. FREE event
SOCK HOP DANCE
Saturday November 15: 7:30-9:30 p.m.
DJ Frankie. Call to RSVP at 519-602-0282
Accepting non perishable food items for the food bank. FREE event

CHRISTMAS BAZAAR
Saturday December 6: 1-4 p.m.
Accepting non perishable food items for the food bank. FREE event

DOWNTOWN WOODSTOCK BIA IMPORTANT DATES:

DOWNTOWN WOODSTOCK SHOPPING NIGHT
October 23, November 27, December 18: 5 p.m. to 8 p.m.
Our monthly shopping event, Woodstock Shopping Night, typically occurs every 4th Thursday of the month. Participating stores stay open late until 8 pm to facilitate late-night shopping. Enjoy a great night out in downtown Woodstock with extended store hours & exciting specials.

CHRISTMAS IN THE SQUARE
December 12/13 & December 19/20
Get ready for a festive family adventure in Downtown Woodstock! Join us for free festive fun in Museum Square; expect smiles, laughter, and a jolly good time. Bring the kids and snap a free photo with Santa at his house. Take the opportunity to do some last minute shopping for your loved ones at the wonderful downtown businesses.



TAVISTOCK MEN'S CLUB SAUERKRAUT & BBQ PORK CHOP SUPPER

Wednesday, November 12, 2025



4:00 p.m. - 7:00 p.m.
TAVISTOCK MEMORIAL HALL
3 Adam St., Tavistock
Pick-Up Only \$30

Tickets available at Men's Club Hall - 78 Woodstock St. N.
Every Wednesday 4-7 pm and Saturdays 11am-2pm
Starting October 1st to November 8th
or from Club members
or call 519-655-3573
or at Tavistock arena booth
or email: info@tavistockmensclub.ca
or online: tavistockmensclub.ca

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3 p.m.

Wilmot Recreation Centre
(Room A), 1291 Nafziger Rd, Baden
7 p.m.

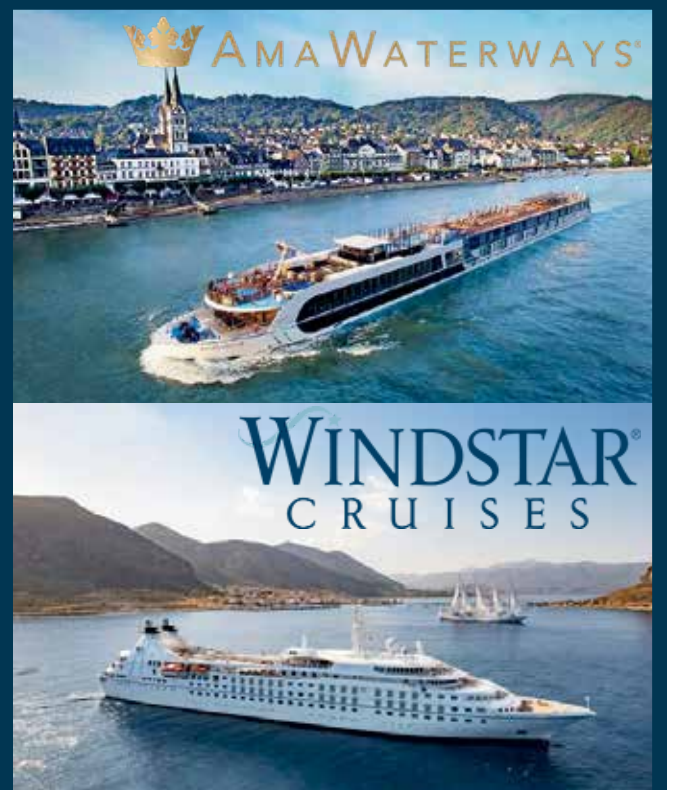
Pyramid Recreation Centre
(End Zone), 317 James St S, St. Marys

To RSVP, email
stew@stonetowntravel.com
or call our office

St. Marys Branch (TICO #5002839)
150 Queen St. E., St. Marys, ON N4X 1B4
519-284-2332
agent@stonetowntravel.com

**STONETOWN
TRAVEL**

New Hamburg Branch (TICO #5002840)
210 Mill St., New Hamburg, ON N3A 1P9
226-333-9939
newhamburg@stonetowntravel.com



Riddles

I have a wattle, feathers, and a proud little strut; I “gobble” in October—what am I?
Turkey

I’m a boat without oars, poured from a spout, I sail over mashed potatoes and spill if I’m out. What am I?
Gravy

I’m stuffed before I’m eaten, baked before I’m served; bread and herbs inside—what am I, you’ve heard?
Stuffing

Orange and round with a buttery crust; add spice and cream—serve me or bust! What am I?
Pumpkin pie

I’m tart and red, jelly or whole; I sit by the turkey and sweeten the bowl. What am I?
Cranberry sauce

I’m a horn without sound, overflowing with food that’s found. What am I?
Cornucopia

I’m passed around the table, I’m warm and soft to tear; spread butter on my belly if you dare. What am I?
Dinner roll

I arrive with parades and cozy cheer; we gather ’round and give thanks each year. What day am I?
Thanksgiving

I’m crisp and sweet, from orchard trees; baked or sauced, I’m sure to please. What am I?
Apple

Sudoku

by PeterS 2025

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

Solutions on page 31

*** **



Featured Pet

SPIRIT

Spirit is a very good boy who is a member of Mary- Ellen's family.

Nominate your pet to be a Featured Pet by emailing info@theecho.ca

Word Search

2025 BLUE JAYS PLAYOFF ROSTER

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

BARGER
BIEBER
BRUIHL
CLEMENT
DOMINGUEZ
FISHER
FLUHARTY
GAUSMAN
GIMENEZ
GUERRERO
HEINEMAN
HOFFMAN
KINER FALEFA
KIRK
LAUER
LITTLE
LUKES
NANCE
RODRIGUEZ
SANTANDER
SCHNEIDER
SPRINGER
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QUIZ ANSWERS

1. Venice, Italy
2. The Life of a Show Girl
3. 21 million
4. 535 voting members
5. Michael Curtiz
6. Demeter
7. The mandrill
8. Isla Nublar, Costa Rica
9. Pink
10. Two

SUDOKU

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

ANNIVERSARY

Happy 74TH Anniversary

Bill (Wm) & Margaret Armstrong

October 13, 1951

Love at first sight is easy to understand. It's when two people have been looking at each other for years that it becomes a miracle.

Congratulations!!

Much love, your family and friends.

OBITUARY

DAVID HUBERT DUNN
1936-2025



You will always have a place in my heart cause that's where I keep my valuables.

It is with great sadness that we announce the passing of a lovable man Dave Dunn (aka Dunner, Amo, Beck, Santa Claus). Dunner was born on January 2, 1936 to David & Grace Dunn. He was the loving husband of Marilyn (2024) for 63 years. Cherished Dad of

Lisa (Norm). Adored Papa of Tyneisha (Brandon). Zack (Sarah), Tyson (Krista). Special Papa of Alan, Jace, Jazzlyn (and her Dad Pete), Little John (Mya & Ashton). Gone before him were his sons David and Bill, granddaughter Catashia, grandson Billy, sisters Mary (Clarence), Marge (Norm) and brothers-in-law Don and Gary. Dave leaves behind his two sisters-in-law Carol and Becky (Dick). As well as many cherished nieces, nephews and great nieces and nephews. Also, dear friends and his loving family at The Gardens of Ingersoll. In lieu of flowers donations may be made in Dave's memory to St. Paul's Presbyterian Church or the Gardens of Ingersoll. As per Dunner's wishes there will be no visitation or service. A Celebration of Life will be announced later. Everyone says that their Dad/Papa is the BEST!! Ours truly was!!

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