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Van Parys wins gold at Special Olympics

JEFF HELSDON

Editor

Tillsonburg Special Olympian Jamie VanParys struck gold at the recent Special Olympics.

Held in Medicine Hat, AB, from Aug. 11 to 15, VanParys won an overtime nailbiter to capture the gold medal.

Bocce is a game where a small white ball is thrown in the playing field. Players then throw larger coloured balls – about the size of a softball – trying to get their balls closest to the white ball. Each player uses a different colour for the match. Points are awarded for each ball that is closer to the white ball than the other players.

Prior to competition commencing, players were assessed to divide them into different divisions.

This was done by placing balls at different intervals in the court, competitors throwing balls and then scoring to see who came the closest. VanParys competed in Division 12, which was the third men's division.

The competition was held indoors, which was a change for VanParys as bocce is typically an outdoor sport. Event organizers held the event indoors over concern about hot weather since bocce goes ahead rain or shine, but that was not that the case.

"It was very uncharacteristic," VanParys said of the weather. "Usually its 40° and sunny, but was 15° and rainy."

He was glad it was held indoors and did get some practice in on an indoor surface, both at home and before competition started in Alberta. This was his first competition at home.

CONTINUED TO PAGE 17

Tillsonburg council in lame duck status until after election

JEFF HELSDON

Editor

When nominations for this fall's municipal election closed, Tillsonburg council officially entered lame duck mode.

Lame duck refers to a restriction on the actions a council can take when less than 75 per cent of the current council will be returning after the election.

Lame duck legislation has two phases under the Ontario Municipal Act. The first phase runs from the day nominations close, Aug. 21, to election day, Oct. 26, when the 75 per cent restriction applies. The second phase applies between Oct. 26 and when the new council is sworn in on Nov. 15. Again, if less than 75 per cent of those who are elected were from the previous council, the legislation kicks in.

CONTINUED TO PAGE 2



(JEFF HELSDON PHOTO)

Jamie VanParys shows off the Special Olympics gold medal he won in the Canada Summer Games held last month in Medicine Hat, AB. He won the gold in Division 12 of bocce and a speech he gave as Team Ontario captain was on TSN highlights of the games. Story on left.



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Council restricted on decision making until after the election

CONTINUED FROM FRONT

In Tillsonburg's case this year, with two councillors not returning and only one of the two mayoral candidates currently on council possibly returning, only three of seven positions could be from the previous council.

With council in lame duck status, council cannot remove or appoint, hire or fire, any officer or employee of the municipality. Council also cannot sell any property with a value of more than \$50,000, or make any expenditures or incur a liability with a value exceeding \$50,000.

The exception applies if an item was previously budgeted. For instance, if completing a roads project was approved in the budget and the tenders came in during the lame duck period, council can approve the tender.

With lame duck legislation in play, the CAO makes decisions on restricted matters.

"It is at the discretion of the CAO whether they will choose to make use of the delegate authority," explained Trisha McKibbin, Manager of Legislative Services/

Clerk. "If the CAO chooses not to use the delegated authority, the newly-elected council will make the decision."

Asked if there are upper limits to what a CAO could spend, McKibbin answered, "A CAO always takes the delegated authority seriously and may choose never to use it. There is no upset limit, but consideration will always be given as to whether the expenditure can wait until the new council takes office."



SUMMER FUN

As summer winds down, the Lake Lisgar Waterpark has busy days where sun seekers and water lovers are enjoying the warm, sunny days before these become a thing of the past and school starts again.

(JEFF HELSDON PHOTO)

Summer Send Off Spectacular this weekend

JEFF HELSDON

Editor

Summer will be going out with a bang this year in Tillsonburg.

That bang, which is not figurative, will be followed by others in a fireworks show on Sept. 6 that will be part of the Summer Send Off Spectacular.

The event came about after the fireworks provider for the Canada Day fireworks had an equipment malfunction and couldn't present a full show. The company offered to come back for another show at no charge.

"Why not build on it and make it a larger family event," Julie Dawley, Manager of Recreation Programs and Services, said of the resulting discussion.

The day will start at 5 p.m. in the fairgrounds with karaoke in the Kinsmen bandshell, presented by the Copper Mug. Karaoke will be followed by Chase Beres at 7 p.m., and Kickin' Country at 7:30. The latter will play until the fireworks start.

While the band plays, backyard games will be available for people to join.

"It's a new program, so we're showcasing it," Dawley said.

While cornhole is a well-known backyard game

and will be included, other games such as ladder ball, Kan Jam, Granny Pants and PaddleSmash will also be featured. PaddleSmash is a new backyard game with a pickleball element where players hit the ball over a net. Kan Jam uses flying discs that players try to throw into a can.

Dawley described Granny Pants, saying, "You wear oversized pants, and your partner throws them, and you have to catch them in your pants."

Each participant will be entered into a draw for a prize pack. Dawley encouraged people to look up the games at home so they are ready to participate. Singles are welcome, but Dawley encouraged bringing a partner as the games are played with two people.

Food trucks will be on site throughout the event. Confirmed to attend are: Copper Mug, Suppa Swirls, 911 Charcoal Shawarma, Flour & Whisky Cookie Co., Soda Street, Las Mexicanas Tacos & Burritos, and Candy Clouds.

There is no charge for the event, except for any food purchased.

The public will be advised if plans for the evening change due to weather.

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Tillsonburg *POST*

EDITORIAL

Drive safely this weekend

Although warm temperatures can persist into fall – or with the weather patterns this month, perhaps start again – the Labour Day weekend is traditionally looked at as the end of summer.

After Labour Day students and teachers head back to school, harvest time approaches for many local crops, and retailers transition from back-to-school sales into a more regular routine after summer, which is slower for some businesses. Although it may be summer's last hooray, it's not a time that should be remembered forever as a life-altering, or life-ending, weekend.

While traffic fatalities and collisions are becoming too common, these numbers often increase on long weekends with more traffic on the road, and people tak-

ing part in high-risk driving. In rural areas, this can be augmented by an increase in slow-moving farm machinery on the roads.

Drivers need to keep to the speed limits and, as always, not drive impaired by alcohol or drugs, or be distracted while driving. If approaching slow-moving agriculture vehicles, be considerate, and only pass when it's safe to do so and other drivers, or the farmer, won't be put at risk.

More and more people are commenting that people's driving habits have been on a downward spiral. Passing when it's not safe is becoming more common and the number of inconsiderate drivers is on the increase.

Enjoy the long weekend and drive safely.

Have something to say?
Submit your Letter to the
Editor here:
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Lunar eclipse.

(STACIE EDEN PHOTOS)

One ringy-dingy, two ringy-dingies, a ring tone tale



**WRITER'S
CORNER**

NORMA COLLIS

Tillsonburg Post Columnist

For those of us of a certain age, the phrase “one ringy- dingy... two ringy- dingies,” will invoke memories of a tv comedy show called “Laugh in”.

Lily Tomlin often appeared in a solo skit on the show where she played a telephone operator named Ernestine. She would speak to make-believe customers with a snorting laugh while using her “power” to put through their call, or not put through their call, depending on the mood she was in.

She always began the conversation by putting on her headset and greeting the customer with the phrase “A gracious good morning.” I really think that this polite salutation needs to be reinstated as a greeting to all potential customers, whether online or before beginning in person shopping. On second thought, the fact that Ernestine was neither gracious, nor helpful, would

suggest that this might not be such a good idea after all.

The advent of the cell phone brought an end to such verbal interactions with an operator, when making phone calls in today's world. This advancement has introduced the topic of interesting ringtones on personal cell phones.

My own phone has a very traditional ring tone that could belong to any number of people. Truth be told, if I understood how to use the app, I would most likely have a more creative alert to signal my incoming phone calls.

The song “Mustang Sally” would be my number one choice. If I could have afforded it, my first car purchase, years ago, would have been a 1969 Ford Mustang. I well remember looking at Mustangs, with great longing as they sat in all their splendour on the lot at Stauffer Motors, when they were in downtown Tillsonburg. The salespeople at Stauffers had just visited the Ford factory in Talbotville, and they had all watched as a brand-new model of Ford car rolled off the production line. They persuaded me to settle for a “horse of a different colour” called a Ford Maverick.

The sales pitch included the reassurance that if I were their daughter, this is the car they would want to see her drive away in. This car was much more affordable than a Mustang, but I regretted my choice soon after purchasing it. A cautionary takeaway from this, is that one should never purchase

a vehicle in its first year of production.

Quite coincidentally, when I first met the man who was to become my husband, he was driving a 1969 Ford Mustang. Now I'm not saying that this is what first attracted him to me, but it certainly didn't hurt that he had such excellent taste in automobiles.

I returned to Stauffer Motors years later and finally purchased a brand new, 1984 Ford Mustang. Thanks to a competent financial advisor, our finances were in much better shape, and I was able to buy the car I really wanted without incurring a huge debt.

In later years, this same financial advisor had some interesting ring tones on his cell phone, as cell phones had by then, become one of the most popular ways to communicate.

We were deep into a serious conversation about our investments with him, when an incoming call on his phone announced in a loud voice, “It's the old ball and chain calling.” This message was repeated until he located his phone and quickly informed his wife that he was with clients. Previously, we had met his wife socially, and she is a lovely person. It was hard to imagine her in the “old ball and chain” category. Obviously, a good sense of humour could be added to her list of positive attributes.

During another meeting with the same man, his daughter phoned.

A young voice suddenly chimed out

“Dad! Dad? Dad. Dad! Pick up your phone!!” With an apologetic smile, her dad did pick up the phone and excused himself as he took the call out in a hallway.

I have heard other ringtones sounding like a cartoon with “Boing, boing” sound effects. Then there is the sound of an old-fashioned phone ringing or a doorbell playing what is known as the “Westminster chimes.”

I was standing in line in a coffeeshop when the phone of the man waiting in front of me suddenly began crowing like a very angry rooster. This was an annoying sound and certainly got the attention of a long line of caffeine-deprived customers.

Recently, a friend told me what I consider to be the ultimate ringtone story. A large number of friends and family were gathered at the graveside of a recently departed woman. The minister had just reached the very serious “Ashes to ashes” part of the service when someone's cell phone began to sound, indicating an incoming call.

The rather unfortunate choice of music was a solo piece from a long-ago stage musical called “A Little Night Music.” (music and lyrics by Stephen Sondheim). The song of choice was.....“Send in the Clowns.”

This was one, ill timed, “Ringy Dingy.” Norma Collis is the author of the *Holly Cottage* series, including “*Holly Cottage Goes on Vacation*” which will be released this month.

The tobacco road trip of '66

MUSEUM MUSINGS

KATE BAKOS

Annandale National Historic Site

Most people in Tillsonburg know the story of flue-cured tobacco, and many of us had the pleasure of topping, priming, and making the kiln.

But one little-known story about tobacco in Tillsonburg is that in the summer of 1966, Imperial Tobacco had an idea for an experiment. The experiment called for packing nearly 2,000 plants into the back of a company car, with the seats removed entirely to make room, and driving from Ontario to Prince Edward Island. This is that story, pieced together from a memorandum, two letters, a set of handwritten field notes that have survived for 60 years, and the living memory of the man behind the wheel himself, Dave Streefkerk.

The experiment focused on "black tobacco," also known as dark air-cured tobacco. Unlike the flue-cured tobacco grown around Tillsonburg, which was cured in oil- or gas-fired kilns, black tobacco was air-cured. After harvest, plants were strung in the rafters of a barn and left to dry naturally over the course of a year. The resulting leaf was commonly used for chewing and pipe tobacco and car-



Mr. Dave Streefkerk.

(CONTRIBUTED PHOTO)

ried a fraction of the overhead cost of flue-cured production, since there was no kiln to build, fuel, or maintain, and no cureman to pay.

Those savings were at the heart of Imperial Leaf's interest in the project. A June 8, 1966, typed memorandum outlined the plan in careful detail. The company wanted to know whether PEI farmers, many of whom worked on limited land, might see black tobacco as a practical and profitable crop. The document gave instructions on how to drive to PEI, how to ensure the plants survive, and whom to talk to upon arrival in Prince Edward Island.

Streefkerk and a colleague, Alex Veres, left Ridgetown at 8:30 a.m., reached Montreal by evening, and pushed through the night to Charlottetown, arriving just before the next morning after a two-hour wait for the ferry. They were very efficient with their time. By that afternoon, they had met Keith LeLacheur at the Dominion Experimental Farm, set up the planter, and had the plants in the ground before dark. Roughly half an acre was planted in island soil that June.

What stands out in Streefkerk's account, is not only the efficiency of the operation but also the uncertainty surrounding it. No one knew for certain how many frost-free days the island could offer, how the crop would handle the insects and weather so far from the tobacco belt around Tillsonburg, or whether the cost of shipping the cured leaf back to Ontario would ever make sense. The memorandum was blunt about the stakes: this was strictly a feasibility

test. At that stage, there were no plans to cure tobacco on the island. That decision was left for another day, pending how well the experiment went.

To understand why Imperial Leaf was willing to send two employees and thousands of tobacco plants across Eastern Canada, it helps to look at Tillsonburg in the 1960s. Tobacco was more than a crop; it was woven into the fabric of everyday life. The Tillsonburg News from the era featured front-page stories that tracked the weather and its effect on the crop closely. Advertisements courted tobacco farmers specifically, and the social calendar bent around the growing season.

Against that backdrop, sending a car full of tobacco plants to Prince Edward Island was simply part of the business. It was research and development in one of Canada's most important tobacco-growing regions, driven by a constant search for new opportunities and efficiencies.

The PEI experiment did not result in a boom of black tobacco out East. However, the project remains a fascinating snapshot of one week in June 1966, when Tillsonburg's tobacco expertise took a road trip and briefly took root very far from home.

Do you have family tobacco stories or photographs from the Tillsonburg area? Please share them with us at Annandale National Historic Site. We are always looking to record a new piece of Tillsonburg history.



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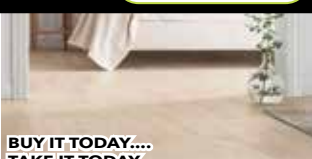
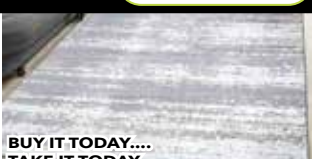
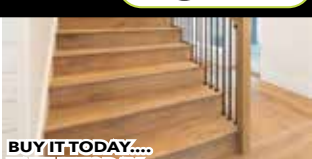
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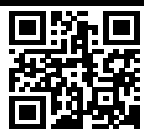
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Craig Gillis acclaimed as mayor of SWOX

JEFF HELSDON

Editor

With the nomination period for this October's municipal election now closed, Ward 4 Councillor Craig Gillis has been acclaimed as mayor of

South-West Oxford (SWOX) Township.

Gillis began working as a herdsman for Wilmarlea Farms Ltd. in Embro after graduating from the University of Guelph in 2002. He moved to Beachville shortly

after and married his wife, Tanya, in 2006. In 2009, he joined the SWOX Fire Department at the Beachville Station. He was elected Beachville Fire Association President in 2011, and Ward 6 councillor in 2018.

When asked why he decided to run for mayor, Gillis said, "Why not?"

"I feel I've learned a lot about the municipal process over the past two terms and I'm capable of taking on a larger role," he added. "I've always enjoyed working with others as a team and hearing about their perspective on things."

There are several projects Gillis wants to see to completion. "Finishing our broadband-Internet project" so that it's available "to every premise in SWOX will be satisfying when completed," he said. "Not just business needs quality Internet service anymore. People working from home, school and education programs, agriculture, and many more need steady Internet connection in today's world."

Gillis is most proud of his work on the Beachville Museum Board. "Getting our museum more noticed and used for community events and engagement within the area has been great to see. A small museum doing big things is a

great mantra they have."

When asked what he thinks the big issues or challenges facing SWOX will be over the next term, he answered, "Financial costs for infrastructure, equipment and projects will have to be looked at more carefully to be sure we are using funds the most efficient way. Also the ever-changing provincial goals and policies, i.e. building and the conservation authorities, will have to be navigated over the next few years."

When asked if there any decisions he has made on council that he regrets, he says there are none. "I feel I've been confident in the choices that I've made in the past."

As of August 21, council is now in a restricted, or lame duck, position. A restricted or lame duck position is a temporary status where an outgoing municipal council loses the power to make major financial, property or staffing decisions.

A lame duck position can occur at two points during a municipal election process: after nomination day on August 21 and before Election Day on October 26 if fewer than 75 per cent of the members of the outgoing council are candidates for the new council and/or if fewer than 75 per cent of the members of



(CONTRIBUTED PHOTO)

Craig Gillis.

the outgoing council are elected to the new council.

It was determined on August 21, that fewer than 75 per cent of the members of the outgoing SWOX council are candidates for the new council.

Council is no longer allowed to appoint or remove any officer of the municipality, hire or dismiss any employee of the municipality, dispose of any real or personal property of the municipality which has a value exceeding \$50,000 at the time of disposal, or make any expenditures or incur any other liability which exceeds \$50,000 until after the election.

Exceptions are allowed if the disposition or liability was

included in the most recent budget adopted by council before August 21.

SWOX council adopted the Delegation of Powers and Duties Policy in May 2026, which provides delegated authority to the Chief Administrative Officer (CAO) to make decisions associated with these provisions should the need arise.

Paul Buchner was also acclaimed as Councillor of Ward 1. Buchner grew up in the Brownsville area and farmed alongside his brother. He also served on the SWOX Fire Service for 20 years and currently serves on the Gay Lea Co-Operative Ltd. Delegate Advisory Board.

All other wards have more than one candidate running.

Jennifer Young and Pete Ypma are running for councillor of Ward 2, George Klosler and Mike West for Ward 3, John De Bruyn and Isaiah Friend for Ward 4, Aaron Lonsberry and Perry Wall for Ward 5, and Tanya Gillis and Dave Mitchell for Ward 6.

The township approved new ward boundaries last July, which will impact the upcoming election. These boundaries changes will take effect on the day the new council is organized after voting day on Oct. 26.



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Kim Sage aims for councillor position

JEFF HELSDON

Editor

A local restaurant co-owner is hoping to capture one of six seats on Tillsonburg council.

Kim Sage was born and raised on a tobacco farm outside of Tillsonburg, but always considered it “our town”. She attended Glendale High School, went to London for college and then moved back to Tillsonburg, where she raised her family.

Sage has been active in numerous groups over the years, including Tillsonburg Minor Soccer, Tillsonburg Minor Baseball, Ladies Slo-Pitch, Big Brothers and Sisters, Victim’s Assistance Program, Parks & Rec Committee, Annandale PTA, and Tillsonburg Turtlefest. As a co-owner of the Copper Mug, she has continued to support many local causes.

“We like to stay connected to the community and local organizations through our business,” she said.

She filed her nomination papers on Aug. 17. Asked why she decided to run for council, Sage answered, “To give back to the community and be a voice.”

Over the next four years she sees the challenges facing the town to be the town’s growth, infrastructure, displaced



Kim Sage. (CONTRIBUTED PHOTO)

persons, mental health, doctor shortages, and affordable housing.

She has been reviewing the minutes online to follow what has been happening with council.

Molnar to run for councillor position

JEFF HELSDON

Editor

A former Tillsonburg mayor is hoping to win a seat on council in the coming term as a councillor.

Stephen Molnar said he decided not to run for mayor and instead run for a council seat.

“After full consideration to not run for a fifth term as mayor, I began deliberating with family and supporters how best I could continue to serve my community,” he said, mentioning his wife Colleen in particular. “I want to ensure the sustainable relationships I have developed at the local, regional and provincial level are a shared foundation to ensure future opportunities for Tillsonburg.”

Molnar has six years of experience as a municipal councillor and 15 as mayor. During his 15 years as mayor, he sat on Oxford County Council and served as deputy warden for a period. He was the minister appointee to the Southwestern Ontario Master Transportation Plan (2020-2022) and a founding member of SCOR (South Central Ontario Region Economic Development Corporation).

The 67-year-old life-long resident of Tillsonburg said he inherited his community activism focus from his parents. Molnar is a graduate of Wilfrid Laurier’s School of Business and Economics. He is a member of the Kinsmen Club of Tillsonburg, the current provincial appointee to the Board of Directors (OCP – Ontario College of Pharmacists



Stephen Molnar. (CONTRIBUTED PHOTO)

and SWPH – Southwest Public Health), and a member of the Rural Roads Health Services board.

If elected, he would share his experience that has “historically built an environment of trust and respect that will positively engage community members and external partners.”

Although Molnar hasn’t been on council for four years, he has stayed engaged in the community and has followed council meetings through online broadcasts and community forums. He has continued to answer questions from residents, current council members and provincial ministers.

In the coming four years, Molnar wants to see sustainable, balanced community growth supported by viable and responsible infrastructure investments. He also believes responsible fiscal management is important.

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Open Arms Free Methodist Church to close

DOUG DAWSON

Post Contributor

On Sept. 6, Open Arms Free Methodist Church will hold its final service after 143 years in the community.

Located at 44 Tillson Ave., the church congregation faced a number of challeng-

es the past couple of years. Amongst these are: an aging building needing updates, an aging congregation, a long-term injury to the church pianist, the death of the interim pastor and the failing health of some key leaders.

After much prayer, the congregation voted unani-

mously to close Open Arms Free Methodist church with the final service taking place on Sunday, Sept. 6 at 10:30 a.m.

Rev. Doug Dawson, who pastored the church from 1994-2002, and Rev. Adrian Collins, representing the Free Methodist denomination will be leading the service. A luncheon will be provided following the service. All are welcome to attend.

The Tillsonburg Free Methodist congregation's story began in 1876 when Rev. C.H. Sage, a traveling Free Methodist minister from Michigan, was appointed to plant churches in Canada. He arrived in this area, and stayed with the family of Peter Wills.

Sage held a number of services in the Tillsonburg area. Eventually, a small congregation formed and services were held in the Tillsonburg Town Hall. Wood for the pews was provided by E.D. Tillson.

In 1883, a church was built on donated land near Rosanna, just to the east of Tillsonburg. The church was named Ebenezer, a Biblical term meaning "Thus far has God provided".

In 1942, the congregation purchased land at 44 Tillson Ave. The foundation of the



(CONTRIBUTED PHOTO)

church was laid in October of that year, and the building finished in April 1943. The name was changed to The Tillsonburg Free Methodist Church. In 1973/1974, an addition was added to accommodate a growing congregation. Around 2006, the name was changed to Open Arms to better reflect the church's involvement in the community.

The congregation has been involved in Tillsonburg in many practical ways. They provided Vacation Bible Schools in the summer, and located them in parks around the community where chil-

dren could come for free. They started Brazos Abiertos (open arms in Spanish) to minister to Mexican migrant workers in the area. Each year, from June through October, they would rent a location downtown on Broadway and open the doors to provide food, clothing, fellowship and the gospel to Spanish-speaking people in their own language. This led to a Spanish-speaking congregation using the church building for many years. Many great and lasting friendships were made. The congregation also started "The Comfort Zone" drop in

center, which was located on the south end of Broadway. Many lives were changed through that ministry.

Over the last two years, the congregation took up the challenge to help a young widow in the Dominican Republic. Her husband died in a tragic accident at their home. They had just had their first child, a little girl. The 22-year-old widow wanted to finish her education and go to university, but she did not have the financial resources. Open Arms covered her university, travel and living costs for two years and just this summer she graduated.

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Four summer concerts perfect for the whole family



BEN ADDRESS

Tillsonburg Post Columnist

MUSIC CORNER

Summer in Southwestern Ontario has no shortage of fun outings especially if you have kids. This year we decided to take the family to four different events throughout July and August where live music was a main focus. From free Canada Day celebrations to the Tillsonburg Fair, we made sure to make the most out of our day.

Each event was different with some being easy on the wallet, while some definitely were not. It was also a nice reminder that when you have kids the weather can sometimes be the biggest factor in whether an event is a success.

Canada Day @ Southside Park – Woodstock - July 1

We kicked off the summer with Woodstock's Canada Day celebration. This one was hard to beat. The biggest draw for me was obviously the music. Canadian rock icon Kim Mitchell took the stage for a set featuring some of the

songs that have made him a household name, including Go For Soda, Rock N Roll Duty and Patio Lanterns. A storm fried the keyboards earlier in the day and the band ended up playing as a trio. It sounded as huge as ever.

Our kids did not think Kim Mitchell was necessarily the main attraction. There were plenty of activities to keep them busy, including bouncy castles and rock climbing. They were able to burn off some energy while we waited for the evening entertainment.

The night was topped off with a fantastic fireworks show. The kids had a great evening and we parents loved the fact that the entire event was free. Between food, gas and everything else that comes with taking four kids anywhere finding something the whole family can enjoy without an admission fee is a win.

Family rating: 9/10

Festival of Friends @ Gage Park – Hamilton – Aug. 2

Next up was Hamilton's Festival of Friends, which promised to be one of the musical highlights of the summer. The Sunday finale featured an impressive lineup, including Chantal Kreviazuk, Maestro Fresh Wes, Brad Roberts of Crash Test Dummies, Dan Hill, Andy Kim, and Ashley MacIsaac. The performers joined Blackie and the Rodeo Kings for an evening of songs inspired by The Band's The Last Waltz.

On paper, it was an incredible night of Canadian music featuring hit after hit. Unfortunately, Mother Nature had other plans with

rain delaying the show and shutting down many of the children's activities. The kids were wet, cold and pretty miserable, which as any parent knows can turn a potentially great family outing into a countdown until it is time to go home. This is not a knock on the amazing Festival of Friends itself. Sometimes you simply lose the weather lottery.

For the adults, the lineup was fantastic. For the kids, standing around in the rain was not exactly the summer adventure they had signed up for.

Family rating: 5/10 (mostly because of the weather)

Tillsonburg Fair Aug. 14

We could not spend the summer without making a stop at our own Tillsonburg Fair. Friday night had some great local music happening at The Copper Mug's beer tent with local bands Ian BW, Trevor Kostyria and the Half Smokes taking the stage.

All three acts put on fantastic sets and it was a great reminder that you don't have to travel far to find good live music. Kostyria was the perfect segue between two loud bands with his heartfelt storytelling and songs.

Once again for the kids there was more to the fair than just the music. There was the petting zoo, the rides and all the usual fair attractions. The kids had ride tickets until they decided that they were done.

There was a small entrance fee to get into the fair, and once you are inside the rides and food can turn a relatively inexpensive night

into a fairly pricey one. Was it the cheapest night of the summer? Definitely not. Did the kids have a blast? Absolutely. Between the animals, rides and live music there was something for everyone in the family.

Family rating: 8/10

Cowapolooza @ Southside Park - Woodstock – Aug. 15

The following day we headed back to Woodstock for Cowapolooza. The price was right, which was free. That is a pretty good starting point for any family event. There was plenty happening throughout the day and, as always, the bouncy castles were a hit with the kids.

The big musical draw was Finger Eleven, who closed out the night with a set filled with hits and sing-a-long anthems.

Events like Cowapolooza are a great example of how communities can put together a full day of entertainment without making families spend a fortune just to walk through the gates. The kids had things to do and there was music for the adults that the kids also seemed to enjoy.

Family rating: 9/10

The verdict is that all four of these events were awesome and will be on 2027's summer list of events to hit up. We figured out that it is not always about seeing the biggest band or finding the cheapest ticket. It was more about getting the family out of the house and experiencing something together.

UPCOMING SHOWS

SEPT. 7 - FOUR T STRINGS
Tillsonburg Legion #153: \$15 – 12 p.m.

SEPT. 9 - EUCHRE NIGHT
The Copper Mug: 5:30 p.m.

SEPT. 18 - JUSTINE CHANTALE, KAREN EMENY, NICK ROSS & CHASE BERES
Paddy's Underground
\$10 adv./ \$15 drs – 8 p.m. – 19-plus

SEPT. 18 - COMEDY & HYPNOTIST SHOW W/ FRASER FRASE
The Copper Mug
\$15 – 8 p.m.

SEPT. 19 - KARAOKE NIGHT
The Copper Mug
No Cover - 8:30 p.m.

SEPT. 24 - COTY ROBINSON
The Copper Mug
Free Entry – 8 p.m.

SEPT. 26 - DOGHOUSE ROSE W/ THE LEXINGTON CURE
Paddy's Underground
\$15 – 8 p.m. – 19-plus

OCT. 16 - GHOST TOWN CITIZEN
THE COPPER MUG
FREE ENTRY - 8:30 P.M.

OCT. 17 - SIX2S W/ NOTHING SHOCKING & THE HEADCASES
Paddy's Underground
\$10 – 8 p.m. – 19-plus

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



TOWNSHIP OF NORWICH NEWS

Gear acclaimed, two-person races for remaining Norwich council seats

LUKE EDWARDS

Post Contributor

There will be a choice for voters to make for all but one council seat in Norwich this fall.

Incumbent Shawn Gear was the only candidate to submit papers to run in Ward 3 for the Oct. 26 municipal elections. As a result, he's been acclaimed and will represent the ward for the next four-year term.

The remaining seats will have a race, though each will be a contest between only two people.

All incumbents are seeking re-election, though one councillor has his eyes on the mayor's seat and a second will be running in a new ward. For mayor, incumbent Jim Palmer is running for

another term. He'll be going up against Adrian Couwenberg, the current councillor for Ward 4.

Ward 1 will see a new representative, as incumbent Karl Toews is running for the Ward 4 seat, leaving voters to decide between Marius Kerkhoff and Roy King.

In Ward 2, Lynne DePlancke is asking voters to give her another mandate, with Tim Thompson looking to unseat the incumbent.

And in Ward 4, Toews will be going up against Lacey Hird.

Advanced voting in Norwich opens on Oct. 17 at the Norwich Community Centre. Election day is Oct. 26 and the new term begins on Nov. 17.

For more details on the Norwich election, visit elections.norwich.ca.

Traffic complaint leads to impaired charge

An individual from Burgessville is facing impaired driving related charges following a traffic complaint.

On August 26, at approximately 8 p.m., the Oxford Ontario Provincial Police (OPP) Detachment were dispatched to multiple reports of a possible impaired driver, on Highway 59 in the Township of Norwich. Officers patrolled and subsequently located the vehicle.

Jacob Neels, 30-years-old, of Burgessville, has been charged with:

- Operation while Impaired - Blood alcohol concentration (80 plus)
- Operation while Impaired - Alcohol
- Dangerous Operation
- Novice driver - B.A.C. above Zero
- A 90-day Administrative Driver's

License Suspension (ADLS) and a seven-day vehicle impoundment was initiated as per statute.

The accused was released from custody and is scheduled to appear before the Ontario Court of Justice in Woodstock on Oct. 13.

The OPP is committed to safety for all who utilize Ontario's roadways. Members of the public are urged to report Impaired Driving by calling 911 in emergency situations. Complaints of impaired, aggressive, or careless driving can also be made by calling 1-888-310-1122.

For more information on the consequences of drinking and driving, check out:

<http://www.mto.gov.on.ca/english/safety/impaired-driving.shtml>

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SEPTEMBER IS WORLD SUICIDE PREVENTION MONTH

Changing the Narrative on Suicide

Finding your way through grief and navigating complex emotions with the loss of a loved one

ROBIN KRAFFT

Post Correspondent

If you have experienced the loss of a loved one, the grieving process can be overwhelming, leaving you feeling a range of complex emotions, but you don't have to go through it alone.

Losing someone to any sudden and unexpected circumstance, including suicide, can be shocking, painful and confusing. A prolonged illness or decline can be just as challenging, in different ways. Regardless of the causes, any life-altering loss can have a profound effect, and, according to VON, "learning how to grieve in a healthy way can protect your physical, mental and emotional health."

The Oxford VON offers a variety of Bereavement Care options in Tillsonburg, free of charge. There are programs for death loss (Journey Through Grief) as well as any profound loss (Self Compassion).

Jessica Swance, Supportive Care Coordinator – Grief and Bereavement Pro-

grams, added that VON also offers one-to-one peer support. Volunteers have specific grief support training and have had their own experiences of loss.

"As more volunteers come on board, we will be able to open up more programs such as a drop-in coffee and chat style group called 'Cups of Care' for all types of grief, and hopefully walking groups in the spring," Swance said.

Programs for kids and teens who have experienced death-related loss are also available. All programs are open and welcoming spaces.

"Delivered through a trauma-informed approach, programs provide an inclusive and respectful environment for people of all genders, spiritual or religious beliefs, sexual orientations, and physical abilities," Swance said. "Each program includes a blend of grief education, reflection, and practical coping strategies, while also creating opportunities for meaningful connection, shared experiences, and emotional expression."

The Journey Through Grief program is

held in the lower level of Tillsonburg Hospital in the VON space.

"Every loss is unique, and the supportive spaces offered are welcoming and non-judgmental for all types of grief, including losses related to suicide and MAID," Swance said. "These deaths can carry stigma, and often bring questions, emotions, and challenges that may feel difficult to navigate alone. Participants are invited to share as much or as little as they feel comfortable, knowing they will be met with empathy, respect, and understanding."

VON also offers educational seminars and guest speakers throughout the year on a variety of topics such as grief, loss, caregiving, and wellness.

"There is no 'right' way to grieve, nor is there a timeline for grief," Swance said. "The group and individual supports offered through VON provide opportunities to learn about grief, dismantle assumptions, develop coping strategies, connect with others, and better understand the many ways loss can affect our lives."

Jessica can be contacted at VON Oxford directly to learn more about the programs available, or to volunteer at jessica.swance@von.ca or 519-539-1231 ext. 6200.

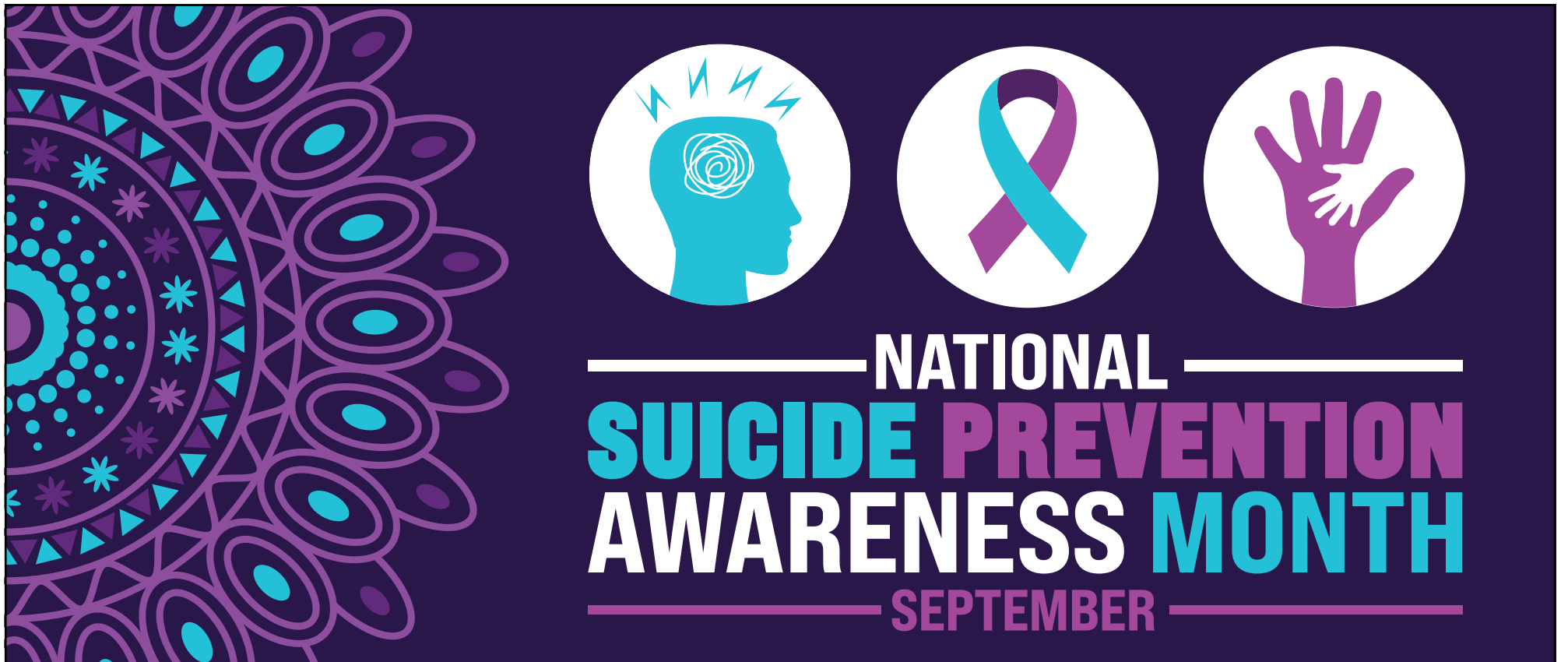
Several area churches will also be offering grief groups: a 13-week program called GriefShare, supporting participants as they recover from the loss of a loved one.

Sessions begin at St Andrew's Presbyterian Church at 46 Brock Street on Sept. 16. The sessions will take place on Wednesday evenings from 7 to 9 p.m. with experienced co-facilitators Kathy Yarosloski and Joyce David. (Call 519-317-0583 to register).

"Participants may have no Christian background," Yarosloski said. "You can have any faith or no faith."

"It's based on biblical principles, but that doesn't mean it's not for the wider community," David agreed. "People are welcome to just sit and listen. If the faith aspect isn't right for them (or if accessibility is an issue), we can meet with them one-on-one."

CONTINUED TO PAGE 12



The graphic features a dark purple background with a large, intricate mandala on the left side. In the center, there are three circular icons: a blue silhouette of a head with a brain and lightning bolts, a purple and blue ribbon, and a purple hand with a white heart. Below these icons, the text reads:

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SEPTEMBER IS WORLD SUICIDE PREVENTION MONTH

Changing the Narrative on Suicide

Finding your way through grief and navigating complex emotions with the loss of a loved one

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 11

Joyce David has conducted grief circles with the VON and has a background in communication disorders. Both facilitators have had personal experience with loss and grief.

"Having been through it yourself, you relate differently," Yarosloski said.

"We start meetings by watching a video, in which several grief professionals share their expertise, then people can share, and then there's a workbook that we go through," David said.

Sharing isn't compulsory, but in this caring and accepting environment, participants often feel safe and comfortable enough to open up as the program progresses.

"This is tried and tested material," David said. "Our main goal is to be open and welcoming to the community."

Bethel Pentecostal Church at 269 Quar-

ter Town Line will also be offering the GriefShare program beginning on Sept. 17, on Thursday evenings from 7 to 9 p.m. (Call 519-842-9401 to register).

Volunteer Administrator Terry Williams agreed that although GriefShare is a trademarked, faith-based program, that shouldn't be a deterrent to anyone.

"It's a program that gives people hope," Williams said. "That what they're going through is normal; brain fog, physical issues, this is all perfectly normal. The first thing we deal with is self-care. You need to look after yourself first."

The program provides people with valuable tools for how to go on.

"There is healing," Williams said. "Some people come in and they're one foot in front of the other, but they're actually helping others by the end of the 13 weeks."

Williams added that it's a safe, non-judge-

mental space. For people dealing with loss of a loved one to suicide or MAID, this is an accepting and supportive environment.

Facilitator Jon Fekete initially attended the program as part of his own healing journey but found a new calling as he developed an interest in helping people with their mental health.

"This is for people of all backgrounds, all demographics," Fekete said. "You can be real, be honest, be raw if you need to be, and we just journey together. We create an environment where people feel safe."

The Salvation Army Church will also be offering the program. Major Denise Walker explained that people can register for any of the GriefShare programs online at www.griefshare.org/findagroup.

"I recently offered a Grief Support group - 'GriefShare' - a 13-week grief recovery support group covering everything from

sadness, fear, anger, and regret to how grief affects relationships with loved ones and friends," Walker said. "And we address questions many people have for God. The program is pastoral in nature - providing a safe place for people to sort through their grief experience, but it is open to anyone. I'm offering the next session beginning Sept. 12, 2026."

The sessions will take place at The Salvation Army Church, 110 Concession St. W., on Saturday mornings from 10 to 11:30 a.m. (call 519-842-3231 to register).

"I think the best part of the program is hearing the stories and experiences of others and realizing that while your own grief journey is unique to you, we all experience many of the same things," Walker said. "It's very healing to be able to talk about what you're feeling, knowing you're not alone - there are others who get it."



"HOPE" IS THE THING WITH FEATHERS

"Hope" is the thing with feathers
That perches in the soul,
And sings the tune without the words,
And never stops at all—

— Emily Dickinson

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SEPTEMBER IS WORLD SUICIDE PREVENTION MONTH

Changing the Narrative on Suicide

CMHA is front line on suicide prevention

CANADIAN MENTAL HEALTH ASSOCIATION

cmha.ca

Sept. 10 is World Suicide Prevention Day.

To help raise awareness, the Tillsonburg Post is sharing information from a Canadian Mental Health Association 'Preventing Suicide' brochure.

Suicide is a difficult topic to bring up. However, when someone talks about suicide or brings up concern for a loved one, it's important to take action and seek help quickly.

WHAT IS SUICIDE?

Suicide means that someone ends their life on purpose. However, people who die by suicide or attempt suicide may not really want to end their life. Suicide may seem like the only way to deal with difficult feelings or situations.

WHO DOES IT AFFECT?

About 4,000 Canadians die by suicide every year. Suicide is the second-most common cause of death among young people, but men in their 40s and 50s have the highest rate of suicide. While women are three to four times more likely to attempt suicide than men, men are three times more likely to die by suicide than women.

Suicide is a complicated issue. People who die by suicide or attempt suicide usually feel overwhelmed, hopeless, helpless, desperate, and alone. In some rare cases, people who experience psychosis (losing touch with reality) may hear voices that tell them to end their life.

Many different situations and experiences can lead someone to consider suicide. Known risk factors for suicide include:

- A previous suicide attempt.
- Family history of suicidal behaviour.
- A serious physical or mental illness.
- Problems with drugs or alcohol.
- A major loss, such as the death of a loved one, unemployment, or divorce.
- Major life changes or transitions, like those experienced by teenagers and seniors.
- Social isolation or lack of a support network.
- Family violence.
- Access to the means of suicide.

While we often think of suicide in relation to depression, anxiety, and substance use problems, any mental illness may increase the risk of suicide. It is also important to remember that suicide may not be related to any mental illness.

WARNING SIGNS?

Major warning signs include:

Ideation: thinking about suicide.

Substance use: problems with drugs or alcohol.

Purposelessness: feeling like there is no purpose in life or reason for living.

Anxiety: feeling intense anxiety or feeling overwhelmed and unable to cope.

Trapped: feeling trapped or feeling like there is no way out of a situation.

Hopelessness or Helplessness: feeling no hope for the future, feeling like things will never get better.

Withdrawal: avoiding family, friends, or activities.

Anger: feeling unreasonable anger.

Recklessness: engaging in risky or harmful activities normally avoided.

Mood change: a significant change in mood.

HOW CAN I REDUCE RISK?

Though not all suicides can be prevented, some strategies can help reduce the risk. All of these factors are linked to well-being. These strategies include:

- Seeking treatment, care and support for mental health concerns - and building a good relationship with a doctor or other health professionals.
- Building social support networks, such as family, friends, a peer support or support group, or connections with a cultural or faith community.
- Learning good coping skills to deal with problems, and trusting in coping abilities.

When a person receives treatment for a mental illness, it can still take time for thoughts of suicide to become manageable and stop. Good treatment is very important, but it may not immediately eliminate the risk of suicide. It is important to stay connected with a care team, monitor for thoughts of suicide, and seek extra help if needed. Community-based programs that help people manage stress or other daily challenges can also be very helpful.

THOUGHTS OF SUICIDE?

Thoughts of suicide are distressing. It's important to talk about your experiences with your doctor, mental health care team, or any other person you trust. They can help you learn skills to cope and connect you to useful groups or resources. Some people find it helpful to schedule frequent appointments with care providers or request phone support.

Other things that you can do include:

- Calling a crisis telephone support line.
- Connecting with family, friends, or a support group. It can be helpful to talk with others who have experienced thoughts of suicide to learn about their coping strategies.

If you are in crisis and are not sure what to do, you can always call 9-1-1 or

go to your local emergency room.

Some people find a safety plan useful. A safety plan is a list of personal strategies to use if you think you are at risk of hurting or ending your life. You can create a plan on your own, with a loved one, or with your mental health care team.

Your plan may include:

- Activities that calm you or take your mind off your thoughts.
- Your own reasons for living.
- Key people to call if you're worried about your safety.
- Phone numbers for local crisis or suicide prevention help-lines.
- A list of safe places to go if you don't feel safe at home.

HOW CAN I HELP?

If you are concerned about someone else, talk with them. Ask them directly if they are thinking about suicide. Talking about suicide won't give them the idea. If someone is seriously considering suicide, they may be relieved that they can talk about it.

If someone you love says that they're thinking about ending their life, it's im-

portant to ask them if they have a plan. If they have a plan and intend to end their life soon, connect with crisis services or supports right away. Many areas have a crisis, distress, or suicide helpline, but you can always call 9-1-1 if you don't know who to call. Stay with your loved one while you make the call, and don't leave until the crisis line or emergency responders say you can leave.

The two most important things you can do are listen and help them connect with mental health services.

LISTENING

Here are tips for talking with a loved one:

- Find a private place and let your loved one take as much time as they need.
- Take your loved one seriously and listen without judgement - their feelings are very real.
- Keep your word - don't make promises you can't keep or don't intend to keep.
- Tell your loved one that they are important and that you care about them.

CONTINUED TO PAGE 14

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SEPTEMBER IS WORLD SUICIDE PREVENTION MONTH

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CONTINUED FROM PAGE 13

SUPPORTS

If your loved one already sees a doctor or other mental health service provider, it is important they tell their service provider about any thoughts of suicide they may have been having. Depending on your relationship, you can offer to help - by helping your loved one schedule appointments or by taking them to their appointments,

for example.

If your loved one does not see a mental health service provider, you can give them the phone number for a local crisis line and encourage them to see their doctor. Your loved one may also be able to access services through their school, workplace, cultural or faith community.

Supporting a loved one can be a difficult experience for anyone, so it is important

to take care of your own mental health during this time and seek support if you need it.

DO YOU NEED MORE?

Contact a community organization like the Canadian Mental Health Association to learn more about support and resources in your area. Find your local CMHA at [cmha.ca/find-help/find-cmha-in-your-ar-](http://cmha.ca/find-help/find-cmha-in-your-area/)

ea/

CMHA provides advocacy and resources that help to prevent mental health problems and illnesses, support recovery and resilience, and enable all Canadians to flourish and thrive.

CMHA's website is cmha.ca

For the complete CMHA preventing suicide brochure see cmha.ca/brochure/preventing-suicide/

Breaking the silence: Agriculture Wellness Ontario works to prevent suicide in farming communities

GALEN SIMMONS

Post Contributor

For farmers, the pressures of work and home are often impossible to separate.

Weather, commodity prices, livestock health and finances can all weigh heavily on a farm family, while long hours and geographic isolation can make it difficult to connect with others or seek help when those pressures become overwhelming.

Agriculture Wellness Ontario (AgWO) is working to change that by providing mental-health education, counselling and community support designed specifically for Ontario's agricultural community.

"Our programs and services are not only ag-informed, they've been co-constructed with actual farmers and industry partners to ensure that we're actually providing mental-health education and support that is accessible, relevant and applicable to those who we are aiming to serve," said Avery Dixon, program outreach coordinator for AgWO's Guardian Network.

That agricultural focus is particularly important when it comes to suicide prevention.

Dixon said research shows farmers are twice as likely as the general, non-farming population to experience suicidal thoughts or die by suicide. At the same time, stigma can prevent peo-

ple from acknowledging they are struggling or asking for help.

According to Dixon, the 2021 National Survey of Farmer Mental Health out of the University of Guelph found 40 per cent of Canadian farmers and producers would not be comfortable seeking professional help, largely because of concerns about judgement from others.

"I think there's often this perception in farming that your worth as a person is tied to the productivity of your farm," Dixon said. "So, it's a really vulnerable thing to say to someone, 'Hey, I'm not doing well. I'm struggling to keep up with chores, I'm struggling financially, I'm going through family difficulties,' whatever that situation might be."

Instead of inviting others in, Dixon said farmers may keep those struggles to themselves, compounding feelings of isolation and burdensomeness.

Through the Guardian Network, AgWO is attempting to build supports directly into agricultural communities. More than 500 Guardians have been trained across Ontario through a full-day, farmer-focused suicide-prevention program.

Those volunteers learn to recognize signs someone may be struggling, start difficult conversations and encourage that person to seek professional support.

"Guardians are the bridge between a farmer or an ag community member who is struggling and professional sup-

port," Dixon said.

One place that bridge can lead is AgWO's Farmer Wellness Initiative, which provides farmers, farm workers and their families - including international agricultural workers living in Ontario - with free, unlimited counselling 24 hours a day, seven days a week, 365 days a year.

Counselling is available in English, French and Spanish by phone, virtually and, when available, in person. The professionals providing the service receive specialized training to understand the pressures and realities of agriculture.

That means a farmer doesn't necessarily have to sacrifice several hours during a busy planting or harvest season to travel to and from an appointment.

"It's about meeting farmers where they're at," Dixon said. "Most farmers don't have that potentially up to two hours a day to drive to an appointment, attend the appointment and drive back. So, calling from your tractor can make all the difference in the world for some people."

AgWO also offers education through In the Know, a four-hour mental-health literacy workshop developed specifically for agriculture, and shorter Growth Workshops covering subjects including mental health and agriculture, preparing for uncertainty and navigating stress.

While those programs can give farm-

ers tools to look after their own mental health, Dixon said education can also prepare neighbours, friends, relatives and other members of agricultural communities to recognize when somebody else needs support.

"If you notice a community member doesn't seem like themselves for whatever reason, don't shy away from having those hard conversations," Dixon said. "For a lot of people, it can be life-saving."

Sometimes that support can be as simple as checking in or stopping by to lend a hand with chores.

For AgWO, breaking down stigma means making conversations about mental health as acceptable in agriculture as conversations about weather, crops, livestock or equipment.

"Normalizing that experiencing a mental-health concern doesn't make you weak, it doesn't make you a bad farmer, and teaching people what supports are available to them is so important," Dixon said. "The better we get at understanding, as a community, mental health, having candid, open conversations about it and recognizing when someone needs support, I think the healthier and more prosperous our industry will become as a whole."

More information on AgWO, its Farmer Wellness Initiative and upcoming workshops is available through the organization's website.



***This Suicide Prevention Month,
take time to check in with
the people around you.
Check In. Listen. Stay Connected.***



**127 Simcoe St, Tillsonburg
519-842-5230**

SEPTEMBER SUICIDE PREVENTION AWARENESS MONTH

SUICIDE PREVENTION & CRISIS RESOURCES

LOCAL RESOURCES

- **Reach Out Crisis Line (Oxford County / Thames Valley):** Call or text 519-433-2023 or toll-free 1-866-933-2023.
Available 24/7 for anyone experiencing a mental health or additions crisis, thoughts of suicide, or emotional distress.
- **CMHA Thames Valley - Tillsonburg Regional Centre:** Located at 41 Broadway St, Tillsonburg, ON.
Offers free crisis and access services, case management, and scheduled Single-Session Talk-In Counselling. To book appointments, call 519-539-8055 ext. 7210 or toll-free 1-855-855-2642 ext. 7210.
- **Wellkin Child & Youth Mental Wellness (Oxford County):** Call 519-539-0463 or toll-free 1-877-539-0463.
Provides urgent and crisis assistance for children and youth up to age 18 during regular business hours (Mon-Fri 8:30 AM - 4:30 PM). (After hours, youth are supported by the 24/7 Reach Out line).
- **Domestic Abuse Services Oxford (DASO):** Call the 24/7 Crisis/Help Line at 519-539-4811 or toll-free 1-800-265-1938.
Provides immediate safety planning, emergency shelter, and outreach support for those facing domestic abuse or sexual assault in Oxford County.

NATIONAL 24/7 CRISIS SUPPORT

- **9-8-8 Suicide Crisis Helpline:** Call or text 9-8-8.
Free, confidential, 24/7 bilingual (English/French) support available anywhere across Canada for anyone thinking of suicide or worried about someone else.
- **Hope for Wellness Help Line:** Call 1-855-242-3310 or text/chat online at hopeforwellness.ca.
Offers 24/7 immediate, culturally competent counseling and crisis intervention for all Indigenous Peoples across Canada.
- **Kids Help Phone:** Call 1-800-668-6868 or text CONNECT to 686868.
Free, private, 24/7 support for children, youth, and young adults.
- **Talk Suicide Canada:** Call toll-free 1-833-456-4566 for 24/7 phone support.
- **Emergency Services:** Call 9-1-1 or immediately go to the nearest hospital Emergency Room if you or someone else is in immediate danger of self-harm.

ADDITIONAL PROVINCIAL & COMMUNITY SUPPORTS

- **ConnexOntario:** Call 1-866-531-2600 or visit connexontario.ca.
Free, confidential health services information for individuals experiencing problems with mental health, alcohol, drugs, or gambling. Available 24/7.
- **Good2Talk:** Call 1-866-925-5454 or text GOOD2TALKON to 686868.
Ontario's 24/7 helpline dedicated to post-secondary students.
- **BounceBack Ontario:** Visit bouncebackontario.ca.
A free, guided cognitive-behavioural self-help program managed by CMHA to help youth (15+) and adults manage mild-to-moderate anxiety or depression.
- **2-1-1 Ontario:** Dial 2-1-1 from any phone.
A comprehensive social and community services directory that connects callers with local financial, housing, or mental health resources.

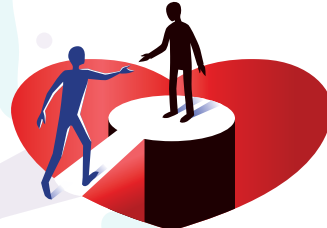
Let's Be There for One Another
September Is Suicide Prevention Month



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Mon: Closed



This September, we stand together for suicide prevention and mental health awareness.



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COMMUNITY UPDATE

Notices

2026 Municipal Election: Make Your Voice Heard

The Town of Tillsonburg Municipal Election is taking place this October. Voting will be available online and by telephone from October 13 to October 26, 2026, making it easier than ever for eligible voters to participate from home.

Whether you're voting for the first time or have participated in previous elections, now is a great time to learn about the election process and prepare to vote.

Learn more at www.tillsonburg.ca/election.

Sportsfield Project Public Information Centre | Review Concepts and Share Your Feedback

The Town of Tillsonburg invites residents to attend the final Public Information Centre (PIC) for the Sportsfield Project.

Review concept plans for the Annandale Ball Diamonds and Mall Road sites, ask questions, and share your feedback to help inform future planning.

Learn more at www.tillsonburg.ca/SportsfieldProject.

Date: Wednesday, September 9, 2026

Time: 4:30 PM – 6:30 PM

Location: Lion's Den, Tillsonburg Community Centre



Bid Opportunities

RFP 2026-011 - Library Lane Covered Walkway Decommissioning And Stormwater Management Improvements

Submission Deadline: Sept 1, 2026 at 2:00 PM

RFT 2026-005 - Asphalt Maintenance

Submission Deadline: Sept 14, 2026 at 2:00 PM

Visit tillsonburg.bidsandtenders.ca.

Get your Grove on!

Don't miss the amazing performances by Chase Beres and Kickin' Kountry at the Summer Send-Off Spectacular, sponsored by The Copper Mug!

Join us Sunday, September 6, at Memorial Park for an evening of family-friendly fun as we celebrate another great summer together as a community.

Enjoy food trucks, family karaoke, Backyard Games, live performances, and a spectacular fireworks display.

Activities begin at 5:00 P.M., with fireworks starting at dusk. We hope to see you there!

For more information visit: <https://www.facebook.com/share/1BoESTBVQ6/>



Active Living & Learning Opportunities

Make a Splash this Fall!

Artistic Swimming (Ages 8-13)

Dive into a fun combination of swimming, dance, and gymnastics! Participants will learn synchronized routines, build confidence in the water, and showcase their skills in a special water performance for family and friends at the end of the session. A free "Come & Try" class is available on September 17 (registration required).

Junior Lifeguard Club (Ages 8-15)

Interested in what it takes to be a lifeguard? This exciting program introduces youth to lifesaving skills, aquatic challenges, and teamwork through hands-on activities alongside qualified lifeguards. It's the perfect way to explore future opportunities in aquatics while having fun in the pool.

Lifesaving Sport - Level 1 (Ages 8-15)

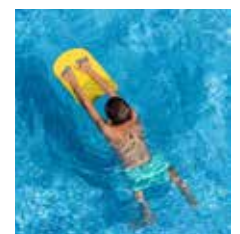
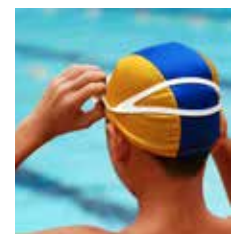
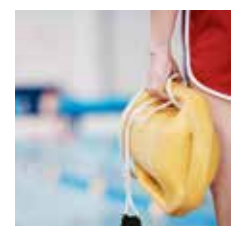
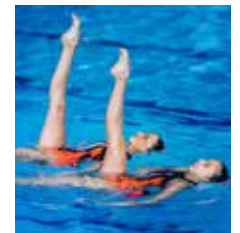
Swim. Race. Rescue. Compete! Lifesaving Sport combines fitness, friendly competition, and practical rescue skills through obstacle courses, relay races, line throws, and more. Ideal for youth looking for a new aquatic challenge beyond traditional swimming lessons.

Register today at tillsonburg.ca/recreation and make a splash this fall!

Private Pool Rentals

Make a splash at your next celebration! The Tillsonburg Community Centre Pool is available for private weekend rentals, making it the perfect venue for birthday parties, family gatherings, and special occasions.

To check availability and book your rental, call 519-688-9011.



Culture Corner

Get Creative with a Macramé Water Bottle Holder Workshop

This beginner-friendly workshop will guide participants through the basics of macramé knotting while creating a handcrafted water bottle holder.

Wednesday, September 9 | 1:30 PM & 6:30 PM
\$25 (taxes included)

Pre-registration is required and includes all supplies, step-by-step instruction, and your completed project. Sign-up online at townoftillsonburg.perfectmind.com or call Annandale NHS at 519-842-2294.



Woodworking with Brett Schultz

Saturdays, September 12 & 19 | 1:00 p.m.
\$80 (tax included) for both sessions

Discover the art of woodworking with local craftsman Brett Schultz in this hands-on, two-session workshop. Participants will learn basic shaping and carving techniques, create a handcrafted project, and add a personalized painted finish. Registration includes all project materials, a carving knife to keep, an instruction booklet, a Tri-County Woodcarvers membership, insurance coverage, and a 10% discount at Chipping Away in Waterloo.

Pre-registration is required. Register online at townoftillsonburg.perfectmind.com or call Annandale National Historic Site at 519-842-2294. Don't miss this opportunity to learn a timeless craft and take home your own unique creation!





Community Calendar

SEPTEMBER

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
Don't miss your final chance to enjoy Lake Lisgar Waterpark this season. The waterpark closes for 2026 on Tuesday, September 8.		Ball Hockey 8:00 - 9:00 pm1	2	Culture After Hours 4:00 - 7:00 pm3	4	5
Lake Lisgar Water Park Open Daily 11:00 am - 6:00 pm						
 6 Tillsonburg Summer Send-off 5:00 pm - dusk	Town Facilities CLOSED Lake Lisgar Waterpark Remains Open - LAST DAY OF THE 2026 SEASON7	Tennis Tournament 4:00 - 8:00 pm8	Macrame Workshop 1:30 pm & 6:30 pm Sportsfield Project Public Information Centre (Lion's Den) 4:30 - 6:30 pm9	10	11	Wood Working Workshop 1:00 - 3:00 pm Community Swim (back at indoor pool) 1:00 - 3:00 pm12
Community Swim 1:00 - 3:00 pm13	Council Meeting 5:00 pm14	Community Swim 1:00 - 3:00 pm15	16	17	18	Wood Working Workshop 1:00 - 3:00 pm Community Swim 1:00 - 3:00 pm Home Children Lecture 2:00 pm19
Family Fitness Swim 9:00 - 10:30 am Community Swim 1:00 - 3:00 pm20	21	Pickleball Tournament 9:00 am - 4:00 pm Community Swim 1:00 - 3:00 pm22	23	Tillsonburg Graveyard Tours 1:00 pm24	Community Swim 7:30 - 9:30 pm25	Community Swim 1:00 - 3:00 pm Tillsonburg Graveyard Tours 1:00 pm26
Community Swim 1:00 - 3:00 pm27	28	Community Swim 1:00 - 3:00 pm29	30			

Didn't find what you were looking for?



Check out all our other programs!

FREE Community Event Highlight



Legend

-  All Ages
-  Town Hall
-  Adult Program
-  Museum
-  Youth Program

2026

SPORTS

Homick, Buelow open Junior Grand Prix season with Xi/An ice dance bronze

JEFF TRIBE

Post Correspondent

Summer Homick and Nick Buelow's International Skating Union (ISU) season-opening Junior Grand Prix Ice Dance bronze medal in Xi'An, China August 20-22 represented success in both 'journey' and 'destination.'

A podium finish was where the pair wanted, virtually needed to further their shared goal of qualifying for the series championship this December. And the mental resilience they showed in order to move up two positions and achieve that goal indicated less obvious but equally crucial progress.

"It was a good start for our season and testament to our mental game," said Homick. "It's a big testament on how we can compose ourselves."

It was a short off-season for Homick and Buelow. Their 2025-26 campaign finished at world championships the first week of March in Tallinn, Estonia. Beyond guest appearances including in Tillsonburg, they enjoyed a short break, but were quickly back on the ice training for this year's programs: a rhythm component skated to Prince's Wow and Kiss; their free dance set to Evita.

In a sport where a full year of training culminates in a few short minutes on the ice, there is scant opportunity to ramp up as the season progresses.

"You want to be ready right away, basically," said Buelow. "You just have to be ready to go out there and do your thing for those five minutes."

"You don't have time to be nervous."

They opened with a strong 131.07-point gold medal finish at the 2026 Nextgen Competition at the Slush Puppy Centre in Gatineau, Quebec July 17-18. Homick and Buelow headed an all-Canadian field with ice dance pairs from Quebec, Audra Gans and Danil Park, and Laurence Briere and Earl Jesse Celestino, finish-



(PHOTO BY ZHE JI - INTERNATIONAL SKATING UNION/INTERNATIONAL SKATING UNION VIA GETTY IMAGES)

Summer Homick and Nick Buelow got their junior ice dance season off on the right skate with a junior grand prix bronze medal at Xi'An, China.

ing second and third, with 127.95 and 127.28 points respectively.

Xi'An represented Homick and Buelow's first international event of the season. It is one of seven Grand Prix competitions leading up to the series final, scheduled for Dec. 10 to 13 in Chongqing, China. Teams typically accumulate points through two of seven events, with the top six qualifying for the final.

"Our hopes and dreams are to get to the junior grand prix final," said Homick.

Those hopes and dreams got off on the wrong skate, so to speak, with the loss of their luggage - including their skates - en route to Xi'An.

"That was a bit of a mess - a frantic disaster," said Homick.

With Skate Canada working behind the scenes, their luggage was tracked down. But the time it took cut their pre-event practice in half, down from an expected two full days to one.

The setback was compounded by what Buelow called 'a bit of a shaky start' to their rhythm

dance program.

"We weren't 'into the ice,'" he said, a differentiation they use from skating 'on top' of the ice.

"We're not skating like sticks on top of the ice," Homick explained. "We're into it and in control."

The second half of their rhythm dance was 'strong and into the ice' the way they wanted to skate Buelow continued, but a couple of small errors left them sitting in fifth position heading into the following day's free dance portion.

Their training helped prepare them for the challenge to come, both on-ice and additional sports psychology work to support their 'mental game.'

"It's always better to have more tools in your toolbox," said Homick, who beyond that more formal work, says she and Buelow are able to rely on each other.

"We both kind of recognize when the other is getting a little stressed out," he said, noting their response tends to be situational and based on their own unique approaches.

"I'd say Nick is the calmer one out there," Homick credited. "When I get riled up, he looks at me and says 'Just breathe.'"

Conversely, Buelow leans into Homick's commitment and determination.

"Summer is super committed, that's always the word that comes to mind," he said. "She's bringing 'Let's get going' energy and really gets me up."

Following the challenges of a stressful night where sleep proved difficult, and being the first team to hit the ice following warmup, the pair responded with exactly the kind of performance they needed.

"We just laid it out on the table," said Homick. "We just had to skate well."

Settling in right away, they brought the program they needed to perform, getting them where they needed to be. Their 87.74-point free dance score brought their final total to 143.68, lifting them from fifth past a pair of American competitors and ultimately into third place.

"I think we represented ourselves really well and came off as a very strong team," Homick assessed.

Overall, all things considered, the competition was a productive and also enjoyable experience. Chinese fans are a joy to skate in front of she said, appreciation extending to seeking autographs and photos, some bringing photos of them to sign.

"You feel like a celebrity," Homick laughed. "It made us feel the love, that's for sure."

The pair is looking forward to its next grand prix event, the fifth of seven scheduled, in Batumi, Georgia, Sept. 24 to 26. A potential appearance in the final, Canadian championships and worlds are also on their competitive radar.

"Every year we're trying to push ourselves further and further," Homick summed up. Missions accomplished both in and away from the rink in Xi'An have helped further that goal. "We've learned a lot and are bringing it to the ice."



(PHOTO BY ZHE JI - INTERNATIONAL SKATING UNION/INTERNATIONAL SKATING UNION VIA GETTY IMAGES)

Summer Homick and Nick Buelow relied on both their physical and mental training en route to a junior grand prix medal in Xi'An, China.



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Tillsonburg Special Olympian wins gold in bocce

CONTINUED FROM FRONT

In the first game, VanParys tied against Chris Bulmer from Newmarket. This was a back and forth match that VanParys tied by getting two points on his last throws.

He reflected that he was getting used to the playing surface in that game.

"The balls curved and reacted in ways we didn't think of," he said. "It made it more difficult until we figured that out."

VanParys then pulled out a 12-8 win against Midhurst, Ontario competitor Grant Vahi, after being ahead the entire game.

"I was getting comfortable," he said of the game. "I adjusted my strategy to how the turf was interacting."

In game three, against Luke Meiszingler from Paris, ON, VanParys was behind three in the beginning of the game and then scored 12 unanswered points to win the game.

Then, in the fourth game, VanParys led the entire game against James MacFarlane from Cranbrook, BC, for a 12-2 win.

He was coached by Hailey Izokaitois from Brantford, who was chosen to go to the games. Carolyn Mullholand coaches him locally and at last year's provincials, but was not chosen to go to the nationals.

With round robin play done, VanParys was ecstatic when Izokaitois told him he was first in his division. That gave him a bye to the finals, where he met MacFarlane again.

The gold medal game was termed as "stressful" by VanParys as it was a back-and-forth game with the two players trading points.

"He had learned what my strategy was and



(JEFF HELSDON PHOTO)

Jamie VanParys shows off the form that won him a Special Olympics gold medal at the Canada Summer Games.

played against it," VanParys said.

He was trailing by two with five minutes left, and then scored two in the last frame to send the game into overtime, which was a first for him. VanParys had control of the white ball to start the extra time.

"I threw it in a different spot than what I did before," he recounted of his strategy. "James missed his shot and I was able to score some points."

With the game done, VanParys said he had to come out of his "focus zone" to let it sink in what just occurred.

"When I knew I won, I was excited but was also happy it was over. I let out a sigh of relief, hugged my coach, shook the ref's hand and James' hand," he said.

The win qualifies VanParys to go to next year's Special Olympics World Games in Chile, but he has to go through a selection process as Canada has a limit on how many athletes can go. In the meantime, he will keep practicing.

VanParys was also the team captain for the 34 athletes Ontario sent to the games, and gave pep talks to the players. His coach recorded one of these, which was replaced on TSN.

His speaking ability earned VanParys a spot in Special Olympics athlete mentoring program. In this role, he will speak to other Special Olympians about his experience, and to other organization about what Special Olympics is.

He will also be a peer mentor. He explained this role is similar to a coach, but the one restriction is he can't be a peer mentor in a sport he is competing in.

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Finals starting in some slo-pitch leagues



**EYE
ON
SLO-
PITCH**

DAVE WEAVER

Post Columnist

I would like to give a shout out to our President Chris Parker, as he and his golf partner Andrew Gradish qualified for the World Amateur Match Race Canadian Championships to take place on Oct. 13 at Lions Head Golf Club. They qualified Sunday in Sarnia playing through non-stop rain! Congrats guys and best of luck.

Ladies' A Division

Sunspace/Bill Klyn Carpentry earned a sweep of Simmonds Mortgages and advanced to their first A Final. It was a tight battle as after winning the opener by three, and then recording two and one-run decisions this psst week.

Their opponent will be regular season champion Cooks Concrete Jays who are last year's finalists. Cooks had little trouble in their series with Foldens Machine Works, avenging a finals loss last year to Foldens. Sunspace were the only team to defeat Cooks. The finals commenced on Monday night.

Game#2-Semi Final

Cooks Concrete Jays-16, Foldens Machine Works-17

Cooks-Brandi Cook 5-5; Maddi Obar 5-5.

Foldens-Danielle Swartz 2-2; Jen Dahl 2-3.

Game Synopsis-Foldens led by two after the first but Cooks took over the game in the middle two innings, scoring nine. Maddi Obar reached five times and crossed four times to lead the winners.

Game #3-Semi Final

Cooks Concrete Jays-15, Foldens Machine Works-3

Cooks-Kirstie Jones 3-3; Deanna Laemmers 2-2.

Foldens-Amber Woolgar 2-2; Mandi Vickers 2-2.

Game Synopsis-Back-to-back six-run innings took the wind out of Foldens' sails.

Nine of 10 Cooks' batters scored at least one run.

Game#2-Semi Final

Sunspace/Bill Klyn Carpentry-12, Simmonds Mortgages-10

Sunspace-Amanda Stubbs 4-4; Tammy Griswold 4-4.

Simmonds-Katy Wilkinson 4-4; Kyla Long 3-3.

Game Synopsis-Sunspace took over the lead with a six-run third, capitalizing on a trio of Simmonds errors. After Simmonds had worked themselves back into a tie, Sunspace won it with a two-run sixth-inning rally. Amanda Stubbs hit a run-scoring tri-

ple.

Game#3-Semi Final

Sunspace/Bill Klyn Carpentry-9, Cooks Concrete Jays-8

Sunspace-Carrie MacDonald 3-3; Missy Falkins 3-4.

Simmonds-Katy Wilkinson 3-4; Forrestt Ashley 2-3.

Game Synopsis-The game see-sawed the entire night, with Sunspace taking a three-run lead into Simmonds last at-bat. Simmonds scored two and had the tying run on first with one out, but Sunspace ended it with a double play. Tammy Griswold led the winners by hitting three doubles.

Ladies' B Division

Wildcats closed out their series with Queen Bees on Wednesday with a four-run victory.

Game #2

Wildcats-19, Queen Bees-16

Wildcats Homenuik 5-5; Christine Phillips 5-5; Ling Wong HR.

Queen Bees-Carolyn Vandylesgraaf 4-4; Sam Norman 4-4.

Game Synopsis-Wildcats scored runs in every inning and Queen Bees scored in every inning but one. Ling Wong hit for the cycle for the winners.

Game #3

Wildcats-17, Queen Bees-13

Wildcats-Steph Miller 4-4; Ling Wong 4-4, GrSlam HR.

Queen Bees-Deziray Legg 4-4; Sam Norman 4-4.

Game Synopsis-Wildcats came back late to take this one.

Men's Division 1

All the combatants for this year's semi-finals have been determined after Cobra Chickens swept Leeswood Construction Dirty Mitts. Hit N Run beat SunSpace/Bill Klyn Carpentry three straight and The Mill eliminated Cubs in four games. 1,2 Seal Insulation Hawks, coming off a long bye, will take on last year's champion Cobra Chickens. Hit N Run will entertain The Mill. Both should be excellent series, starting play Tuesday night.

Game#3

Hit N Run-19, Sunspace/Bill Klyn Carpentry-3

Hit N Run-Johnny Unger 3-3; Peter Klassen 3-4; Franky Klassen 2HR; Diedrich Klassen Martin Klassen 2HR.

Sunspace-Andy Lockstein 2-2; Alex Dalby 2-3, HR; Kyle McDougall HR.

Game Synopsis-Hit N Run belted out five homers in the win, Martin and Franky Klassen each hit three and two run homers.

Game #3

Cobra Chickens-24, Leeswood Construction Dirty Mitts-8

Cobra-Ethan Fehr 4-4; Dawson Dyck 4-4.

Wyatt Blatz GrSlam HR.

Leeswood-Cheyne Sarafinchin 2-2; Kent Collings 2-2, HR; Tim Townsend HR.

Game Synopsis-Cobra Chickens were full value in the win, scoring 24 runs in just

four at bats. Wyatt Blatz led with a grand slam and eight runs driven in.

Game#3

The Mill-24, Cubs-9

The Mill-Greg Roth 4-4; Steve Derks 4-4, HR; Tim Morgan 2HR; Josh Stubbs HR; Ryan Black HR; Logan Kloet HR.

Cubs-Dave Peters 2-3; Joel Dyck 2-3, HR; Chris Dyck HR; Jamie Teichroeb HR.

Game Synopsis-Leadoff batter Steve Derks hit for the cycle to lead The Mill. Tim Morgan homered in consecutive at-bats.

Game#4

The Mill-30, Cubs-10

The Mill-Bryan Deblaire 4-4, 2HR; Josh Stubbs 4-4, HR; Steve Derks HR; Darren Pace HR; Greg Roth HR; Tim Morgan HR.

Cubs-Danny Teichroeb 2-3; Abe Redecop 2-3; Jamie Teichroeb HR.

Game Synopsis-Nine of The Mill's 10 batters scored at least two runs. Josh Stubbs and Tim Morgan were each a triple shy of hitting for the cycle and Steve Derks was a double shy.

Men's Division 2

The second round of the playoffs are now under way as Pelicans and Mavericks, who received first-round byes, have their opponents. Mavericks will take on the Quackheads, starting Tuesday, after Quackheads beat Underhill Farm Supply in two straight. Pelicans are into their series with Papa's Auto Spa after Papa's ousted Designated Drinkers in two games. Pelicans showed some signs of rust in their opener but tied their series with Papa's on Friday night. All Seasons Estate Care Bandits edged out Sticky Bandits to get back into their series. Sticky Bandits forfeited their game on Friday night, forcing a fifth and deciding game. At My Playground/IQT Logistics went up two games to zero on Strike Force, winning their second consecutive one-run game.

Game#2-Wild Card

Papa's Auto Spa-17, Designated Drinkers-15

Papa's-Phillip James 3-4; Shawn Brooks 3-4.

Drinkers-Johnny Abele 4-5; Matt Barker 3-5.

Game Synopsis-Papa's moved out to an 11-run lead after three innings. Drinkers plated six in their last at-bat but came up two runs short. Shawn Brooks had a double and scored three runs to lead the winners.

Game #1

Papa's Auto Spa-17, Pelicans-8

Papa's-Phillip James 4-4; Steve Poll 3-4.

Pelicans-Adam Jensen 2-3; Jeff Cadotte 2-3.

Game Synopsis-A bases-clearing triple by Phillip James capped a four-run second for Papa's. They put the game away with a seven-run fourth with no outs recorded.

Game #2

Pelicans-17, Papa's Auto Spa-9

Pelicans-Chris Parker 3-4; Andrew Garnham 3-4; Jeff Cadotte HR; Steve Leacock HR.

Papa's-Zack Vanderhaeghe 3-4; Jake

Rempel 3-3; Shawn Brooks HR; Jesse Legg GrSlam HR.

Game Synopsis-After spotting Papa's seven first-inning runs, Pelicans outscored them by 15 the rest of the way. Jeff Cadotte was a triple shy of hitting for the cycle.

Game#2

At My Playground/IQT Logistics-18, Strike Force-17

AMP-Travis Lamb 3-3; Brandon Balazs 4-4, 2HR.

Strike Force-Henry Teichroeb 4-5, HR; Silas Bueckert 3-4; Abe Hamn HR; Martin Klassen HR.

Game Synopsis-AMP led the entire game. Strike Force made it close, scoring four in their final at-bat but left the tying run on first. Brandon Balazs led the winner's attack, homering in consecutive at-bats. He and Travis Lamb each scored three runs.

Game #3

All Seasons Estate Care Bandits-11, Sticky Bandits-10

All Seasons-William Loewen 3-3; Aaron Hildebrandt 2-3.

Bandits-Bowen Thiessen 3-3; Toby Rempel 2-3; Nicky Knelsen HR; Connor Friesen HR.

Game Synopsis-Corny Sawatsky had the walk-off hit, scoring Jake Sawatsky.

Game #4

All Seasons Estate Care Bandits-7, Sticky Bandits-0 Forfeit

Men's Division 3

Sandy Shore Brew Jays were the first team to advance out of the first round, defeating Bird's Golf in four games. NAPA/Coward's Pharmacy Maulers got the jump on Beer Bombers, winning both ends of their series opening double header. Bombers got back into the series with a win the following night. Wolfpack are one win away from upsetting John Beere after a nine-run victory in the second game of their series.

Game#1

Bird's Golf-19, Sandy Shore Brew Jays-11

Bird's-Charles Zarb 3-4; Matt Townsend 3-4.

Brew Jays-Josh Mabee 3-4; Cody Wilson 3-3.

Game Synopsis-A pair of seven-run innings for Bird's helped decide this one, Jake Froese scored four runs for the winners.

Game #2

Sandy Shore Brew Jays-21, Bird's Golf-7

Brew Jays-Denver Barr 3-3; Evan Prouse 4-4; Derek Hodgson 2HR.

Bird's-Tyson Glazer 2-3; Josh Townsend 2-3.

Game Synopsis-Josh Knoflock led off the game with an inside-the-park homer and tripled in his last at-bat. Derek Hodgson belted a pair of three-run homers.

Game#3

Sandy Shore Brew Jays-16, Bird's Golf-7

Brew Jays-Derek Hodgson 3-4, HR; Brian Reddecopp 3-4.

Bird's-Dan Hunt 3-4; Isaac Froese 2-2.

CONTINUED TO PAGE 21

Finals starting in some slo-pitch leagues

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 20

Game Synopsis-Sandy Shore started off with a seven-run first, and scored runs in every inning but the third. Derek Hodgson homered and scored three runs.

Game #4
Sandy Shore Brew Jays-21, Bird's Golf-4
Brew Jays-Derek Hodgson 4-4; J.D.Collier 4-4, HR; Devon Schultz 2HR.

Bird's-Jake Froese 2-3; Josh Townsend 2-3.
Game Synopsis-Everyone in the winner's order had at least one hit. Derek Hodgson and Devon Schultz each scored four runs.

Game #2
Wolfpack 20, John Beere-11
Wolfpack-Jarryd Roest 4-5; Matt Pitt 2-2; Kevin Hmeil HR.
John Beere-Ryan Simmons 3-3; Kristian Carrel 3-4; Mark Carrel HR.

Game Synopsis-Wolfpack's offence was on full throttle as they went up by 11 runs after four. Kevin Hmeil and Matt Pitt each scored four runs for the winners.

Game#1
NAPA/Coward's Pharmacy Maulers-15; Beer Bombers-8
NAPA-Ryland Vandergulick 4-5; Brandon Tilford 3-4; Darren Swick HR; Matt Bowers HR; Dillon Outerbridge HR.
Bombers-Quinton Vink 3-3; Adam VanDyk 2-3; Nathan Murphy HR; Cayden Mitchell HR; Carter Spence HR.

Game Synopsis-A big six-run sixth helped the Maulers overtake the Bombers. Darren Swick, Matt Bowers and Dillon Outerbridge hit back to back-to-back homers in the rally.

Game#2
NAPA/Coward's Pharmacy Maulers-12, Beer Bombers-5
NAPA-Craig Boucher 3-4; Devon Outerbridge 3-4; Darren Swick HR.

Bombers-Brett Vandendel 3-3, 2HR; Nick Vessayan 2-3.
Game Synopsis-Jeff McKay and Matt Bowers each scored three runs for the winners.

Game #3
Beer Bombers-9, NAPA/Coward's Pharmacy Maul-

FINAL STANDINGS	W	L	T	PTS
LADIES A FINAL				
SUNSPACE/BILL KLYN CARPENTRY VS COOKS CONCRETE JAYS BEST OF FIVE				
LADIES B FINAL				
WILDCATS VS RESTING PITCH FACE BEST OF FIVE				
MEN'S DIVISION 1				
SEMI FINAL S COBRA CHICKENS VS 1,2 SEAL INSULATION HAWKS BEST OF FIVE				
THE MILL VS HIT N RUN BEST OF FIVE				

ers-7
Bombers-Cam Vilaca 2-2; Cayden Mitchell 2-3.
NAPA-Matt Bowers 4-4; Brandon Tilford 3-3.
Game Synopsis-Zach Allison scored two runs for the winners.

Men's Division 4
The semi-finals are all set after R.L.P. Melanie Luksys won their fifth, and deciding, game with Tirecraft Tornadoes. R.L.P. will take on second-place Brickhouse Boys in one series while first place N.I.M. will clash with Smokin Bases.

Game#5
R.L.P. Melanie Luksys-22, Tirecraft Tornadoes-14
R.L.P.-Dalton Cassidy 5-5; Braeden Redling 5-5.
Tirecraft-Ben Serrador 3-4; Pete Soares 3-4.
Game Synopsis-R.L.P. scored runs in every inning. Dalton Cassidy and Jeremy Tannahill each scored four runs.

FINAL STANDINGS	W	L	T	PTS
MEN'S DIVISION 2				
PAPA'S AUTO SPA VS PELICANS PAPA'S - 1 PELICANS - 1 BEST OF FIVE				
QUACKHEADS VS MAVERICKS BEST OF FIVE				
STICKY BANDITS VS ALL SEASONS ESTATE CARE BANDITS STICKY - 2 ALL SEASONS - 2 BEST OF FIVE				
STRIKE FORCE VS AT MY PLAYGROUND/IQT LOGISTICS AMP - 2 STRIKE FORCE - 0				
MEN'S DIVISION 3				
BIRD'S GOLF VS SANDY SHORE BREW JAYS SANDY SHORE - 3 BIRD'S - 1 BEST OF FIVE				
WOLFPACK VS JOHN BEERE WOLFPACK - 2 JOHN BEERE - 0 BEST OF FIVE				
NAPA/COWARD'S PHARMACY MAULERS VS BEER BOMBERS NAPA - 2 BOMBERS - 1				
MEN'S DIVISION 4				
SEMI FINALS SMOKIN BASES VS N.I.M. BEST OF FIVE				
R.L.P. MELANIE LUKSYS VS BRICKHOUSE BOYS BEST OF FIVE				

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by NORMA COLLIS

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🕒 TIME:

7pm – 9pm

📖 Meet the Author

🗣️ Short book talk and Q&A

🍽️ Light lunch and book signing

📖 Books for sale
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Poilievre talks agriculture and housing during Oxford County visit that draws 3,000 people

Conservative leader wants less taxes and red tape on farmers and homebuilding

LEE GRIFFI

Editor

Federal Conservative leader Pierre Poilievre made a stop in Oxford County at Canada's Outdoor Farm Show near Woodstock on Aug. 22 as the guest of Oxford MP Arpan Khanna.

Grant Haven Media was given an exclusive interview with Poilievre before his speaking engagement and before trade talks with the Americans broke down.

One of the topics covered was agriculture and how we as a country can become more self-sustainable in the sector.

"What we need to do is lower the cost burden on farmers to make them more competitive. In Canada today, we have a lot of government costs that other farmers do not face. The industrial carbon tax on fertilizer, farm equipment and food processing drives up the inputs to grow the food we eat."

He added taxes on fuel make it more expensive to grow and ship food, as Canadians spend about 20 cents per litre more for gas and diesel compared to our American counterparts.

"We need to get rid of all those taxes, that's the starting

point. That would allow us to produce not just more food, but more fertilizer and more farm equipment at a lower price. There is also a lot of red tape CFIA (Canadian Food Inspection Agency) has imposed that really doesn't help food safety."

Poilievre also explained there are dozens of regulations that apply to our producers but don't apply to their foreign counterparts.

"If these things were really necessary for safe food consumption, we wouldn't let foreign farms and food processors go around the rules."

Homelessness and the related issues of mental health and drug abuse may not be a direct federal issue, but the Conservative leader said there are two main reasons why they are such a problem in Canada.

"One is the cost of housing, the other is the drugs. The number one cost-driver of housing in Canada is government. It's taxes, development charges, fees, delays, permitting, zoning, land restrictions, then all of the consultants, lobbyists, lawyers and accountants you have to hire to comply with an endless list of rules and regulations that do absolutely nothing to protect our safety or our environment."

He added Canada has the second-lowest rate of building permits of all 38 countries in the Organization for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD) and has among the highest building taxes.

"We need to get rid of all taxes on homebuilding. That includes no sales tax, no carbon tax on housing materials, and lower taxes on the workers and companies who build the homes. Second, we need to incentivize municipalities through infrastructure dollars to speed up permits, free up land and collect development charges."

Poilievre also wants to see the federal building code changed to emphasize affordability.

When it comes to illegal drugs, he wants to see much stiffer punishments for dealers.

"Right now, when someone gets caught for trafficking meth or fentanyl, they get a slap on the wrist. I want life sentences for fentanyl dealers who sell more than 40 milligrams. That's enough to kill 20 people... You might as well take a gun and fire it into a stadium full of people because that's how likely you are to kill somebody. It can stop someone's breathing in three seconds."

He also wants to see an end to safe supply programs across the country, calling them "hard production" rather than harm reduction.

"They call it safe supply; it's unsafe supply. I want to scrap all those programs and put people in treatment and recovery programs. Conservatives are going to push a bill for mandatory drug treatment for people who are arrested on possession of illegal substances. Not the dealers; they are going to go to the slammer and never get out. The victims should be put into treatment programs to get them off drugs and turn their lives around."

Poilievre added no other country in the world is providing safe supply.

"If you go to Europe, you don't see this. You don't see people folded over on fentanyl in Spain, France or Germany. It doesn't exist. They don't do this kind of insanity. Our government is doing it to us, and we can stop it, and I will."

When asked what he enjoys most about his job as federal opposition leader, he said he loves meeting with the incredible Canadian people as often as he can, including many young employees at Stubbe's Precast

plant in Hickson, which he visited.

"They have a lineup of people on that floor, 18 years old, who are building moulds for beautiful new homes, working with rebar and cranking out six million square feet of housing every single year. These kids are just unbelievable. Their work ethic, their brain power."

Poilievre said the most frustrating part of his job is having a government in power not worthy of the people it represents.

"We have the most impressive population in the world in terms of our values, our education. Yet the government is just not living up to their standards. It frustrates the hell out of me when I see the government screwing things up, preventing our kids from owning homes and letting crime run rampant in our streets. If it weren't so obvious what to do, I wouldn't be so frustrated."

Over 3,000 people attended the party's community BBQ with Poilievre and other Conservative MPs.

"I was humbled by the tremendous support, energy and enthusiasm... in Woodstock on Saturday," explained Oxford MP Arpan Khanna.

"It was an honour to speak



(ALIYAH HELSDON PHOTO)

Federal Conservative leader Pierre Poilievre talks to a supporter during a photo line-up that followed his speech in Woodstock on Aug. 22.

with so many people about the challenges facing our country, including the ongoing trade dispute with the United States, the rising cost of living and the need to make our communities safer. We discussed our Conservative plan to lower costs, strengthen our economy, restore safe streets and put Canada first."

He added the party will never stop fighting for the families, seniors, farmers, workers and small business owners who are the backbone of our country.

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Successful high-end barber lounge offers self care and confidence to customers

ROBIN KRAFFT

Post Correspondent

The ManCave Barber Lounge at 18 Oxford Street will be celebrating their second anniversary in October, and the successful business continues to grow and evolve.

Owners Santiago and Eshaah Villamil have established an excellent reputation and a regular clientele.

"Quality cuts is our motto," Santiago said, "and customer satisfaction is very important to us."

Santiago apprenticed with his father, Rosso, who has over 40 years of experience in the business, starting with shops in Columbia and Pennsylvania before opening locations in Ontario. Their current signage indicates that important family connection.

The high-end barber shop offers comprehensive services for men, including classic cuts, fades and shaves. Aesthetic services, such as hydrating facials, full face or eyebrow waxing and peel off masks are unisex. They also offer student and children's cuts.

"We try to make it as comfortable as possible for kids," Santiago said, "we put on a Disney movie and they get a lollipop after."

The shop mascot, greeter and 'security', an adorable bichon frise named Snow, also keeps kids calm and entertained during a haircut, which can be stressful.

"During back-to-school week, Snow works the hardest," Eshaah added, smiling.

The relaxed lounge atmosphere includes a pool table, vintage-style barber chairs and large mirrors mounted on a barn board wall, but the modern music, big screen TV and lighting create an edgy urban vibe. They serve soft

drinks, water and coffee, and are now in the process of acquiring their liquor license.

"We offer city services" Santiago said, "but it's a lot more than barbering. We came here with a mission to serve the community. We are now a full house of barbers, meaning we have all chairs full, barbers who are taking new clientele, and on top of that, new additions to our line of services, like a head massage with the hot towel."

Santiago noted that there are a lot of busy, hard-working men in town, and sometimes self care moves down on the priority list until a special occasion comes along. A hot towel and steam treatment, essential oils, light head massage, close straight razor shave, and a haircut and beard package will make you feel like a new man for a wedding or family photos.

"They should want to do that all the time," Santiago said, "a man that feels better about himself just does better. He's better at work and with his family. When you're a better version of yourself it changes your posture and your attitude and you have a better day."

Many ManCave customers book recurring appointments to keep up their look and their newfound confidence.

"We've had a lot of community support in Tillsonburg," Eshaah said, adding that they welcome and encourage questions on some of the terminology that new customers may not be familiar with.

"We make the jargon clear," Santiago added, "because an educated customer knows what they want."

Luxurious grooming at ManCave by Rosso will take you "from caveman to gentleman."



(ROBIN KRAFFT PHOTO)

Santiago and Eshaah Villamil pose with shop mascot Snow in the ManCave Barber Lounge on Oxford Street, where grooming meets luxury.



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WEEKEND QUIZ

by Jake Grant

- Who plays the piano in Charlie Brown?
- What is the birthstone for September?
- How many equinoxes are there in a year?
- What's the name for the science of growing apples?
- What does AKA mean?
- What dog breed was traditionally kept by monks in the Swiss Alps to find lost travelers?
- How many members does the South Korean band BTS have?
- What are baby goats called?
- What ball has 32 panels?
- A pantheon is a temple dedicated to who?

This week's answers are found on pg. 30



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An alarm clock.

What do the letter "t" and an island have in common?

They're both in the middle of water.

Which word in the dictionary is spelled incorrectly?

Incorrectly.

How can you drop a raw egg from a height onto a concrete floor without cracking it?

Concrete floors are very hard to crack.

What do you call a bear with no teeth?

A gummy bear.

What has many rings but no fingers?

A phone.

I sometimes run, but I can't walk. What am I?

A nose.

SUDOKU

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	8	6	5	1				3

Solutions on Page 30

Level: Beginner

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WORD SEARCH

AUGUST 2026 NEWS HIGHLIGHTS

G	Z	G	B	M	W	S	D	U	N	A	T	A	L	I	E	H	A	R	P
T	A	Q	Y	K	J	D	G	R	F	H	V	T	Y	B	S	K	Y	L	B
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LLOYD ROBERTSON
BAD LETTUCE
NATALIE HARP

US TRADE WAR
MARK CARNEY
LAKE ONTARIO

ANGRY TODDLER
GOOGLE MAPS
DOLLY PARTON

NEPAL FLASH FLOOD
LINDSAY CLANCY

Canada's biggest hotel gets a full re-fresh



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

PAUL KNOWLES

Tillsonburg Post Columnist

For many of us, simply planning to renovate a bathroom or a kitchen is an almost mind-boggling challenge. Now, imagine that the full-scale renovation project involves the largest hotel in the country.

But that's what they have accomplished at Toronto's Chelsea Hotel. And this is, indeed, the largest hotel in Canada, stretching up 24 floors, and including 1588 guest rooms, plus all of the amenities you would expect at a popular downtown Toronto hotel.

Tracy Ford is Director of Public Relations at the Chelsea. She's also a friend, and a colleague – Tracy was President of the Travel Media Association for two years, and I was her Vice President, eventually succeeding her in that role. I have nothing but admiration for this woman, and when she told me that her hotel was doing something special, I believed her.

And then she invited us to stay at the Chelsea for a couple of nights – which happily coincided with our tickets to a Blue Jays game.

This gave me the chance to check out the new and improved Chelsea for myself. And yes, it is new and improved.

The rooms have always been comfortable, and that has not changed, although the décor in all 1588 rooms has been refreshed. But the most dramatic features of the hotel are found in the shared spaces.

For instance, the Chelsea has two indoor pools, one in an adults-only area, and the other featuring a waterslide.

The latter, branded as The Cove, is one of

three recreation spaces designed for children and families. Tracy explains that this area – collectively known as “The Hive”, is intended “to inspire curiosity, creativity and connection.” The Hive includes The Workshop, which offers hands-on, play-based activities for kids; The Studio, offering creative content, digital play and social connection for older kids; and The Cove, with Toronto's only 130-Corkscrew waterslide.

The Chelsea used to have two restaurants – one a casual, breakfast and lunch kind of place, and the other a smaller bar and restaurant. Those are gone. The main dining establishment is now known as The Elm Tavern, much expanded from the earlier pub, but still featuring the excellent service I remember from my previous, pre-renovation stays at the Chelsea. The new pub offers I feature I don't recall from earlier days – live entertainment. A solo guitarist/singer performed while we enjoyed an excellent dining experience.

Adults looking for recreation and relaxation away from a family atmosphere enjoy The Heights, the hotel's adults-only retreat on the 24th floor. The Heights includes cardio and strength-training equipment, and the heated, indoor “Skyline Pool”. In fine weather, comfortable chaise longues are located on the outdoor Horizon Deck, where visitors can enjoy a birds-eye view of Canada's largest city.

I am intrigued that the new version of the Chelsea includes a feature I have never encountered in a hotel – Escape Room experiences. And no, I don't mean a struggle to exit your hotel room. The hotel now is home to “Time Zone Escapes” – two private, 60-minute escape rooms, one called “The Curse of the Evil Genie” and the other, “Blackbeard's Brig”. Full disclosure: I have personally experienced escape rooms, and it turns out, I am terrible at it. Doomed from the start. But I know many people who love the experience, and I find it fascinating that it is now available on the lobby level of a hotel. I suspect Time Zone Escapes will be one of the most popular features of the Chelsea.



Toronto's Chelsea hotel is the largest hotel in Canada.

(PHOTO COURTESY OF THE CHELSEA)

The Chelsea also has an event space branded as “Monarch's”, which features live music and other entertainment, usually with a cover charge, discounted for Chelsea guests.

The Chelsea, now part of the Langham Group (although not branded as such) first opened in 1975. Rumour had it, in recent years, that the downtown property was going to be converted into condominiums. But that concept was abandoned, and the ownership devoted a lot of time and effort to recreating a hotel whose welcome is as large as its footprint in the city.

That footprint is not only related to its size and location. The Chelsea has long been committed to good corporate citizenship. The hotel partners with local charities including the Daily Bread Food Bank, “Ask for Angela” Safe Space program (protecting people facing gender-based violence); and SickKids Hospital, which has received well over \$1 million in charitable donations from the Chelsea.

A unique element of the SickKids program

involves the bee hives on the Chelsea roof. The Chelsea sells honey from those hives, to benefit the Hospital for Sick Children.

The Chelsea is also committed to sustainable operations. Tracy told me, “the hotel has achieved the coveted EarthCheck Gold Certification, which recognizes eight consecutive years of commitment to environmental and social responsibility. This places the hotel as a leader in the unique worldwide group of sustainable tourism operators that are certified to the internationally recognized EarthCheck Company Standard.”

Of course, there are a number of fine hotels in downtown Toronto. But I am happy to feature the Chelsea, this week, both because of the impressive renovation program just completed, and because of the hotel's commitment to giving back to its community.

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.



The new Elm Tavern.

(PAUL KNOWLES PHOTO)



The Heights, the 24th-floor adults-only relaxation spot.

(PHOTO COURTESY OF THE CHELSEA)



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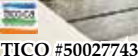
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EXPECT MORE.

SEPTEMBER

SEPTEMBER 5 | 10 AM - 12 PM

MESSY CHURCH

"ALL TOGETHER NOW"

St.Paul's United Church, 88 Bidwell St., Tillsonburg

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

SEPTEMBER 9 | 6 - 7:30 PM

CANADIAN TAI CHI

ACADEMY TILLSONBURG

Classes take place at St Paul's United Church, Fox Alley South entrance off Ridout Street

A New Fall Introductory Session begins Wednesday, September 9th 6:00 - 7:30pm. For more information: Email: tillsonburg@canadiantaichiacademy.org, Website: canadiantaichiacademy.org. Everyone welcome. Improve your health.

SEPTEMBER 9 | 12 - 1 PM

TILLSONBURG LEGION LUNCH

Tillsonburg Legion, 16 Durham St, Tillsonburg, ON

Serving homemade soups, sandwiches, and desserts. Coffee and tea included. Only \$15 per plate while quantities last. Cash only. Complimentary Music by Four T Strings Band. For more information call 519-842-5281.

SEPTEMBER 11 | 1 - 4 PM

KEN LIGHTEART AND THE NORTHSHORE RAMBLERS

Tillsonburg Legion, 16 Durham St, Tillsonburg, ON

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

SEPTEMBER 12 | 1 - 4:30 PM

KICKN KOUNTRY LIVE BAND

Tillsonburg Legion, 16 Durham St, Tillsonburg, ON

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

SEPTEMBER 12 | 9 AM - 4 PM

(Rain Date: Sunday, September 13)

OPEN HOUSE AND FAMILY FUN DAY

Tillsonburg Regional Airport, 24441 Airport Road, Tillsonburg

Join the Canadian Harvard Aircraft Association for its biggest event of the year, their Wings & Wheels Family Fun Day, September 13. (Rain date: Sept 14). World War II Harvard aircraft, along with hundreds of classic cars will be on display in one location. Bring your classic car or peruse those brought by others. Harvard flights will be available all day long. A great day's outing. Activities:

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

All types of vehicles are welcome. If you are bringing a vehicle for display, registering your

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

SEPTEMBER 13 | 2 PM

DECORATION DAY SERVICE

Burgessville Baptist Cemetery

Speaker Pastor Nick Mitchell, soloist Lola Mather-Dyer.

SEPTEMBER 14 | 7:30 PM

DELHI & DISTRICT HORTICULTURAL SOCIETY MEETING

Delhi Senior Friendship Centre, 418 Queen St., Delhi

Guest Speak - Dylan Cowan who works closely with Kevin Kavenaugh at South Coast Gardens. TOPIC: Growing Flowers and food together. All welcome to join us. (Enter at rear parking lot off William St.)

SEPTEMBER 16 | STARTS 11 AM

136TH LANGTON FALL FAIR

Langton arena

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

SEPTEMBER 18 | 6:30 PM

TILLSONBURG KNIGHTS OF COLUMBUS MONTHLY BINGO

Basement of St Mary's Church on Rolph St in Tillsonburg

SEPTEMBER 19

TILLSONBURG LEGION GOLF

TOURNAMENT

Tillsonview Fairways

Tee Time spots still available. Cost is \$70 per person includes 18 holes of golf, lunch at 3:00 pm, and prizes. For more information call 519-842-5281.

SEPTEMBER 28 | 9 - 10 AM

FREE CLASS/OPEN HOUSE AT OTTER VALLEY TAI CHI

St. John's Anglican Church, 46 Ridout St. W., Tillsonburg

Email: ottervalley@canadiantaichiacademy.org, Phone: 519-688-9779

OCTOBER

OCTOBER 24 | 10 AM - 3 PM

OXFORD PHILATELIC SOCIETY

CIRCUIT BOOK (STAMP) FAIR

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

Free Admission & Parking. Stop in and buy some stamps and meet fellow stamp collectors. About 8 participating stamp clubs.

Contact: dheaton3e3@gmail.com

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

ONGOING CLASSES, CLUBS &

ORGANIZATIONS

3RD TUE. OF MONTH | 6:30 - 8:30 PM

CAREGIVER CONNECTION

Revel Realty Woodstock, 111 Huron Street (Virutal/hybrid options available)

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

OXFORD COUNTY DIABETES

EDUCATION PROGRAM

Appointments are available at Alexandra Hospital Ingersoll and Tillsonburg District Memorial Hospital and by phone

Are you looking for support with your Diabetes?

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

MONDAYS | 7 - 9 PM

MODERN SQUARE DANCING IS FOR YOU!

Thames Valley Dance Club

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

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

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

OXFORD PHILATELIC SOCIETY

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

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

3RD WED. OF MONTH | 10 AM - NOON

LYNN RIVER PROBUS CLUB

Army, Navy & Air Force Club, Simcoe, ON. Corner of Water St. and Culver St. Simcoe. Enter via Culver St.

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

Current and prospective members are welcome to

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

TUESDAYS & THURSDAYS | 7 - 9 PM

SATURDAYS | 10 AM - 12 PM

LEARN BRAZILIAN JIU-JITSU (BJJ)

North Broadway Baptist Church

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

EVERY OTHER FRIDAY | 1 - 4 PM

BE FALL-ISH AND COME TO THE INGERSOLL COUNTRY MUSIC JAMBOREE

Masonic Hall, 190 Thames St. S., Ingersoll

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

WEDNESDAYS & FRIDAYS

TILLSONBURG BRIDGE CLUB

Two games weekly at the Tillsonburg Senior Centre - 45 Hardy Ave.

SOCIAL BRIDGE - Wednesdays, 7:00 p.m.

A relaxed, friendly game for learners, returners and everyone else.

DUPLICATE BRIDGE - Fridays, 1:00 p.m.

Still friendly, but a bit more structured and competitive.

Please arrive 10 minutes early.

Questions? tburgbridge@gmail.com or FB:

TburgBridge

SATURDAYS, JUNE 6 - SEPT. 19 | 10 AM - 4 PM

PLATTSVILLE & DISTRICT HERITAGE SOCIETY

2026 EXHIBIT - HOLIDAYS & CELEBRATIONS THAT BRING US TOGETHER

Archive & Museum at Chesterfield, 816661

Oxford Rd 22, Bright (June 20 - visit us at

Plattsville 175)

Donations accepted. Refreshments. For private viewing email plattsvillehistoricheritage@gmail.com or call 519.535.1417.

1ST AND 3RD TUES. OF MONTH

TILLSONBURG LIONS

The Tillsonburg Lions meet on the 1st and 3rd Tuesdays. You are invited to their dinner meetings in the Lion's Den at the Community Centre.

If you are interested in giving back to your Community contact Jim at 519 409 0876 for more information.....all are welcome.

COMING EVENTS

1ST WED. OF MONTH | 7 PM

WAGNER MEMORIAL TEETERVILLE LEGION BRANCH 526 - MEMBERS GENERAL MEETING

The Wagner Memorial Teeterville Legion Branch 526 - 3890 Teeterville Road, Teeterville, ON

Not a member? Contact us to join. For More Information Call, the Legion 519-443-5588. www.teetervillelegionbranch526.ca

WOULD YOU LIKE TO VOLUNTEER TO HELP AT ONE OF OUR EVENTS? WE WELCOME YOU!

The Wagner Memorial, Teeterville Legion Branch 526 - 3890 Teeterville Road, Teeterville, ON

You do not need to be a member to Volunteer, Just contact the legion and leave your name and number and purpose of your call. Someone will get back to you as to where you might be needed. Students and Adults welcome. Open hours. Wed.-Fri. 3 pm-10 pm, Sat.1 pm-10 pm, Sun.1 pm-6 pm. For More Information call, the Legion at 519-443-5588 or teetervillelegionbranch526.ca

VON OXFORD SUPPORTIVE CARE PROGRAMS

Navigating any form of grief can feel overwhelming; however, with the right support, guidance, and education, individuals can discover a pathway to help in the healing of grief.

VON Oxford Supportive Care Programs offer assistance for grief stemming from various circumstances, such as the death of someone, caregiving, serious illness diagnoses, and life transitions. Through education, connection, and compassion, our programs create a safe space for individuals to explore their emotions and learn effective coping mechanisms during the grieving process.

Contact us today to learn more about VON Oxford Supportive Care Programs: Email: oxford.griefsupport@von.ca, Phone: 1-888-866-7518. All Programs are Free-of-charge.

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Visit us at: 285793 AIRPORT RD, NORWICH, ON NOJ 1P0

CLASSIFIEDS

OBITUARY

WILMA (WILLIE) LEOTTA SMITHSON

1935 - 2026



The family wishes to announce the peaceful passing of our beloved mother, grandmother and great grandmother, Wilma Leotta Smithson of Tillsonburg, formerly of Port Burwell/Vienna on Monday, August 31, 2026 at the age of 91 years.

Willie was predeceased by her loving husbands George Teall (1978) and Don Smithson (2012). She leaves behind her dear friend, Dwight Buckland.

She was a compassionately strong and guiding force for her children Luanne (Hersh); Josie (Paul); Pat (Steve); Brian (Krys); Sandy (Terry); Deb (Mike); Sharon (Mark); Roger; Steve (Randy); and Chris who blessed her with 20 grandchildren and 24 great grandchildren.

Willie's passing will be keenly felt by her sister Sally Woodrow along with many nieces, nephews, great nieces and great nephews.

She was predeceased by her sons Howard and John, step-son Mike, grandson Brent, parents Laverne and Lily and 8 siblings.

Willie's life started with humble beginnings on the family farm, with many fond memories of working alongside her father. She married George at the age of 19 and started a life full of laughter and love with a family that grew to 7 children. In 1967, Willie and George moved to their own farm and took on guardianship of 3 more sons. Her home was known to all as one that was welcoming and inclusive to anyone that needed a loving, nurturing place to call home. The house was always full of life and humour.

Throughout life, family, faith and church were Willie's passions. She loved baking and cooking and was well known for organizing many church dinners and years of "Coffee Time" at 53 Queen Street. She was happiest and filling her true calling when she was providing care, comfort and service to her family and community.

Visitation will be held at Ostrander's Funeral Home, 43 Bidwell St., Tillsonburg, ON N4G 3T6 (519) 842-5221 on Saturday, September 5, 2026 from 10:00am until 11:00am. The memorial service for Willie will commence immediately following the visitation at 11:00am in Ostrander's Funeral Home Chapel. Officiated by Rev. Ian Shaw. Interment at St. Luke's Cemetery, Vienna.

Flowers will be accepted or memorial contributions may be made to the Heart and Stroke Foundation or Sick Kids Hospital, Toronto and may be done directly with each organization or payable by cheque by contact the Funeral Home. Condolences and memories may be shared at www.ostrandersonline.com

50/50 WINNERS



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Colin Campbell • Anne-Marie Morris
John Murray • Lowell Hawkins
Kathryn Barbon

OBITUARY

HELEN MANARY

(FEBRUARY 13, 1942 - AUGUST 24, 2026)



It is with deep heartfelt sadness that we announce the peaceful passing of Helen Manary on Monday, August 24, 2026, at the age of 84. Helen was a beloved mother, grandmother, great-grandmother, sister, aunt, and friend. She was a woman with a creative spirit and a heart that always had room for family and friends.

Helen was predeceased by her husband, Carl Manary (2018), with whom she shared

many loving years while raising their five children; her joyful companion, Len Padyk (2021), who brought much love, laughter, fun, and travel into her later years; and her youngest daughter, Karen Klassen (2000). She was also predeceased by her father Jack Colford (1994), her mother Carrie Rowe (1986), her stepmother Violet Colford (2013), and her brothers Wayne and Jan Colford (Beth).

Helen was the devoted mother of Lesa Kirk, Lori Manary, Jeff Manary (Brenda), and Sherry Welsh (Peter), and stepmother to Michael (Shay), Lisa (Perry), and Rob (Kathleen) Padyk. She was a much-loved grandmother to Jesse Rose, Jenny Stanley (Brett), Josh (Jenn), Cody (Taylor), Lynn Manary, Eric White (Amber), Matt, Chris, Anissa Welsh, Amanda (Juanita), Danielle Klassen, and Jolene Katryniuk. She will also be lovingly remembered by her siblings, Yvonne LaValley, Robert, and Paula Colford, along with her 16 great-grandchildren, numerous nieces and nephews, extended family, friends, and her beloved kitty Barney.

Born in St. John's, Newfoundland, Helen spent her early childhood there, carrying the warmth and spirit of the East Coast with her throughout her life. At the age of six, she and her father moved from St. John's to Welland, Ontario, where they joined the Feduck family. In her early teens, Helen's journey took her to the Williams family homestead and the tobacco fields of Frogmore. It was there that a handsome young man soon caught her eye. A few years later, Helen married young man Carl, and together they built a life and raised their five children on their tobacco farm in Walsingham. Her family was always at the heart of her life, and she took great pride in the people they became.

Helen was an artist at heart and had a natural eye for beauty. She enjoyed photography, painting, gardening, and was a talented seamstress with a fantastic sense of style. She was a beauty herself and carried that same flair and creativity into everything she did. Helen and her friends enjoyed road trips along the Lake Erie coastline. They explored hidden gems, abandoned houses, antique shops, and places that made each adventure memorable. Music was another great love of Helen's, with Gordon Lightfoot being a particular favourite. She enjoyed local jam sessions, where music, friendship, and laughter came together.

Helen lived a full and colourful life, surrounded by family, friends, music, creativity, laughter, and love. She will be deeply missed by all who knew and loved her, but the memories she created and the love she gave will remain with her family and friends forever. Rest peacefully, Helen. You will always be loved, always be remembered, and never be forgotten.

A Celebration of Life will be held on Saturday October 17, 2026, from 2:00 to 4:30 p.m. at Woodlawn Community Centre, 225420 Otterville Rd., Otterville, Ontario. Memorial donations to the Lions Camp Dorset are appreciated. A special thank you to Dr. K, Dr. Nagrani, and the nurses in the ICU at Norfolk General Hospital for their care and compassion. Wareing Cremation Services, 161 Broadway St., Tillsonburg, Ontario has been entrusted with Final Arrangements. Your messages of remembrance and condolence may be shared at www.wareingcremation.ca

CLASSIFIEDS

TREES

For Sale: Shade Trees; Maples, Oaks, Birch, Beech, Honey Locusts, Elms, Magnolia, Hydrangea Tree, Tulip Tree, Crab apples, Ivory Silk Lilac, Chanticleer Pear, Golden Weeping Willows and more. Apples, Pears, Peaches, Plums, Apricots, Nectarine, Blueberry, Haskap etc. Lots of healthy strong Spruce, Cedars and White Pine for your privacy hedges and windbreaks. Hundred of flowering shrubs.

Reg Hours 7am- 6pm Mon-Sat at Martins Nursery c/o Emanuel Martin. 42661 Orangehill Rd., Wroxeter, ON

LOOKING FOR

Natalie Boulianne, or anyone knowing her whereabouts, please contact Fr. George F. Nayfa, St. Nicholas Greek Orthodox Church, 697 Asheville Highway, PO Box 1107, Spartanburg, SC 29303, 864-494-5365 about a personal matter.

OBITUARY

SALLY LYNN (LOUCKS) EPPLE

(FEBRUARY 6, 1950 – AUGUST 25, 2026)



Passed away, peacefully, at VON Sakura House Hospice, Woodstock, our much loved wife, mother, grandmother, great-grandmother, and friend, Sally Lynn (Loucks) Epple, a resident of Hickory Hills, Tillsonburg, on Tuesday, August 25th, 2026, in her 77th year. Sally was born in Tillsonburg, daughter of the late Norman and Bertha (LaForge) Loucks. Sally will be remembered as the former proprietor of “Sally’s Beauty Salon” in Port Burwell. In 1968, Sally married the love of her life Ed Frank Epple, of Tillsonburg. Together they raised a beautiful family; they also enjoyed camping and travelling. Sally enjoyed gardening, playing board games and playing cards with family and friends.

Lovingly remembered by her husband Ed and their children: Darrell (Tina) Epple, of Port Burwell; Reuben (Tammy) Epple, of St. Thomas; and Melanie Epple, of Port Burwell. Also lovingly remembered by her grandchildren and great-grandchildren who brought great joy to her life. Also survived by her in-laws Marlaine Epple, Barbara Wiebe and Mike Epple. Predeceased by her sister Anna Brooks and her in-laws Albert, Freida, Bill and Bruce.

In keeping with Sally’s expressed wishes, a private family funeral service will be held by Rev. Larry Edwards, of Trinity Anglican Church. Interment follows in Trinity Anglican Cemetery, Port Burwell. Everyone who knew Sally is invited to share favourite memories and photos, express personal condolences or contribute memorial donations to “Trinity Anglican Church” or to “Von Oxford” (for Sakura House Hospice) via Sally’s online tribute page at www.verhoevefuneralhomes.com or by contacting the Maurice J. Verhoeve Funeral Homes - Burial and Cremation Services Inc., 262 Broadway, Tillsonburg (519) 842-4238.

“Special thank you to Dolly Brooks, Cathy Gullons and the dedicated Doctors Nurses PSWs and Staff at Sakura House, Ultima Home Care, and Ontario Health at Home for the wonderful care provided to Sally and to our family.”

OBITUARY

JOHN MARISSSEN

(AUGUST 6, 1953 – AUGUST 10, 2026)



John Marissen, born August 6, 1953, in St. Thomas, Ontario, passed away peacefully on August 10, 2026, in Tillsonburg, Ontario.

Family was at the heart of his life. He will be deeply missed by his children, Wendy Marissen and her partner Matt, Julie Marissen, Erin Barker and her husband Robert, Megan Marissen and her partner Tony, and Tony

Marissen and his wife Alicia.

He was also a very proud grandfather to Kayla, Andrew, Addison, Jared, Hazel, Hayden, Rhys, James, Ellie, and Sophie. His grandchildren brought a special kind of happiness into his life. He will be missed dearly by many nieces and nephews.

John is also lovingly remembered by his former wife, Janice Schuurman (Jeff), his siblings, Annie Marissen, Harry Marissen (Ida), and brother-in-law Dirk VanDixhoorn. John was also predeceased by his loving parents, Teunis and Hennie Marissen and his sister Nancy VanDixhoorn. He will also be remembered by his friend Rick, whose friendship was an important part of his life.

There will be so many things his family will miss: his presence, his familiar voice, his quiet sense of humour, the little conversations, the walks, the stories, and all the ordinary moments that never seemed important at the time but now mean so much.

Cremation has taken place. Family and friends will be received for a celebration of life to be held Saturday, October 10, 2026 at Ostrander Funeral Home, 43 Bidwell St., Tillsonburg, ON N4G 3T6 (519) 842-5221 from 11:00am-1:00pm where the funeral service will start at 1:00pm. All are welcome to come and go and share memories of John. A private interment will follow the celebration of life. The family request in lieu of flowers to please donate to the Alzheimer’s Society South-West Partners or to the Heart and Stroke Foundation either directly online or payable by cheque by contacting Ostrander’s Funeral Home (519) 842-5221.

Condolences and memories may be shared at www.ostrandersonline.com

QUIZ ANSWERS

1. Schroeder
2. Sapphire
3. Two
4. Pomology
5. Also known as
6. St. Bernard
7. Seven
8. Kid
9. Soccer Ball
10. All gods

SUDOKU

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

ELIZABETH CSIGAI (NEE BOROS)

(SEPTEMBER 27, 1935 – AUGUST 30, 2026)



It is with great sadness, we announce the peaceful passing of our beloved mother, grandmother, great grandmother, mother-in-law, sister and friend, after a short but courageous illness on August 30, 2026, in her 91st year.

Elizabeth was born in Sarkad, Hungary on September 27th, 1935. At the age of 7 she re-located to Budapest with her family where her father was called to serve as a member of Congress. She met and married her husband Jozsef (Joseph) who, at the time, was serving in the Hungarian Navy in

1952. They had a son Joseph Charles in 1953. Elizabeth, her husband and son left Hungary in 1956 during the Hungarian Revolution and took shelter in a Refugee Camp in Yugoslavia for 6 months, before re-locating to Wassigny France and lived there for 5 years where daughters, Elisabeth and Gabriella were born. Their goal was to start a new life in Canada so in 1960, they sailed by ship to Montreal where they were met with Jozsef’s great uncle Charles Nagy, who sponsored their immigration to Canada and helped them settle into their new life. They took on several day and evening jobs to help build a strong foundation for their family of 5 in a new country.

From 1964-1980, Elizabeth and Jozsef were share croppers in the tobacco farming industry, farming mostly in Tillsonburg and the surrounding area. Eventually, they were able to proudly purchase their own tobacco farm in Eden. Tobacco farming was a very labour intensive job and it was not uncommon to find Elizabeth on a tractor in the fields, pulling plants in the hot greenhouse or in the kitchen cooking and baking for up to 15 people or more for workers to help harvest the tobacco crop. During our years of farming, Elizabeth and Jozsef instilled in us a strong work ethic, the need to work together and to take time to appreciate both family and friends. When the farm was sold, Elizabeth worked at Fleck Manufacturing until her retirement.

Elizabeth and her family were embraced by the members of the Calvin Presbyterian Church where they ensured their children were immersed in the Hungarian traditions, language and customs. Elizabeth was an active church member until the church’s closure in June 2023. She had been a long serving member of the Ladies Aid, which included assuming the role of President for 4 years. She was also an active member of the Delhi District Hungarian Hall for over 40 years and was still helping prepare and cook fried chicken, cabbage rolls and other delicious foods for wedding and banquets up to the age of 80.

Elizabeth was pre-deceased by her loving husband and best friend Jozsef in 2005 and son Joseph Charles in 1986, parents Gergely and Margit Boros (nee Sajti), by her sister Margit Nagy, and brothers Gergely, Sandor and Gabor. She is survived by sisters Zsuzsana Pal, Etelka Horvath and Aniko Boros, along with several nieces, nephews and cousins all living in Europe. Elizabeth is survived by and will be greatly missed by her daughter Elisabeth Fleming, (Bruce), grandchildren Gregory Fleming (Ally), Geoffrey Fleming (Jenna) also her daughter Gabriella Gingras (Brian), granddaughter Hayleigh Gingras (Sean). She is also survived by her great granddaughter, Elena Lyn Fleming.

Elizabeth will always be remembered for her immense love for her family, for her kindness towards others, her love of cooking, baking, crocheting and for her love of traveling (back to Hungary several times to visit her family), for trips to the East Coast and camping, to Florida, Venice, and France to name a few. She enjoyed country drives and the beauties of nature.

The family would like to thank Dr. Roth and his staff at the Tillsonburg Medical Centre and the many medical professionals at Tillsonburg District Memorial Hospital for their years of devotion and care. A huge thank you to Dr. Jamal and Dr. Regis for their kindness and dedication to all of our family and the team of caring and dedicated nursing staff from the Oxford County Palliative Care Team and Care Partners nurses (Johanna, Randi, Leanne, Terri and Kristen).

Friends, neighbours and relatives are invited to attend public visitation to be held on Saturday, September 12th, 2026, between 12:00 and 2:00 p.m. in the Maurice J. Verhoeve Funeral Home Chapel at 262 Broadway St., Tillsonburg, followed by Funeral Service to Celebrate Elizabeth’s Life at 2:00 p.m., by Rev. Richard Jones. Private interment in Tillsonburg Cemetery. Everyone who knew Elizabeth is invited to share a favourite memory and photo, express personal condolences or make memorial donations to Diabetes Canada or Tillsonburg District Memorial Hospital Foundation or MS Canada via Elizabeth’s online tribute page at www.verhoevefuneralhomes.com or by contacting the Maurice J. Verhoeve Funeral Homes - Burial and Cremation Services Inc., (519) 842-4238.

MARY KATHERINE "KATHY" SMITH

1929 - 2026



Kathy, 96, passed away suddenly but peacefully the evening of 27 August 2026 at Idlewyld Manor in Hamilton, Ontario; just six days shy of her 97th birthday. There was a glorious full moon, a lunar eclipse and aurora borealis dancing in the skies; a celestial celebration of her transition to her eternal home.

Kathy was born 2 September 1929 a daughter to Harold and Violet Wilson of Frogmore, Ontario. She grew up in a lively home with two sisters and five brothers. Kathy met Cpl. John Vank of Tillsonburg who had

recently returned home after a tour of duty overseas (WWII). Attracted by her beautiful masses of auburn curls and her spunky spirit John married Kathy (1946) and raised five children. Kathy had a love of music, especially country and gospel. She could often be found humming some little ditty that gladdened her heart. She learned to sew out of necessity but developed a real talent for it. She would look at current fashions and reproduce them for her daughters. She, also, took up knitting square tiles that would be joined together forming blankets that would then be sent overseas to third world countries. Kathy took delight in baking pies, tarts and cinnamon sugar donut twists but not cookies, never cookies. Her various homes always had beautiful flower gardens; she had the proverbial "green thumb". Kathy's greatest passion was for Jesus. This desire propelled her to attend a variety of seminars and certificated programs such as Bible Prophecy, Gifts of the Spirit, New Testament Greek and a discipleship program with Youth With A Mission (YWAM). After her husband John died Kathy moved from Ingersoll to Tillsonburg where her spiritual journey really blossomed. In her church community Kathy was well regarded as a powerful prayer warrior. In prayer she would be transformed from a timid woman to a bold, effectual defender. Kathy embarked upon a very loving relationship with Merwood Smith (1989). Merwood brought joy and comfort to Kathy until the day of his passing. Kathy endured the long road of dementia, even so, her faith was never diminished.

Kathy is survived by her three daughters - Della L Tyrrell of Hamilton, Nancy L Thomas of Hamilton and Julia D Vank of Tillsonburg. She, also, lives on in the hearts and memories of her eleven grandchildren, nine great grandchildren, sister-in-law Alice Wilson (nee Mahoney) and many other family and friends.

Kathy was predeceased by her parents Harold E "Happy" Wilson (1938) and Violet M Mitts (nee Shropshire - 1995), stepfather Mailon E Mitts (1977), husbands John Vank (1981) and Merwood C Smith (2004), sons John H C Vank (2022) and Gregory S Vank (2008), granddaughter Tia B Quintana (nee Thomas - 1999), sisters Sheila H McDowell (nee Wilson - 2020) and Joan P Trevor (nee Wilson - 2019), brothers Donald H E "Pete" Wilson (2021), Douglas N C Wilson (2020), Kenneth R Wilson (2006), Paul B Wilson (1990), Robert F Wilson (2019), sister-in-laws Ruth G Wilson (nee Lowe - 2011), Louise S Wilson (nee Riding - 1992), Magdalena "Lenny" Wilson (nee Kessler - 2024), Margaret E Wilson (nee Marcotte -1985), Jacqueline J Wilson (nee Ripley - 2026), Betty J Wilson (2003), brother-in-laws Stanley H McDowell (2000), Christopher C Trevor (2026).

Our family would like to express profound gratitude for the care provided to our mother during her time at the long term care facility Idlewyld Manor in Hamilton. All of the staff treated our mother with tender hearted kindness and professionalism. Thank you. We know our mother's death impacted you, too.

Although Kathy's physical presence may no longer grace our lives, her spirit will continue to inspire and uplift us. May her memory ever be a blessing.

Visitation will be held at Ostrander's Funeral Home, 43 Bidwell St., Tillsonburg, ON N4G 3T6 (519) 842-5221 on Wednesday, September 2, 2026 from 9:00am until 11:00am. The funeral service for Kathy will commence immediately following the visitation at 11:00am in Ostrander's Funeral Home Chapel. Officiated by Rev. Scott Mabey. Interment at King Lake Cemetery will follow a luncheon to be held at the Tillsonburg Royal Canadian Legion Branch #153, 16 Durham St., Tillsonburg, ON

Flowers will be accepted or memorial contributions may be made to the Diabetes Canada or Alzheimer's Association and may be done directly with each organization or payable by cheque by contact the Funeral Home. Condolences and memories may be shared at www.ostrandersonline.com

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OBITUARY

LIAM DAVID TURNER

(JUNE 15, 1980 – AUGUST 29, 2026)



Passed away, suddenly, but peacefully, on Saturday, August 29th, 2026, at the Tillsonburg District Memorial Hospital, with loving family by his side, Liam David Turner of Tillsonburg and formerly of Kingston, at the age of 46. Liam was an avid musician, composer and song writer and a loving parent who selflessly cared about others first. Survived by his step-dad Pat Catlin and late Beverly Catlin.

Loved husband of Angela Montgomery and step-father of two loved step-children: Julia Brown and Jaxon Brown. Loved brother and brother-in-law of: Rosanne Turner (Jamie Bracken) and children: Daniel and Amanda; and a sister Brenda Turner, all of Kingston. Best friend since childhood of: Darick Tobin of Kitchener. Survived by a special cousin Rebecca McSavage, Woodstock.

Cremation has taken place. Celebration of Liam's Life will be held at a later date. Maurice J. Verhoeve Funeral Homes- Burial and Cremation Services Inc., 262 Broadway, Tillsonburg, (519-842-4238), entrusted with all arrangements with confidence.

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