

Woodstock Ingersoll Echo

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Acchione decides to take strong mayor powers

LEE GRIFFI

Local Journalism Initiative Reporter

Woodstock Mayor Jerry Acchione has made the decision to accept strong mayor powers from the province. He announced his decision at a recent council meeting and released a statement. The move also appears to open the door for an Oxford County versus City of Woodstock battle over services.

“To be clear, the strong mayor powers are a by-product of agreeing to the housing target. I am confirming my commitment to achieving the target the province has given us so that Woodstock has an opportunity to access the building faster fund to help advance our strategic priorities including bringing more, and more affordable housing to Woodstock and we have a voice at the table to work with the province on removing barriers to achieving that goal. The estimated \$4 to 5 million will not cover all the costs associated with growth but that is still (money) that we’re not asking taxpayers for. My report to council outlined my intentions to delegate much of these “powers” back to staff and council. I don’t envision using them and intend to honour the role of our elected council as much as possible. There are still many questions to be answered and I will continue to clarify my intentions as we learn more. Any decisions and directions made using the authorities under the strong mayor legislation will be publicly documented on the website.”

Not everyone is on board with Acchione’s decision, including councillor Brenda Wheaton. “The province said strong mayor powers were intended to get shovels in the ground faster, yet no one can explain how it will accomplish that. So far, we haven’t seen housing pop up

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(STEWART GRANT PHOTO)

MAKING A DIFFERENCE

Dot Foods CEO Dick Tracy announced at the grand opening of their Ingersoll distribution centre that the company is investing \$50,000 among several local non-profit organizations: Alzheimer’s Society in London, United Way of Oxford County, Fusion Centre in Ingersoll, Salvation Army in Ingersoll, Salvation Army in London, and Big Brothers Big Sisters in Oxford County.

Dot Foods celebrates Ingersoll grand opening with \$50,000 in donations to local charities

STEWART GRANT

Publisher

September 15th was a notable day for the Town of Ingersoll as the ribbon-cutting took place at the new 168,875 square-foot distribution centre in Ingersoll for Dot Foods Canada Inc.

Dot Foods Canada Inc. is a subsidiary of Dot Foods, Inc., which is the largest food industry redistributor in North America.

The new distribution centre, located at 100 Ken McKee

Street, represents a \$50 million investment in the Ingersoll area and will create 200 local jobs in its first three to five years of operation. The facility in Ingersoll replaces Dot Canada’s original headquarters and operations in Toronto. Dot also has operations in Alberta.

Dot Foods is a family-owned and operated company that was founded in 1960 by Robert and Dorothy Tracy. Dick Tracy, the 12th child of Robert and Dorothy, now serves as company CEO and was on hand at the opening ceremony to make an important announcement.

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Dot Foods celebrates Ingersoll grand opening



(STEWART GRANT PHOTO)

CONNECTING THE DOTS

Town of Ingersoll Mayor Brian Petrie (at podium), Oxford MPP Ernie Hardeman (seated left), Oxford MP Arpan Khanna (middle), and Dot Foods CEO Dick Tracy (right) were among those who addressed the crowd at Dot Foods' grand opening of their Ingersoll distribution centre on September 15.

CONTINUED FROM FRONT

"We're excited to be here," said Tracy. "We're excited about what we've seen in this community so far. And we think it is our responsibility to be good corporate citizens. Mom and Dad felt strongly about making an impact in this world by making this place a better place to live. We also think it's good for business by making investments for the community and local charities and local efforts, not just with our money, but also with our time. We want our employees, our leaders, to become leaders in the community."

"When we did a ground-breaking a few years ago, we gave \$50,000 away, and we're going to do the same today."

Tracy announced that the company is investing \$10,000 with the Alzheimer's Society in London, \$10,000 to the United Way of Oxford County, \$7,500 for the Fusion Centre in Ingersoll, \$7,500 for the Salvation Army in Ingersoll, \$7,500 for the Salvation Army in London, and \$7,500 for Big Brothers Big Sisters in Oxford County.

On September 16, the company welcomed the public for a community open house to celebrate the grand opening and to offer tours of the facility.

ABOUT DOT FOODS AND DOT TRANSPORTATION:

Dot Foods, Inc. carries 125,000 products from 1,020 food industry manufacturers making it the largest food industry redistributor in North America. Through Dot Transportation, Inc., an affiliate of Dot Foods, the company distributes food-service, convenience, retail, and vending products to distributors in all 50 states and more than 55 countries. Dot Foods operates 12 U. S. distribution centers, which are located in Bullhead City, Arizona; Modesto, California; Bear, Delaware; Vidalia, Georgia; Burley, Idaho; Mt. Sterling, Illinois; University Park, Illinois; Cambridge City, Indiana; Williamsport, Maryland; Liverpool, New York; Ardmore, Oklahoma; and Dyersburg, Tennessee. Dot's 13th U.S. location is currently under construction in Manchester, Tennessee. For information, visit DotFoods.com.

Dot Foods Canada, a subsidiary of Dot Foods, established operations in Toronto, Ontario and Calgary, Alberta, in 2016. The company opened a new distribution center in Ingersoll in 2023 which serves as the headquarters for Canadian operations. Dot Foods Transportation Canada, Inc., a subsidiary of Dot Foods Transportation, Inc., distributes a diverse range of 3,300 Canadian and American products for more than 275 Canadian distribution points.

Status of potential CTS site in Woodstock up in the air

LEE GRIFFI

Local Journalism Initiative Reporter

The province has put a stop to any new Consumption and Treatment Services (CTS) or safe injection sites in Ontario, but that doesn't mean Southwestern Public Health is pausing its planning process. Dr. Ninh Tran is the Medical Officer of Health at Southwestern Public Health, the organization in phase two of its drive to place a CTS in both Woodstock and St. Thomas. He said despite the provincial hold they are moving forward with the second part of the process. "We finished the feasibility study (phase one) earlier this year and we are really at the beginning of phase two in terms of who might be willing to be an operator and apply for funding. If we do find an operator, we would then be looking at potential locations and doing a lot of community consultations."

When asked if an operation could potentially open without approval from all levels of government, Dr. Tran said their attention is on working with stakeholders. "A CTS is a provincially funded site that has a safe consumption site as well as treatment and other wraparound services. You need a federal exemption, provincial, and municipal support. There are other options if you aren't going the provincial route but right now our focus is a provincial CTS."

The public meeting held on September 26 heard from a number of organizations and individuals both for and against a CTS in Woodstock. Dr. Tran said none of the feedback was surprising. "We knew there would be a variety of perspectives. It's what has been seen in other communities. People have different perspectives based on their understanding and their values. It was a good opportunity for us to hear not only support but people's questions and concerns." He added there is an opioid crisis in the community and a CTS is an additional tool to combat it. Many locals are calling for more funding for additional treatment options and more hospital beds for those with addiction and mental health

issues, something Dr. Tan agrees with. "We need more of all four pillars: prevention, harm reduction, justice and safety, and treatment. Treatment is something we want even more of. There is a lot of opportunity there to extend access."

Among the perspectives not in favour of a CTS is that of councillor Deb Tait who is firm in her belief that a safe consumption site just isn't the way to go for the city. She wasn't surprised when Ontario made the move to halt any new sites and she added it was a good thing to hear from people on both sides of the argument but the stories of those affected the most by addiction make the decision a clear one. "They all said the same thing. Do not do these sites. Not the way to go. Put the money into detox or mental health which is what I have been saying all the long. I hope the government is listening to that will go in a different direction." Tait said one telling point is that many cities across the county have the same addiction problem as Woodstock does, but there are very few sites. "When you consider how many cities are in Canada along with the very small number that have them. If they were successful wouldn't all of us be having one?" Tait also believes the community and social service groups supporting a site would be better off pooling all the money available, lobbying for more government cash, and putting it towards addiction and mental health services to help get addicts off drugs.

Among the presenters in favour of a safe injection site is Lynn Wardell from Oxford Mental Health who said a CTS would prevent accidental overdoses, reduce the spread of infectious diseases like HIV, and promote safe communities by directing drug use away from public spaces and neighbourhoods. "Consumption and treatment services save lives. CTS sites do not give out drugs and do not encourage drug use. They do not lead to more drug use by those who currently use drugs and does not lead to more people using drugs in the community." She added there have been 47 deaths as a result of opioid overdoses

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IN CONVERSATION

**RON SHUEBROOK
AND
FRANCES THOMAS**

October 21, 2023 –
January 20, 2024

Curator: Mary Reid

Ron Shuebrook, *Black Mountain, Blue Monkey-rope*, 2021.

Frances Thomas, *Stuck in a Good Place*, 2022.

Photo credit: Joseph Hartman



NICHOLAS CROMBACH **LANDSLLIP**

October 21, 2023 – January 20, 2024

Guest Curator: Jessica Benjak-Waterous



Nicholas Crombach,
Erratic Boulders, 2023.
Photo credit: Mike Patten



Poetry in Japanese Form Inspired by the Work of Florence Carlyle

the ekphrasis of Florence

July 15, 2023 – January 20, 2024

Guest Curator and Poet: Emily De Angelis

Florence Carlyle, *The Garden at Englewood* (detail), c. 1907.

Echo

Woodstock Ingersoll Echo

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@woodstockingersollecho

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Circulation Matters!
This month we will distribute
7,000 printed copies of the
Woodstock Ingersoll Echo.

Voting now open for Woodstock Business Excellence Awards

STEWART GRANT

Publisher

Woodstock and area is home to many great businesses - and now is the chance to have your say on which ones will earn 2023 Business Awards of Excellence as the Woodstock District Chamber of Commerce holds their grand event on November 8.

Online voting for the contest started this past Monday, October 16th at www.woodstockchamber.ca and all are invited to cast their votes.

Businesses nominated in the various categories are as follows:

Outstanding New Business Award:

- Fore! Oxford
- Rising Roots Farm
- The Happy Hippo Co.

Young Entrepreneur / Professional of the Year:

- Attention to Detail
- Dance in Style Studios
- Transitions Equine Assisted Learning

Community Engagement Award:

- Big Brothers Big Sisters of Oxford County
- Operation Sharing

• Oxford County Community Health Centre
Professional Services of the Year:

- Cassandra Benard OC Realty Team
- Lubricare
- Rosso Barber-o Shop

Outstanding Food Service Award:

- Brick House Brew Pub
- The Soulful Spoon
- Whisk and Roll Bakery

Outstanding Achievement Manufacturing Award:

- Haas Enterprises Inc.
- Maglin Site Furniture

Outstanding Commercial / Retail Award:

- Blue Cow Delivery / Greener Pastures Eco Farm
- Fair Square
- Scott's No Frills

Agri-Business Award:

- Berrylicious Fruit Farm
- Blythe Brae Farms
- Deep Purple Lavender

The Awards will be handed out on November 8 at 6:00 p.m. at the Colombo Club of Oxford in Beachville.

Ingersoll Business Leaders celebrated

WOODSTOCK INGERSOLL ECHO STAFF

info@theecho.ca

The Ingersoll District Chamber of Commerce held their 31st annual Awards of Excellence last Thursday, October 12 at the Elm Hurst Inn and Spa.

The 2023 winners were as follows:

- **Business / Industry of the Year:** Ingersoll Music Academy

- **Agricultural Award:** JTK Meat Shoppe
 - **President's Award:** Ted Comiskey
 - **Youth Entrepreneur / Youth Citizen of the Year:** Emily Bula, Mark Warnick
 - **Citizen of the Year:** Denise Vyse
- Congratulations to all of the winners as well as those nominated for the 2023 awards.



Woodstock Ingersoll Echo

Guiding Principles

1. Everyone has a story
2. The news should be free for all to enjoy
3. Good news beats bad news
4. A Newspaper should be a community effort (contribute to your local paper!)
5. Newspapers document history
6. Newspapers strengthen communities
7. Advertisers, big or small, should profit from their ads (meaning sensible ad rates)
8. Newspapers should be locally-owned and operated

'Contingency plans in place:' Toyota Motor Manufacturing Canada monitors ongoing United Automotive Workers strike in the United States

MARÍA C. ROSALES GERPE

Echo Correspondent

Since September 15, 2023, a strike organized by the United Auto Workers and targeting GM, Ford, and Chrysler in the US does not seem to be slowing down. On October 4, 2023, Reuters reported that General Motors (GM) spent \$200 million during its third quarter due to the ongoing United Auto Workers strike, and was approved for a new credit line at \$6 billion USD to deal with the losses.

With the Detroit Three, Toyota Manufacturing Motor Company (TMMC), and other major automaker plants scattered across the province, Ontario is a "key driver of Canada's automotive indus-

try" and responsible for 90 to 95 percent of Canada's automotive manufacturing GDP, as reported by the Future of Canadian Automotive Labourforce Initiative.

The current auto labour climate has warranted concern by Canada's automaker experts. In an interview for Automotive News Canada, Flavio Volpe, president of the Automotive Parts Manufacturer's Association (APMA) said that Canada's automotive industry is attentive to the developing situation.

According to Volpe, Canada exports 48 percent of its auto parts production, with a significant amount shipped to Detroit Three manufacturers, so it is very likely the strike impacts will also be felt in Canada, and particularly in Ontario. Ramifi-

cations of the strike have reached Canada, where Canadian auto workers unionized through Unifor have settled their demands with both Ford, and GM, on September 24, and October 10, respectively.

What about Woodstock and Cambridge TMMC plants?

"We have contingency plans in place to ensure our production will not be impacted," Michael Bouliane, Manager of Corporate Communications at TMMC responded to an email by the Woodstock-Ingersoll Echo regarding TMMC's potential shipment issues from US auto parts suppliers.

Ford and GM negotiations in Canada centered on cost-of-living adjustments, and pension plans, which were altered

during the 2009 recession to help the companies navigate financial woes. TMMC employees also contended with pay cuts at the time.

Bouliane did not provide additional comments on whether TMMC is preparing to negotiate pay or benefits with TMMC employees, who are not unionized and have rejected unionization several times in the past.

This November 3, 2023, it will be 15 years since the Woodstock-based Toyota Motor Manufacturing Canada (TMMC) West Plant produced its first RAV4 and 35 years since TMMC began operating in Ontario. The three TMMC plants, one in Woodstock, and two in Cambridge, are the central to each city's economy.

Status of potential CTS site in Woodstock up in the air

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 2

in Oxford County between 2019 and 2021 in addition to 230 emergency room visits and 66 hospitalizations. "It is crucial that we prioritize the health, safety, and well-being of all members of our community, including those struggling with addiction."

Also presenting was Jasmine Moulton who lives in Woodstock with her husband and two young children. She pleaded with all

members of council to vote against a CTS and not provide Southwestern Public Health with a letter of support. She added the report from public health is in itself flawed. "The report repeatedly mentioned destigmatizing substance use yet even those in the report with lived experience, such as drug users or former addicts, expressed concern over these policies normalizing substance abuse. It's like these unelected bureaucrats are so ideo-

logically driven that the community's feedback has fallen completely on deaf ears, yet they forge ahead committed to their agenda." Moulton felt those who support a site are trying to convince those against it that letting addicts continue to do drugs is a good thing. "As George Orwell said, and I will change this slightly for decorum's sake, some ideas are so silly that only intellectuals could believe them." She would rather see taxpayer

dollars go towards more rehabilitation opportunities locally.

Woodstock City Council will be voting on a 400-word motion on Thursday, October 19 that essentially rejects a CTS but instead "supports the development of a campus of treatment services around addiction, mental health, rehabilitation, and transitional housing which does not include consumption services."



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Fostering inclusivity in Oxford County amid growing anti-2SLGBTQ+ sentiment in Ontario and Canada

MARÍA C. ROSALES GERPE

Echo Correspondent

On September 20, 2023, members of the Million March 4 Children (MM4C) group took to cities across Canada to protest SOGI education in schools. The same day, MM4C rallies were met by counter-protests organized by members of the 2SLGBTQ+ communities in Canada.

On Saturday, October 21, another protest by MM4C has been scheduled, according to the MM4C website: millionmarch4children.squarespace.com. Counter-protest efforts by the 2SLGBTQ+ community are underway according to the 1 Million Voices for Inclusion Facebook group.

Why are people protesting SOGI?

According to a template letter that parents can download from the MM4C website to appeal to teachers, MM4C sympathizers are “in opposition to the SOGI 123 (Sexual Orientation and Gender Identity) curriculum being integrated into our educational institutions.”

Template letters offered to parents go on to state that the parent would be participating in the nationwide MM4C march, and that their child would not be in school that day.

What is SOGI?

In 2007, the Awareness, Respect, and Capacity (ARC) Foundation was established to discourage discrimination of 2SLGBTQ+ in schools. In 2016, in collaboration with schools in Eastern Canada, launched SOGI 123, a pilot project offering guidance and resources for educators on how to create a welcoming environment for 2SLGBTQ students.

SOGI is neither part of the education curriculum, nor mandated by any provincial government in Canada. School educators interested in the program reach out to the ARC foundation through the website sogieducation.org.

How has the anti-SOGI response affected Oxford County?

The anti-SOGI protests are part of a ubiquitous anti-2SLGBTQ+ sentiment that is already present at Oxford County,

explained Tami Murray, President of Oxford Pride.

“Norwich Township Council voted against flying the Pride flag on any Township property,” relayed Murray. To Murray, advocacy continues to be important because she knows misinformation about the 2SLGBTQ+ community can affect their health.

In 2017, Oxford County Public Health published data showing that 2SLGBTQ+ community was not adequately supported by public services, including healthcare, available in the region. The report was a collaboration of multiple organizations including Wilfred Laurier University, and the Oxford County Rainbow Coalition (OCRC), “a group of service providers that come together to discuss gaps in service for the 2SLGBTQ+ community,” said Gayle Milne, a Public Health nurse and member of OCRC.

Despite the grim report in 2017, Milne stated that there has been progress. “The survey results assisted local service providers in the development of services such as gender-affirming care,” Milne said. “This gender-affirming care is now available for adults- a public health milestone for the County-through the Ingersoll Nurse Practitioner Led Clinic,” she added.

Milne also highlighted that the County’s “Big Brothers and Sisters (a mentoring program for the 2SLGBTQ+ community) now offers a PRISM program, which was not in existence.” The OCRC has begun planning another public health survey on the 2SLGBTQ+ community.

“We are just starting the process of doing another survey and are hoping we will be able to do data collection next year, before releasing a report similar to the one in 2017,” spoke Milne. The upcoming survey will prioritize experience in health care services, including access to mental health resources, relayed Milne.

If you would like to know more about the Public Health survey on the 2SLGBTQ+ community, please visit www.facebook.com/OxfordCountyRainbowCoalition.

Acchione decides to take strong mayor powers

CONTINUED FROM FRONT

because of these unrequested amendments to our democratic system. If the province would have said here is \$4 million in funding, please go build 5500 homes, we’d say yep, let’s do that. And we would have gotten to work on the task. Why do strong mayor powers need to be part of the equation?” Wheaton added that to her it is also a numbers issue, and she posed a question. “What does \$4 to \$5 million over multiple years mean to Woodstock? Take \$4 million divided by 5,500 units and it equals \$725 per housing unit.

\$5 million is \$910 per unit. This is the most insignificant incentive imaginable especially with our democratic process hanging in the balance.”

Councillor Kate Leatherbarrow asked for a vote requiring the mayor to publicly outline his intentions. It passed by a 6-1 margin with Acchione being the only one to vote against it. “Jerry voted against transparency. He voted against a motion to publicly outline his intentions,” said Wheaton.

Not all members of council were upset, including Councillor Deb Tait who said he has complete faith in the mayor that he will not abuse his new powers. “The mayor already outlined he would not be using his powers in a way that would be against democracy. He already put that in writing. He was very clear, and he said it during the meeting. We are all a very strong group and if the mayor did try to use any of those powers, everybody would be screaming.” She added the main issue with the strong mayor powers lies in their business relationship with Oxford County, something the province is aware of. “They control our water, sewers, and planning. The number one issue in fulfilling the housing pledge is we need those services back at our level, not have the county control it.” While Tait did vote for the motion, she said she did so because she doesn’t support the powers but does support taking back control over

planning in the city which was a part of the pledge to the province.

In terms of the county versus city debate over services, mayor Acchione said there is some work to be done. “In Woodstock, we do need to address issues related to our jurisdictional authority over some of the housing supportive infrastructure, including our water distribution and wastewater collection, and navigate changes and clarify responsibilities for land use planning policies and approvals which currently reside with the County.”

At the county level, the warden said he maintains the stance that strong mayor

powers are bad for democracy, period. Marcus Ryan explained he is concerned because there are many unknowns. “There is reason to believe (the province) intends to extend it to all heads of council in Ontario. Now they have attached a dollar value to it. I’m frankly skeptical about how much that might even be. Municipalities don’t build homes. How much control do they actually have over building them?” Ryan added the



JERRY ACCHIONE

\$4 to \$5 million dollars Woodstock may get won’t cover the costs of the infrastructure needed to build that many homes. “It really is in the long-term a drop in the bucket, and what price do you pay for that? The transfer of the power of each member of council’s vote. Some of that gets transferred to one member of that council. Right now, I am the head of two councils, and I can guarantee you both of those councils function better because everyone on it has a vote.”

Ryan feels problems, especially complex ones, are better solved by a group of people trying to work out what the solutions are. “That group isn’t necessarily going to always agree but that’s part of what makes the solutions better. We are forced to listen to each other and compromise.” He added he would like to think he wouldn’t use strong mayor powers if he had them but can’t rule it out if he did.



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Woodstock plans a very special November 11 to commemorate veterans

MARÍA C. ROSALES GERPE

Echo Correspondent

Every November 11, a procession rounds the corner of Buller and Graham streets toward the Woodstock Cenotaph at Victoria Park to commemorate the life and service of Woodstock veterans. This year, from October 27 until November 11, while the poppy campaign runs, Woodstock residents will be able to take a stroll along the downtown core in remembrance of Woodstock veterans.

“Roughly 60 light poles in the Downtown core will feature a banner, each displaying the name and photo of a local fallen veteran,” stated Kristen Brodhagen, Manager of Special Events with the City

of Woodstock. “We are proud to pay tribute and recognize the courage and sacrifice made by local veterans. This project showcases the rich history of our city,” added Brodhagen.

This initiative has been in the works for quite some time, according to Ann Ash, senior administrative assistant to the mayor and chief administrative officer at the City of Woodstock. “The City of Woodstock Parks & Recreation Department, Royal Canadian Legion Branch 55 and Woodstock Navy Club, worked as a joint force to see this project through,” Ash said. Reta Horan, who has been working as the Supervisor of Parks at the City of Woodstock for 10 years, spearheaded the project, relayed Ash.

“This project was truly successful thanks to the photo submissions made by the public,” said Brodhagen. Ernest Guy, a Woodstock veteran said his father and two uncles will be represented in the project; his father served during WWII and the Korean War.

Having begun serving in 1958 until June 1969, Guy was only nine months short of receiving a Canadian decoration for 12 years of service. Due to an accident that damaged his neck, he was released from service.

Now, he works as a Service Officer for Woodstock’s Royal Canadian Legion Branch 55. This November 11, he will be part of the procession – known as “The Walking March” – marching toward the

Woodstock Cenotaph.

The Remembrance Day ceremony is set to start at 10:30 AM, and will include a Canadian Harvard Aircraft fly-over, which has been continually sponsored by the Miller family, relayed Ash. The family’s patriarch Ken Miller, a veteran and former police chief at Woodstock recently passed, said Ash.

For those wanting to know more about the Banner Project, and the events that will take place this Remembrance Day, please visit,

- www.cityofwoodstock.ca/remembranceday
- www.cityofwoodstock.ca/WoW
- www.facebook.com/RCL55Woodstock/

Town of Ingersoll says it’s in good shape financially

LEE GRIFFI

Local Journalism Initiative Reporter

Ingersoll has released its 2022 financial statements and according to the town, it’s good news.

Deputy Treasurer Mandy Clark said in her presentation to council that during 2022 the town continued its ongoing efforts to recover from the impact of the COVID-19 pandemic. “It saw a resurgence in revenues related to recreational programs and memberships, resulting in the Victoria Park Community Centre and Fusion Centre returning to pre-pandemic levels of activity.” She added it is important to acknowledge that the 2022 fiscal year presented certain challenges, including high inflation, rising fuel prices, and supply chain disruptions. “The town also achieved significant milestones that underscored its commitment to economic growth and development. One of the achievements was the sale of industrial lands to two companies, DOT Foods, and Carson Co.” The two land sales resulted in over \$7 million dollars for the town which helped replenish Ingersoll’s industrial development reserve fund and also close the previous unfinanced liability that was associated with the land. “Now we don’t have that unfinanced on our statements,” added Clark.

The operating surplus has been confirmed as just under \$1 million which represents close to 3.5 percent of the town’s operating budget. Mayor Brian Petrie said finance can be a tricky task for municipalities. “Budgets are a weird thing. Staff tries very hard to predict what’s going to happen in the future, but things happen throughout the year such as those land sales or even dividends from our hydro

company which we don’t budget for.” He added it is always better to have a surplus which gives them some options. “If we had a deficit, we would have to pull money out of reserves, but this gives us some options to move some projects ahead at a faster pace than they would have been.”

Council supports new school for Ingersoll

The town’s three elementary schools have reached capacity and a Thames Valley District School Board trustee asked for and received support for a new school from council. Dave Cripps represents Oxford County and, in a letter, said in August of this year the Ministry of Education announced that it was opening acceptance of business cases supporting the building of new schools across the province. “The new Ingersoll school sits in the top five priority builds at this time of over 22 potential projects,” he added.

Mayor Petrie said supporting a new school was an easy decision based on growth alone. “The growth throughout Oxford County and really the province is unprecedented, especially with the goal of building 1.5 million houses. We are happy to provide support for that.” He explained the way schools are funded is very complicated and maybe not the most efficient way. “Usually, you have to have a need before a school is built and by the time it is there is even more of a need than what has been predicted. A lot of schools are over capacity right at the beginning.” Petrie added Cripps has been doing a tremendous job lobbying for the county and Ingersoll’s education needs. “Hopefully we can get that on the minister’s radar and move forward.”

Woodstock City Council news briefs

LEE GRIFFI

Local Journalism Initiative Reporter

Community grants approved

Council approved grants for 13 community organizations for the second wave of the City’s Community Grant program. These grants help fund initiatives by volunteer, non-profit, and charitable organizations. The grant funding comes from the OLG Slot Revenues and is awarded twice per year. The next deadline to apply for a community grant is Friday, March 1, 2024. Eligibility information is available at www.cityofwoodstock.ca/communitygrants.

Among the successful organizations are Ingamo Homes who were given \$37,500, \$10,000 for Operation Sharing, and \$6,000 for the Woodstock Curling Centre.

Pickleball courts update

At their September 7 meeting, council heard from a delegation requesting the city create more pickleball courts in response to the high demand for the popular sport. The delegation outlined potential opportunities from their perspective that would offer additional playing time for those looking to take part. Staff came back with a report, outlining the opportunities or challenges for each of the suggested options for council’s consideration through the budget process.

Recognizing the interest and demand for pickleball courts, staff have been taking additional measures to offer more play time. In addition to the three outdoor pickleball courts currently in Woodstock, the city has three indoor courts at Cowan Sportsplex. Starting mid-October, three new indoor pickleball courts are opening at Reeves Community Complex in the renovated Goff Gymnasium (formerly Goff Hall), increasing play time from 22.5 to 34.5 hours a week.

Purchase of 478-484 Dundas Street Council approved the purchase of

478-484 Dundas St., which is located next to City Hall and is currently home to Tristar Liquidation and Discount. Acquiring this property is a significant step towards achieving the vision outlined in the Streetscape Master Plan that was adopted by council in 2022. The master plan envisions a continuous civic space, connecting city hall to Museum Square, a key location for city events. This is a long-term, strategic investment in the downtown that positions the city effectively to offer enhanced programming and events as well as a possible future city hall expansion as Woodstock grows.

The total sale price is \$3,000,000 which includes \$2,750,000 for the property and \$250,000 for the business. Tristar is expected to remain open for business at this location until June 30, 2026.

Updates to proclamation and community flag policies

Council approved updates to two policies, formalizing the process for requests and considerations of community flag raisings and proclamations. Previously, this was at the mayor’s discretion. Considering recent issues in other communities, staff recognized an opportunity to bring forward policies to clarify expectations and ensure a process is in place so that requests are considered fairly, consistently, and inclusive. Both updated policies now define the criteria and process for community flag-raising and proclamation requests.

Support for Operation Sharing day shelter

Because of the growing number of people experiencing homelessness in Woodstock, council approved \$50,000 from the Community and Social Well-Being Reserve Fund to support additional security services at Operation Sharing shelter locations. This will help ensure that the staff, volunteers, and patrons have a safe environment to provide and access services.

visit us online at
www.theecho.ca

Doors Open Woodstock

During Doors Open on Saturday, September 23, people visited Woodstock's heritage and cultural sites, with free entrance to all the 10 locations. Open to tour were Brick

House Brew Pub, Habitual Chocolate, Knox Presbyterian Church, Oxford Early ON Child and Family Centre, Red Barn Berries and Veggies, Reel Treats, Southside Park,

Whitelaw Machinery Company Limited, Woodstock Masonic Lodge and Woodstock Museum National Historic Site.



(STEWART GRANT PHOTO)

Tresa Chamberlain and Angela Neddo of Habitual Chocolate, located at 389 Dundas Street. The building which dates back to the 1880's, has hosted a variety of different businesses during its history – including James Hay Furniture Company, Mr. W. H. Walbourne, Practical Embalmer and Funeral Director, Wright's Tobacco and Novelty Store, and Parson's Fish Market.



(STEWART GRANT PHOTO)

Lewis Pilgrim, John Sutherland, and Don Cooper at Woodstock Masonic Lodge. This building was purchased by local Masons in November 1921. After extensive renovations, it was rededicated by the Grand Lodge on January 10, 1923. A 100th anniversary celebration took place this year, conducted by Grand Lodge officers and witnessed by Masons and non-Masons alike. The three Masonic Lodges held here are King Solomon's 43, Oxford 76 and Mercer Wilson 678.



(RON YUZARK PHOTO)

Whitelaw Machinery Company Limited – The oldest running business in Oxford County, this foundry, established by Robert Whitelaw in 1856, manufactured agricultural machinery — from turbines to cheese-making equipment. In 1958, they diversified their portfolio to include automotive parts. Today, along with their sister company, Whitelaw Trucking, they continue to provide manufacturing, warehousing and transportation. – Jim Harrison (Owner), Don Elton, Karen Houston, Kent Rawson.



(RON YUZARK PHOTO)

Red Barn Berries and Veggies – About 150 years ago, this timber-frame barn was built using locally sourced stone walls (using mortar with horsehair) and some hand-hewn timbers. There is a hidden room under the barn hill for holding turnips. Around 1900, the barn was expanded. – Esther Vardijken, Andrew Kehoe, Mouse, Don Hilborne (owner), Carman Dyas



(RON YUZARK PHOTO)

Knox Presbyterian Church – This Richardsonian Romanesque-style church was constructed in 1896-97. Cantilever trusses support the coffered ceiling of the main sanctuary. The organ inside was built by D.W. Karn and Company of Woodstock.



(RON YUZARK PHOTO)

Red Barn Berries & Veggies – Eden Bryane, Matt, Vicki Hilborn

A Celebration of the Good Old Days at West Oxford United Church

RUTH INGHAM

Contributor

Our Church congregation is celebrating the church entering its 220th year of service. We are considered the oldest Protestant Congregation with continuous services in Oxford County.

The first services were held in the settlers' homes led by Rev. Nathan Bangs, a pioneer saddle bag minister of the Methodist Church. In 1806, services were held in a log schoolhouse which was across the road from the present church until 1823 when a frame church building was erected on the present site. In 1854, the frame church was replaced with the present brick building. There have been many changes to that building itself since. The floor was raised and a basement was dug out, a kitchen added at the rear of the church, a new entrance was built and several redecorations of the church sanctuary.

Several groups have been active over these many years.

Sunday School for Beginners to Adults was conducted with classes for the younger ones in the basement. Records show that in 1954 the average attendance was 73 and the average offering was \$4.80. As so many other churches with smaller numbers in attendance, we no longer have a Sunday School.

Ladies Aid, which later became United Church Women was started in 1902 but is no longer still going as the members aged and weren't able to continue and no younger women were joining. This group held an annual Turkey supper,



catered weddings, funeral lunches and banquets, and had bake sales. A different fundraiser was tackled in 1963, publishing a cookbook holding recipes from its members and families. It was a great success so they repeated it again in 1975. In the 90's they published a series of four smaller books, each one a specialty such as dessert, or casseroles. Every one wanted the recipes of Dorothy's Oatmeal Cookies or Madeline's Cherry Torte to try for themselves. They were hard workers as there was no water in the church so it had to be brought in for each event. Weddings in the 50's cost \$1.25 per plate! Money raised by the ladies was used in

the church as well as in the community.

Young People's Union became an organized group in 1932 and at one time this group was regarded as the one of the strongest in the old Oxford Presbytery. Besides being responsible for conducting various Sunday services there were many rallies and baseball games with neighbouring Young Peoples' groups. West Oxford won the plaque so often they were given the latest one that was hung in the church.

I remember our group cutting the grass of the cemetery which surrounds the church. We used a push mower and were paid \$100 for the summer during

the 1960's. Due to declining numbers the group also dissolved in 1974.

During the the later years there was an active Fellowship Group for the adults in the congregation. They met once a month at different homes or had a special outing. This group donated to many different charities in the local area and were leaders in the last facelift of the church sanctuary.

Many of the original settlers who came to "Oxford Upon the Thames" are buried in the pioneer cemetery surrounding the church. These stones tell the story of many families who lost young children and mothers from lack of medical knowledge or available care. Some families were wiped out by epidemics for which they were no known vaccines at that time. A large restoration project took place from 1970 to 1972 to repair and try to preserve these old grave markers. The cemetery is now owned by the Township of SouthWest Oxford.

Were you married here? Did you attend the Sunday School? Were you a member of CGIT or TYROS or the Young People's group that won the plaque hanging on the wall and the Fellowship Group?

Join us on October 29 at 1:30 p.m. for our service with special music and a celebration of our long history and / or come and look through the many photos and memorabilia. Renew old friendships or meet new friends and have light refreshments. West Oxford United Church is located at 354395 Church Line between Karn Rd. and Clarke Rd.

Everyone is welcome.



RED HAT LADIES LUNCHEON WOODSTOCK

(RON YUZARK PHOTO)

The Red Hat Society is an international social group for women who are 50 years or older. The group was founded in 1998 by Sue Ellen Cooper. The Red Hatters, as they are more affectionately known, encourages women to break out of their shell and have some fun and laughter. Pictured above are Carol Walton, Margaret Tweedly, Marie Hass, Jennifer Harrington, Joyce Townson and Yvonne Ares.

Weekend Quiz

- 1) What is the longest river in Europe?
- 2) Samuel Morse was the inventor of what revolutionary device?
- 3) What is the shortest complete sentence in the English language?
- 4) How many legs does a lobster have?
- 5) What is England's National flower?
- 6) In a game of chess, who makes the first move?
- 7) True or False? Squash has been featured as an Olympic sport.
- 8) The song "Over the Rainbow" was written for what film?
- 9) What was the best-selling Nintendo Wii videogame?
- 10) What is the only sea without any coasts?

This week's answers are found on pg. 29

Truth & Reconciliation Ceremonies

Every Child Matters & Public Smudge Ceremony was held Monday, September 25 at Oxford County Administration Building.

ISAN Oxford (Indigenous Solidarity & Awareness Network-Oxford) invited the public to the raising of the Every Child Matters flag at the Oxford County Administration Building. The flag was raised ahead of Nation-

al Day for Truth and Reconciliation on September 30 to recognize and honour those affected by the Indigenous residential school system and also the 60s Millennial Scoops, in which large numbers of Indigenous children were brought into the child welfare system in Canada.

Smudging is a cultural ceremony practiced by a wide variety of Indigenous people.

ISAN's 3rd annual March for Truth and Reconciliation was held in Ingersoll on Saturday September 30. Greetings and presentation were by Director Patricia Marshall and Indigenous Studies professor Cody Groat at 5:00 p.m. Opening Drum by Doreen Guimont followed by their March for Truth and Reconciliation from Yvonne Mott Memorial Park to the Ingersoll Cheese Museum Park Pavilion at 6:00 p.m.



Marcus Ryan (Warden Oxford County), Beccg Neepin, Baydea, Faye, Ada, Ruun, Patricia Marshall, Keegan DeSutter and Herg.



Tracy Macdonald and David Simmons (Representing Unifor Local 88) were volunteers to help with the March.



Kim Parker Administering Public Smudge to Tommasina Conte (Oxford County Manager, Strategic Communication & Engagement)



Kim Parker Receives Recognition From Patricia Marshall (Founder Director, ISAN Oxford)



Yetty Joose, John Joose and Bryan Smith joining The March.



RED DRESS CEREMONY

(RON YUZARK PHOTOS)

The Red dress tree was set up at Memorial Park, Ingersoll at Sunset on September 29th.

Red Dress Day was inspired in 2010 by Jamie Black, a Métis artist based in Winnipeg, Manitoba. Black hung hundreds of empty red dresses in public places to represent missing and murdered Indigenous women and girls and to bring awareness to the issue.



Lisa Scott passing The Smudge to those in attendance.

County working hard to create more licensed daycare spots

LEE GRIFFI

Local Journalism Initiative Reporter

Any parent with young children knows how difficult it is to find childcare be it in urban or rural areas of Oxford County, but the massive wait list continues and there is no relief in sight in the short term.

Kelly Black is the county's director of human services and said the shortage of childcare spaces is an issue that doesn't get as much attention as homelessness and affordable housing, but she believes it should. "I'm quite happy to talk about it. We definitely need to have more licensed childcare providers or even increase the number of spaces with existing providers. We are certainly working to do that." She added her department is having those conversations with municipalities as well as new businesses coming to Oxford about building space for on-site daycare to ensure employees have access to it. "Our team sent an email to all area municipalities about the need for additional childcare spaces. Some of them have engaged in further conversations and some have not. We have been doing a big push with our licensed home childcare. We have been able to double that this year to about 20 homes which is twice as many as we had last year. We are slowly building on that side." Black added the county is also contacting private developers to include a provision for childcare in requests for proposals where it makes sense. "Whatever we can do to leverage those collaboratives, even considering if there is a long-term care home being built. Does it make sense to include childcare? We are taking a look at what is happening across Oxford County and what we can do to increase spaces."

The Echo reached out to the Minister of Education, Steven Lecce, and asked what the government was planning on doing to provide more licensed daycare in small communities. Spokesperson Isha Chaudhuri provided the following statement. "To support growing families, our government has committed the allocation of 1,894 additional spaces to be created enabling more families in the County of Oxford to access quality childcare. Our government is utilizing innovative policy to additionally provide local service system managers in Ontario with \$213 million in funding for start-up grants to support the creation of new, affordable childcare spaces for children under the age of six in targeted locations for communities and populations most in need. We will continue to deliver savings for parents and access to childcare that best suits their families' needs."

Tavistock currently has two licensed home childcare operations providing about 10 spaces and one of those operators is Janet Cundall who welcomes the extra set of eyes that comes with the licensing process. "It's good to have people checking in to make sure everything's good." Cundall has been following her daughter, a locum, around the county and providing daycare where she ends up. She started in British Columbia and was in Stratford before winding up in Tavistock when she opened Tiny Seeds Nature

Pre-School and Childcare in June with spaces for five children.

The Echo also spoke to an unlicensed operator in the county who wished to remain anonymous. They mentioned a few roadblocks to becoming licensed including the red tape involved. "There is so much paperwork that they need you to do. I understand that but being one person, I have to cook, clean, take the kiddos to school, and provide their daily activities." They added there are a lot of extras to do which might be doable if they had an employee, but that isn't feasible. "I would be losing income. Licensed home childcare has set prices. Being private, I set my own daily rates."

10 of 12 eligible Oxford County childcare providers opted into the Canada-Wide Early Learning and Childcare Agreement with the end goal of an average of \$10 a day daycare. "Right now, the goal is September of 2025 to reach that price, but we will see if there is a shift going into 2024. Other provinces have reached that average so if Ontario wants to move up their target, we haven't heard anything yet," said Black. There is a range of what parents are paying for their children in the federal program based on age, but currently in Oxford, it is between \$19 and \$24 a day. "That represents a 52.75 percent decrease in fees that was applied by December of 2022. We have 1380 spaces across the county at daycare centres and 119 in licensed home childcare. There appears to be a discrepancy in what parents pay for private versus licensed home daycare, and it adds up. Cundall is only able to charge \$42.50 per child per day while sources tell the Echo those without a license are getting up to \$55 per child per day.

Oxford County does keep a record of kids waiting for licensed spots and the number is staggering. "Right now, we have about 2700 children on it, and they range in age from infants to preschool age. It is a significant gap." Black did add that on a positive note, two upcoming school projects in Woodstock and other new builds will add spots eventually. "We have a school opening in 2025 and another in 2026 which will each have 88 spaces. We have Zorra Township's new office which will add 88 next year and a new for-profit coming to the Woodstock area which is also 88 spaces scheduled for 2024."

Oxford County is also continuing to make a pitch to increase the number of early childhood education workers in the area, something there is also a shortage of. "We are working with employment providers, local colleges, and high schools, to have young people think of the sector as a career. I can't tell you how successful that has been, but it is certainly something we are working on." Cundall said one area that would make an improvement is improved pay for childcare workers. "They are underpaid. House cleaners make more money, and we have the responsibility of taking care of people's children." The unnamed provider echoes those thoughts. "ECEs and any childcare staff are greatly underpaid in Ontario. We are helping to shape these little humans into proactive, humans of society, that may make a difference one day. It's a very important job."

Hike For Hospice

The Hike for Hospice has been a community supported event in Oxford County for 20 years. All funds raised go directly to Sakura House to ensure they can continue to offer the best palliative care at no cost to our most vulnerable. With their support, enthusiasm, and energy, they set their goal

to raise \$100,000. The 2023 Hike for Hospice took place on Saturday, September 16 at Roth Park in Woodstock. Once again, they offered a delicious free BBQ lunch after the Hike, as well as great prizes for the top fundraisers, activities for the kids, and much more.



Participants In The Hike

(RON YUZARK PHOTOS)



Jen Brownscombe, Sara Gerber, Bennett Gerber, Larry Brownscombe, Nick Gerber, Aiden Gerber, Cole Brownscombe, Neal Pollard



Sheri Vindasius VON Spokesperson



Warm Up With Nancy LaPlante



Hiya Rajbongishi, Mary Sceviour, Patricia Ruston, Nancy Fleming Registering Hikers

Ontario building new addition to school in Woodstock

LEE GRIFFI

Local Journalism Initiative Reporter

For the second time in recent weeks, the province of Ontario has decided to add to a scheduled expansion of a Woodstock high school.

As part of the province's ongoing efforts to build and improve local schools, the government has approved the London District Catholic School Board for a scope change to the new addition at St. Michael's Catholic Elementary School in Woodstock. An investment of \$11.1 million is supporting the construction.

The Thames Valley District School Board was recently approved for 856 elementary spaces and 88 licensed childcare spaces for a new school to be built in the coming years in the north end of Wood-

stock.

Once completed, the St. Michael's project will deliver 230 new elementary spaces, 88 new licensed childcare spaces, and an expanded gymnasium for local families. The investment is part of Ontario's commitment to providing approximately \$15 billion to support school construction, repair, and renewal over 10 years. Since 2018, the government has approved nearly 200 school construction projects and the development of more than 300 childcare and education building-related projects, of which more than 100 are actively under construction.

"The funding for an expanded gymnasium at St. Michael's Catholic Elementary School in Woodstock is great news for our community," said Ernie Hardeman, MPP for Oxford. "This investment will ensure

families and students have access to a quality learning environment in the years ahead."

Additionally, Ontario is taking action to ensure that school board capital assets are used effectively and efficiently to meet the needs of growing communities, support student learning, and ensure value for taxpayer dollars. The Better Schools and Student Outcomes Act, 2023 empowers decision-makers to build modern schools faster by better utilizing school capacity, reducing barriers for school boards to facilitate agreements for schools in multi-use buildings such as condo towers, and shortening planning time through design standardization when constructing, renovating, or making additions to schools.

"We are determined to build schools and expansions faster, part of our commitment

to modernize schools in fast-growing communities," said Stephen Lecce, Minister of Education. "We are proud to deliver this critical expansion at St. Michael's Catholic Elementary School for Woodstock families, along with increasing funding, staffing, and a back-to-basics focus on reading, writing, and math skills to help ensure students graduate with confidence that they can succeed in good-paying careers."

"This is great news for one of our rapidly growing communities," said Vince Romeo, Director of Education for the London District Catholic School Board. "This much-needed school and gymnasium expansion, along with a daycare, will allow us better to meet the needs of our students and their families. We are thankful for the support of the Ministry of Education in moving this project forward."

Heart of Oxford Experience provides shop local extravaganza

EMILY STEWART

Echo Correspondent

Oxford County residents can support several local businesses just ahead of the holiday season with a one-stop-shop event.

The Heart of Oxford Experience will feature more than 58 local vendors on November 4 from 10 a.m. to 8 p.m. at the Oxford Atrium, Woodstock, as well as live music and a beer garden run by Upper Thames Brewing Company.

Kirsten Young, who also owns Kynd Beauty Spa, came up with the idea after

many small businesses faced uncertainty amid the COVID-19 Pandemic. Young held the Heart of Oxford Giveaway on Instagram in 2020 with a \$5,000 prize and 70 businesses participating, which eventually grew to 140 businesses and \$25,000 worth of prizes over the years.

The Heart of Oxford Experience is now a shopping event where all participating vendors are connected to Oxford County.

"By bringing these incredible businesses under one roof and giving you The Heart of Oxford Experience, we are hoping to show each and every person in Oxford what amazing things we have right

here at home," Young said.

Community Futures Oxford, who helped several small businesses get the ground running, is the main sponsor of The Heart of Oxford Experience. Young said the organization was the first one to come to mind for a title sponsor.

"They have supplied The Heart of Oxford Experience with so much more than funding," she said. "They've given us the opportunity to uplift many of these local businesses, spread the word about them and create an incredible event for the community of Oxford County together."

Young encourages anyone looking to

shop locally to attend the Heart of Oxford Experience. She said that many people were supporting local businesses as much as possible during the height of the COVID-19 Pandemic, and she would like to see that momentum continue.

"The people who own these small businesses are your friends, neighbours and members of the community you live in," Young said. "When you support any of us, you support Oxford County; your county, your home."

Tickets range from \$7 to \$12 each.

For more information, visit www.theheartofoxford.ca.

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Police Briefs

LEE GRIFFI

Local Journalism Initiative Reporter

Five people are now in custody as the result of an armed robbery and kidnapping investigation. On Thursday, October 5 around 2:00 p.m. the Woodstock Police Service responded to an incident with a weapon involved.

The investigation revealed that at approximately 10:50 a.m. a 15-year-old male was walking southbound on Fyfe Avenue near Pavay Street when a white Chevrolet Equinox approached. Occupants of the vehicle began talking to the victim when one suspect exited the vehicle, grabbed the victim, and threw him into the back seat.

The suspects drove to the area of Upper Thames Drive and met up with additional suspects in a red/orange SUV. The suspects stole a vehicle from the victim's residence and then left the victim in a field on the 43rd Line near Oxford Road 17. The victim was transported to hospital for assessment.

On Thursday, October 5 Middlesex OPP recovered the stolen vehicle and arrested the driver. As a result, a 21-year-old man from Edmonton, Alberta was arrested and is facing charges of armed robbery, use of a firearm while committing an offence, kidnapping while using certain firearms, two counts of assault with a weapon, uttering threats, break and enter, theft over \$5000, and two counts of possession of property obtained by crime over \$5000. He has been remanded into custody. Police have not disclosed any information about the weapon involved.

On Friday, October 6 provincial police in Dryden arrested four more suspects in the Equinox. Additional charges and information about them have not yet been released. Two suspects and the red/orange SUV remain on the loose. Police say if anyone has information about the suspects' identity or location to not approach them and immediately contact police. At this time, there is no evidence to indicate this was a targeted attack however the investigation is ongoing.

As a result of the incident, police are reminding walkers to take a number of safety tips to heart, including parents and caregivers having regular personal safety discussions with their children and teens. They also advise people to walk in groups whenever possible, be aware of your surroundings and reduce distractions such as wearing headphones, notify someone you trust of your destination and how you are getting there, and when possible, avoid walking through paths or shortcuts and stick to busier areas.

Police had initially released a statement to the public regarding an investigation in the area of Upper Thames Drive between Pittock Park Road and Artur Parker Avenue. There was a heavy police presence in the area along with a number of road closures and police asked residents and businesses in the area to hold and secure.

Anyone with information about this investigation is encouraged to contact the Woodstock Police Service at 519-537-2323 or to remain anonymous, call Crime Stoppers at 1-800-222-TIPS (8477) or leave a tip online at www.oxfordcrimestoppers.com.

com. Police will update the public with more information as it becomes available.

Fail to remain collision

Woodstock Police are also investigating a fail-to-remain collision that took place on Sunday, October 1 in the John Davies Drive and Lansdowne Avenue area. Around 5:00 p.m. an unknown White GMC Acadia (possibly an AT4 model) was driving on John Davies Drive, west of Lansdowne Avenue, entering through the south end of the crescent and travelling northbound. The suspect vehicle hit an unattended, parked vehicle, causing it to be pushed onto the boulevard. The parked vehicle sustained damage to its driver's side of approximately \$4000. Police say the Acadia will have substantial damage on the passenger side.

Male suspect arrested on drug trafficking charges

Police have charged 21-year-old Etobicoke male following a drug trafficking investigation. On Wednesday, September 27 the Woodstock Police Service Criminal Intelligence and Drug Enforcement Unit, with the assistance of Uniform Patrol, arrested a male suspect. He is facing three counts of possession for the purpose of trafficking with fentanyl, cocaine, and methamphetamine. He also faces one count of possession of proceeds of property obtained by crime over \$5000. Police say they seized \$5700 in cash and drugs with a street value of over \$41,000.

Oxford OPP investigating attempted break and enter in Ingersoll

Provincial Police are asking for the public's help in locating and identifying three people involved in an attempted break-and-enter in the Town of Ingersoll.

On Sunday, October 15 around 8:00 p.m., members of the Oxford and Middlesex County Detachments, the OPP Emergency Response Unit, and the OPP Tactics and Rescue Unit, with the assistance of the OPP Canine Unit, investigated a 9-1-1 call at a Robinson Road address, not far from the CAMI plant.

Police say that just before 8:00 p.m., three suspects attempted to gain entry to a residence on the property. The suspects fled from the area on foot upon being confronted by the homeowner. No entry to the residence was gained.

Suspect one is described as a Caucasian male in his 20's with blue eyes, dirty blonde hair, and a flattened nose bridge. He stood approximately 5 foot 8 and was wearing a black ski mask and black clothing. He appeared to be carrying a black and brown-coloured rifle at the time.

The second suspect is a Caucasian female in her 20's with dirty blonde hair in a ponytail. She stood approximately 5 foot 9 and was wearing purple-coloured reading glasses, a ski mask, and black clothing. She also had a tragus piercing with an identifiable gold-coloured stud on one of her ears.

Suspect three is described as a heavy-set Caucasian female in her 20's with brown eyes and wavy brown hair. She stood approximately 5 foot 3 and was wearing a black toque, a black surgical mask, black clothing, and a ring on her right hand.

Officers were unable to locate the suspects following extensive search efforts in the area.

'The poppy should be red:' White poppy movement still unknown in Woodstock

MARÍA C. ROSALES GERPE

Echo Correspondent

Since 2016, a Remembrance for Peace ceremony has been held in Vancouver, British Columbia, to commemorate victims of war, including veterans. From 2021 onwards, the Remembrance for Peace ceremony has been hosted live on YouTube.

The ceremony is organized by the Peace Poppy organization, whose symbol is a white poppy with a green centre where the word "Peace" is written in all capitals. According to the Vancouver-based group's website peacepoppies.ca, the white poppies are "an initiative...to encourage Canadians to broaden their Remembrance Day focus to include the civilians who now make up to 90 percent of conflict victims; to challenge beliefs, values and institutions that make war seem inevitable; and, to urge our government to promote and fund effective non-military means of dispute resolution."

In 2018, the Royal Canadian Legion reacted to news of the movement by writing in an email to Global News that the red poppy was an "all-encompassing remembrance symbol." Many, including Woodstock's Legion Branch 55 service officer Ernest Guy, have not heard of the white poppy.

"It just seems to go against the grain," Guy said, adding that "the poppy's red

because it's dipped in the blood of our troops." According to the Canadian War Museum, "the flowers often overgrew the mass graves left by battles," due to the lime from artillery bombardments.

"They were initially made by disabled veterans," reads a webpage from the Canadian War Museum, adding that the poppies were used to generate proceeds for "funding veteran's needs." What the White Poppy movement does have in common with the Red Poppy Campaign is the hope for peace.

Reflecting on recent atrocities including the wars on Ukraine, and between Israel and Palestine, Guy said that he would like peace around the world, though he acknowledges it may not be feasible. "I hope we can show a little bit of brotherly love to people around us. It does no good to quarrel and fight with your fellow man," emphasized Guy about what he hopes people take from commemorating Veteran's Day this November 11.

If you would like to learn more about the White Poppy movement, please visit <https://peacepoppies.ca/>. If you would like to learn more about the red poppy and Remembrance Day in Canada, please visit www.warmuseum.ca/firstworldwar/history/after-the-war/remembrance/the-poppy/, and www.legion.ca/remembrance/the-poppy-campaign.

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Echo 

Woodstock Ingersoll Echo is starting out as a monthly newspaper available both in print format and online (theecho.ca). Published the 3rd Friday of each month, our next editions are:

Friday, November 17, 2023

Friday, December 15, 2023

info@theecho.ca

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Oxford VON celebrates 30 years of their Ingersoll Adult Day Program

WENDY LAMOND

Echo Correspondent

The VON program is an extremely important service that delivers home care and community support including adult day programs to so many people across our province.

It provides a safe place for recreational, social, and therapeutic activities for older adults and individuals with disabilities.

Oxford VON is beyond thrilled to celebrate 30 years for their adult day program. There are three Adult Day programs in area. One in Woodstock, Ingersoll and Tillsonburg and they have had the privilege of helping hundreds of people.

On September 27th VON Oxford held a fun, entertaining event at their location in the Fusion Centre, Ingersoll.

Starting off the speeches was Robin

Mongelli, the Adult Day Program Supervisor. Mongelli welcomed the clients and caregivers and thanked all the support team members for the countless hours of work and dedication they provide on a daily basis and in making all clients visit memorable. The VON Oxford manager, Robyn Kish, also thanked everyone for attending and for the on-going support of care givers and loved ones. Kish commented that the VON program has served over 18,500 attendance tags which shows how many people the program has touched over the years from all around the county.

The celebration involved a BBQ luncheon, live music, draw prizes and for clients to show off their new 30-year anniversary t-shirts. Lots of stories and laughs were shared and you could tell that the staff sincerely care about their clients and each other.



Clients Margie and Brent Burton enjoy their lunch at the celebration.

(WENDY LAMOND PHOTOS)



Musical entertainment was provided by Dave Bellair.



VON Staff: back left to right: Mackenzie Wallace, Deb Doyle, Carolyn Kaufman, Robyn Kish. Front left to right: Michelle Baeyens and Robyn Mongelli

Ingersoll Cheese & Agricultural Museum's eerie exhibit includes antique dolls, ghost stories

EMILY STEWART

Echo Correspondent

The Ingersoll Cheese and Agricultural Museum has plenty in store to gear up for Halloween.

The museum's "Be a Doll, Won't You?" exhibit has a variety of materials for families to explore local history through porcelain dolls, straw dolls, Victorian mourning customs such as hair art and post-mortem photography, and stories. Stephanie Conron, curator, said the museum wanted to create something to lead into Halloween without too many scares.

"There's just something about antique dolls that when you walk past them, whether it feels like their eyes are following you or just the look on their face, you

kind of get the chills," Conron said. "We figured that our doll collection would be something that was really great that children would come and not be too scared of or they would love it, because they love dolls and they don't necessarily see them as creepy, but as adults, they give us the chills when we see them."

"Be a Doll, Won't You?" features several dolls in great condition and several more in rough shape.

"Those are the dolls, are the ones where people kind of pause when they look at them and they go 'Oh, that kind of gives me the chills,' or 'Oh, I remember that doll when I was young,'" she said.

Visitors of the museum on 290 Harris Street, Ingersoll can listen to the "The Facts Got Twisted" podcast about the

untrue story of ventriloquist Charlie McCarthy and his doll, either at the listening station or on their phone with a QR code scan. They will also learn about Mary Jane Norsworthy haunting her family home, Norleigh, after she passed from diphtheria.

"It's said that her ghost haunted the halls of Norleigh until her last child passed away," Conron said. "Her ghost stayed to make sure her children were happy and healthy life and then she was able to move on."

The Ingersoll Cheese and Agricultural Museum will also have Pumpkin Fest from 1 p.m. to 4 p.m. in the

afternoon. The event will feature costume contests, a pie eating contest, crafts, and a giveaway of 500 pumpkins to children, supplied by the Ingersoll Kiwanis Club.

"Be a Doll, Won't you?" runs until October 31st.

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Theatre Woodstock Rehearsal "When The Reaper Calls"



(RON YUZARK PHOTOS)

Cast of When the Reaper Calls Beau Stasiuk (Prof Harlan Brandstater) Alicia Sauve (Officer McGuire) Aaron Gorlick (Prof Victor Pierce) Joanna Wilcox (Colleen Brandstater) Dora Pierce (Tina Sterling)

An evening of rehearsal for Theatre Woodstock presentation of When the Reaper Calls by Peter Colley.

This is a comic thriller about two young academics who are rivals over the question: "is there life after death?" and how that affects the way you should lead your life. As they vacation together with their long-suffering wives, their rivalry results

in infidelity, murder, and lots of laughs!

Directed by Ted McLaughlin

Dates for Play are:

October 20, 21, 26, 27, 28; 7:30 p.m. and October 22, 29; 2 p.m.

Theatre Woodstock is a thriving community theatre located in the heart of downtown Woodstock.



The crew for When the Reaper Calls Lindsay Wilson (Stage Manager) Ted McLaughlin (Director) Pam Hagen (Producer)



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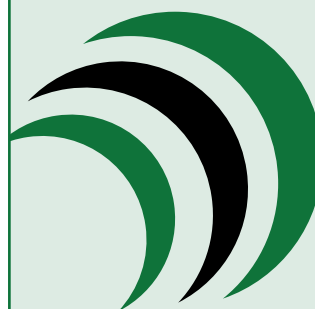
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Navy Vets start season with win streak

JIM TAYLOR

Contributor

The Woodstock Navy Vets have started the season with a team record-tying 9-game win streak. The only other Navy Vets team to start the season with 9 straight wins was in 1995.

They are on the verge of tying the franchise all-time winning streak of 10 games set in 1992-93.

2nd year star Davin Gray from Ingersoll and veteran Beachville native Nolan Brett have led the offence early in the season sitting 1st and 2nd respectively in the PJHL Doherty Division scoring leaders ... Gray with a division-leading 16 assists

and Brett leading the division in goals with 7.

Newcomer Chris Coulter from London has bolstered the Vets defensive corps and leads all division defencemen in scoring with 5 goals and 6 assists.

Returning goalie Tyler Bouck has been strong in the net and leads the division with 6 wins and a .928 Save% ... and is 2nd with a 2.33 GAA.

Head Coach Darren Young became the 4th coach in team history to reach 100 career wins ... joining Dave Bogart, Ed MacQueen, and Scott Brooks.

Nolan Brett reached the 100 career points milestone.

CONTINUED TO PAGE 19



(CONTRIBUTED PHOTO)

GOAL!

Opening goal on the powerplay by Coulter against Norwich on September 30 L to R: Brett (#28), Gray (#19), Coulter (#22)

WOODSTOCK NAVY VETS 2023-24 Player Statistics (through Oct. 13, 2023)

PLAYER	POS	GP	G	A	PTS
Davin Gray	F	9	4	15	19
Nolan Brett	F	9	7	11	18
Chris Coulter	D	8	5	6	11
Ethan Szabo	F	5	5	5	10
Tyler Smeda	D	9	3	4	7
Ty Crombie	F	8	2	5	7
Sam Barry	F	9	4	2	6
Cole Dann	F	9	2	4	6
Brodie Kearns	F	3	1	5	6
Jake Phelan	D	6	3	1	4
Owen Lukings	F	7	2	2	4
Rhylan Warford	F	7	2	2	4
Michael Boyle-Ricupero	F	6	1	3	4
Mitch Penner	D	9	0	4	4
Brady Carne	F	6	1	2	3
Matt Brooks	F	8	1	2	3
Michael Vermeersch	D	7	0	3	3
Aaron Bullock	F	4	1	1	2
Brandon Lamb	DF	5	0	2	2
Jordan Thomson	D	8	0	2	2
Connor Stanley	F	5	1	0	1
Scott Rodrigue	G	3	0	1	1
Aiden Kindurys	F	8	0	1	1
Timothy Mervyn	D	2	0	0	0
Ethan Domjan	D	5	0	0	0
Tyler Bouck	G	6	0	0	0

PLAYER	RECORD	GAA	SV%
Tyler Bouck	6-0-0-0	2.33	0.928
Scott Rodrigue	3-0-0-0	3.33	0.885

THAMESFORD TROJANS 2023-24 Player Statistics (through Oct. 13, 2023)

PLAYER	POS	GP	G	A	PTS
Alex MacLeod	F	9	8	9	17
Jack Weber	F	9	5	10	15
Will Lewis	D	9	5	9	14
Brett Busby	F	8	5	7	12
Owen Kernohan	F	9	3	8	11
Matthew Pimentel	F	9	5	5	10
Ewan Meiklejohn	F	9	3	6	9
Ty Durston	D	7	4	3	7
Nathan Marques	D	9	3	4	7
Ronan Panziera	F	6	3	3	6
Yusuf Jomaa	F	8	3	3	6
Brenden Smith	F	9	1	4	5
Anthony Simpson	F	8	2	2	4
Cayden Muscutt	F	7	1	2	3
Calvin Hanford	F	9	1	2	3
Jaiden Hay	F	5	0	3	3
Brandon Page	D	8	0	3	3
Will Strain	D	8	1	0	1
John Poustie	F	1	0	1	1
Justin McClelland	D	9	0	1	1
Matthew Rizzo	G	1	0	0	0
Ryan Kowalczyk	D	2	0	0	0
Kevin Halloran	G	4	0	0	0
Oliver Rebanks	G	4	0	0	0

PLAYER	RECORD	GAA	SV%
Matthew Rizzo	1-0-0-0	0.00	1.000
Oliver Rebanks	4-0-0-0	1.75	0.943
Kevin Halloran	4-0-0-0	2.00	0.928

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Oxford Reads fall programming



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KATIE RICE of Ingersoll Ontario Cross Country Champion

Katie Rice of Ingersoll attended IDCI Highschool and represented Ingersoll playing competitive hockey for many years. When hockey was shut down in her final Midget year due to Covid she started running on the treadmill at home to keep fit and pass the time during lockdown.

In September 2021 she was to attend Fanshawe College and decided to try out for the Varsity Cross Country Team .. mainly to meet people at her new College and keep fit. She made the team (to her surprise) and impressively posted many top 5 finishes in her first year. This was a complete surprise due to her lack of experience and racing against competitors that had years of training.

After a summer of real

cross-country training Katie was ready for her second season in 2022. She finished 2nd in her first two Invitational Meets and finally broke through to win the Centennial College Invitational – beating the defending Ontario Champion. Katie then travelled to Thunder Bay Ontario to compete in the Ontario Championships and crushed the competition winning the Gold Medal by a 38 second margin.

The team then travelled to Medicine Hat, Alberta for the Canadian Cross Country Championship and Katie finished 12th in Canada. A great result running in tough snowy conditions.

Katie was named the 2022 Fanshawe Female Athlete of the Year.

Katie looks stronger than ever

at the start of the 2023 season. She won the inaugural Invitational event at Seneca College on September 22nd – the winning margin was an impressive 1 minute and 52 seconds ahead of the 2nd place runner. She also won gold at her home race – The Fanshawe Invitational on Saturday September 30th. Her winning margin of 1 minute and 11 seconds.

Upcoming races are the Centennial Invitational on October 11th, followed by a chance to defend her title at the Ontario Championships hosted by Conestoga College on October 28th. If successful, Katie has the chance of representing Fanshawe at the Canadian Championships in Halifax, NS on November 11th.



(CONTRIBUTED PHOTO)

PJHL STANDINGS

West Yeck Division

(Standings through October 13, 2023)

	GP	W	L	OTL	T	PTS
Thamesford Trojans	9	9	0	0	0	18
North Middlesex Stars	8	7	1	0	0	14
Dorchester Dolphins	8	5	1	2	0	12
Mt. Brydges Bulldogs	6	3	3	0	0	6
Exeter Hawks	7	3	4	0	0	6
Lucan Irish	8	2	5	1	0	5
Petrolia Flyers	8	2	6	0	0	4
Aylmer Spitfires	9	2	7	0	0	4
Port Stanley Sailors	5	1	4	0	0	2

PJHL STANDINGS

South Doherty Division

(Standings through October 13, 2023)

	GP	W	L	OTL	T	PTS
Woodstock Navy Vets	9	9	0	0	0	18
New Hamburg Firebirds	9	6	3	0	0	12
Wellesley Applejacks	7	4	3	0	0	8
Tavistock Braves	9	4	5	0	0	8
Hespeler Shamrocks	8	3	5	0	0	6
Norwich Merchants	8	2	5	1	0	5
Paris Titans	8	1	6	1	0	3

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City of Woodstock adds 8 to Sports Wall of Fame

WOODSTOCK INGERSOLL ECHO STAFF

info@theecho.ca

Every two years (with the exception of 2021 which was missed due to COVID), the City of Woodstock's Recreation Advisory Committee celebrates individuals and team who have achieved outstanding sports achievement by honouring them as inductees into the City's Sports Wall of Fame.

On September 23rd, eight new inductees were added to the Wall of Fame located at the Reeves Community Complex, joining hundreds who have already been recognized over prior years and decades.

This year's inductees were:

Amanda Nelson

Nelson is a 33-year-old ultra-marathoner who established a new women's record for running duration when competing at the Backyard Ultra World Championships in B.C. last year, when she ran 55 hours over three days, finish-

ing with a total of 368 kilometres.

Alida Kingswood

Kingswood, who is 91-years-old, broke the lightweight 2,000 metre rowing record for the 90-94 age group at the World Rowing Indoor Championship earlier this year.

Tom Arnott

Arnott has found tremendous success coaching football throughout his career. He twice won Ontario University Coach of the Year with York University (1995, 1997) and also won a title with Wilfred Laurier University in 1987.

Derek Couch

Couch, under the ring name Robbie McAllister, competed internationally as a professional wrestler within World Wrestling Entertainment for many years. Later, Couch continued to be involved with growing the sport in Canada and the United States.

Karen Hansen

Hansen, a Woodstock Collegiate graduate,

was a talented multi-sport athlete but truly made her mark in the sport of rowing. At the University of Cambridge, she helped the school's women's eight sculls team win the Henley Regatta in 2001.

Peter Ferguson

Ferguson, who also attended Woodstock Collegiate, was a champion badminton player throughout his career in both the singles and doubles categories. He was the national doubles champion from 1958 to 1960.

WCI 1990-91 senior boys' volleyball

This Red Devils team won the Oxford-Elgin championship and were silver medalists at both WOSSAA and OFSAA, compiling a set win-loss record of 120-36. Team members included Mike Elliott, Rob Stafford, Jeff Koop, Dale Jorgensen, John Hewitt, Dave

Moore, Luke Hopcraft, Tyler Moore, Randy Sears, Jeff Feairs, Steve Roach, Kevin Wilker and coach Dave Alexander.

WCI 1990-91 senior boys' basketball

The Red Devils senior boys' basketball team won the Oxford-Elgin championship then earned silver at both OFSAA and WOSSAA. Team members included Rick Cassidy, David Cowing, Mike Elliott, Jeff Feairs, Daryl Gee, Dale Jorgensen, Dave Moore, Tyler Moore, Dan Morris (captain), Steve Roach, Rob Stafford, Kevin Wilker and coach Dave Alexander.

Thamesford News

DORIS WEIR

Contributor

The **Thamesford Trojans Junior C Hockey** team is on a winning streak with 9 wins and no losses! The team is playing amazing together. Come on out to watch amazing hockey by the Trojans. They play most Fridays at the Thamesford District Recreation Centre! Check website for schedule. Licensed bar and Canteen is run by the volunteers of the Thamesford Lions Club. A weekly draw is available for minor hockey players/figure skaters, to have the chance on skating with the Canada Flag and Trojans Flag at the beginning of the game. How exciting is that! Check Trojans FB page for more information. Watch the FB page for upcoming events!

The **Thamesford Lions Club** is a busy organization with a variety of upcoming events. On November 4th, the club will be hosting a Drive Through Pork BBQ dinner. To secure your spot, be sure to order your dinner ahead of time. On November 22nd, the Lions will be hosting a talk regarding excavations at a mid 19th century site located just west of Thamesford. This event is open to everyone, so don't hesitate to attend. In December, the Lions will be hosting two events: a Day with Santa and a Sing Along, both of which are free. The Day with Santa will include Christmas music, games, and a photo opportunity with Santa Claus. Donations through the Christmas kettle will be accepted for Ingersoll & District Inter-Church. In the evening, the club will host a Christmas carol sing, showcasing local talent. The Thamesford Lions Club is also

involved in Catch the Ace, a fundraising initiative where participants purchase tickets and have the chance to win a large pot of money. The Ace has yet to be found, so the pot now sits at over \$5000! Catch the Ace tickets are drawn every Tuesday at Brunny's in Thamesford, and can be purchased at multiple businesses in Thamesford and Embro. Lastly, the Lions Club is committed to making sure the roadways are clean by doing a roadside clean-up semi-annually. The club also participates in a major cleanup of parks and roadways in the spring. It's important to note that all proceeds from the events hosted by the Thamesford Lions go directly back into the communities in Zorra Township. The club has over 60 members and is continually growing. For more information on the Thamesford Lions Club and their upcoming events, be sure to check out their Facebook and Flickr pages.

The Multi-use Court Committee had a Pickle Ball Tournament on October 15th and was a huge success! All monies raised goes in to making the courts a reality. Sponsors are needed to make this fundraiser a reality. Reach out to a committee member if you would like to become a sponsor. The committee is also having a Holiday Market on November 18th. Many local vendors will be attending to sell homemade items. Add this to your list of places to visit on November 18th! Watch for flyer.

The Cali Committee is having a Cali-ween Fall Fest on October 28, 2023. Check flyer for more information. The Cali Committee are also looking for volunteers. Want to help make Calithumpian in 2024 and in future a success? Join the committee.

Navy Vets start season with win streak

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 17

Rookies Michael Boyle-Ricupero, Connor Stanley, and Brady Carne all scored their 1st junior goals ... while Michael Vermeersch and Aiden Kindurys each recorded their 1st junior points on assists.

Brady Carne became part of Navy Vets history when he played his 1st game of the season to become the 3rd generation of his family to play a game with the team ... joining father Chris Carne who played during the early 1990s and grandfather Jim Wilkins who was a member of the 1969 OHA Schmalz Cup Champions.

UPCOMING OCTOBER-NOVEMBER GAMES

Fri Oct 20 vs NEW HAMBURG at Southwood Arena @ 7:45pm – Parkinson's Awareness
 Sat Oct 21 at NEW HAMBURG @ 7:30pm
 Fri Oct 27 at TAVISTOCK @ 7:30pm
 Sat Oct 28 vs NORWICH at Southwood Arena @ 7:45pm
 Fri Nov 03 at NORWICH @ 7:30pm
 Sat Nov 04 at WELLESLEY @ 7:30pm
 Fri Nov 10 vs PARIS at Southwood Arena @ 7:45pm – United Way Oxford Awareness
 Sat Nov 11 vs NEW HAMBURG at Southwood Arena @ 7:45pm – Remembrance Day
 Fri Nov 17 at TAVISTOCK @ 7:30pm
 Sun Nov 19 at PARIS @ 7:30pm
 Fri Nov 24 vs NORWICH at Southwood Arena @ 7:45pm – Teddy Bear & Pajama Toss
 Sun Nov 26 at HESPELER @ 3:30pm



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(RON YUZARK PHOTOS)

TERRY FOX RUN

On Sunday, Sept. 17, the Terry Fox Run returned to Woodstock in support of Terry's dream to find a cure for the deadly disease. The local run was held in Woodstock's Southside Park, with registration at 9 a.m. The opening ceremonies and the fundraising run started at 10 a.m. All funds collected through the pledges to runners went directly to the Terry Fox Foundation and were not used for any locally incurred expenses. The continuing success of the event here and across Canada is a strong testament to Terry Fox's dream and legacy.

Left: Katie & Heidi Leet

Above: The Foxy Five Jean Sutherland, Jill Baker, Megan Schellenbach, Crystal Breedon, Chris Burgard, team who has raised the most funds to date. The amount they raised was \$1,787.

Bottom left: Matt Hughes with mom Jan Clifton

Below: Registration Jim Jones, Carole Wilson, Lori Johnson, Roger Johnson



Woodstock Special Olympics



AWARD WINNERS

Picture Left to right Robbie Brittain, Shantelle Millen, Charlotte VanLingen, Keesha Abbott-McArdle, Savannah McFarland, Joel Honsberger, Greg Blair

(CONTRIBUTED PHOTO)

Woodstock Special Olympics held a banquet and awards ceremony in September. Tom Arnott gave an inspirational talk for the athletes about his experiences playing and coaching football. The athletes participating in each sport were introduced, given a certificate and a small gift. The following were nominated for athlete of the year: Basketball - Andrew Walton, 5-Pin Bowling - Robbie Brittain, Soccer - Charlotte VanLingen, Swimming- Keesha Abbott-McArdle; Golf - Savannah McFarland, 10-Pin bowling - Joel Honsberger; Baseball C - William Utting, Baseball D - Shantelle Millen, Curling - Greg Blair. Keesha Abbott-McArdle was awarded Athlete of the Year. Frank Vale was nominated and elected to the position of Athlete representative on the Woodstock Special Olympics Committee.



MISS SUPERTEST - THE BOB HAYWARD STORY (CONTRIBUTED PHOTO)

Audition to be in a local play about a local legend!

The play details the short, adventurous life of Bob Hayward. Bob grew up on a chicken farm located just south of Embro. After high school, Bob became a mechanic turned race boat driver who won the coveted Harmsworth Cup as pilot of the hydroplane boat called Miss Supertest III. Bob also played Sax with connections to Guy Lombardo.

Practices for the play start in Jan 2024 with the show late March at Thistle Theater Embro. The auditions are on Wed Oct 25 7-9 pm and Sat Oct 28 10-noon at Knox United Church, 116 Kincardine Ave, Embro.

We are looking for community cast members teenage and older. Just show up at the auditions or contact Donald Hilborn at 519-537-3756 for example script and music information. The picture above shows the play's director Adam standing beside the commemorative plaque about Bob's achievements (located 3 km south of Embro).

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Kiwanis Fashion Show



(RON YUZARK PHOTOS)

People came from near and far for the Kiwanis Fashion Show held September 13th at Carnegie Hall featuring fashions from their local favourite shops. All were dressed to their finest and good evening was had by all. The Kiwanis Club of Ingersoll was established in 1921. They have over 35 active members. All members are community-minded men and women who live, work and volunteer in the Ingersoll area. In 1908, the Ingersoll Carnegie Public Library was built with a donation from Andrew Carnegie, and after almost facing demolition, it was purchased and renovated in 2019. Now known as Carnegie Hall Ingersoll, this lavish venue hosts weddings, elegant social events, and professional corporate events, with a management team committed to delivering exceptional service. Above: All the Models



Lined up for blocks



Sam Horton, Randy Rosiak, Scott Naisbitt

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A Walk in Their Shoes raises \$30,210

A brand-new fundraiser for Mothers with a Heart for Ethiopia, a fundraising walk to raise money for women and children in Ethiopia, raised \$30,210 on Saturday - well over the \$12,000 goal.

The first year for A Walk in Their Shoes was a huge success, the organization's founder said.

"We are so thrilled by this incredible result. We had modest goals for A Walk in Their Shoes during its first year, but our wonderful walkers, team captains and donors far surpassed our expectations," Shelley Green, the organization's founder, said.

"It is inspiring to see how many people in our local community - and beyond - put their hearts into fundraising for A Walk in Their Shoes and came out to learn more about the lives of women and children in Ethiopia and show their compassion and care," Green added.

The total raised will make a huge difference in Ethiopia, by providing funds for prolapsed uterus surgeries, hot nutritious lunches for girls in the Girls Gotta Run Program, WRAPS (washable, reusable, affordable pads) for girls living in rural Ethiopia who have no menstrual products and care for children living at Tesfa's Shelter through the organization's innovative Team Tesfa program.

A Walk in Their Shoes was generously sponsored by all the Shoppers Drug Mart locations in Oxford County and 104.7 Heart FM. Both organizations are longtime supporters of Mothers with a Heart for Ethiopia.

In addition to a short walk where

participants were guided past picture boards with corresponding life stories of Ethiopian women and girls, the event also included an Ethiopian Merkato (the Amharic word for marketplace), a traditional Ethiopian coffee ceremony, a game and contest to share interesting facts about Ethiopia, refreshments and an inspiring closing ceremony.

"The Walk today was very impressive and so well organized! It felt like a family event which was really great," one participant said after A Walk in Their Shoes.

"I was so impressed by the planning and meaning that went into this walk," another said.

"It was a great event and the results are awesome! Women and children's lives in Ethiopia will improve so they can reach their potential," was another comment from a participant.

Hosted at the South Gate Centre, with the walk portion moved indoors due to the rainy weather, the event brought 86 people out to learn about the realities in Ethiopia and the work of Mothers with a Heart for Ethiopia, to show love and to help change lives of women and children living in extreme poverty in Ethiopia.

The non-profit organization supports six projects in Ethiopia to empower women and support education:

- Busajo, which houses, educates, provides food, clothing, medical and psychological support, rehabilitates children who have lived on the street and reunites them with their families

- The Girls Gotta Run Foundation uses the sport of running to help build confidence as well, the program provides a good education, life skills

training, school supplies, a uniform, hot lunches and sanitary supplies

- A group home which provides education, shelter, love and all other needs for three boys

- Surgeries to correct uterine prolapse

- Tesfa's Shelter, which serves 94 vulnerable children who either have no family or whose family needs support to care for their children

- WRAPS (washable, reusable, affordable pads) which provides girls living in rural Ethiopia with reusable menstrual pads to help girls in school and to reduce the chance of early marriage.

Mothers with a Heart for Ethiopia is well-known in Oxford County after more than twelve years, especially for its annual Gems & Java fundraiser in the spring. The organization has sent more than 1 million dollars over the past twelve years to support women, children and education in Ethiopia. The organization does not pay for staff or an office and keeps costs to a minimum so donations can be directed to where people want to make a difference.

The organization is always seeking new volunteers and is preparing to launch two holiday fundraisers, including an online auction and a Christmas gift bag with local treats and products.

More information and updates on Mothers with a Heart for Ethiopia, as well as its fundraising campaigns and projects in which it invests, can be found on its website at <https://www.motherswithaheartforethiopia.com> and on social media (simply search @Moms4Ethiopia on Facebook, Instagram or X, formerly Twitter).

Bear and Fox Apparel & Upper Thames Brewing collaboration encouraging campfire stories

EMILY STEWART

Echo Correspondent

Bear and Fox Apparel and Upper Thames Brewing Company's love of spending time outdoors is reflected in a limited-edition light lager.

Upper Thames Brewing and Bear and Fox released their second run of their collaborative Campfire Story beer. The brewing company announced the return of the popular brew in September on social media. The initial batch sold out quickly after its first release in May.

Erica Marchand, founder/CEO of Bear and Fox Apparel, planned to release a collaboration beer from the time she first started her clothing line. Her customers enjoy drinking cold beer with friends while spending time outside. She said Bear and Fox's branding matches well with that of Upper Thames Brewing.

"We're both into the outdoors, so it just seemed like a real natural fit," Marchand said. "Of course, because they're local, I couldn't ask for a better partner."

Chatting around a campfire after a long day outdoors and beer also pairs well.

"Whether it's hiking or fishing or just spending time at the cottage," she said. "It just seems that everybody will go and get into their cozy clothes, they'll crack a cold beer and converge around the campfire and share their stories together."

Upper Thames Brewing also released collaborative brews with Jakeman's Maple Syrup and Kintore Coffee Co. While past collaborations included an ingredient or flavour unique to the brand, Marchand wanted the Bear and Fox Apparel brew to reflect a lifestyle.

"I wanted the beer to have a high chugability factor because I knew I wanted it to be something that people to bring to the cottage," she said. "That people would be bringing on their girls' trip in the fall. That people would be bringing on their fishing trips, because I wanted it to be something that people could enjoy together."

Campfire Story is a light lager, at about 3.8 per cent alcohol. Marchand said that even usual non-craft beer drinkers like it.

Drake Merrit, brewer of Upper Thames Brewing Company, said Marchand had a strong marketing campaign for the first release of the brew. The campaign included a photoshoot at an Airbnb. The marketing strategy, plus the start of the warm summer weather, contributed to the Campfire Story beer selling out its first release.

"Beer sales always start to pick up when it starts to get warm outside," Merrit said.

Merrit added that Marchand has been great to work with when developing the brew.

"She's got a lot of energy. She's got a lot of personality," he said. "She's very diligent with her end, like doing all of the marketing stuff. She's fantastic with that."

Campfire Story can be purchased at either the Upper Thames Brewing Company main location on 225 Bysham Park Drive, Unit #9, Woodstock or the Brickhouse Brewing Pub on 190 Fairway Drive, Woodstock.

Visit upperthamesbrewing.ca for more information.



(RON YUZARK PHOTO)

The Traditional Ethiopian Coffee Ceremony demonstrated by Kokebe Negash and Ejigayehu Abdissa. In rural Ethiopia, the coffee ceremony was, and still is, an integral part of daily life. Families and communities would gather around a designated area, often under a large tree, to engage in conversation and strengthen their bonds over a cup of freshly brewed coffee.

Woodstock Gallery Taste of Art

The Woodstock Art Gallery's popular Taste of Art fundraiser made its grand return on September 23 from 7:00 p.m. to 10:00 p.m.

Launched in 2015, Taste of Art has been on hiatus for the last three years due to the pandemic. They were excited to welcome the community back in person for a

raucous night of artful experiences, bodacious beverages and local cuisine!

This year's event took over all three floors of the Woodstock Art Gallery with stations for sampling and tastings from local food and craft beverage producers, music, live performances, art activities and more!



One Act Play Actors Nikki Sloan & Kennedy Wilson



Meredith Maywood, Rhenda Franks, Trish Kern



Mayor of the City of Woodstock Jerry Acchione, Mary Reid Director Curator



Vidu Peiris, Kushani Peiris



Harbor Town Sound serenading

(RON YUZARK PHOTO)

St. James Anglican Church Ingersoll An Evening of 50's and 60's Music & Dinner

A Whole Lotta Shakin' Goin' On – A Tribute Show and Buffet Dinner took place on October 13. It was a fundraiser in Ingersoll for St. James' Anglican Church. The venue was the Unifor Local 88 Hall. The evening began

with cocktails at 6:00 pm; dinner at 6:30 pm, and, finally a one-hour show of all their favourite rock 'n roll music songs by two outstanding Tribute artists, Jackie Grainge from Cambridge and Shon Carroll from Kitchener.

(RON YUZARK PHOTOS)

A toast to Rock n' Roll by Eleanor Hammond Sherry Logan and Eva Ackert.



Organizers for the evening event were Veronica Jackson (sporting her original Highschool sweater) and Mike Watson, Wardens of St James Anglican Church.



Hungry patrons digging into their delicious Roast Beef dinner.

Hanak Foods African Experience Finds New Home at Ingersoll Arena

After an extensive search for a new location, Hanak Foods African Experience is thrilled to announce its grand opening at the Ingersoll Arena, now aptly named "Hanak Arena Bites." The journey that began in 2016 alongside a skincare brand, K Body Blends, has found a new home where food enthusiasts and fans of diverse cuisines can come together.

Owner Khadijah Haliru's vision to bring the flavors of Nigerian cuisine to Oxford County and the heart of Ingersoll has taken root in this exciting new chapter. Hanak Food, well-known for its positive reception, was unfortunately forced to close its doors in 2021 due to pandemic-related challenges. However, the resilience and optimism of the community kept the spirit alive.

During sporadic shutdowns, Khadijah Haliru introduced a supper club, offering her popular Nigerian stew in a jar and later introducing Nigerian jollof rice, fufu, and suya kebabs. These culinary delights gained a loyal following and inspired the evolution of Hanak Arena Bites.

Hanak Arena Bites is proud to announce a mixed menu that caters to all tastes. Alongside classic favorites like burgers, fries, and hotdogs, you can now savor a

range of authentic ethnic dishes, including jollof rice, wings, samosas, patties, and even shawarma. The diverse menu promises a culinary journey like no other, appealing to the palate of every visitor.

"We are thrilled to be back and serving the wonderful people of Ingersoll and all who visit," said Khadijah Haliru, owner of Hanak Foods. "Our new location at Ingersoll Arena allows us to share the flavors of Africa alongside beloved comfort foods. We invite everyone to come and experience the fusion of tastes at Hanak Arena Bites."

As Ingersoll Arena comes alive with various events and games, make sure to include Hanak Arena Bites in your plans. Whether you're a local or a visitor, indulge in a culinary adventure that celebrates diversity in taste and culture.

Hanak Foods is excited to welcome everyone back to jockey season and is committed to providing a memorable food experience for all. Join us at Hanak Arena Bites, where food becomes an adventure, and every bite tells a story.

They are open whenever the Arena is open and you can order online at hanak-foods.ca



FARM ANIMALS AT WOODINGFORD

Woodingford Lodge in Woodstock was visited by an assortment of animals from Sonny's Llama Farm on Monday, and it made everyone's day. Those taking part in the activity were residents from Woodingford Lodge as well as visitors in the Family Transition Day Program.

(OXFORD COUNTY PHOTOS)

September Sollgood Social Market

September Sollgood Social Market Downtown Ingersoll September 21, 2023. The market ran from 5:00-9:00 p.m. in the downtown heritage square (gazebo). People were encouraged to walk or bike to the market, bringing their own market bags for shopping, reusable cups and

containers for transporting their food. "Soll" is a modern abbreviation for the word "Ingersoll" and the word "good" evokes a feeling of satisfaction and excellence. When the two were put together they loved how it rolled and sounded like "it's all good" Sollgood in the little

community of downtown Ingersoll. The Sollgood social market includes: curated list of artisan vendors, food producers, food and beverage trucks and musicians within a 100 km radius.



Local kids are enjoying the market while chasing bubbles.



Entertainment by Fresh Breath

(RON YUZARK PHOTOS)



Rebecca Bennett, Kelly Ciriello (Pupcakes), Judy Hegger



Melanie Harper, Ema Langford (Don't Be Knotty)



Clair at Amber Earth



Taking in the Market



Kaitlyne Jones, Rob Jones, Bridget (Copper Rose Jewelry)

Riddles

How do vampires get around on Halloween?
On blood vessels.

Why did the Headless Horseman get a job?
He was trying to get ahead in life.

The skeleton couldn't help being afraid of the storm—
he just didn't have any guts.

How can you tell when a vampire has been in a bakery?
All the jelly has been sucked out of the jelly doughnuts.

What do ghosts wear when their eyesight gets blurred?
Spooktacles.

What can you catch from a vampire in winter?
Frostbite.

What would be the national holiday for a nation of vampires?
Fangs-giving!

Why didn't the skeleton go to prom?
He had no body to go with.

Who did the scary ghost invite to his party?
Any old friend he could dig up!

Sudoku

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

Solutions on page 29

🐾 🐾 🐾 🐾 🐾 🐾 Pet of the Month 🐾 🐾 🐾 🐾 🐾 🐾



LUVBUG

She is 3 years old and was adopted along with her sister from the Oxford Pet Rescue. She loves attention especially in the middle of the night and her favourite game is catching crickets and other bugs that find their way into the house. Halloween is her favorite time of the year.

Nominate your Pet of the Month by emailing info@theecho.ca

Word Search

HALLOWEEN

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

- BAT
- BLACK
- BLOOD
- BROOMSTICK
- CANDY
- COFFIN
- CREEPY
- GHOST
- GHOUL
- HAUNT
- HALLOWEEN
- MUMMY
- OCTOBER
- SKELETON
- TRICK
- TREAT
- WITCH
- VAMPIRE

Embro Fall Fair

The 2023 Fair Theme was “Let’s Grow Embro!”. The Fair ran from September 16 to September 17 at the Embro-Zorra fairgrounds. It was packed with lots of family fun events—FREE Kids Activities, Inflatables, Tractor Barrel Train, Sr. & Jr. Fair Ambassador Program, Heavy

Horse & Haflinger Show, Wing Night with Children’s Movie, Silent Auction, Artisan Market, Food Trucks, Pumpkin Prince & Princess, Petting Zoo, Children’s Craft & Paint Table, Touch-A-Truck, Stage Show – The Hopeful Harvest, Bale Maze, Farm Hopper Rodeo, Face

Painting, Balloon Animals, Homecraft & Field Crop Displays/Competition, Car Show, Beer Gardens & Live Band, Church Service, Baby Show, Pet Show. Close to 3,000 people attended this year’s fair.



Having A Barrel Of Fun

(RON YUZARK PHOTO)



Tessa Albert & Angela Tissarchrnto serving treats



Carley Brown, Beau Brown, Walker Brown, Kayla Hamilton, Dustin Hamilton



Janeen Overdevest, Lili Smith, Sophie Pike Amabassador of the Fair Competition



Celene, Bob, Veronica, Lana, Polly, Elle

Route To The Past

SCOTT GILLIES

Contributor

Edward Alexander Bott
Born April 11, 1887 in Oxford County;
West Zorra Township

Son of George A. Bott (1840-1924)
born in West Indies, and Louisa Adelaide
Bartindale Bott (1848-1923)

Youngest brother of Alpha May Bott and
Francis Bott

Married Helen McMurchie
1918 working as a lecturer at University
of Toronto when he enlisted with Canadian
Army Medical Corps; given honorary
rank of Captain and Quartermaster.
Working at Military School of Orthopaedic
Surgery and Physiotherapy

In 1917, the Military Hospitals Commission
took over the University of Toronto's
Hart House and turned it into the Military
School of Orthopaedic Surgery and
Physiotherapy. It was created in order to
provide physical rehabilitation to soldiers

wounded in World War I, and to train a
force of specialists in this area. By 1919,
250 students had become Hart House
Graduates of the six-month physiotherapy
course, which included training in
massage and electrotherapy, muscle
function training, and gymnastics. In
1918, a ward aides program was created
and women volunteers were taught
how to retrain injured soldiers in a
vocation. Hart House was under construction
at the time so the program was forced to
move into tents in 1919, and closed shortly
after.



(source: Museum of Health Care at Kingston. "Military School, O.S. & P. Hart House photograph Accession Number 1974.4.72 <https://mhc.andor-not.com/en/permalink/artifact11073> accessed September 18, 2023. Description: Monotone staged promotion original photograph depicting three war veterans and one instructor working in a rehabilitation woodworking shop; each holds a different tool such as a saw or plane, holding the item with a metal clasp for replacement hand to attach hinge on wooden box held

in a vise; text is handwritten in white ink; veteran is wearing a World War I military uniforms without tunics, one with a Scottish cap.

The Military Hospitals Commission was working to rehabilitate injured soldiers. Ward Aides helped them "regain strength in body, mind and spirit", teaching them new skills (Globe & Mail Feb 21, 2018)

U of T came to the aid of the Military Hospitals Commission by running the first occupational therapy program in Canada. Twenty-one women were that first six week course. It would expand to become a six month long course with more than 300 women working across the country.

Known as the Hart House Course, the program emphasized massage and electrotherapy, medical gymnastics and muscle function. (<https://temertymedicine.utoronto.ca/news/rehabilitating-veterans-u-ts-ongoing-commitment> accessed September 18, 2023)

Muslim Association of Woodstock
560 Dundas Street, Woodstock, ON, N4S 1C7
Volunteer Opportunities
Daily Evening Prayer and
Weekly Friday Congregational Prayer
For more information call 519-788-2282
info@muslimassociationwoodstock.com

Worship With Us

GRAND RIVER MENNONITE CHURCH
Princeton
We invite you to worship with us.
Sunday School 9:30 am
Sunday Worship Service 10:30 am
Pastor 519.521.3491

St. David's United Church
190 Springbank Avenue, Woodstock
519-539-3161
Sunday Service 10:30 AM
ALL ARE WELCOME!
Rev. Jeffrey Smith
www.stdavidswoodstock.com

COMING EVENTS Email to inquire info@theecho.ca

Hold Onto Hope Tattoo Charity Event
Sunday, October 22; 11:00 a.m. to 8 p.m.
Manson Tattoo 93 Thames St. S, Ingersoll
Suicide prevention in Oxford. 100 Hope
designs to choose from. \$50-\$100. All proceeds to CMHA

Remembrance Service
Sunday, November 5; 11:30 a.m.
Chesterfield Cenotaph, 816661 Oxford Road
22, two roads north of Bright
The Plattsville & District Heritage Society cordially invites you to join us for displays and refreshments following the Service.

Ingersoll Vendor Event Fundraiser
Join the Needle & Craft group from St. Jame's Ingersoll for an 18 vendor
Saturday, November 18 9 a.m. - 2 p.m.
Masonic Hall, 190 Thames St. S.,
Finish your holiday shopping or top up the Christmas stockings! Money raised will support Ingersoll and area charities.

Oxford Branch of Ontario Ancestors
Monday, November 13; 7:00 pm
Please join us at our next virtual meeting on Monday, November 13th at 7:00 pm when Glenn Wright presents "Proudly She Served - Canadian Women at War - 1885-1945". Between 1914 and 1919, more than 3200 nurses served with the Canadian Expeditionary Force (CEF) at home and overseas. During the Second World War, about 50,000 women volunteered, as the role of women expanded significantly when the Canadian Army, the Royal Canadian Air Force and the Royal Canadian Navy created women's divisions. The CEF and the Second World War service files in the custody of LAC are an important source of information for family historians, genealogists, women's history, and all those interested in Canada's military heritage. With these and other sources, we can more fully document and appreciate the role of Canadian women in uniform. Please visit our website at <https://oxford.ogs.on.ca> and click on the link "Register Here" for

the zoom meeting. The meeting is free and we welcome everyone."

CHRISTMAS BAZAAR
Holy Trinity Church, 1420 Devonshire Ave
Saturday, November 18; 10:00 a.m.
Draws at 2:00 pm
Penny Sale, Raffle, Baking, Crafts, Gift Baskets, Yesterday's Treasures, Religious Goods and Tea Room.

Church of the Epiphany Christmas Bazaar
Saturday, December 2; 9:00 a.m. - 2 p.m.
560 Dundas St., Woodstock
Something for everyone. Deli table with homemade turkey pies, shepherd pies, meatloaf and our famous homemade Christmas pudding. There will also be a

bake table, preserves, candy, jewellery, plus vendors. Lunch will be served from 11-1. We will be offering soup, sandwich, dessert- homemade Christmas pudding or Apple Crisp, tea or coffee for only \$12.00 per person.

QUIZ ANSWERS

- 1) The Volga River
- 2) The Telegraph
- 3) "I am."
- 4) 10 legs
- 5) Red Rose
- 6) White
- 7) False
- 8) The Wizard of Oz
- 9) Wii Sports
- 10) The Sargasso Sea

SUDOKU

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

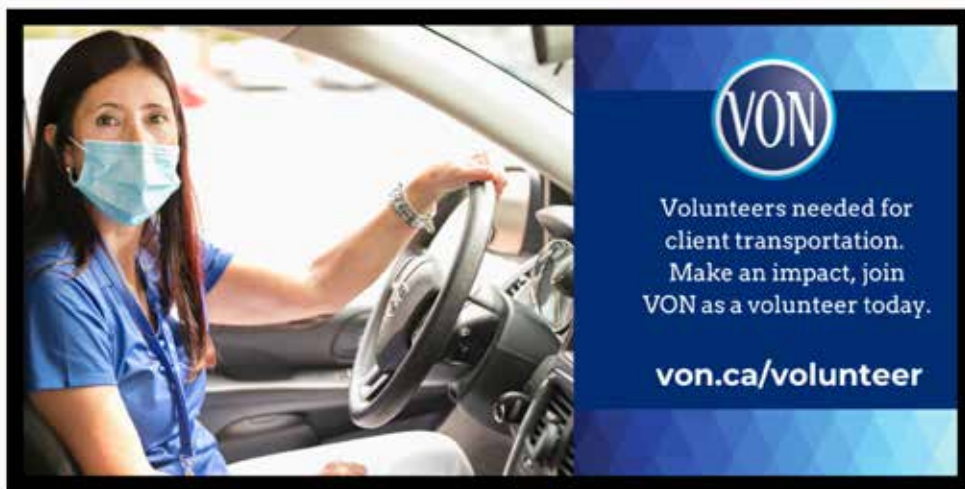
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Contact Janet- 519-539-1231 ext
232 for more info
Janet.Somers@von.ca



Welcome Back to Otterville

The historic village of Otterville will be a busy place during the annual 'Welcome Back to Otterville' Studio Tour November 18 & 19. Local shops will be open with unique products and artists' studios showcase original art and mixed media pieces. Treat yourself to a quiet day in the countryside while you experience a world of creativity.

New on the tour this year is Sharon Garner. She rescues antique and slightly used furniture and repurposes it. Amazing results!

Rooted in Floral, a shop in Otterville owned by Annette Lilley, creates original floral designs inspired by nature using dried and artificial products. The shop features soaps by Jaydancin, vintage collectables, jewelry and Christmas decor. Rooted in Floral will be open for the tour on Saturday only.

Ralph Moore & Sons have been a staple in the community since 1916, growing and producing bird seed and seed mixtures. They sell a large assortment of birdfeeders, wild bird mixtures, suet, whole grains, cage bird accessories and mixtures, pigeon accessories and mixtures and spray millet that is grown on their local farms. Only open Saturday.

Plaid Shirt Farms creates delicious products made from the produce grown on their farm just east of Otterville.

Specializing in Haskap berries and Black Currants, they have developed some unique jams, juices and drinks.

Be sure to stop by and pick up your special condiments, frozen haskap berries or honey for the holiday season!

Sue Goossens, Lianne Todd, Marlene Long, Linda DeJonghe, Mae Leonard and Shirley Hokke are professional artists who welcome you into their home studios to share their passion. Each artist has a unique style and they work in different mediums. They are passionate about their art and are quite willing to discuss their process and inspiration. Perhaps you will find a special piece to take home!

The tour website www.welcomeback-totterville.ca has photos of artists' work and a map to all the studios. Yellow flags will mark each location. For more information call 519-879-6352

All are welcome to visit these studios in Otterville on November 19 & 20 from 10am to 5pm. Watch for the yellow flags. A special thank you is extended to the Township of Norwich for their support.

WHEN THE REAPER CALLS
A Comedy Thriller
By Peter Colley

THEATRE WOODSTOCK

Director
Ted McLaughlin

Producer
Pam Hagen

Stage Manager
Lindsay Wilson

Evenings 7:30pm **Oct 20, 21**
26, 27, 28, 2023

Matinees 2pm **Oct 22 & 29, 2023**

Tickets at
theatrewoodstock.com
or at the Box Office
22 Reeve St., Woodstock 519-537-2582
with permission from
The Playwright's Guild of Canada



Woodstock Farmers' Market

at Woodstock Fairgrounds

Every Saturday from 7 A.M. till 12 NOON

All year round

Local products and seasonal produce:

Fruits, vegetables, eggs, honey

Fresh meats, sausage, frozen fish

Freshly baked bread and goodies

Delicious pizza

Flowers and plants

Handcrafted gift items

Your choice for every season

A PREMIER INDEPENDENT COMMUNITY



WHEN YOU THOUGHT IT
COULDN'T GET ANY BETTER

IT JUST DID

ONE MORE AMAZING
REASONS TO CHECK OUT
Cedarview in Woodstock



One Month Free Rent*

There are several reasons that Cedarview in Woodstock is set apart from everyone else, such as our industry-leading hospitality, impressive list of amenities, active lifestyle, premier culinary experience, and innovative technology. But we want to offer even more reasons. One big reasons. Don't wait, this promotion ends 10/31/23.

Upcoming Events

September 24th
BBQ Party
 2:00 p.m.- 4:00 p.m.

October 12th
OctoberFest
 2:00 p.m.- 4:00 p.m.

November 25th
Christmas Bazaar
 11:00 a.m.- 2:00 p.m.

Call Lisa to RSVP or schedule a personal tour

519-771-4973

Visit Brightwaterseniorliving.com To Learn More About The Community



511 Finkle Street, Woodstock ON N4V 0C4

*This promotion cannot be combined with any other promotional offer or applied to any previous rental agreement. Promotion is only valid on Cedarview in Woodstock rental agreements signed during the promotion date, and new residents under this promotion must move in by 11/30/23. First free month rent applies to the 3rd month. This promotion ends 10/31/23. Cedarview in Woodstock reserves the right to change, alter or discontinue the promotion at any time without verbal or written notice. Please check with an authorized Cedarview in Woodstock representative for details.

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ON THE
BLOCK!**

IN STOCK **CLEAR OUT!**

LUXURY VINYL PLANKS

\$169
FROM PER SQ FT REG 4.99

IN STOCK **NEW PRICE**

LOOSE LAY LUXURY VINYL 5MM THICK

\$199
FROM PER SQ FT REG 5.99

IN STOCK **12MM THICK**

7" WIDE EUROPEAN AC5 COMMERCIAL GRADE LAMINATE

\$199
FROM PER SQ FT REG 4.99

IN STOCK **NEW ARRIVAL**

HIGH-GLOSS LAMINATE

\$299
FROM PER SQ FT REG 3.99

IN STOCK **DOOR CRASHER**

13" X 13" PORCELAIN TILES

69¢
FROM /SQ FT REG 3.99

IN STOCK **HOT DEAL**

12" X 24" PORCELAIN TILES

99¢
FROM /SQ FT REG 3.99

IN STOCK **MODERN STYLE**

SUBWAY WALL TILES

\$199
FROM PER SQ FT REG 5.99

IN STOCK **TOP SELLER**

WHITE LEDGESTONE

\$699
FROM PER SQ FT REG 9.99

IN STOCK **CLICK ENG.**

4" WIDE X 3/4" THICK CORK BACK HARDWOOD

\$399
FROM PER SQ FT REG 8.99

IN STOCK **6" WIDE**

MODERN FARMHOUSE WHITE OAK ENGINEERED HARDWOOD

\$399
FROM PER SQ FT REG 12.99

\$099 FROM PER LIN FT REG 3.29
3/7" WIDE COLONIAL

\$199 FROM PER LIN FT REG 3.29
5.5" WIDE STEP-BASE

\$259 FROM PER LIN FT REG 3.99
6" WIDE SQUARE

IN STOCK **STEP & RISER INCLUDED**

47" WIDE VINYL STAIR TREADS

\$8999
FROM

• 1362 VICTORIA STREET NORTH **KITCHENER** •
 MONDAY - FRIDAY 9AM-6PM SATURDAY 9AM-6PM SUNDAY 10AM-5PM