

# Woodstock Ingersoll Echo

VOLUME 2 • ISSUE 18

JANUARY 31, 2025

FREE

**Crispy Slice** Pizza

**PICK UP SPECIALS**

**BIG CRISPY**  
1 Topping Pizza X-Large  
**\$9.99**

**CRISPY SINGLE PIZZA**  
One - 3 Topping Pizza & Free Dip  
Medium Large X-Large  
**\$10.99 \$11.99 \$13.99**

519-290-4330



**STONETOWN TRAVEL**

Travel made easy.

519-284-2332

ST. MARYS • NEW HAMBURG

## Ingersoll service club committing to helping community members with social challenges

LEE GRIFFI

Local Journalism Initiative Reporter

The Rotary Club of Ingersoll has announced a long-term agreement with GM Canada to take over the former CAMI gymnasium, located adjacent to the Seniors Centre in the town.

“Our vision for this building is to transform it into a community warehouse dedicated to supporting local user groups who assist our fellow citizens with food insecurity and other social challenges,” explained club president Adam Funnell.

Revitalization of the building will begin this spring, with a targeted completion date by summer 2025.

“Together, we can create a space that supports and strengthens our community,” exclaimed Funnell.

Ted Comiskey is the former mayor of Ingersoll and a past president of the service club. Funnell said the idea was Comiskey’s and came out of a need for Inter-Church to have a location to put its Christmas hampers together to help those in need during the holidays.

“There was the CAMI gymnasium adjacent to where we have our Rotary meetings and (Comiskey) began knocking on doors with GM and got in touch with the folks in Oshawa. We, along with another past president, Fred Freeman, got together to talk about how we could make it work.”

Funnell said there were many obstacles they came across as they were also hoping to include recreation uses like pickleball but the zoning didn’t allow for it. What it did allow was storage space.

CONTINUED TO PAGE 3



### ROYAL TEA PARTY

(RON YUZARK PHOTO)

Iryna and Nina with the princesses at The Royal Table during the enchanting Royal Tea Party, an event hosted by the Crafty Corner Tea Room in Woodstock. Story on page 6.

## Woodstock approved for HART Hub

LEE GRIFFI

Local Journalism Initiative Reporter

A HART Hub is coming to downtown Woodstock.

The Oxford Ontario Health Team (OHT), Woodstock Hospital, and other community partners announced this week that the Ministry of Health has officially approved a joint Homelessness and Addiction Recovery Treatment (HART) application.

The Hub, when operational, will support those facing homelessness, mental health, and addictions in Woodstock and Oxford County. The former PUC building at 16 Graham Street has been purchased by the hospital and renovations will begin as soon as possible.

“Woodstock Hospital is proud to collaborate with our Oxford OHT partners to bring the vision of the HART Hub to life,” said Perry Lang, President and CEO at the hospital. “We look

forward to working with our community partners to offer comprehensive wraparound care to support our most complex populations through their treatment and recovery journey.”

The building was purchased for \$1.6 million out of hospital reserves. Lang admitted there is a fair bit of work that needs to be done at the site before it can become operational and there is no opening date set.

“The hospital has engaged an architect and work will commence immediately.”

Teresa Martins is the OHT’s Executive Director and said her organization’s mission is to work together to build a stronger, healthier community for all.

“This HART Hub funding announcement is a significant milestone in achieving that mission. By working together to offer access to the right care, by the right team, and in the right setting, we can reduce system fragmentation and help individuals right when they need it.”

CONTINUED TO PAGE 11

**Stacked**  
PANCAKE & BREAKFAST HOUSE

**\$6.99**  
Breakfast Special



MON - FRI  
7 AM - 9 AM  
Dine-In Only

383 Norwich Ave, Woodstock, ON N4S 3W4 | Phone: (519) 539-6606

**BUY 1 GET 1**  
**Entrée 50% OFF**

Buy 1 Entrée + 2 beverages & Get the 2nd Entrée 50% Off

Valid at Stacked Woodstock only

2nd Entrée to be Equal/Lesser value. Offers cannot be combined. Not valid on Stat. holidays. Valid on Dine-In only, Monday to Thursday.

Open Everyday | 7 AM - 3 PM

stackedpancakehouse.ca

Uber Eats

SKIP DISHES



# A sit down with Woodstock's mayor – Part 2

LEE GRIFFI

Local Journalism Initiative Reporter

In the last edition of the Echo, we focused primarily on the troubling issues of homelessness, mental health and addictions and how they are affecting Woodstock during a chat with Mayor Jerry Acchione. This week, we look ahead to 2025 and upcoming developments including Streetscape and a new industrial park the city is hoping will take off in the near future.

At a recent Oxford County Council meeting a motion was passed to amend the county's official plan meaning 89 acres of land can be developed into an industrial subdivision not far from the Toyota assembly plant. The land is currently mainly agricultural with some woodland and wetland areas.

The land is on the north side of Highway 2 and the east side of Highway 401 and is beside 136 hectares of city-owned property. Acchione said he declared a conflict of interest on the issue as the property is right behind his home. He added wasn't involved in any conversations or voting but could talk to factual information.

"The city property has been owned since maybe 2008. It all needs to be serviced from underneath the 401 so it's quite the undertaking to get it to that point but we are getting there. The city is looking to make a deal with the province to allow the services to get through."

Acchione added the sky is the limit as to what could come on that land. The next question is can the city support more housing along with the industrial opportunities.

"Our advantage here is we have the 401 and 403. We have fairly easy access to millions of people all the way around us that potential businesses look at. A 30-minute to an hour commute is within normal for a lot of these manufacturing jobs. We are on the radar for a lot of businesses."

The mayor has made it abundantly clear the city is looking to acquire land at its northern end for further development, land in East Zorra-Tavistock Township. EZT has said it would enter into a conversation with the city once its Secondary Plan has been completed, but that has been delayed by the province. Acchione said he would like to work with the neighbour to the north.

"There has to be a growth and growth also helps EZT residents. There is so much going on in the north end of Woodstock. I'd love to see a grocery store and not just homes, but a good commercial piece of those lands which would benefit everyone."

He explained it isn't a secret that many



(LEE GRIFFI PHOTOS)

**Woodstock Mayor Jerry Acchione is excited about Streetscape which will kick off phase one in April. He is confident the garbage problem in the core will improve.**

businesses have expressed interest in setting up shop on those EZT lands.

"They are keeping an eye on that area but they won't put anything in because there is no serviced land. They aren't going to do it with a septic system and well water so if the city can expand across the street on County Road 17 and across from County Road 11, I would see in the future the possibility of development."

A new daycare is being constructed just off Juliana Drive and several other developments are in the process of being built but nothing has been made public yet as to what retailers are moving in. A hotel/convention centre is also being

built behind the current Holiday Inn during a busy construction year in the city.

The first phase of the Streetscape project is scheduled to start in April with a tender to be tentatively sent out for phase two at some point in 2025, depending on legal advice obtained by the city regarding Coun. Kate Leatherbarrow's recent conflict of interest declaration and if it has any effect on phase one.

"We are waiting on the integrity commissioner report and a report from our lawyers to see what the best way is forward."

Acchione has not made it a secret he is

in full support of Streetscape but wants to make sure it is done properly and democratically.

"I'm not worried, but I have been on council long enough to know I am only one vote, just like anybody else. Do I get everything I want? Absolutely not. This is a difficult situation for the city to be in. I think it was an innocent error (by Coun. Leatherbarrow) that has brought us to this point."

He added the last thing he wants the city to do is complete one section of the project and not the rest. He said the city is spending taxpayer dollars on sidewalk repairs now.

"Improved accessibility is important, the lighting is important, even simple garbage cans and benches are going to promote the downtown."

The Echo challenged Acchione on the garbage situation in the core as anyone who spends time there regularly sees overflowing containers and bags left on the sidewalk without the required bag tags. Much of the garbage is visible for days at a time.

"There are tenants, and it's difficult to trace the source of that garbage down. They take advantage of it and that is one of the biggest reasons I want to change the garbage cans and get rid of the open-top containers. The cans that have been ordered have smaller slits and there many downtowns have the same containers. You can't put an entire garbage in."

There is often garbage across the sidewalk at the vacant and former Good Time Charlies but the Echo has seen the owner of Dino's restaurant sweeping debris from in front of his establishment. Acchione said a cleaner downtown will come with the pride of Streetscape.

"Any time anybody gets anything new, you are going to keep it clean and keep it tidy. You want to naturally keep it looking good and that is part of human nature. They will. Will it prevent everything, no. But between the garbage cans and designs with more containers so they can be picked up off the ground, it will help."

Acchione said he's excited about 2025 in part because of the new homeless shelter coming with the \$2 million given to Oxford County from the city's Building Faster Fund award.

"This is the first time a real partnership is happening between the City of Woodstock and the County of Oxford. We are going to see real change in whatever that system looks like. We have to get rid of the barriers, we have to get more people off the streets and willing to use our shelter system for them to move up, move on, and have a better life."

Visit us online at [theecho.ca](http://theecho.ca)



# Local non-profits able to utilize space for services

CONTINUED FROM FRONT

“We decided to push forward on that. Before we signed the deal with GM, we wanted to make sure it was a project that was viable so I would say from July to October we were gathering quotes and meeting with contractors as there is a lot of work to be done inside.”

He added the club figures for \$100,000, the site can be fixed up to where it needs to be, and that is when they decided to go ahead with the project. Funnell said they have a number of ideas on how to fill the space.

“I would see STICH (Stronger Together Ingersoll Community Harvest), our local supper club, having a permanent space where they can use with freezers and racking for any of their supplies. The Inter-Church would also have an area where they have whatever they need.”

He added Ingersoll Minor Baseball could use storage space as volunteers with that group are storing equipment at the homes of volunteers due to a lack of space.

“Our goal is to open it up to non-profit groups. We don’t want to be creating new programs, but we want to be supportive of those already in existence. If somebody has a great idea for a new program, we would love to hear how we can support it.”

Funnell said the club is funding the current expenses to get the project going, but they do plan on launching a capital campaign.

“We are having an open house on Feb. 20 at 1:30 and that is going to be an information session about what our plans are for the space, what the timeline is and what we would be asking of those user groups.”

He explained groups will need to provide proof of insurance and anyone participating will need to respect the property and space of other users at the site and the club has another idea for one room.

“We would really like to turn some of the space into a community boardroom

for non-profits to use. That’s on our wish list and not a must-do. The first thing we need to do is fix the leaks in the ceiling and then remove the mould up there and replace what we need to. The next thing is to renovate the bathrooms.”

Funnell said there has not been any water flow to the building in about seven years and some of the HVAC equipment needs some attention to get it up and running.

“We also have to replace the entry door which is quite expensive and clean up the vestibule area. We are fortunate to be working with a company out of Oshawa called J.J. McGuire General Contractors. The president of that company happens to be my brother but they are also a contractor for GM who recommended them to us before I let the cat out of the bag that it was my brother’s company.”

Funnell said his brother has already made a \$10,000 donation to the project.

“So, we are 10 per cent there with external money. The support from all levels of management at GM has been amazing as we revitalize this building, it was so refreshing. I don’t know why I would have thought any different, but there was a lot of excitement there about a community group taking this on.”

Funnell is hoping, weather permitting, to have those in attendance on Feb. 20 walk over to the site for a tour to show potential user groups what the club’s vision is. He added the project would have never happened without Ted’s tenacity.

“He’s gone into this with the same level of passion he had with the landfill. He travelled across Ontario to force a vote that landfills can’t be in a community that doesn’t want them. He has been our champion. There has been a small committee of us following on his coattails but right from day one he knew who to talk to at GM. We were very fortunate he took this on the way he did.”



(CONTRIBUTED PHOTO)

The former gym near General Motors’ CAMI plant will soon be used as a community hub for non-profit groups to utilize.



# FAMILY DAY

**FEB. 17, 2025**

Enjoy activities and fun for the whole family at the City of Woodstock’s recreation and culture facilities!

- Cowan Park Sportsplex
- Woodstock Museum
- Woodstock Art Gallery
- Southside Aquatic Centre
- Reeves Community Complex



**Free Shuttle Bus**  
**9 a.m. – 5:10 p.m.**



Courtesy of Woodstock Transit

For schedule & shuttle details visit  
[www.cityofwoodstock.ca/familyday](http://www.cityofwoodstock.ca/familyday)

# Local municipal politician earns Oxford Liberal nod in upcoming provincial election

LEE GRIFFI

Local Journalism Initiative Reporter

A familiar face in Oxford County has been acclaimed as the Liberal nominee for the Feb. 27 provincial election.

Bernia Martin's campaign will be her first foray into provincial politics after successfully earning a seat as a city/county councillor in Woodstock in 2022.

"I have always believed people deserve a credible candidate to choose from, that's the first point. Secondly, I believe Doug Ford and this conservative government really has not been a friend to municipalities or the people of Oxford."

She added county residents should expect more and have a stronger voice at Queen's Park. The Gazette asked Martin if she sees the upcoming vote as an election against Doug Ford or the current Oxford MPP, Ernie Hardeman.

"My frustration has been with the Ford government as a whole and its policies. I have never personally had an issue with Ernie, he's a nice guy. For me, this is about the much bigger picture across Ontario and how the Conservatives are treating rural and small municipalities and that's my focus," explained Martin.



(CONTRIBUTED PHOTO)

Woodstock city/county councillor Bernia Martin will run for the provincial Liberal party in the Feb. 27 election.

Martin said she has issues with not only the funding provided by the current government but also its policies.

"The money is nice, the funding is nice, but the policies live on well beyond and of it. The Ford government has fallen down on homelessness prevention. For me in Oxford County, that's number one. We have a homelessness, mental health and addiction crisis, and access to attainable housing crisis, and those are all linked."

She added the lack of fund-

ing is making those problems worse, and continues to grow because of a lack of responsible and dedicated money streams.

"I could point to five different examples of why that is. I think, and this aligns very closely with the Liberal platform, that health care and education are so underfunded and our policies do not meet the needs of real people living in communities like Oxford."

Martin explained there are smaller issues she wanted to point out where the big cities

are able to receive big dollars for certain files.

"You mentioned health care what the big ridings get the smaller ridings don't always get, the same goes for me with rural transit. Southwest Community Transit is an established system throughout nine rural counties."

Martin said it was initially funded through the Ministry of Transportation and started back in 2019. That funding is set to cease at the end of March.

"This system connects community to community so people can get from one town to the next on a rural system and now the funding is disappearing. We know that the economic impact of that decision will be close to three-quarters of a billion dollars based on the people who ride that to get to work."

She added people also use the transit system to attend health care appointments, college or university, as well as allowing seniors to remain in their homes.

"Seniors have been allowed to stay in their communities and age in place because they don't have to move to a large urban centre to access the things they need because they have been able to do it through the rural transit system. That's an example, one of many, where smaller

ridings don't always get the attention some other parts of Ontario get. Transit is essential in the GTA. Why isn't it here?"

One criticism of the Liberals and party leader Bonnie Crombie is she still does not have a seat in the provincial legislature. Martin doesn't see it as an issue.

"Critics could point to any aspect of any campaign and find something to be negative about. Bonnie has been focused on leading the party, developing policies and talking to people. She is doing the work to reestablish a party that needs that energy right now."

She added having a seat or not having a seat in the legislature has not impacted the leader's ability to do her job.

"She'll run in this election and I think she'll win handily. There is the expectation the leader must have a seat but it's not a requirement."

In addition to being on Woodstock City Council, Martin is the board chair of Southwest Public Health and had a two-decade career working in the economic development field. She was also raised on a family farm in Southwestern Ontario. The Echo will run a feature on each Oxford candidate running in the upcoming provincial election.

**GRANT  
HAVEN  
MEDIA**

Restoring small-town  
journalism, one community  
at a time!

**Woodstock Ingersoll Echo**

Publisher

Stewart Grant • [stew@granthaven.com](mailto:stew@granthaven.com)

Editor

Lee Griffi • [leegriffi@rogers.com](mailto:leegriffi@rogers.com)

Graphic Design / Sales Inquiries

Stacie Eden • [info@theecho.ca](mailto:info@theecho.ca)

Business Development

Heather Dunbar • [heather@granthaven.com](mailto:heather@granthaven.com)

Billing Administrator

Cindy Boakes • [boakescindy1576@gmail.com](mailto:boakescindy1576@gmail.com)

Administrative Assistant

Wendy Lamond • [wendylamond74@gmail.com](mailto:wendylamond74@gmail.com)

Photojournalist

Ron Yuzark • [ryuzark@rogers.com](mailto:ryuzark@rogers.com)

Contributors

Emily Stewart, Paul Knowles, Nancy Abra, Gary West, Doris Weir

36 Water St. St. Marys, ON, PO Box 2310 N4X 1A2  
[info@theecho.ca](mailto:info@theecho.ca) | 519.655.2341 | [granthaven.com](http://granthaven.com)



Funded by the Government of Canada  
Financé par le gouvernement du Canada



**SUBMIT YOUR LETTER TO THE EDITOR TO US!**  
**CALL 519-655-2341**  
**OR EMAIL [INFO@THEECHO.CA](mailto:INFO@THEECHO.CA)**

**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



# Woodstock Ingersoll Echo

The Woodstock Ingersoll Echo is seeking an

## INGERSOLL NEWS CORRESPONDENT

We are looking to hire a **part-time journalist**, based out of Ingersoll, to report regularly on a variety of local happenings within our Woodstock Ingersoll Echo newspaper.

Please send resume to the attention of Lee Griffi at [info@theecho.ca](mailto:info@theecho.ca).



Contribute to your local community newspaper! Send articles, sports or event recaps, and photos to [info@theecho.ca](mailto:info@theecho.ca)

Local 636 Office  
126 Beale Street Woodstock, ON  
N4S 6X5



Tel: 519.537.5942  
Fax: 519.421.0064  
E: [uniforlocal636@rogers.com](mailto:uniforlocal636@rogers.com)

BRENT THOMPSON  
President

SCOTT BRADFORD  
Financial Secretary

## RETIREE'S BREAKFAST

### UNIFOR LOCAL 636

IS HOSTING BREAKFASTS FOR RETIRED WORKERS AND/OR THEIR PARTNER

**FEBRUARY 20, 2025**

9:00 AM – 10:00 AM

**\$5.00 Per Person**

**Retiree's meeting to follow**

#### AGENDA

ROUTINE BUSINESS

Doug Steele  
Unifor Local 636  
Retired Workers Chapter

Susan Veenstra  
Unifor Local 636  
Retired Workers Chapter

*Family Owned & Operated*

**519 - 425 - 1600**

# McBeath-Dynes

FUNERAL HOME LTD.



We are close by when you need us the most

- Transfer of Funeral Arrangements & Prearrangements from other establishments at NO COST
- Guaranteed pre-paid price with transfer from other establishments
- Options to pre-plan at NO COST
- Full Service Funeral Home offering Cremation Services, Traditional Services. Memorial Gatherings
- After funeral assistance at NO COST
- We offer a wide selection of: Caskets, Urns, Scattering Tubes, Keepsake Urns, Cremation Jewelry, & Jewelry with your loved ones fingerprint



Owners  
Jeff & Michelle  
Glendinning

**Our Directors**  
Madison Kraeker  
Dave Nancekievill  
Jeff Glendinning

Call or Email for More Information

519-425-1600 or [www.mcbeathdynes.ca](http://www.mcbeathdynes.ca)  
246 Thames St. S., Ingersoll, ON N5C 2T7







Volunteer Lisa Beaudry and Student Volunteer Alex Tervelde pitched in to make the event a thrill to the princesses.

# Royal Tea Party in the Friendly City

On Jan. 25 the Crafty Corner Tea Room in Woodstock hosted an enchanting Royal Tea Party, which delighted princesses and their families.

The event transformed the venue into a regal wonderland, as children dressed in their finest attire enjoyed a memorable afternoon filled with treats, refreshments, and creativity. The event's highlight was the Princess Tier, a delightful spread featuring a tea sandwich, Goldfish crackers, chips, a petit dessert, and a small teapot of orange juice, milk, or chocolate milk. The tiered presentation delighted the children, making them feel

like royalty.

The young attendees channeled their inner monarchs by crafting crowns following the tea service. The hands-on activity brought smiles and laughter to the room, with parents providing supervision and adults enjoying the opportunity to order from the tea room's menu.

Families appreciated the magical experience, which offered a perfect blend of elegance, fun, and creativity. The Crafty Corner Tea Room thanks all attendees for making this event a royal success and looks forward to hosting more family-friendly events in the future.

(RON YUZARK PHOTOS)



Ensuring a fun event were Marnie (Owner) Kelsey and Denise (Kitchen Staff) and Alex (Student Volunteer).



Royal Watchers taking in the event were Brenda Anderson, Sadie Martin-Whatley, Cheryl Moore and Lisa Beaudry.

# Echo

**Contribute to your local community newspaper! Send articles, sports or event recaps, and photos to [info@theecho.ca](mailto:info@theecho.ca)**

## Woodstock Ingersoll Echo

*"I know the paper is free, but can I get a subscription anyways?"*

Yes. We understand that some people might like the convenience of the Woodstock Ingersoll Echo arriving at their home (located near or far) through Canada Post, so we do have subscriptions available for this purpose.

The price for a subscription is \$52 plus GST = \$54.60.

To subscribe, please e-transfer [granthavenmedia@gmail.com](mailto:granthavenmedia@gmail.com) and include your full mailing address in the comments, or send a cheque with mailing address to Grant Haven Media, PO Box 23 10, St. Marys, ON N4X1A2



# It's never a good time - Operation Sharing phasing out food cards

EMILY STEWART

*Echo Correspondent*

Operation Sharing's well-known and well-received food card program will soon be phased due to a shifted focus towards emergency services.

In a statement shared on Jan. 21, Tim Dukes, Operation Sharing's executive director, announced the food cards would be phased out with changes starting Jan. 31. The cards will no longer be available on Fridays and can only be accessed on Mondays and Wednesdays until March 31.

Operation Sharing's centre has 67 beds for those in Oxford County without housing.

"The homeless numbers have risen, and we really need to shift our focus to the emergency services side of things," Dukes said. "The cost of the program is definitely something we have to look at. With donations being down and the cost of the program being very high, it's very hard for this organization to be an emergency service centre and a food bank at

the same time."

After announcing the changes on social media, the post had comments expressing disappointment over the move. Dukes acknowledged there have been mixed opinions from the public.

"There's obviously been some backlash. There's a lot of understanding. There's obviously comments that, I think, are derogatory and I don't respond to stuff like that. This is kind of the stigmas and all that we need to eliminate as a society. I'm not about to fuel those fires."

Dukes added the decision was not an easy one to make.

"It's been heartbreaking. It's been hard. Operation Sharing, the board, myself as the new director here. We know the importance of the food card program. We know the importance of creating dignity for allowing people to shop for special diet items. We are aware of the benefits that come from doing food cards as opposed to pantry."

Dukes also wants to see an improved food distribution for those in need in

Oxford County. The Salvation Army downsized and is helping people facing food insecurity once every six weeks.

"Our food distribution in Oxford County is inadequate compared to the numbers that we need to serve," Dukes explained. "Is it a good time to close the food card right now? Probably not, but there's never a good time. Hopefully, out of this, we can establish a better food bank, better food distribution here in Oxford County and Woodstock."

Instead of the food cards, Operation Sharing will be focusing on meal programs and emergency shelter services. Food for Friends, as of April 1, will be providing food, hygiene products, and clothing on Mondays and Wednesdays between 9 and 11 a.m. The organization partnered with Giant Tiger to purchase meats and school snacks, and the grocery store now has a roundup option at tills to support Operation Sharing.

Dukes is hoping to expand the hot meal program to three square meals a day, five days a week.

Operation Sharing is bringing in a va-

riety of supports to the day space, such as OW and ODSP workers, a county navigator and employment counsellors, as well as transitional housing interviews in a mobility bus. There are also trials for art therapy programs and life skills programs, which would focus on skills such as cooking, cleaning, and budgeting, to help those without housing get back on their feet.

"It's working," Dukes said. "We're seeing the numbers of people that are being transitioned and housed rise as every month goes by, and I just think we're just going to get stronger and better and it's going to help stabilize and help people get off the streets."

He added that when the emergency services stabilize, Operation Sharing would consider bringing back the food card program.

"If nobody else has taken up that chore of getting that program up and running, then I mean, by all means, we would look into shifting back to dealing with food bank stuff. But for right now, we are shifting to the emergency services."

## Paint and Sip event in Woodstock



Starting their creative paintings were Kristina, Laura, Nina, Stacey, Deanna and Selena.

On Jan. 24, The Happy Hippo Co., proudly owned and operated by local entrepreneurs Deanna Foisy, Roberta (Bobbie) Hurst and Kari Cameron, hosted a delightful Paint n Sip event that brought creativity and fun to the heart of the community.

The event offered attendees an evening of artistic expression and connection, where participants created vibrant

paintings to take home while enjoying drinks with friends. All painting supplies and beverages were included, ensuring a seamless and enjoyable experience for everyone.

The Happy Hippo Co. was founded to fill a unique need in Woodstock, offering a space that is interactive, family-friendly, and educational. The shop serves as a hub for supporting local ar-



Deanna Foisy with just a few of the items on offer.

tisans, showcasing handcrafted products from over 80 talented collaborators.

"We're thrilled to host events like Paint n Sip that bring people together in such a fun and creative way," said Foisy.

"Our goal has always been to build a strong, community-focused space, and events like this truly highlight the amazing energy of Woodstock."

The Happy Hippo Co. continues to be

a beloved destination for families and individuals in Woodstock, offering not only unique products but also memorable experiences.

For more information about upcoming events or to explore their collection of local goods, visit their website [www.thehappyhippoco.ca](http://www.thehappyhippoco.ca), or stop by their shop located at 22 Kent St in Woodstock.

(RON YUZARK PHOTOS)



**FEBRUARY 8, 2025**  
**STRATFORD KINSMEN**



*Cystic Fibrosis*  
*Valentine's*  
*Gala*



**ROAST BEEF BUFFET AND DANCE**  
**SILENT AUCTION ITEMS**

**DOORS OPEN AT 5 P.M.**

**LIVE MUSIC AND DANCE BY UPSIDE OF MAYBE**

**\$50.00 PER PERSON**



**ROTARY COMPLEX**  
353 MCCARTHY RD STRATFORD ONTARIO  
TICKETS AVAILABLE AT BLACK ANGUS OR  
CALL 519-272-6912 OR 519-274-5781

# Oxford Provincial Police briefs

LEE GRIFFI

Local Journalism Initiative Reporter

## Mischief complaint leads to impaired and other charges

An Ingersoll man is facing multiple charges after an incident of mischief in a town parking lot.

On Jan. 25 at about 9:30 a.m., police responded to a complaint on Thames Street. As a result of the investigation, a 44-year-old resident of Ingersoll was charged with public mischief, damage to property, dangerous operation of a motor vehicle, impaired driving and driving without insurance.

The accused has been released and is scheduled to appear in a Woodstock courtroom on March 4.

## Collision leads to charges

A single-vehicle collision in Oxford County had led to impaired charges.

On Jan. 24 at approximately 5 p.m., police responded to a collision on Mount Elgin Road in South-West Oxford Township where a vehicle had struck a hydro pole. Minor injuries were reported.

Mount Elgin Road was closed for several hours between Dereham Line and Cullogen Line to allow for the investigation and repairs.

A 78-years-of-age resident of South-West Oxford was charged with dangerous operation of a motor vehicle and impaired driving.

He will appear in a Woodstock courtroom on March 4.

## One person sent to hospital following collision

One person was taken to hospital after a collision between a passenger vehicle and a commercial motor vehicle.

Members of the OPP and the Oxford County Paramedic Services responded to a collision at the intersection of the 37th Line and Oxford Road 33 south of Embro on Jan. 23 around 6:30 a.m.

Police say a passenger vehicle and commercial motor vehicle collided and the driver of the passenger vehicle was taken to hospital with non-life-threatening injuries. The driver of the commercial motor vehicle was charged with careless driving under the Highway Traffic Act.

## SHOP LOCAL. SAVE LOCAL

Support the local businesses that keep your community and its newspapers thriving.

ADVERTISE   

**theecho.ca**

# DO YOUR EARS FEEL PLUGGED?

## FREE EAR WAX REMOVAL & SCREENING - ONE DAY ONLY Wednesday, February 26th

 **hear right canada**  
Woodstock

# CALL TO BOOK YOUR FREE APPOINTMENT TODAY! (519) 290-0131



# Woodstock Police briefs

LEE GRIFFI

Local Journalism Initiative Reporter

## Drug investigation leads to trafficking charges

A Woodstock resident faces a long list of charges after police initiated a drug trafficking investigation.

The Criminal Intelligence and Drug Enforcement Unit initiated an investigation earlier this month and on Jan. 27, with the assistance of the Waterloo Regional Police Service Emergency Response Team, a search warrant was executed in Woodstock and a suspect was arrested.

The 35-year-old male has been charged with three counts of possession with the purpose of trafficking and two counts of failing to comply with a probation order.

Police seized quantities of fentanyl, methamphetamine and cocaine with a street value of \$46,400.

## Police searching for suspects after daylight break-in

Police are asking for the public's help in identifying a vehicle and suspects involved in a recent break-and-enter near Boot Hill Road on Jan. 24 around noon.

Police say three suspects arrived in a red Jeep Cherokee. One male suspect,

wearing a reflective construction vest and carrying a clipboard, knocked on the front door. When no one answered, the suspect and two accomplices proceeded to break into the side garage door, stealing jewelry and other personal items.

If you have any information related to this incident or video footage, contact the Woodstock Police Service at 519-537-2323.

Police are reminding residents to ensure their cameras are fully charged, doors are locked, and to report any suspicious activity immediately.

## Stolen pickup results in charges against city man

A 31-year-old Woodstock male was arrested after police located a stolen pickup truck near Finkle Street.

Officers were called to the scene on Jan. 22 where they found the vehicle and identified the driver. Following a brief foot pursuit, police arrested the suspect, who was found in possession of stolen keys and bear spray.

The man has been charged with possession of stolen property, possession of a weapon for a dangerous purpose, breach of probation and breach of an undertaking. He remains in custody pending a bail hearing.



Woodstock Police took nearly \$50,000 worth of illegal drugs off the street in a recent bust. (WOODSTOCK POLICE SERVICE PHOTOS)



Woodstock police have released photos of a suspect and a vehicle in connection with a recent theft near Boot Hill Road.

(WOODSTOCK POLICE SERVICE PHOTOS)



# Women Sharing, Women Caring: Be a Woman Involved

LAURA GREEN

Echo Contributor

A familiar name in the 4-H world and now in the Women's Institute (WI) world has been elected president of the Federated Women's Institutes of Ontario (FWIO) at its annual general meeting on Jan. 15. Cheryl Sullivan 4-H Council president, 2020 has taken over the role. The meeting was held in Grimsby at the Casablanca Hotel.

Since one of the Provincial Initiatives is Human Sex Trafficking, the evening's guest speaker was Detective Constable Sarah Caven, Provincial Human Trafficking Intelligence Led Joint Forces Strategy, Ontario Provincial Police.

Two Oxford District Women's Institute members have completed their three-year term volunteering at the provincial level of FWIO. Chris Wiffen was the Membership Coordinator and hosted the Zoom Bloomers once a month. This Zoom Bloomers program featured speakers from across the province on a variety of topics that members could enjoy the learning opportunities on their computer screens.

Laura Green was the Southern Region Provincial Board director representing Elgin, Middlesex and Oxford Districts. Monthly meetings were held by Zoom and the eight board directors plus president-elect and the president held many positions on the board. Green worked on the scholarship committee.



(CONTRIBUTED PHOTO)

Newly elected FWIO President Cheryl Sullivan (middle) thanked two Oxford District W.I. members for their time and knowledge given to the provincial organization. Left- Laura Green provincial board director representing Southern Area and right – Chris Wiffen was the Membership Coordinator for the province of Ontario.

Members from across Ontario voted on one of five choices for the new catchphrase before the AGM. The winning phrase was announced by Ellen Wade, Public Relations Coordinator, so be on the watch for "Women Sharing, Women

Caring, be a Woman Involved."

To mark WI Day on Feb. 19, the Federated Women's Institute of Canada (FWIC) and Canada Area of Associated Country Women of the World are hosting a joint Zoom presentation titled "WI Day and

Advocacy Event" at 6:30 Eastern Time. One must register to receive the Zoom link at [registrations@fwic.ca](mailto:registrations@fwic.ca).

For more information about local branches, contact the office at <https://fwio.on.ca/>.

## THE HELP YOU NEED, WHEN YOU NEED IT.



### Ask about our trial or respite stays!

Monthly fee starting at \$2,950

If your current situation is not working for you, come take a look at the Gardens. We're a terrific retirement living option!

Call us at (519) 425-9999

Visit us at [www.gardensofingersoll.ca](http://www.gardensofingersoll.ca)



**ITOPA**  
*Ingersoll Theatre of Performing Arts*  
**PRESENTS**  
**IN THE RESTROOM AT ROSEMBLOOMS**  
 BY LUDMILLA BOLLOW

**FEBRUARY 21, 22, 23, 27, 28**  
**MARCH 1, 2**

**TICKETS AVAILABLE AT ITOPA.CA OR CALL THE BOX OFFICE AT 519-485-3070**

**COME SEE WHAT'S HAPPENING IN OUR RESTROOM!**





# County also receives provincial dollars to battle homelessness

CONTINUED FROM FRONT

Oxford County Warden Marcus Ryan said the OHT put a lot of work in before HART Hubs existed and deserves a lot of credit.

“It’s a great example of collaboration and everyone working to get in the right place at the right time. The OHT had a package the province couldn’t say no to knowing the situation here. They said yes, now the real work begins.”

Oxford County isn’t involved directly with the Hub other than being a member of the OHT but indirectly Ryan said they will play a role.

“The HART Hub will have to integrate with what we do currently in terms of homelessness, addiction and mental health. Also, what we do in terms of our homelessness response strategy homelessness service centre that will be coming in April. There are a lot of partners going to be involved, maybe not directly, but this thing isn’t

going to work unless everyone collaborates.”

Woodstock Mayor Jerry Acchione was present for the announcement and said the Hub will be a huge benefit in helping the homelessness, mental health and drug problem facing the city.

“The Province’s HART Hubs is exactly the type of model we had in mind when we identified a new priority action in our strategic plan at the start of this term of Council. We knew that bringing together care partners in this type of collaborative approach was the only way we can make progress to address this growing issue.”

Last November, Woodstock City Council voted in favour of using the nearly \$2 million the city received through the Building Faster Fund to partner with Oxford County to support the creation of a permanent, low-barrier shelter. Acchione said all the recent positive news will



(CONTRIBUTED PHOTO)

**16 Graham Street – The former Woodstock PUC building has been purchased by the Woodstock Hospital’s Board of Trust and will eventually house the city’s HART Hub.**

have a profound impact on the community.

“We are so grateful to our provincial partners for recognizing the need and taking action towards addressing the challenge communities like ours are facing when it comes to mental health, addictions and homelessness.”

Oxford County also found out this week it is receiving \$700,000 from the province. The money is to help wind down encampments in public spaces by creating more emergency shelter spaces and affordable housing units.

Ryan said the county is finally starting to turn the corner on the issue of homelessness and what comes with it.

“Before we had this HART Hub, we didn’t even have the tools to do the job. We were sort of standing at the side of the road looking at the flat tire without a jack, without a wrench, without a spare. As I have said many times, if someone is suffering from a diagnosed mental health issue and self-medicating, Oxford County providing four walls and a roof is not the solution.”

The county was just awarded \$700,000 in funding from the province to create more emergency shelter spaces and affordable housing units to provide vulnerable people with appropriate

short-term and long-term housing alternatives to encampments. Ryan explained the county has been advocating for the funding for over a year.

“Oxford County staff identified existing funding envelopes from the province we thought we qualified for. We’ve never got that money before but we put a lot of effort into advocacy with the Ministry of Municipal Affairs and Housing and I sat across from the minister last week and said we have done our homework and we are ready to go.”

\$500,000 of the money will create four additional housing units to complement the 33 currently available, allowing the county to move people out of emergency shelters which in turn means some folks can move from encampments into emergency housing.

“The other \$200,000 is encampment response money for 12 seasonal emergency shelter beds in Tillsonburg and the hiring of a system navigator who will help those people and others in the homeless community navigate their way to get support through the emergency shelter and the coming Oxford homelessness service centre and the coming HART Hub,” added Ryan.



(CONTRIBUTED PHOTO)

Those involved with the successful HART Hub application gathered at the Woodstock Hospital this week to celebrate the announcement. From left to right are Teresa Martins, OHT Executive Director; Oxford County Warden Marcus Ryan; Woodstock Mayor Jerry Acchione; Oxford MPP Ernie Hardeman; Board of Trust Chair Patrice Hilderly; and Woodstock Hospital President and CEO Perry Lang.

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

**Old St. Paul's  
Anglican Church**  
723 Dundas St., Woodstock  
Please join us for worship  
with our new Interim,  
Reverend Canon  
Tony Bouwmeester  
11 am Sundays followed by  
fellowship in the Parish Hall  
Historic Old St. Paul's: Celebrating 190 years

**CHURCH OF THE EPIPHANY  
Anglican Church**  
560 Dundas St. Woodstock  
Worship Services  
Wednesday 10:30 a.m.  
*followed by Coffee Hour*  
Sunday 9:00 a.m. & 10:30 a.m.  
*followed by Coffee Hour*  
NEW - Saturday 6:00 p.m.  
*followed by Coffee Hour*  
Rev. Richard Hetke  
*will be offering Communion.*

**GRANT  
HAVEN  
MEDIA**

Our local newspapers have both print and online editions. Advertising in both allows your business to reach a broader audience, including those who prefer traditional print and those who consume news digitally. Let's get started.

[heather@granthaven.com](mailto:heather@granthaven.com) **226.261.1837**

St. Marys Independent The Wilmot-Tavistock Gazette



# Theatre Woodstock's 'Cabaret' cast and crew looking forward to production



(EMILY STEWART PHOTO)

Theatre Woodstock's Cabaret cast and crew are looking forward to bring the production to the stage. (Left to right): Dana Fobert, Emil Wijnker, and James Callaghan.

## EMILY STEWART

*Echo Correspondent*

There's lots of excitement as performers, production team, and members of Theatre Woodstock get ready to present their winter musical.

The organization is bringing the legend-

ary musical Cabaret to the stage. The production by Joe Masteroff, John Kander and Fred Ebb, based on the John Van Druten play and stories by Christopher Isherwood, will take audiences to Berlin in the late 1920s just before Germany leans towards the emerging Third Reich.

"It's a very iconic show," director Joey



(EMILY STEWART PHOTO)

(Left to right): Andrew Russo and Kennedy Wilson.

Larmour said. "Very catchy music and the story is very, not sure of the word I'm thinking of, it's not joyful. It's not a comedy. There is some comedy to it, but it's a show about the rise of Nazism in Germany. It's not a bright, colourful subject so I think it'll just be a very unique experience to go out and see."

About 50 people auditioned for Cabaret. Larmour said that the cast and crew are enthusiastic to perform the musical. Some who auditioned wanted to be part of the show in some capacity, whether it was on stage or other.

"We've had people reach out to be a part of the show in some way backstage," he said. "Whether it's assistant stage managing or doing anything. A lot of people came to the auditions to say if they didn't get a part, they'd like to be a part of the crew because they just want to be a part of it."

Theatre Woodstock's production of Cabaret was first announced in March 2024, about 11 months ahead of the performance dates. The announcement came after the community theatre company just wrapped

up a successful run of Rodgers and Hammerstein's Cinderella with sold-out audiences. Cabaret will have a live orchestra accompany the production.

"There's very, very few recorded sounds at all," Larmour said.

He added Theatre Woodstock was originally going to pick a different musical, but it didn't work out. When the team, including musical director Chuck Baxter, had to pivot, Cabaret was the first one that came up and was unanimously chosen.

"It's really exciting. I think Theatre Woodstock and the rest of the Oxford County community as a whole is ready for what we're going to be bringing," said Larmour.

Cabaret will run from Feb. 6 to 16. Tickets are \$32 for adults, \$20, for students, and \$18 for youth 12 years old and under. Theatre Woodstock also has their Thrifty Thursday specials where all tickets are \$20. Tickets can be purchased at the box office on 22 Reeve St., by phone at 519-537-2582 or by visiting <https://theatre-woodstock.com>.

**STONETOWN TRAVEL**

GROUP TRAVEL OPPORTUNITY HOSTED BY STONETOWN TRAVEL

**FRENCH RIVIERA & PARIS**

**APRIL 23 – MAY 4, 2026**

Head Office: 150 Queen Street East, St. Marys, ON N4X 1B4  
 ☎ 519-284-2332 ✉ agent@stonetowntravel.com  
 TICO #50010159

Branch Office: 210 Mill Street, New Hamburg, ON N3A 1P9  
 ☎ 226-333-9939 ✉ newhamburg@stonetowntravel.com  
 TICO #50025796

[www.stonetowntravel.com](http://www.stonetowntravel.com)

**GRANT HAVEN MEDIA**

**Woodstock Ingersoll Echo**

**BE IN THE KNOW!  
 Get the Latest  
 Edition Delivered  
 Straight to Your  
 Inbox!**

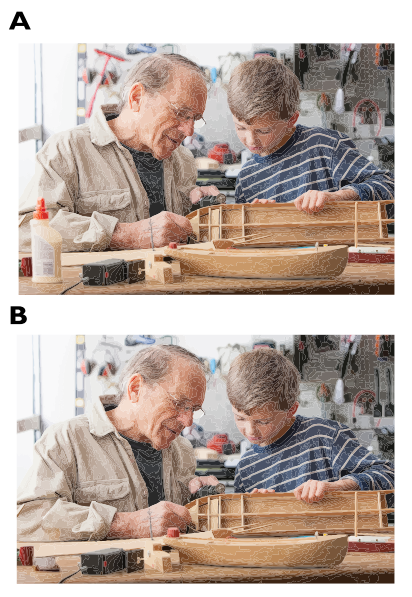
[granthaven.com/woodstock-ingersoll-echo](http://granthaven.com/woodstock-ingersoll-echo)





**What's the Difference?**

Find the four differences between these pictures.



Answers: 1. Missing glue 2. Red piece on boat is larger 3. Red tool in background is missing 4. There is a second black scrubber in back right

Answer: Brain

**CANADA**  
MONTH  
**HISTORY**

**1947**

The Dominion of Newfoundland, which later becomes a province, switches to driving on the right side of the road instead of the left.

**NEW**  
**WORD**  
**PASTIME**

activity done regularly for enjoyment

**Body**  
**FACT:**

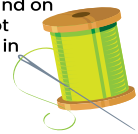
Hobbies can keep this part of the body stimulated.

**How they say that in...**

- English:** Hobby
- Spanish:** Hobby
- Italian:** Hobby
- French:** Passe-temps
- German:** Hobby

**Did You Know?**

Sewing, like other hobbies, can relax a person by focusing the mind on the task and not on other things in your life.



**Get the PICTURE?**



Can you guess what the bigger picture is?

Answer: Paint palette

**PHYSICS MATTERS**

An Interactive Science Exhibit  
On view until Summer 2025

Supports the Grades 3 to 5 curriculum  
Book a school or group program!



466 Dundas St., Woodstock ON N4S 1C4  
Open Tuesday to Saturday, 10 a.m. – 5 p.m.  
519-537-8424 | woodstockmuseum.ca

January 17-31  
**OXFORD Eats**  
BIG FLAVOURS – LIMITED MENUS

Want to give the oven a night off? Visit these restaurants for limited time 3 course menus priced from \$19.99 to \$84.99, or pop in for their weekly specials! New flavours, and great savings with the added HST break.

Learn more: [TourismOxford.ca/OxfordEats](http://TourismOxford.ca/OxfordEats)

**Participating Restaurants:**

- |                         |                        |
|-------------------------|------------------------|
| <b>Woodstock:</b>       | <b>Norwich:</b>        |
| Brickhouse Brew Pub     | Jordan's Divine Dish   |
| Finkle St Tap and Grill | <b>Ingersoll:</b>      |
| Ironworks Kitchen       | Louies Pizza and Pasta |
| SixThirtyNine           |                        |
| Upper Thames Brewing    |                        |

**TourismOxford.ca**  
1-866-801-7368 x3355





# Woodstock Ingersoll Echo SPORTS

## Huskies challenged by shortage of skaters, not ice time or spirit

JEFF TRIBE

*Echo Correspondent*

There was no shortage of either ice time or spirit among the Woodstock Huron Park Huskies girls hockey team on Jan. 13 at the Ingersoll District Memorial Centre (IDMC).

Together, eight brave skaters and one stalwart goalie combined on a 1-0 TVRA South East shutout win over the host Ingersoll DCI Blue Bombers.

"I guess we all pushed really hard in this game and it showed," said Huron Park's Payton Cowan, who scored the contest's lone goal in the first minute of the third period, assisted by Brittany Raduc.

"It was kind of unlucky for her (Ingersoll goalie Jolene Allair)," admitted Cowan of a snipe down low that found the five-hole. "It was just on net."

The Blue Bombers pulled Allair in the game's final stretch but were unable to come up with the equalizer, Huron Park netminder Courtney DeJeu completing the shutout victory.

"She was lights out, lights out," credited Huskies coach Brandon Thomas. DeJeu is always solid between the pipes Thomas continued.

"But that's the best I've seen her play."

IDCI Blue Bomber Jorja Kloepfer gave credit to both DeJeu and Huron Park for a strong effort.

"They were very energetic for only having eight players," said Kloepfer, an integral part of a 15-member lineup. "I feel we should have popped at least one with all the close calls we had.



(JEFF TRIBE PHOTO)

Ingersoll DCI goalie Jolene Allair follows the puck as her teammate Athena Spriel (right) covers Huron Park's Alayna Bloomfield (centre).

But sometimes it just doesn't go your way."

Although on visitors' ice, DeJeu had a little 'home' advantage given she plays on the Woodstock Wildcats U18 BB hockey team with a number of both Huron Park and Ingersoll teammates. There had been some pre-game discussion on who'd benefit more from knowing each others' tendencies, shooters or goalie.

"It works both ways, right?" smiled Courtney's mother Dana, her decided preference for shutout over shootout rewarded on this day.

It is fun to know players on the opposing team, said Huron Park's Ella Chesney, although it does add pressure.

"Probably more important," she assessed, "because of the bragging rights."

"It creates a good competition," agreed Blue Bomber and Wildcat Reese Ellery, who grabbed a post-game photo with Chesney in front of the home IDCI bench.

Playing against minor hockey teammates while representing one's high school is not unique to girls' hockey. The week before, South Oxford Storm teammates from the Ingersoll DCI Blue Bombers and Tillsonburg Glendale Gemini had met in Tillsonburg under similar competitive, yet friendly circumstances.

But there are distinctions. The boys playing together reflects an amalgamation of minor hockey centres in Ingersoll and Tillsonburg competing at a higher combined level, part of a changing minor hockey landscape. For the girls, it arguably represents growth and opportunity for both girl's and women's hockey in Canada, perfectly backdropped by Ella Shelton's Team Canada jersey in the IDMC lobby.

It is Shelton's home arena, a crucial starting point for the world champion, Olympic gold medallist, and New York Sirens defender, selected fourth overall in the inaugural PWHL (Professional Women's Hockey



(JEFF TRIBE PHOTO)

Ingersoll DCI's Jorja Kloepfer (left) is picked up by Huron Park's Ella Chesney (centre) as goalie Courtney DeJeu covers up the puck.

League) draft.

"It's possible," said Kloepfer, who like Shelton, began playing boys' hockey in Ingersoll before advancing to the London Devilettes program, currently competing with the U18 squad.

Shelton's exceptional talent and accomplishments are matched by her generosity and approachability credited IDCI coach Jessica Blain.

"She's very involved in her community."

Blain recalled the reaction of a group of young players at former Woodstock Navy Vets sniper Pat Sloan's St. Mary's Hockey Academy when Shelton humbly introduced herself prior to passing along advice.

"She left and they're like 'We know who Ella Shelton is!'" Blain laughed. "They were shell-shocked, they were like 'Oh my gosh!'"

Kloepfer calls Shelton a great role model, especially for young female hockey players, willing to take time out of her day to give back to her sport and community. Jorja and Ella's dads are 'buddies' Kloepfer continued, farmers who grew up together. She sees Ella on training runs regularly in their neighbourhood during the off-season.

"I look up to her every day."

Kloepfer, Ellery and Blain all consider themselves fortunate to have seen Shelton's Olympic

gold medal up close and personal, although by consensus, should they happen to win one, instead of just a treasured keepsake, it might be worn as a regular fashion accessory, 'her jewellery' in the words of Kloepfer. "All the time," laughed Ellery.

### TVRA South East Girls Hockey

Thursday, January 16  
Tillsonburg Glendale 4, Woodstock Huron Park 1

Wednesday, January 15  
Woodstock CI 4, St. Thomas St. Joe's 3

Tuesday, January 14  
Lord Dorchester 5, Ingersoll 2

Monday, January 13  
Woodstock Huron Park 1, Ingersoll DCI 0

### TVRAA South East Boys Hockey

Thursday, January 16  
Woodstock St. Mary's CHS 4, Aylmer East Elgin 4

Wednesday, January 15  
St. Thomas St. Joe's 5, Woodstock College Avenue 0

Thursday, January 14  
Ingersoll DCI 6, Huron Park 1  
Glendale 5, St. Mary's CHS 1

Monday, January 13  
Ingersoll DCI 2, St. Joe's 2  
Lord Dorchester 6, Woodstock CI 3



(JEFF TRIBE PHOTO)

Huron Park's Payton Cowan pursues Ingersoll DCI's Jorja Kloepfer as the latter heads up-ice.



# Warriors, Red Devils looking forward to respective post-seasons

JEFF TRIBE

*Echo Correspondent*

It was understandable if both the Woodstock CI Red Devils and Woodstock St. Mary's Warriors were looking beyond the latter's 48-28 TVRA South East junior boys' basketball victory Jan. 14 at WCI's DevilDome.

There definitely was a focus on the game at hand. However, as the end of the regular season loomed, both were also aware of their disparate post-season goals.

"We're coming into our own," said St. Mary's coach Jonathan Circelli. "Starting to peak at the right time."

The Warriors very much know who they are, operating with a simply defined if well-executed gameplan.

"It starts on defence and goes to offence," said Warrior Joel Adeoye, summing up 'a great game, a team game' against WCI. "We started sloppy but we started to run and play defence and great things happened," he added.

The Warriors closed out the regular TVRA South East campaign Feb. 6 with a comfortable 39-19 homecourt win over the Ingersoll DCI Blue Bombers. The win was the sixth of the St. Mary's season against two losses, to the first-placed St. Thomas St. Joe's Rams (8-0) and second-place Tillsonburg Gemini (7-1) respectively.

"There's some really good teams," said Adeoye, looking for his squad to step their collective game up further in what they hope will be an opportunity for post-season advancement and pay-back.

The Warriors open AA playoffs against the Blue Bombers in a Feb. 6 rematch in St. Mary's. The Woodstock Huron Park Huskies put their solid 6-2 record on the line the same day at St. Thomas Parkside, also 6-2, at 5 p.m.

On Feb. 4 Woodstock College Avenue hosts Lord Dorchester in a preliminary AA play-in game tipping off at 3 p.m. The highest seed from the two AA play-in game winners travels to Tillsonburg on Feb. 6, the lower-seeded winner to St. Joe's.

AA semi-finals are set for Tuesday, Feb. 11.

The Red Devils closed out their regular season with a 55-35 loss to the Rams, finishing with a 3-5 win-loss record. Woodstock CI will host the league's other single A entry, the St. Thomas Arthur Voaden Vikings in a challenge match on Feb. 11 at WCI, with the winner advancing to the WOSSAA A draw.

In their regular season meeting, the Red Devils won 62-42 over the winless Vikings.

The Red Devils are still finding their feet to a degree says forward Oscar Berkeley, what they're good at, what they need to improve on.

"I think we're starting to find our shape, who we are as a team," said guard Hunter Grass.

"I think we have the potential," Berkeley agreed.

As a young, comparatively inexperienced team, WCI is sifting through different scenarios with each team said coach Chris Coyle, responding to the challenges they offer. He was impressed with the game speed and pressure the Warriors brought to the court during their game, an athletic, physically mature squad.

"All stuff we're going to see at WOSSAA," Coyle said, of an experience giving the coaching staff a focus for the next practice or two. "We haven't seen that many teams that quick."

The Red Devils had responded well through the first quarter Coyle credited, pleased with a solid half in which they trailed by 11 at the break, fanning hopes for a third-quarter comeback. The second half didn't begin as well, turnovers leading to a 15-point deficit and a different scenario.

"We're learning, we're working, we're getting better," he summed up. "That's the process."

"I see enough good things I think we're going to get where we want to be, which is being in WOSSAA and being competitive there."

## TVRA South East Junior Boys Basketball

Thursday, January 16

St. Mary's 39, Ingersoll 19

St. Joe's 55, WCI 35

College Avenue 47, Aylmer East Elgin 42

Huron Park 48, St. Thomas Central Elgin 28

Tuesday, January 14

St. Mary's 48, WCI 28

Huron Park 61, College Avenue 41

Ingersoll DCI 39, East Elgin 37

## TVRA South East Senior Boys Basketball

Thursday, January 16

Woodstock CI 70, St. Joe's 50

College Avenue 50, East Elgin 41

St. Mary's 72, Ingersoll DCI 60

Tuesday, January 14

College Avenue 64, Huron Park 51

East Elgin 50, Ingersoll DCI 44

WCI defeats St. Mary's

## AA Playoffs

### Preliminary Round

Tuesday, February 4

East Elgin at Huron Park, 3 p.m.

Ingersoll DCI at Central Elgin, 3 p.m.

### AA Playoff Quarterfinals

Thursday, February 6

St. Mary's at Lord Dorchester, 3 p.m.

Southeast #7 at College Avenue, 3 p.m.

### AA Playoff Semi-Finals:

Tuesday, February 11

### AA Championship Game:

Thursday, February 13



(JEFF TRIBE PHOTO)

Woodstock CI's Preston Dopf dribbles out of the corner under pressure from St. Mary's Warrior Quinton Mitchell.



(JEFF TRIBE PHOTO)

Woodstock CI's Jude Buncher strives to elude pressure from St. Mary's Warriors Emmanuel Fadeyi (foreground) and Quinton Mitchell.



(JEFF TRIBE PHOTO)

Woodstock CI's Jude Buncher (foreground) and Austin Bickell team up on St. Mary's Warrior Emmanuel Fadeyi.



# Woodstock Warriors Start 2025 with Strong Results and Gold



## U15 TEAM

(CONTRIBUTED PHOTO)

Left to right back row: Coach Durval Mederos, Brooklynn Ruddy, Ella Pedersen, Leah Kanlagna, Alison Van der Wyngaard, Katie Hofstetter, Lauren Cumberland, Avery Glanzmann, Chloe Campbell. Front row: Avery Hahn, Peyton Boddy, Hope McMichael and Kaylee McDonald.



## U14 TEAM

(CONTRIBUTED PHOTO)

Left to right back row: Coach Trin McMichael, Limnyuy Yufanyi, Mikayla Sevewright, Ayda Merkle, Isabelle Hanlon, Millicent Maidment, Ava McLeod, Berlyn Ingram. Front row: Zoë Hartill, Emma Bertoia, Ira Salva, Claire Gyimesi, Aryana Hinds.



## U13 TEAM

(CONTRIBUTED PHOTO)

Left to right back row: Assistant Coach Peyton Boddy, Ella Post, Alayna Allard, Jade Robertson, Sloane Johnson, Alivia Murdoch, Denver Moskal, Coach Craig Boddy. Middle Row: Tessa Boddy, Kylie Burd, Kendra Marks, Brinley Hutcheson. Front Row: Hailey Elms, Brynn Wentzell.

### AMY BODDY

Echo Contributor

The Woodstock Warriors Volleyball Club is off to a fantastic start in 2025, with multiple teams bringing home impressive finishes from recent tournaments.

The U15 team led the way, winning gold at the Ontario Volleyball Association tournament in Simcoe on Jan. 12. Their hard work paid off as they took top honors in the competition.

The U14 team followed up with a gold medal of their own this past weekend at



## U12 TEAM

(CONTRIBUTED PHOTO)

Left to right back row: Riley Kudzia, Carys Glanzmann, Olivia Armstrong, Morgan Griswold, Mia Smith, Avery Van Der Wyngaard, Emily Logan, Liv Whitehead. Front row: Tira Popovich, Jalynn Bartley.

the SWIVL tournament in Cambridge, showing great teamwork and skill.

Not to be outdone, the U13 team also claimed first place at the SWIVL tournament in Cambridge, bringing home another gold for the club.

Additionally, the U12 team showed great

promise, finishing 4th at their SWIVL tournament in early January, a solid result.

Congratulations to all four teams for their amazing performances! The Woodstock Warriors are off to an exciting start and are ready for more success this season.

**Jack-O's Sports Bar "Great Times with Great Sports!"**

Pool Table | Poker Wednesday @ 7pm | Sunday @ 2pm | Juke Box

Daily & Weekly Draw\$

- Elimination
- Weekly Sports
- Lotto 10/49
- NASCAR
- Loonie Draws

**Jack-O's Sports Bar** Woodstock, Ontario

2 TOONIE TUESDAYS Bottled Beer \$4 12pm-11pm

DARTS Thursday @ 7pm

Friday & Saturday 9pm - 1am KARAOKE Night

Bowling every Tuesday @ 7pm Starting Jan - March

509 DUNDAS STREET WOODSTOCK, ONT (519-533-5000)

**OXFORD TAX SERVICE**

**Need Tax Help? We're Here for You.**

Visit us at our new location:  
**7A St Andrew St. Ingersoll**  
(Please park at the door)

Please call or email us to book an appointment to discuss your tax needs:  
**Phone: 519-425-5355**  
**Fax: 519-425-2175**  
**info@oxfordtax.ca**



# The play's the thing in a pair of exciting five-set matches

JEFF TRIBE

*Echo Correspondent*

Shakespeare was focused on theatrical presentation, not high school athletics.

But 'the play' was also a thing for the Woodstock Huron Park Huskies junior girls volleyball team on Jan. in a tense five-set match against the homecourt Woodstock College Avenue (CASS) Knights.

And while the Huskies did suffer the competitive slings and arrows associated with a 15-13 loss in the fifth and deciding set, love for the games which unfolded meant their labour had not been lost.

"They're very enjoyable," said Huskies libero Hannah Sirbu. "Everyone kind of forgets you're supposed to have fun in a game."

It admittedly is more fun to win, conceded teammate Shaelyn Wien.

"But it's fun to lose too because good things happen in every game."

Many good things happened for the host Knights in the first two sets, taken by scores of 25-14, 25-23. However, the Huskies made a match of it, carrying over their strong set two play into back-to-back 25-21, 25-21 victories that squared accounts at two apiece, setting up a fifth and deciding run to 15.

The same pattern would play out, Huron Park battling back from an early deficit to close within one at 9-8 and then ease ahead 11-10. Then it was the Knights' turn to show resiliency and determination, reeling off four consecutive winners to game point at 14-11. Huron Park got back within one a long Knights' kill attempt and a short serve which caught the front corner of the court, how-

ever, CASS was able to close out a mutually exciting encounter by the narrow 15-13 margin.

College Avenue coach George Friesen echoed earlier comments aligning with his own philosophy of gaining experience at the junior level, learning volleyball fundamentals and also importantly, players enjoying themselves.

"As long as they're having fun and finding some success, I think it's a good thing."

The game also underlined how sport, compared to the structured consistency of a well-rehearsed play, has a dynamic, dramatic beauty of its own. As the fifth set unfolded, the intensity of players on each team matched the rising tension, hustling and diving for loose balls through points playing out as one-act scenes building toward the final curtain drop.

"It was a swing in momentum from game to game so you never really knew who was going to come out on top," Friesen concluded. "That's what makes it exciting."

The victory, combined with a subsequent similarly exciting five-set win over Aylmer East Elgin (25-20, 19-25, 25-11, 24-26, 15-11) on Jan. 16 at home, closed out the Knights' regular season with a 4-4 record. Their show will go on by opening AA playoffs at Ingersoll DCI (also 4-4, but with a win against College Avenue earlier in the season) on Feb. 6 at 3 p.m.

The Huskies, who closed out their regular season with a 25-14, 25-19, 25-20 road win over St. Thomas Central Elgin Jan. 16, will host a AA preliminary playoff rematch Tuesday, February 4th at 4:30. The winner of that game, and a 3 p.m. Woodstock St. Mary's CHS Warriors road start against East Elgin will advance to

AA quarter-finals two days later, playing either the top-seeded St. Thomas Parkside Stampeders (8-0) or second-ranked St. Thomas St. Joe's Rams (6-2).

Semi-finals and the final are scheduled for Wednesday, February 12th at a location to be determined by playoff results.

*Thursday, January 16*

Woodstock CI 25, 25, 25; St. Joe's 7, 17, 22

Ingersoll DCI 22, 25, 25, 25; St. Mary's CHS 25, 20, 23, 22

College Avenue 25, 19, 25, 24, 15; Aylmer East Elgin 20, 25, 11, 26, 11

Huron Park 25, 25, 25; Central Elgin 14, 19, 20

*Tuesday, January 14*

Woodstock CI 25, 25, 25; St. Mary's 16, 13, 19

College Avenue 25, 25, 21, 21, 15; Huron Park 14, 23, 25, 25, 13

Ingersoll DCI 25, 25, 25; East Elgin 23, 17, 15

## TVRA South East Senior Girls Volleyball

An equally tense senior girls' five-set battle was playing out almost simultaneously in the adjacent College Avenue gym, fortunes reversed in this match won 26-24, 28-26, 22-25, 21-25, 15-13 by the visiting Huskies.

"Crazy," said Huron Park's Emma MacDonald, admitting her squad may have gone in expecting an easier game than the 'good fight' that ensued. "They played so well, really quick for all of our hits and tips."

The win will help in playoff seeding said MacDonald, looking forward to what hopefully is a lengthy post-season.

"Super excited."

Huron Park closed out its regular season Jan. 16 with a second

consecutive five-set victory, 22-25, 25-20, 25-19, 22-25, 9-15 over St. Thomas Central Elgin. The 5-3 Huskies open playoffs on the road with an AA quarter-final match-up against Tillsonburg Glendale (5-3) on Feb. 6 at 3 p.m. Ingersoll DCI (5-3) hosts Central Elgin (4-4) in another AA quarter-final on the same day at the same time.

The Knights and Woodstock St. Mary's Warriors are scheduled to play 3 p.m. AA preliminary-round games Feb. 4 against Lord Dorchester and St. Thomas St. Joe's respectively. The winners of those contests advance to AA quarterfinals.

Semi-finals and the final are scheduled for Feb. 12 at a location still to be determined.

The 8-0 Woodstock CI Red Devils received a bye into the A final Wednesday, February 12, where they will face the winner of a Wednesday, February 5 at 3:30 p.m. semi-final between St. Thomas Arthur Voaden and Woodstock E.S. Notre Dame,

which will host the match.

*Tuesday, January 21*

St. Thomas Parkside 20, 25, 21, 25, 15; E.S. Notre Dame 25, 11, 25, 9, 5

*Thursday, January 16*

Woodstock CI 25, 27, 25; St. Thomas St. Joe's 10, 25, 15

Aylmer East Elgin 25, 25, 25; College Avenue 21, 17, 15

Huron Park 22, 25, 25, 22, 15; Central Elgin 25, 20, 19, 25, 9

Ingersoll DCI 25, 25, 25; St. Mary's 13, 7, 10

*Wednesday, January 15*

Woodstock CI 25, 25, 25; E.S. Notre Dame 13, 10, 11

*Tuesday, January 14*

Huron Park 26, 28, 22, 21, 15; College Avenue 24, 26, 25, 25, 13

Woodstock CI 25, 25, 25; St. Mary's 12, 11, 19

Aylmer East Elgin 23, 25, 25, 23, 15; Ingersoll DCI 25, 17, 21, 25, 12



Huron Park's Shaelyn Wien gets low to make a first pass on a College Avenue serve.

(JEFF TRIBE PHOTO)



Huron Park libero Hannah Sirbu hits the deck to dig up the ball.

(JEFF TRIBE PHOTO)



# Woodstock minor football program ramping up for 2025 season

LEE GRIFFI

Local Journalism Initiative Reporter

It may be the best kept secret on the Friendly City sports scene, but the Woodstock Wolverines football program is celebrating its 20th anniversary and at the same time experiencing solid growth.

Joe Brown, the organization's general manager, said it hasn't been easy the last number of years as they were devastated during COVID.

"We had a travel program but unfortunately didn't have enough coaches to sustain our house league program before the pandemic. When it hit, we were wiped out. In 2022, a few of the parents and some of the coaches involved with the travel teams said hey, can we get this going again as it was so beneficial to their kids."

Brown said those interested got together and decided to bring the program back to life after the pandemic.

"That first spring season, we only had about 60 kids out. We got them trained on how to play football and we had a great time doing it. The next year we doubled in size and this year we are looking at about 150 kids getting involved. We are super excited about it because we are getting back to the level we had prior to COVID."

The Wolverines have also added a flag football league this fall to get younger kids involved in the hope they'll move their way up the program.

"The kids will be playing at our field at Cowan Park from September to November," added Brown.

There are some challenges in getting kids to sign up for football, but the group has taken a proactive approach to increasing enrolment including sitting down with high school

coaches in the county.

"We've put together an Oxford County committee or organization that involves all the high schools. We talked about how we can help each other out. There have been ups and downs with high schools for years. I'm an older fella and I played in the early 90s and when we played football there were about 60 or 70 kids who came to try out for the team."

Brown, who played at Arthur Voaden in St. Thomas, said half the town came out to watch the home games on a Friday night.

"We would play under the lights at Pinafore Park and there would be thousands of people coming out to watch us play. It was an awesome experience and I still talk to a lot of the guys I played with in high school today. They're good friends of mine and we have grown up and gone our separate ways but we've stayed in contact."

Brown added that is the type of comradery he'd love to see in the Wolverines program.

"That's where I want to see football in Oxford County grow again like it used to be. We've been able to reach out to guys like Ryan Stafford at College Avenue Secondary School who has been an outstanding person to work with and has helped us see what's going on in the high schools."

He added the Wolverines have developed financing, equipment and recruiting strategies to try and get more kids involved at the high school level and then benefit from being a better football player.

"In today's economy, not a lot of people can afford to send their kids to university. But, if a kid has a great skill set, great character, and all of a sudden he's a great football player, universities come knocking



(CONTRIBUTED PHOTO)

Coach Joe Brown (centre) is seen with some Woodstock Wolverines players at a game last summer at the organization's field in the city.

and there are some subsidies available for them to go on and get a university education."

Brown said football can help young men scholastically but also in life.

"You learn about teamwork, about pushing yourself and how far you can go. It teaches discipline and dealing with adversity. It's such an outstanding game and it brings so much to the kids."

The Wolverines have also announced a U18 travel team will hit the field this season. Dan Fitzgerald has been selected as the head coach and the team will play in the Ontario Summer Football League.

"I am extremely excited to be joining the Woodstock Wolverines and the Woodstock football community as it's enriched with a culture like no other," said Fitzgerald.

The team will play in the league's West Division against centres like London, Peck, Sarnia, Etobicoke and Chatham-Kent.

Canadian football players are gaining more attention these days as noted by the naming of Wilfred Laurier star quarterback Tyler Elgersma to the roster of the American Senior Bowl being held in Mobile, Alabama on Feb. 1. He will be the first Canadian quarterback to play in the game and just the third player ever from north of the border.

Brown said the club's affiliation with the National Football League is also something he's looking forward to this coming season.

"We're working on bringing some NFL players to Woodstock to show the local kids that this kid from a small town

made it. How did he do that? Well, he worked really hard, he was disciplined, he is a good person with good character and he did what it took to get to that level. I fully believe there isn't a kid who puts the work in and has that discipline can make it."

Brown's passion for the game, the association and the kids are obvious, particularly since his position is completely volunteer-based. He has been around for 20 years and said he just wants to see the participants have fun and grow as people.

"It's what it does for the kids. We have a couple of kids playing at the University of Guelph right now who got full rides and that was because we had the Guelph coach here one day and he watched our house league kids. He was impressed with what we were doing here, on and off the field."

One of those kids is Woodstock's Curtis Ball, a 6 foot 4, 315-pound offensive lineman in his third year studying family studies and human development.

"Once he's done school he comes back and helps us out with the little guys. That's the cool thing about it, they give back and turn into incredible young men."

For more information on the program, visit <https://www.woodstockwolverines.ca/woodstockwolverinesfootball/Home>.



Remember that time when **Amazon** sponsored your church fundraiser?



Remember when **Facebook** bought a case of Girl Guide cookies to support your daughter?



Remember when **Google** provided free pizza to your child's soccer team when they won the championship?



# PJHL Standings

SOUTH DOHERTY DIVISION	GP	W	L	OTL	T	SOW	SOL	PTS
1 - NORWICH MERCHANTS	36	28	8	0	0	2	0	56
2 - NEW HAMBURG FIREBIRDS	37	27	8	0	0	0	2	56
3 - WOODSTOCK NAVY VETS	37	24	10	1	0	1	2	51
4 - WELLESLEY APPLEJACKS	37	21	14	1	0	5	1	44
5 - DORCHESTER DOLPHINS	36	16	17	1	0	0	2	35
6 - PARIS TITANS	37	11	23	3	0	0	0	25
7 - TAVISTOCK BRAVES	35	11	22	2	0	1	0	24
8 - HESPELER SHAMROCKS	35	7	24	2	0	0	2	18

WEST YECK DIVISION	GP	W	L	OTL	T	SOW	SOL	PTS
1 - PETROLIA FLYERS	37	24	10	3	0	1	0	51
2 - EXETER HAWKS	35	22	8	2	0	0	3	49
3 - PORT STANLEY SAILORS	35	21	11	2	0	0	1	45
4 - MT. BRYDGES BULLDOGS	35	20	10	3	0	2	2	45
5 - NORTH MIDDLESEX STARS	35	19	13	2	0	1	1	41
6 - THAMESFORD TROJANS	36	18	16	1	0	0	1	38
7 - AYLMEER SPITFIRES	35	10	22	3	0	1	0	23
8 - LUCAN IRISH	36	8	27	1	0	3	0	17



## VOLUNTEER AT Woodingford Lodge

Make a difference and foster personal connections in your community by volunteering at Woodingford Lodge.

Woodingford is looking for volunteers to help with:

- The café (Woodstock site only)
- Special events
- Mealtime assistants

As a volunteer, your involvement helps keep residents connected to their community.



Please note: Special training is required to ensure the safety and well-being of all residents.

Learn more and volunteer today by scanning the QR code or by visiting [www.oxfordcounty.ca/en/news/volunteer-at-woodingford-lodge](http://www.oxfordcounty.ca/en/news/volunteer-at-woodingford-lodge)



## WOODSTOCK HOSPITAL

### JOIN THE WOODSTOCK HOSPITAL BOARD OF TRUST

Woodstock Hospital is recruiting one volunteer board member to join the Board of Trust. Applicants must either live or work in Woodstock or its immediate surrounding area.

The Board serves as the governing body for the Woodstock Hospital and is a skills-based Board. We are seeking Board members that have a technology and/or human resources background. We strive to provide excellent patient care and promote health and wellness for those we serve.

Board members have a unique opportunity to further shape our healthcare for our community. The Board's governance responsibilities include:

- Mission, Vision, Values
- Strategic Planning
- Financial Stewardship
- Quality and Performance Monitoring

Learn more about the hospital's strategic initiatives and

mission, vision and values statements by visiting the Woodstock Hospital website [www.woodstockhospital.ca](http://www.woodstockhospital.ca) In addition to monthly meetings that occur on the last Tuesday of the month (except July, August and December) at 5:00 p.m., Board members may also be appointed to one or more Standing Committees of the Board.

#### Term of Office

The duration of each term is 3 years. Board members may serve a maximum of 4 terms.

#### How to Apply

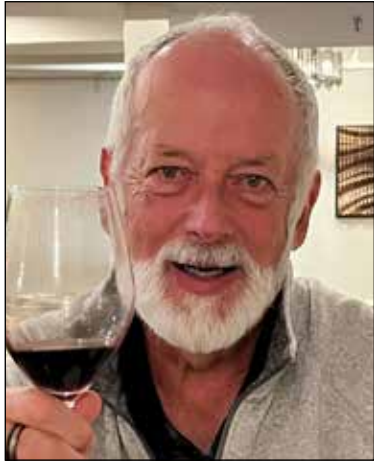
Prospective candidates are invited to email their resume to Heather Scherer at [hscherer@woodstockhospital.ca](mailto:hscherer@woodstockhospital.ca) Please include a cover letter detailing why you would be the ideal candidate.

#### Deadline

The deadline for submissions is Monday, February 17, 2025 at 4:00 pm.



# OH, THE PLACES WE'LL GO: Fox Harb'r: growing beyond "great"



PAUL KNOWLES

*Echo Contributor*

One of the perks of my work as a member of the Golf Journalists Association of Canada is I occasionally get to play outstanding golf courses – courses that, if truth be told, are vastly more impressive than my golf game. But I always agree, show up with my clubs and usually allow the course to humiliate me, smiling all the way.

When I was planning our road trip down east last summer, a colleague in Nova Scotia wondered if we would like to play Fox Harb'r and spend a night or two there. I jumped at the chance. Fox Harb'r is one of Canada's premiere golf courses, built by Tim Hortons founder, the late Ron Joyce, and very recently voted Best Corporate Retreat in Atlantic Canada.

This is obviously much more than a golf course. Fox Harb'r offers luxurious accommodations, spa facilities, two restaurants, a private airstrip and more. We stayed in a beautiful suite with our second-floor balcony over-

looking the course and, beyond it, the Northumberland Strait.

The course was in superb shape. Nine holes ran along the ocean and the other nine took us inland for parkland-style play. We enjoyed every minute and, for a change, a world-class course did not beat me up! I finished very happy with my score and delighted by the dramatic views, especially on the ocean-side holes.

What we didn't realize was that our round was a unique opportunity to play a course that would cease to exist in that form at the end of the 2024 season. And that's because Fox Harb'r, already an award-winning destination, is upping the ante. What was already great is going beyond that description in virtually every aspect of the resort. It's all part of the celebration of Fox Harb'r's 25th anniversary.

Most dramatic are the developments around the golf course. After I received a news release about the changes, I called Kevin Toth, the genial president of Fox Harb'r, to get an update from the source.

Toth, shall we say, is excited. Really excited. We started by talking about the golf course itself, and that's when I learned the lovely course we had played would never be played again in that form.

That's because the hybrid layout of the course – half ocean-side, half parkland – is being converted through the creation of 18 additional holes.

The eventual outcome will be two very distinct courses – the ocean course and the vineyard course. Yes, Fox Harb'r has its

own vineyard, producing unique wines.

Kevin told me the ocean course will be a cohesive, authentic, links-style course, appropriate to its seaside location. It has been created by famed course designers Doug Carrick and Tom McBroom. The vineyard course will be a gorgeous, heathland 18, he says.

This involves more than building 18 more holes, and the existing nine ocean holes are being reconstructed, changing most of the layouts and ensuring that links style is more than just a cliché. That means altering bunkers, fairways, landscaping, greens, the whole shebang.

The plan is to have both new 18s open for play by the spring of 2027. In the meantime, golfers will still be able to play a terrific 18-hole course – in fact, a different one each year as available nines are combined to allow golf fans to enjoy superb 18-hole layouts.

If that sounds confusing, the key is you'll be able to play Fox Harb'r any time in the next seasons, but avid golfers will want to mark spring 2027 on their calendars because that's when we will be able to play the 36 holes of two different, amazing courses at the resort.

Fox Harb'r innovations go beyond the fairways and greens. The resort has opened a new state-of-the-art fitness centre, and Kevin told me about the \$2-million renovation to the spa and wellness centre, including a new hydrotherapy studio. This is all scheduled to open May 8 of this year. The resort is also adding accommodations, build-



(PAUL KNOWLES PHOTOS)

**Fox Harb'r's ocean-front golf course, with the Northumberland Strait as the spectacular backdrop.**

ing 18 new town homes.

Fox Harb'r is clearly a destination in its own right. There are a few nearby attractions – the quirky ocean-front town of Tatamagouche is less than half an hour away, as is Jost Winery, one of the finest among Nova Scotia's excellent wineries. But people come to Fox Harb'r for Fox Harb'r, and the number of staff employed by the resort says all you need to know about the service the resort offers. Kevin told me that in 2024, the destination employed 264 staff members. In the long term, he says Fox Harb'r will employ 325 people. The resort is building more accommodations for its staff and also, according to Kevin, strongly encouraging

senior employees to permanently locate in this part of Nova Scotia. Fox Harb'r is not only committed to serving its guests, it's also committed to being a responsible corporate citizen in its community.

But most importantly for the dedicated golfer, Fox Harb'r is offering a unique opportunity to play a different course layout each year through 2027. That's when Fox Harb'r's vision will fully become a golfer's dream come to life.

*Paul Knowles is an author and travel writer, and President of the Travel Media Association of Canada. To contact Paul about travel, his books, or speaking engagements, email [pknowles@golden.net](mailto:pknowles@golden.net).*



Guests at Fox Harb'r can enjoy luxurious accommodations, right beside the golf course.



The main street of the quirky, inviting town of Tatamagouche, a nearby community on the Northumberland Strait.



# Friday night supper in Beachville

The Beachville Legion brought the community together on Jan. 24 for an evening of food, fellowship, and fundraising during its highly anticipated Friday Night Supper, held every second Friday.

Residents gathered at the Legion hall where they enjoyed a hearty homemade meal of ham and scalloped potatoes prepared and served by dedicated volunteers. The event was more than just a meal, it was an opportunity for neighbors to reconnect and support the local community.

Proceeds go toward supporting veterans' programs, maintaining the Legion Hall and funding community initiatives.

"Our goal was to create an event where people could enjoy great food while supporting a good cause, and the response was fantastic," said Darlene Graham, President of the Beachville Legion.

"We are so grateful for everyone who came out to support us." The Beachville Legion expressed its gratitude to the many volunteers who worked tirelessly to organize the event, as well as to the community members who came out to support it.

For more information on upcoming events or how to support the Beachville Legion, visit <https://rcl495beachville.ca/>.

(RON YUZARK PHOTOS)



Friends and families get together regularly for the Legions Friday Night Supper held every second Friday.



Tending Bar, Melissa Benjamin President of Beachville District Museum, Susan Clark and Darlene Graham, President of the Beachville Legion enjoyed the evenings event.



Busy preparing meals in the kitchen were Darlene Graham, Donna Rudy, Mark and Carol Somers, and Margaret Pellow.

**WOODSTOCK'S WATER SHOP**  
 U-FILL WATER | WATER SOFTENERS | WATER TREATMENT | SALTS

**196 Springbank Ave North**  
 (Springbank Plaza)  
**519-290-5678**

[www.woodstockwatershop.com](http://www.woodstockwatershop.com)



**MUDMEN**  
 Bill McLeod  
 Century 21/RPP Presents  
**MUDMEN IN CONCERT**  
 MARKET CENTRE THEATRE, WOODSTOCK  
 SATURDAY FEBRUARY 22 2025 • \$30.00, ALL-AGES  
[www.theatrewoodstock.com](http://www.theatrewoodstock.com) • 519 537-2582  
 Doors 7:00pm, Show 7:30pm  
 This is a NON LLBO Mudmen Inc Event  
[www.mudmen.ca](http://www.mudmen.ca)

[theecho.ca](http://theecho.ca)

**Get Winning Results with the #1 Team**

THE REALTY FIRM  
**B&B**  
 REAL ESTATE TEAM  
 BROKERAGE

[bradandbeckyteam.ca](http://bradandbeckyteam.ca)

**BRAD VINK**  
 BROKER OF RECORD  
**519.536.1296**

**BECKY EDDY**  
 SALES REPRESENTATIVE  
**519.788.4370**

**GET A \$250 GIFT CARD OF YOUR CHOICE**  
 UPON COMPLETION OF A FIRM DEAL






# Zorra Township News

## Zorra signs deal with developer for massive housing project



(CONTRIBUTED PHOTO)

The space that launched a thousand homes: the lands in question for Kingwood Homes' 1000-unit residential development

LEE GRIFFI, *Local Journalism Initiative Reporter*  
with files from CONNOR LUCZKA

The housing landscape in Thamesford could soon look much different after an agreement between Zorra Township and a Burlington-based developer.

"Zorra Township Council approved in principle a development application that would see over 1,000 residential units developed on the former Maple Leaf Foods (MLF) lands in Thamesford. This will be the largest development in Zorra's history and fulfill council's vision for this brownfield project," said a press release from the township.

Ward 2 Councillor Katie Grigg said the community needs to provide alternatives for first-time home buyers and those wishing to downsize but continue living in Thamesford.

"This development will meet the community's needs for years to come.

It is significant, not only in the population increase it will eventually reflect once built out, but also in the increased access to goods, services and amenities it will facilitate through the mixed-use zoning, as well as the viability for businesses to thrive."

In terms of what commercial development may come along with the new homes, Grigg said there is one type of business everyone wants.

"I've heard there are efforts from the developer to get a grocery store in town, which is something I know we are all hoping for. I would love to see some sort of food sales, whether it be a grocery store or farmers market-style business."

She added the additional population could present a viable business case for an investor.

"I would also love to see more services available, anything that supports the ability for seniors to remain in the

community longer without the need to drive distances to access the help they need. I'd love more restaurant options, partially because food is tasty, and also because it provides more spaces for us to gather and celebrate and connect with our friends and neighbours."

Kingwood Homes, a Burlington-based development company, has already constructed 115 street-fronting townhomes on Middleton Street, both two-story and bungalow styles, as the first phase of the project. As part of this second phase, they are proposing to construct 18 single-detached dwellings, 660 townhome units, and 372 low-rise apartment units in seven buildings.

There are over 50 conditions the developer must meet before the project goes ahead, but Lou Yordanou, president of Kingwood, said they can be addressed at the site plan approval stage. With the density proposed, he added the homes will be affordable.

"We think we can offer a price point that hasn't been seen in Ontario for quite some time."

On the company's website, the bun-

galow townhomes presented as part of Riverside Village are being advertised in the \$550,000 range for a two-bed, two-bath home around 1,500 square feet.

The province also announced the approval of an elementary school in Thamesford on Tuesday afternoon with a location to be selected at a later date.

"The Ontario government is investing \$23.5 million for a new Thamesford Junior Kindergarten to grade four Elementary School," said Oxford MPP Ernie Hardeman. "It's a big investment in our future, and I look forward to seeing the positive impact it will have on families and students for years to come."

The school, with spaces for children aged kindergarten to grade four, will support the creation of 479 student spaces and 88 licensed child care spaces. The province did not say when it hopes to have the school opened.

Zorra Mayor Marcus Ryan said the announcement comes after a lot of work by a lot of people.

"It's all coming together after, frankly, after six years of work by the township and about 12 years of work with the Thames Valley District School Board and Ministry of Education on my part to bring this together."

He added the school is the final piece of the Thamesford puzzle going forward.

"It is going to serve not only the new development but also the existing community and surrounding area. It also has a recreation co-build component where the township is going to put in money for an exercise gym and soccer fields that will be available to the general community, not just the school."

The township purchased the MLF property in 2019 and asked for development proposals to create a vibrant, mixed-use community that would benefit a diverse range of incomes, household configurations and lifestyles.

Ryan said the plan will eventually provide much-needed lodging options for the town. He added the unique neighbourhood will be walkable, pedestrian friendly and have easy access to the new commercial core as well as Thamesford's existing downtown and existing recreation amenities and services.

## Weekend Quiz

by Jake Grant

1. What city is Super Bowl LIX being held?
2. How many planets orbit the sun?
3. What year did a Canadian-based NHL team last hoist the Stanley Cup?
4. Which organ does a lobotomy target?
5. What infamous mob boss inspired "The Godfather"?
6. What company coins the slogan "What's in your wallet"?
7. An inactive volcano is called?
8. Who invented dynamite?
9. Is the Panama Canal man made?
10. Where was the first blood bank established?

This week's answers are found on pg. 26

Visit us online at  
[theecho.ca](http://theecho.ca)



# Multi-use courts fundraiser reaches and exceeds \$300,000 goal

CONNOR LUCZKA

Echo Correspondent

Four years ago, when fundraising began for a new multi-use court space in Thamesford, the then \$266,000 goal seemed astronomical. When the goal rose to \$300,000 due to rising construction costs, it seemed all the more daunting.

However, thanks to the generosity of the community, the goal was not only met but exceeded.

On Jan. 14, the committee overlooking the fundraising and construction of the courts announced that \$305,872.92 was raised.

"It was really rewarding to see how many people were interested in the project and in making it happen," Kate Lockhart, a member of the organizing committee, told the Echo. "We all know the economy right now is challenging for everybody, so every little bit was wonderful to see. If it's \$5 or if it's \$500, it doesn't matter. Because every little bit helps."

Seventy per cent of the project funds were raised by the community. Much of the donations that came in were from smaller community fundraisers organized by volunteers – from bake sales to Christmas markets to Smile Cookies at the local Tim Hortons – netting incremental donations bit by bit.

Some other bigger donations also came from community organizations. Zorra Township

committed \$79,950 or 30 per cent of the project's goal, and the Thamesford Lions Club put up \$50,000.

Lockhart shared that an anonymous family in the community donated over \$100,000, the vast majority of the \$175,922 raised by the wider community in Zorra and taking them close to the project's goal.

The project started five years ago when resident Andrew Goodwin delegated to council and asked about a racket sport courts project. A year after that, under advisement from staff and a new Recreation, Arts and Culture Master Plan, a committee was struck to investigate a multi-use court, a court that can accommodate racket sports like tennis or pickleball and also basketball and road hockey.

The 70-30 split in funding was deliberate. According to Coun. Katie Grigg, many great ideas come to council through the community, but the township cannot undertake them all and still be fiscally responsible for its taxbase. The reasoning behind the 70-30 split is to have a community-council partnership wherein the community is in the driver's seat.

"Because of that level of community involvement, buy-in, it also then gave a real sense of pride and ownership to those finished products for the people who supported it along the way," Grigg, who also serves on the courts committee, said. "Both the community mem-



(CONTRIBUTED PHOTO)

**A rendering of what the Zorra multi-use courts could look like, though much more work needs to be done before the project is locked in. The project just hit a major milestone, raising over \$300,000 in funding.**

bers that were volunteers on the committee as well as everyone who wrote a check, big or small, bought a cookie at the bake sale, went to the fundraiser dinner, or whatever it was."

As previously mentioned, the original goal was \$266,000, but over the last four years of fundraising the world – and the cost of living – changed drastically. As they got closer to the finish line, township staff re-examined the project and recommended raising the goal so that no matter how much the project comes in as it wouldn't be in jeopardy of losing components due to finances.

"We had wins and setbacks," Grigg said. "That was devastating at the moment. It also was a gift because it let us, in our frustration, take a deep breath and say okay, so if we keep going, then we know there will be no corners cut on this project in terms of what we want it to be."

Grigg stated that if the stars align perfectly the project could see shovels in the ground starting this summer; however, there is much more work to be done and some developments since plans were initially theorized.

Next steps are to tender the project through council in the coming months and hear from

contractors.

There will also be further consideration of the location. Originally the project was slated to be built behind the Thamesford District Recreation Centre but there may be a potential location within the upcoming Kingwood development that should be explored.

"We're actually talking now about how we're going to position the courts and how we want them to look and what accessibility do we need," Lockhart said. "So, the conversation is getting a lot more fun and now we're seeing things come to life."

## Woodstock Ingersoll Echo

## Pick Up Locations

### WOODSTOCK

Tim Hortons - 805 Vansittart  
Tim Hortons - 942 Dundas  
Tim Hortons - 857 Devonshire  
Tim Hortons - 715106 Oxford Rd 4  
Tim Hortons - 566 Norwich  
Coffee Culture  
Early Bird Coffee - 375 Dundas  
Early Bird Coffee - 815 Juliana  
Beantown Coffee  
Subway - 385 Springbank  
Crispy's Fish & Chips  
Jack-O's Sports Bar  
Reel Treats  
Dino's Dining Lounge  
Two Guys & A Whisk  
Chuck's Roadhouse  
Quesada Burritos  
McDonald's - 980 Dundas  
McDonald's - 499 Norwich Ave  
Norwich Pub  
Zehrs  
Foodland  
Sobeys  
Scott's No Frills  
Your Farm Market

Shoppers Drug Mart - 333 Dundas  
Food Basics  
WalMart  
Friendly City Tire  
Canadian Tire  
Woodstock Ford  
Woodstock Toyota  
Gord Anderson Automotive  
Woodstock Anderson KIA  
Woodstock Nissan  
Woodstock Hyundai  
Honda Woodstock  
Dubois Mazda  
Woodstock Jeep  
Pioneer Gas Station  
Sunrise Variety  
7-Eleven  
Daisy Mart  
110 Beale Apartments  
325 Lakeview Drive Apartments  
City Hall  
Civic Centre Arena  
Woodstock Ag Society  
Woodstock Public Library  
Oxford County Building  
Royal Canadian Legion

Woodstock YMCA  
Canada Post - 1074 Parkinson  
Reeves Community Complex  
South Gate Centre  
Fanshawe College  
Chartwell Oxford Gardens  
Woodingford Lodge  
Cedarview Retirement  
Woodstock Watershop  
Woodstock Home Bldg Centre  
Prime Barbershop  
Ocean Spa  
Wellington Street Denture Clinic  
Goodwill Community Store  
Peavey Mart  
Haight's Garden Centre  
236 Norwich Ave, Unit 2  
Holiday Inn Express  
Days Inn by Wyndham  
Quality Hotel & Suites  
Best Western Plus  
Pharmasave - 310 Juliana  
Woodstock General Hospital - 310 Juliana  
Pitcock Conservation Area  
**INNERKIP**

Innerkip Community Food Market  
Innerkip Family Pharmacy  
Innerkip Seniors Apartments  
Innerkip Wing House  
Tim Hortons  
**BEACHVILLE**  
Beachville Museum  
**INGERSOLL**  
Riverside Minimarket  
Canadian Tire  
GOJU RYU / Ingersoll Karate  
Circle K  
First Choice Hair  
Goodwill Drug Mart  
Island Breeze Laundromat  
Louie's Pizza & Pasta  
McDonald's  
Miss Ingersoll  
Subway (174 Culloden Rd)  
Pita Pit (174 Culloden Rd)  
Elm Hurst Inn  
Tim Hortons (75 Thames St S)  
Tim Hortons (10 Samnah Crescent)  
Evergreen Coffee Lounge  
The Olde Bakery Café

Post Office  
Cooperators  
McFarland Rowlands  
Foodland  
Tremblett's Independent Grocer  
Salvation Army Thrift Store  
Kraft Korner  
Hometown Style  
Frank's Convenience  
King's Variety  
Ingersoll Variety  
Ingersoll Barber Shop  
Benjamin Moore / Rietta's Décor  
Ingersoll Public Library  
City Hall  
Oxford Manor Retirement Residence  
Ingersoll Creative Arts Centre  
Alexandra Hospital  
Ingersoll 50+ Centre  
Woodingford Lodge  
Gardens of Ingersoll  
Home Building Centre  
Comfort Inn  
Ingersoll Cheese & Ag Museum  
**THAMESFORD**  
Circle K

Thamesford Variety  
Thamesford Arena / Hall  
Shell Gas Station  
Pioneer Gas Station  
Thamesford Pizza  
Tim Hortons  
JC Graphics  
**EMBRO**  
Embroid Food Market  
Kintore Coffee Co.  
Highland Restaurant  
Embroid Hub - Fuel & Coffee  
Cambrocourt Manor  
Embroid Pharmacy  
**TAVISTOCK**  
Sam's Independent Grocer  
Shell Gas Station  
Quehli's  
D&D Homestyle Café  
Tim Hortons  
Renaissance  
**HICKSON**  
Hickson Post Office  
**HUNTINGFORD**  
Esso on Highway 59  
**ST. MARYS**  
St. Marys Independent



# Riddles

What has a face but can't smile?  
A clock.

What has keys but can't open locks?  
A piano.

I'm tall when I'm young, and I'm short  
when I'm old What am I?  
A candle.

What goes up but never comes down?  
Your age.

What can you catch but not throw?  
A cold.

What is full of holes but still holds a  
lot of weight?  
A sponge.

What has a head, a tail, but no body?  
A coin.

What animal says "moo"?  
A cow.

What is yellow and can make you  
smile?  
A banana.

What gets wetter as it dries?  
A towel.

# Sudoku

by PeterS 2024

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

Solutions on page 26

Basic (4)

# PET OF THE WEEK



## BAILEY

Bailey is a Cockapoo puppy that was around 11 weeks old in this photo. We purchased her as a surprise present for my two young children near the last day of school this year. She is receiving lots of love and snuggles and is fitting in great with our active family. She enjoys camping cuddling, boat rides and walks. She is a very quick learner and very well behaved other than chewing on my whatever she can get her paws into. She has already doubled in size and looking forward to watching her grow up with my children.

SPONSORED BY:



**Barkin Boujee**  
RAW&MORE

519-761-9798

[BARKINBOUJEE.CA](http://BARKINBOUJEE.CA)

*Our selection includes a large variety of raw food & raw meaty bone options, organic & natural supplements, collars, leashes, harnesses, lots of options in our chew bar, eco-friendly toys, and our locally sourced freeze dried treats made by us.*

109 THAMES ST. S., INGERSOLL

**Mon-Fri 10-6 pm and Sat 10-3 pm**

**Nominate your pet to be Pet of the Week by emailing [info@theecho.ca](mailto:info@theecho.ca)  
Published pets will get a free goodie bag from Barkin Boujee!**

# Word Search

## FARM AND AGRICULTURE

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

ANIMALS

APIARY

CROPS

CULTIVATION

DRAINAGE

ECOLOGY

EROSION

FARMING

HARVEST

IRRIGATION

LIVESTOCK

SOIL



# Route to the Past – Entertainment for a Nickel or a Dime

SCOTT GILLIES

Contributor

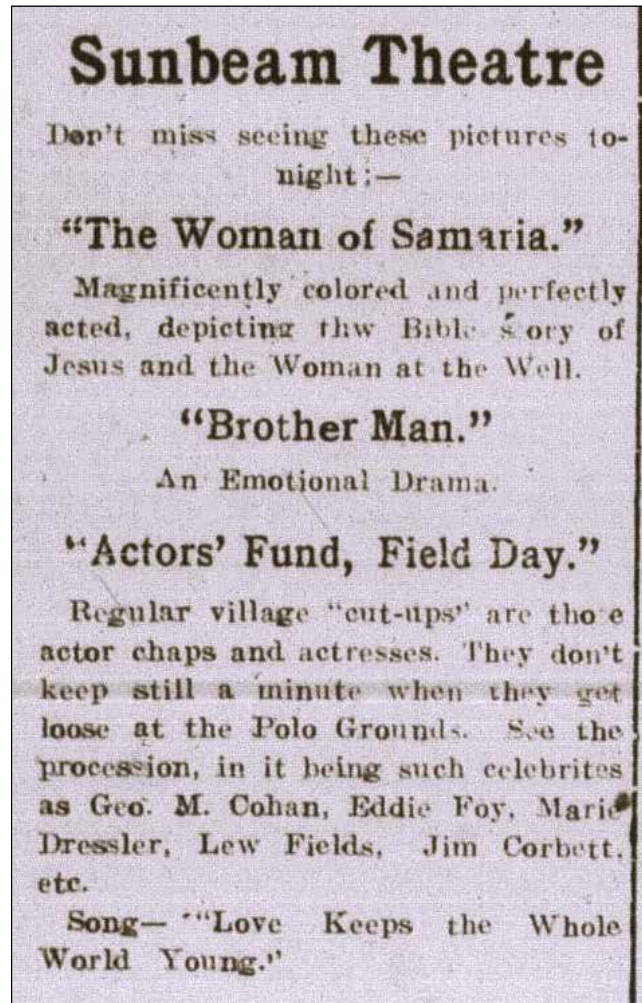
With the announcement of nominees for the Academy Awards, it seems like a fitting time to delve into the history of local movie viewing.

The development of motion pictures had been such that by 1908, there was a moving picture theatre located in downtown Woodstock called the Idle Hour Theatre, and in Ingersoll, the Sunbeam Theatre was on the west side of Thames Street, six doors north of King Street, in what would later become part of the McKim Hardware store.

The advent of nickelodeon theatres promoted this development in Oxford County. These forms of public entertainment sprang up across North America as moving pictures became more and more available. The going rate of admission was 5 cents or a nickel, hence the moniker “nickelodeon”.

In 1908, the Ingersoll moving picture theatre was managed by Alfred Eley, with Jennie McBride selling entry tickets, and Miss Robins acting as the pianist to provide musical accompaniment to the silent films. Regular admission continued to be only 5 cents.

In October of that year, this theatre announced that it would be showing a film about the Olympic marathon from Windsor Castle to London, (surviving film footage from the 1908 Olympics can be found online), along with two comedies entitled “Catch the Kid” and “Anti Hair Powder”. But more importantly, the Sunbeam Theatre would be showing a locally made film about the Ingersoll Marathon which took place on May 24th, 1908.



(CONTRIBUTED PHOTO)

soll Marathon which took place on May 24th, 1908.

That year, the Caledonia Society organized the Victoria Day celebrations in Ingersoll. Activities included highland dance and piping competitions, baseball and football games, a high wire tightrope walker, a balloon ascension and parachute drop, and a grand concert in Victoria Park. The main attraction however was the 10-mile foot race from Ingersoll to Beachville and back. The streets were lined with hundreds of onlookers. Two of the local favourites for this race were Leslie Daniels and Garnet Elliott but the race was won by the visiting Isaac Henhawk.

The Theatre promised that this showing would

be “one of the best ever presented to the patrons of the Sunbeam”, and no doubt, the people of Ingersoll agreed for this was a chance to see themselves on the screen! Manager Eley advised however, that due to the great expense incurred in acquiring the Olympic footage, the regular admission charge had to be increased to 10 cents that night. The October 6th edition of The Ingersoll Daily Chronicle reported that due to the outstanding popularity of the previous night's showing, the same films would be shown again.

Throughout the years 1908 to 1911, it seems that the Sunbeam Theatre would often stage benefit shows for local church or-

ganizations. Sometimes, live performances were offered such as the Dancing Dunbars, a husband-and-wife stage duo famed for her Irish wit and his Scottish dancing. Still other live shows included child actors, acrobats and contortionists.

The film, “Actors’ Fund Field Day” was one of the features shown by the Sunbeam Theatre in February 1911. As a movie critic wrote, “It's more fun than a barrel of monkeys”. It was released in 1910 as a split reel with another silent film entitled “Brother Man” in which a new father talks down a would-be burglar, causing him to repent and actually give money to the newborn child. Instead of having the thief arrested, the homeowner offers to help find him honest work and become an honored member of the brotherhood of man. On a similar moral note, the third film shown that same night was “The Woman of Samaria”.

In 1911, the Sunbeam announced that it was moving location to the south side of King Street to the former furniture store and funeral parlor of Alphonso Carson Foy (present-day King Street Variety). Major renovations to the building were undertaken to install between 400 and 500 comfortable opera house seats. The 1911 directory for Ingersoll shows that L.J. Barton was the manager and Miss L.M. Barton looked after props.

In 1917, Barton sold the projection equipment to budding entrepreneur George Mason who had recently constructed the skating rink on Charles Street East and wanted to begin showing films there as well. When the Sunbeam Theatre property came up for sale that same year, Mason purchased it and renamed it the Mason Theatre. This facility played a significant role as a recruitment centre during the First World War.

George Mason sold the property to Thomas Maitland in 1921 and for the next three decades it was the place to go in town to watch a movie. Maitland spent \$30,000 to renovate the building in the 1930s to accommodate the newly invented talkies. In an interview with Mrs. Maitland in the 1960s, she recalled that the first film shown for the grand reopening was “The Desert Song”, an operetta and the first two-colour movie produced by Warner Brothers. Percy Carter was their long-time projectionist. Admission to most movies was 25 cents for adults and 10 cents for children.

Jack Warden purchased the building in 1965 and converted it into his appliance store, while The Strand Theatre on Thames Street, the present-day site of ITOPA, offered the latest from Hollywood until it closed in 1975.

*Route2thepast@gmail.com*

## GRANT HAVEN MEDIA

### Woodstock Ingersoll Echo

## CONVENIENT WAYS TO ACCESS YOUR NEWSPAPER!

Stay up-to-date with the latest news and local stories. View the current edition online 24/7 at [www.granthaven.com/woodstock-ingersoll-echo](http://www.granthaven.com/woodstock-ingersoll-echo)

Don't miss a beat and sign up free to receive each edition straight to your inbox.

For those of you who prefer to have a printed copy of the paper we will continue to drop off paper at many local businesses and community spaces.

SCAN TO READ ONLINE PAPER



SCAN FOR PICK UP LOCATIONS



## Echo

PROMOTE YOUR EVENTS WITH US!  
HERE'S HOW

Deadline: Tuesday prior at 3 p.m.  
Contact: [info@theecho.ca](mailto:info@theecho.ca)

Coming Events are for non-profit organizations to promote their free admission events at no charge. Event listings can include your event name, date, time and location as well as a phone number, email address or website. If your event is not free admission or you would like to include more details than stated above, you have the following options:

Coming Events Word Ad (50 word max.) - \$10 + hst

Coming Events Boxed Word Ad (50 word max.) - \$15 + hst

Display Ad - Sizes begin at a business card size for \$35 + hst



[www.granthaven.com](http://www.granthaven.com)



**WE ARE THE WELLNESS STORE. NATURE. IT'S IN EVERYTHING WE DO!**

Earn extra income working from home referring others to our exceptional products at reasonable prices!

**RECYCLE. REUSE. REDUCE WHILE REDIRECTING Expenses into income.**

• **96% monthly customer reorder rate is A Game Changer!**

**NOT MLM.**

• **Save money & Make money; making a positive difference for generations to come!**

**Want to join us? Watch our free 12 minutes online overview**

**Text phyllis: 519-550-0397**

**Tillsonburg**

**BUSINESS DIRECTORY**

**REAL ESTATE**



**Carly Brintnell**

REALTOR®

Cell: 519 - 635- 8640

Office: 519 - 539 - 2070

Email: carlybrintnell@royalpage.ca

Website: carlybrintnell.royalpage.ca

757 Dundas St. Woodstock, ON N4S 1E8

**ROYAL LEPAGE**

**TRILAND REALTY**

REAL ESTATE BROKERAGE

TRILAND REALTY

**REAL ESTATE**

**HAROLD MATTHEWS,**  
Real Estate Broker

Century 21 First Canadian Corp.  
519-670-6780

*Put over 35 years of experience to work for you.*

**INSURANCE**

Agent **HOLLY VALLEE**  
NOVA MUTUAL  
Offering commercial and farm insurance in Oxford County.

289-860-1584    hvallee@novamutual.com

**SHOP LOCAL. SAVE LOCAL.**

Support businesses that keep your community and its newspapers thriving.

ADVERTISE **LOCAL**

**QUIZ ANSWERS**

1. New Orleans
2. Eight
3. 1993
4. The brain
5. Frank Costello
6. Capital One Financial
7. A Dormant Volcano
8. Alfred Nobel
9. Yes
10. The Western Front (Frontlines WWI)

**SUDOKU**

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

**CLASSIFIEDS**

**OBITUARY**

**ZINN  
ADAM EDWARD**



Adam Edward Zinn, aged 50, embraced eternity peacefully on January 9, 2025, after a courageous six-week battle with cancer. Born on February 4, 1974, in Woodstock, Ontario, Adam's vibrant spirit and unwavering passion for life resonated throughout all he did. Adam dedicated himself to his passion as owner-operator with his own

trucking business, where he found joy in doing what he loved. His remarkable talent extended beyond his profession; he was a gifted baseball player, known for his enviable arm, which brought excitement to every game. Additionally, Adam's love for bowling led him to achieve numerous local and provincial championships, showcasing his competitive spirit and determination. He leaves behind a loving legacy, survived by his common-law partner, Lisianne (Milloy), and their family of children: Courtney, Coral, Kaitlyn, Jordan, Brady, and Dawson and grandchildren Adaline, Leia, Terry and Milo and mother-in-law Amy Milloy. The warmth of Adam's love will continue to shine through them. Adam is also survived by his beloved parents Bev and Debra Zinn and adoring grandmother, Ella Zinn. He shared a special bond with his brother Chad, who along with his partner Ania and their children—Amelia, Dominic, and Everlinka—will carry Adam's memory in their hearts. A celebration of Adam's remarkable life will be held on January 26th at the Ingersoll Legion between the hours of 2-4pm, honouring the joy and love he brought to all who knew him. May his spirit remain as a guiding light in our lives, cherished and remembered always.

**OBITUARY**

**DONALD SIDNEY HEMMINGS  
AUGUST 30, 1940 - JANUARY 16, 2025**



After millions of miles of driving, Donald Hemmings of Ingersoll, Ontario has come to the end of the road. Don passed away with his children by his side on Thursday January 16, 2025 at Sakura House in Woodstock, Ontario.

Predeceased by his beloved wife Gerrie (2021). Proud Dad of Lisa (Jeff) Hobbs and Lee Hemmings (Tracy Ellement). Grandpa of Kirby Hemmings and Sydney Hemmings (Brad Mallette). Great Grandpa of Jazz. Loved big brother of Helen (Hank) Versteeg, Diane (Ev) Kursiss, and Larry Hemmings (Alice Doelman), and brother-in-law of Dini (Ray) Watts. Don was predeceased by his parents Sidney and Jean Hemmings, and his in-laws Klaas and Alice Zunneberg.

A Celebration of Life will be held on Saturday April 26, 2025, from 1 to 4 p.m., at Unifor Hall, 364 Victoria Street, Ingersoll, Ontario (please refrain from wearing colognes and perfumes out of respect for those with allergies). Memorial donations made to VON Sakura House are most appreciated by the family.

Wareing Cremation Services, 346 Simcoe St., Tillsonburg has been entrusted with Final Arrangements. Your messages of remembrance and condolence may be shared at wareingcremation.ca

**Visit us online  
at theecho.ca**

**TREES**

Shade trees, Fruit trees, Apple, Pears, Peaches, Plums, Sweet and Sour Cherries, Apricot, Nectarines, Blueberry, Haskopp, Black Chokeberry, Grapes etc. Lots of Spruce, Pine, Cedars for windbreaks and privacy hedges, Sizes 1 to 6+. Flowering shrubs and much more. Come check us out Mon-Sat 7:00am - 6:00pm

Martin's Nursery, 42661 Orangehill Road, Wroxeter (1 concession north of Wroxeter on Belmore Line)

**FOR SALE**

Brand new deep bass JVC wireless headphones. Black colour, asking \$30. Cash only. 519-290-0284.

**SERVICES**

Have you been affected by someone else's drinking? Al-Anon Family Groups could help YOU! Call for time and place. 1-800-706-9833 or App Available

**GROUNDHOG DAY**

**CHILLY CHARLIE'S PREDICTION & BREAKFAST**



**Sunday, February 2**

8:15 am Prognostication - FREE

8:30 am Buffet Breakfast

Adults \$15 Kids (12 and under) \$7.50

*You're Invited*



191 Old Wellington St. S.  
Woodstock, ON

519-539-9817



# COMING EVENTS

## CHILLY CHARLIE,

Woodstock's Resident Groundhog, Makes Annual Prediction & Hosts a Buffet Breakfast Prognostication at 8:15 am FREE EVENT Buffet Breakfast at 8:30 am \$15/adult \$7.50/ Kids 12 and under at **South Gate Centre** 191 Old Wellington St. S., Woodstock, ON **EVERYONE WELCOME**

## GATHER25

**March 1st**  
St. Paul's Presbyterian Church  
56 Thames St. S., Ingersoll

Have you ever heard about an event that you were not quite sure about attending at first, but when you went, you loved it? March 1st will be one of those moments. Imagine what it would be like to participate in an event with followers of Jesus Christ at the same time - for one global gathering! It will be an event like no other and is called Gather25. From every continent, followers of Jesus will come together for a time of prayer and worship, sharing the good news that Jesus Christ offers our world. At a time when so many of us are struggling to find hope, this event will shine the light on the hope and possibilities that only Jesus Christ offers us. Please check back to our website at [www.stpaulsingersoll.ca](http://www.stpaulsingersoll.ca) for final details.

## SWEETHEART SOCIAL WITH ENTERTAINMENT BY JIM GONDER

**Wednesday February 12th from 2-4pm**

Please bring a Non-Perishable Food item for the food bank. Call Cedarview at 519-602-0282, RSVP with Lisa

## INTERNATIONAL WOMEN'S DAY

**March 7th 2:30-3:30pm**

Entertainment by Celina on the Fiddle. Please bring a non perishable food item for the food bank. Call Cedarview at 519-602-0282, RSVP with Lisa

## OPEN HOUSE

**April 30th 2-3pm**

Edward on the harp. Please bring a nonperishable food item for the food bank. Call Cedarview at 519-602-0282, RSVP with Lisa

## TILLSONBURG DUPLICATE BRIDGE CLUB

Interested in Bridge? Join us every Friday at the Tillsonburg Duplicate Bridge Club at 1 p.m. at The Senior Centre. Don't have a partner? Come anyway and we will match you up with someone. For more information, visit their Facebook page: TburgBridge.

## OXFORD COUNTY BRANCH – ONTARIO ANCESTORS

**February 10th Meeting on Zoom**

The Potter's Field Project at the Ingersoll Rural Cemetery: Presented by Cody Groat, Assistant Professor in the Department of History and the Indigenous Studies program at Western University. To register for this free presentation, please visit our website at <https://oxford.ogs.on.ca>

## FAMILY DAY AT THE OXFORD BRANCH OF ONTARIO ANCESTORS

**February 17, 2025**

Make this a true Family Day activity and take this opportunity to start the next generation on a lifelong journey of discovery by introducing them to genealogy and family history. Drop in at the Oxford County Branch of Ontario Ancestors Open House at the Governors' House, in Court House Square, 82 Light Street, Woodstock on Family Day, from 10 am to 4 pm. Regular hours are Tuesday – Thursday 10 am to 4 pm. The Open House will be held on February 17th, 2025 from 1 pm to 4 pm. Everyone is welcome. For more information check the web site at <https://oxford.ogs.on.ca> email [oxford@ogs.on.ca](mailto:oxford@ogs.on.ca) or call 519-421-1700.

## WOMEN UNITED PRESENTS: TAMPON TUESDAY

**Tuesday, March 4, 2025 from 5pm to 7pm**  
At Kelsey's in Woodstock (525 Norwich Ave.)

and Tillsonburg (247 Broadway St., Ingersoll location TBD).

**Drop off locations leading up to the event are at all local Shoppers Drug Mart's (Woodstock, Ingersoll, Tillsonburg, and Norwich)**

Help end PERIOD poverty! Join us for an evening of networking, socializing, and making a difference. Bring your donation of menstrual hygiene products to be donated to individuals in need in our community. Period poverty is real and it's a problem across Canada and locally. For more information reach out to Amanda at [amanda@unitedwayoxford.ca](mailto:amanda@unitedwayoxford.ca)

## WHAT MAKES WINTER SHORTER?

Listening, dancing and enjoying 50's-70's country music at the Ingersoll Jamboree, every other Friday afternoon from 1-4 p.m. at the Masonic Hall, 190 Thames St S, Ingersoll. February 7 & 21, walk ins welcome at the door.

## HOMEMADE FREEZER MEALS

St. Paul's Church, Ingersoll, has been busy making meals that you can simply pull out of the freezer. We'd love to make life easier for you this winter. For more details, please call our church office at 519-485-3390 or by email: [stpauls@execulink.com](mailto:stpauls@execulink.com).

## THE OPTIMIST CLUB OF OXFORD COUNTY

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

## PROJECT EMPOWER WOMENS COMMUNITY GROUP

**Every Monday in Woodstock**  
**Until Mar 3; 6:30-8:30 pm**  
**Pay What You Can**

Whether you want to make a friend, find support, or just be a better version of you, join this community! [myprojectempower@gmail.com](mailto:myprojectempower@gmail.com) for more info.

## REPAIR CAFÉ

**4th Saturday of each month; 9:00 a.m. - Noon**  
Hosted by East Oxford 403 Anglican Churches  
St. John's Church, 685860 Oxford Rd. 2, Woodstock

Repairs to clothing, textiles, minor non-electrical household items, and stringed musical instruments, by donation. Also offered: learn how to make your own repairs.

## PEER SUPPORT GROUP FOR PARENTS & CAREGIVERS

**Third Wednesday of each month; 6:30 p.m. - 8:30 p.m.**  
21 Wellington St., Woodstock  
(Virtual options available)

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

## LIVING WITH LOSS:

**A SIX-WEEK GRIEF SUPPORT GROUP**  
Caring Hearts Support Network: St. David's United Church, 190 Springbank Ave., Woodstock ON

A safe and supportive space to explore your grief, with the guidance of trained facilitators. Please contact for upcoming dates. No cost to attend. To register or for more information call or text 519-536-3370.

[www.caringheartssupportnetwork.com](http://www.caringheartssupportnetwork.com).

One-on-one grief support is also available.

## GRIEF SUPPORT FOR MAID RELATED LOSS

**4th Wednesday of the month**  
**from 1 – 2:30 p.m.**  
at the Thamesford Library,  
165 Dundas St., Thamesford

This monthly in-person grief support group for loss related to Medical Assistance in Dying (MAiD) offers a compassionate, safe space to explore this unique loss. The group will meet the 4th Wednesday

of the month from 1 – 2:30 p.m. at the Thamesford Library, 165 Dundas St., Thamesford. The group is free of charge and pre-registration is requested. To register or inquire about an evening group, contact Compassionate Grief Support at 519-866-3016 or email [faye@compassionategriefsupport.ca](mailto:faye@compassionategriefsupport.ca).

## VON OXFORD JOURNEY THROUGH GRIEF: FREE 6-WEEK GRIEF SUPPORT PROGRAM WOODSTOCK

**Register at: [oxford.griefsupport@von.ca](mailto:oxford.griefsupport@von.ca) or 519-539-1231 Ext 6299 or 6296**

### UPCOMING SESSIONS:

March 13 - April 17 2025; 6:30-8:00PM  
April 10 - May 15 2025; 1:30 - 3:00PM  
May 14 - June 18 2025; 1:30 - 3:00PM  
June 5 - July 10 2025; 6:30-8:00PM

## VON OXFORD GRIEF CARE: FREE MONTHLY GRIEF SUPPORT GROUP

**Register at: [oxford.griefsupport@von.ca](mailto:oxford.griefsupport@von.ca) or 519-539-1231 Ext 6299 or 6296**

### TILLSONBURG

**WHEN:** 2nd Tuesday of every month

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

**TIME:** 6:30PM-8:00PM

### INGERSOLL

**WHEN:** 4th Tuesday of every month

**WHERE:** Ingersoll Public Library 130 Oxford St., Ingersoll

**TIME:** 10:30AM - 12:00Noon

### WOODSTOCK

**WHEN:** 3rd Saturday of every month

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

**TIME:** 10:30AM-12:00Noon

## ROYAL CANADIAN LEGION EVENTS: 642 Dundas Street, Woodstock

## EXECUTIVE MEETING

February 4th at 7pm

## BRANCH GENERAL MEETING

February 11th at 7:30pm

## CADETS - Monday nights.

**DARTS - Tuesday, Wednesday, Thursday and Friday evenings.**

**SHUFFLEBOARD - every Thursday at 1:30pm.**

## SOUP N SANDWICH

February 6th from 11:30-12:45pm.

## MONTHLY DINNER

February 21st from 5-6pm

Lasagna with Garlic toast or bun with tossed salad and dessert. For more information, please contact the Office at 519-537-3112 or Canteen at 519-539-3401 Please pre-order dinner by the 14th of February.

## MEAT DRAW - February 15th at 3pm

## ENTERTAINMENT THIS MONTH

**February 1st:** Jamie Morris 7-11pm

**February 8th:** Randy Thomas 7-11pm

**February 15th:** 2 of a Kind 2-4pm

**February 15th:** Blue Sky-Archie Wright 7-11pm

**February 22nd:** Bryan Bicknell Dual 7-11pm

**Next month feature for our monthly dinner will be Corn Beef & Cabbage with Potatoes, Veggie & Coleslaw**

for more information please contact the office.

## HURON PARK BAPTIST CHURCH EVENTS:

199 Berwick St, Woodstock

## LADIES NIGHT

**Friday, February 21 – 7:00 p.m.**

Theme – Flavors of Greece – an inspiring cooking demo with local chef Jed Lau. Please contact the church to make registration arrangements. 519-421-4722

## SENIORS' LUNCH

**Thursday, February, 27 – noon**

presentation by The Alzheimer's Society. Please contact the church to make registration arrangements. 519-421-4722

## BEACHVILLE LEGION EVENTS:

434852 Zorra Line, Beachville

## THAMES VALLEY BLUEGRASS AND OLD TIME COUNTRY JAM

**Feb 1 and 15. 1 - 4 pm**

Come listen or play with us in an Open Mic Acoustic Jam

## LASAGNE DINNER

Feb 14 5:30 pm

## KARAOKE WITH KEN PYLE

Feb 22 7-11 pm.

## HOT BEEF SANDWICH AND FRIES DINNER

Feb 28 5:30 pm

## EUCHRE - Thursdays 7 pm

**DARTS - Fridays 8 pm**

**FREE POOL**

**CALL NOW!**

**519-290-8800**



**TO VISIT**

194 Springbank ave.  
N. Woodstock ON.  
[www.crispysfishandchips.com](http://www.crispysfishandchips.com)

# Crispy's Fish & Chips




4oz haddock fillet

# 2 for \$25

Two dinners  
Crispy's Famous Fish & Chips  
Only \$25



The special offer  
will continue  
until Feb 28, 2025





cedarview  
retirement living

**TOUR &  
LUNCH**  
*with us!*


**CALL TODAY**  
**519.771.4973**

Learn more about our  
community, meet new  
friends & find your new  
home!

*Your forever home awaits*



**CedarviewSeniorLife.com**  
511 Finkle Street Woodstock, Ontario N4V 0C4

Professionally Managed by  **brightwater**



ReImagine Senior Living