

Woodstock Ingersoll Echo

VOLUME 1 • ISSUE 3

AUGUST 18, 2023

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It's Cowapolooza Weekend with Sam Roberts

STEWART GRANT

Publisher

Cowapolooza is returning to Southside Park on Friday, August 18 and Saturday, August 19 for its milestone 20th year. The weekend is packed full of activities and a variety of food choices and local merchandise vendors before Saturday's culminating event as rockers Sam Roberts Band take the stage.

The free-entry event gets underway on Friday from 5:00 p.m. to 9:30 p.m. when you are invited to relive the "good old days" with Cowapolooza Classics, presented by OLG.

On Saturday, Cowapolooza Kids, presented by Canadian Tire Woodstock, provides a variety of free activities for kids of all ages running from 2:00 to 6:00 p.m.

The Main Stage, presented by Toyota Motor Manufacturing Canada Inc., opens at 6:30 p.m. where rock trio Ferraro will open for Sam Roberts Band. A multiple Juno winner, Sam Roberts is known for songs such as "Brother Down", "Bridge to Nowhere", "Where Have All The Good People Gone?" and "Don't Walk Away Eileen." No tickets are required for this amazing free concert, which will continue to around 10:00 p.m. The Woodstock Lions' Club Beverage Garden will be open throughout the concert, offering a main stage view.

A free event shuttle bus will be available on Saturday from 4:00 p.m. until midnight. Patrons may park at the Civic Centre Arena (895 Nellis St.) and hop on the free shuttle to Southside Park. Buses will depart the Civic Centre every 15 minutes. In addition, City Bus Route #7 will also be in service to Southside Park at :08 and :38 past the hour, until 10 p.m. (Regular transit fares apply). For more information on parking options or the event in general, please visit cowapolooza.ca.

30th edition of Canada's Outdoor Farm Show set for September 12-14

A farm show tradition in Woodstock, Canada's Outdoor Farm Show celebrates its 30th year in 2023 with over 100+ acres of exhibits and demonstration space to explore during the three-day event held from September 12-14.

Equipment demonstrations planned this year in the spacious fields around Canada's Outdoor Farm Show include tillage of cover crops, fertilizer application, forage harvest, straw chopper, and drone demonstrations. These provide farmers with an opportunity to learn about the latest features of the equipment and see firsthand how machines perform in the field.

Select exhibitors will be giving live demonstrations at or near their booths. This includes Haggerty AgRobotics Company, who will be back in the West Demo Field giving live demonstrations for several pieces of autonomous agriculture equipment including solar-powered and electric robots that seed, weed and sample soil. Meanwhile,

Great Lakes Helicopters will be demonstrating helicopter aerial spraying (with water) to give a glimpse into the way helicopters can provide flexibility when applying products.

Visitors to the Farm Show will also have the opportunity to test-drive skid steers, visit crop plots to learn more about the latest agricultural advancements, and meander through "Livestock Central", full of companies with exhibits and demonstrations for livestock producers.

On September 12th, at 10:00 a.m. a ribbon-cutting ceremony while take place at the Ducks Unlimited Canada Wetland Farm Pond to rename Masonville Lane to Doug Wagner Way in honour of Doug and all of his contributions to the agriculture community over the years.

For more features and up-to-date schedule information, please visit www.outdoorfarmshow.com or download the Canada's Outdoor Farm Show mobile app prior to the show.

Future of GM CAMI Assembly

The Town of Ingersoll says it's excited and grateful for General Motor's investment in the future of the CAMI assembly plant, and the community's future. Cami is planning to create approximately 300 new jobs and finalize construction of a 400,000-square-foot facility to assemble electric vehicle battery modules.

"This is a significant investment for Ingersoll and the entire southwestern Ontario manufacturing region," said a release from the town. "GM's commitment to expanding electric vehicle production is a testament to its vision for a sustainable and environmentally responsible future. Ingersoll is in the heart of the automotive industry's transformation towards green technologies."

Mayor Brian Petrie was ecstatic with the news. "I would like to congratulate and thank General Motors for their

continued investment in the Ingersoll GM CAMI assembly plant. This latest investment further ensures the future of the plant as a leading facility in the manufacturing of next-generation electric vehicles, like the BrightDrop delivery vehicles, by the great people from Unifor Local 88. It also further solidifies Ingersoll, Ontario, and Canada as an attractive place to invest in manufacturing."

In an interview with the Echo, Petrie said the more the town is able to grow the better off residents will be thanks to the growing business tax base. "The town proper has very few revenue streams and of course one of those is property taxes. Industrial property taxes pay at a higher rate than residential, so it helps offset residential and allows us to provide the services residents want. We are seeing


CONTINUED TO PAGE 2

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Second Annual Harvest Market



On Saturday August 26, The Kiwanis Club of Ingersoll in partnership with the Ingersoll Cheese & Agricultural Museum and the Ingersoll Creative Arts Centre will hold their 2nd Annual Harvest Market starting at 9:30 a.m. until 4:30 p.m. Like last year, the event will start at the Museum and run throughout Centennial Park right through up to the Creative Arts Centre and will feature vendors from the Saturday Kiwanis Market along with many additional vendors, food vendors, static displays, entertainment, children's

displays and activities, a wood carver, tractor people mover and the Choo- Choo Train, which was a great hit for those patrons young and old. There is no cost to come to the park and participate in the activities and displays or listen to the entertainment or watch the demonstrations.

Anyone who is interested in being a vendor should contact Pat by email at pat@bowern.com.

Come and enjoy a super fun event for the whole family!!

Future of GM CAMI Assembly

CONTINUED FROM FRONT

a 25 percent increase in industrial growth just this year so that is going to help current and future residents have affordable taxes." He added there are a few factors that make Ingersoll appealing to industry. "It's always been location, location, location, and the people who have lived here. Ingersoll was founded on being an industrious town and being in the right place always on a major transportation network." Petrie added the price of industrial land and the amount of time it takes to get out of the GTA is pushing development toward the town. "We are in a prime location right between the 402 cutoffs and 403. We can get to millions of customers in an eight-hour period."

One concern as a municipality gets bigger is the socio-economic problems that

accompany it. Petrie said they have the financial resources to stay on top of them. "As we grow, we face the challenges of larger communities with more homeless and unhoused, and issues associated with that. But these investments give us the tools to be able to help."

The mayor adds Ingersoll has always prioritized fostering a business-friendly environment, and the announcement by the town's largest employer exemplifies the dedication to supporting industries that embrace technological advancements and environmental consciousness. "As the town experiences unprecedented industrial growth, we remain committed to providing a supportive, welcoming environment that is conducive to business growth."



30
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Ag Society excited to get "back to their roots" with traditional Fair after three year hiatus

HANNAH MACLEOD

Echo Correspondent

The Woodstock Agricultural Society has been hard at work preparing for the 186th annual Fair, which kicks off on Thursday, August 24 at 4p.m., and runs until Sunday, August 27.

"We have been busy planning and preparing for the Fair since the wrap up of the 2022 fair," said Robin Newton-Smith, chairperson of the Agricultural Society, in a press release.

General admission is free, and attendees can look forward to a variety of fun events; some of which include bouncy castles, home craft exhibitions and animal shows.

Come out to the fairgrounds at 875 Nellis St., in Woodstock, to sit back in awe as magicians make the impossible, possible, lumberjacks create beautiful pieces of art with a chainsaw carving show, sample the tasty treats on offer from the food trucks, and get up close and personal with farm animals. Get a real feel for country living by participating in the scavenger hunt or the bale decorating contest and support local businesses by shopping around the many vendors.

The Home Craft Exhibitions include antiques, crafts, baking, horticulture and photography, along with displays of school art projects from the elementary students.

"We are excited to be back to a 'tradition-

al' fair, after a three year hiatus," said Tori Reibling, homecraft division. "I encourage you to be an exhibitor at our 2023 fair. We appreciate our many exhibitors who routinely share their talents. We always welcome new exhibitors, especially in our youth division - you are the future of our fair."

"We make every effort to make our choices of exhibits to be of interest to you," she continued. "We appreciate the many sponsors who faithfully provide ongoing support. Let's make our 2023 fair the best ever! Looking forward to seeing you there."

Explore Old MacDonald's barn, where the 4H club will be showing animals such as dairy cows, horses, poultry, llama's, goats and alpacas. Put your own pet up to the test with the dog agility show. If you haven't seen enough furry friends yet, worry not! Soper Creek Wildlife Rescue will be happy to introduce you to their wild animals.

The demolition derby and tractor pull events cost \$5.

The Midway is open all weekend. Coupons cost \$1.50, or 20 for \$25, 50 for \$50.

"We would like to take this opportunity to thank the volunteers who work all year planning and preparing for the fair," added Newton-Smith. "Without them, this weekend of fun learning and entertainment would not be possible."

"We would also like to thank our busi-

ness community for sponsorship, in-kind support and donations," she concluded. "Your continued support goes a long way in providing the best experience possible for our fairgoers."

Vendors and exhibitors are still wanted, if you're interested in participating, please contact the Agricultural Society by phone at 519-537-8212 or by email at info@woodstockfairgrounds.com

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Woodstock Ingersoll Echo
Established 2023

The Woodstock Ingersoll Echo is published monthly on the third Friday of each month and is free to all citizens either in print format or online at www.theecho.ca. The newspaper is owned and published by Grant Haven Media, a local business who also publishes the St. Marys Independent, Stratford Times and Wilmot-Tavistock Gazette.

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Letters to the Editor: Please email to info@theecho.ca, or send to our physical office at the St. Marys Independent, PO Box 2310, 36 Water Street South, St. Marys, ON N4X 1A2.

Circulation Matters!
**This month we will distribute
 6,000 printed copies of the
 Woodstock Ingersoll Echo.**

Echo looking to expand local team

STEWART GRANT

Publisher

This is the third-ever issue of the Woodstock Ingersoll Echo, and as publisher I'm thrilled to be in this community. This is the fourth newspaper that I have started in my life, and it's never easy. However, I can tell you that the enthusiasm and appreciation for this new venture is on a level that I haven't experienced before. It certainly gives me hope that this can be a going concern, and that we'll be able to someday increase our circulation from a monthly newspaper to something more frequent, such as bi-weekly or weekly.

For now, we simply want to keep improving the newspaper, issue by issue.

In my opinion, a key success factor for a community newspaper is getting the community involved.

I'd like to thank people like Scott Gillies for submitting historical-based articles, Doris Weir for pulling together the Thamesford news, and Dawn Borndahl for contributing local stories of interest. These are just a few examples.

I'd like to speak to a few areas where I think we could use some help, in the hopes that someone may want to get involved:

1. Photo ops: we are a very small team and it's often hard to get everywhere. If you are someone who would enjoy taking photos at community events from time to time, please get in touch with us.

2. Local correspondents: as mentioned above, Doris sends us the Thamesford News for each issue, and people from Thamesford have been picking up the newspaper in droves! Similarly, I'd love to have correspondents

in each of the local communities... of course, beginning with more contributors in Woodstock and Ingersoll, but also Embro and Innerkip, for example.

3. Specialized coverage: do you have a passion of sports? Or the arts? Or farming? If there's a subject that you'd like to contribute to that would be of interest to our readership, please reach out to us. For me, it was being in the sports section of my local paper as a kid that fueled my love for newspapers. Let's find different ways to get people involved in the newspaper, from different age groups and different areas of interests.

4. Delivery: I think we have a lot of room for improvement in this regard. I'd like to find someone locally who could assist us in managing the drop-offs of newspapers and adapting our drop-offs to meet reader demand. Each month, we drop off the papers at about 100 different locations, however there are certain places like grocery stores and coffee shops who quickly go through their allocated copies and would benefit from weekly replenishment. If you are interested in helping us as a local driver, please let me know.

5. Advertisements: we don't currently have a salesperson, but advertising is what fuels the business and will allow us to expand our community coverage. If you are a business owner who can help support the paper through advertising or sponsorship, we'd sure appreciate the help. Also, if you are interested in sales, I feel like we have a great value proposition for local businesses.

These are just a few ideas (but not an exhaustive list) of some of the areas that we are looking at to improve your community newspaper. Again, please reach out to us at info@theecho.ca if you'd like to contribute in any way.



Woodstock Ingersoll Echo is starting out as a monthly newspaper available both in print format and online (theecho.ca).

Published the 3rd Friday of each month, our next editions are:

Friday, September 15, 2023

Friday, October 21, 2023

Friday, November 17, 2023

info@theecho.ca

SUBMIT YOUR LETTER TO THE EDITOR TO US!
CALL 519-655-2341 OR EMAIL 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

City to hold special meeting on proposed Woodstock safe injection site

LEE GRIFFI

Local Journalism Initiative Reporter

A special Council Meeting has been called to hear from stakeholders about the possibility of locating a Consumption and Treatment Services (CTS) site in Woodstock. The meeting will take place on Tuesday, Sept. 26 at 1 p.m. at Woodstock City Hall. The meeting will also be streamed live on the city's YouTube channel.

"This is a complex issue and one that people have a wide range of opinions about and experiences with," said Mayor Jerry Acchione. "That's why I've called this meeting. We really want to hear from the public on both sides of this issue so that we can make an informed decision when the time comes."

Southwestern Public Health undertook a Consumption and Treatment Services Feasibility Study earlier this year. On June 22 the Board of Health voted to further explore the recommendations coming out of it. The recommendations specifically identify the intent to seek a letter of support from the city to locate a site in Woodstock, subject to additional consultation with stakeholders.

In response to the board of health's decision, Councillor Mark Schadenberg submitted a notice of motion at the July 13 council meeting asking other elected officials to indicate they would not support a CTS site in Woodstock. The motion was slated for discussion at the Aug. 10 meeting, however, based on the interest received following the notice, Schadenberg withdrew his motion to allow for more input from the community.

One such organization looking to have a voice on the issue is the United Way of Oxford and its Executive Director, Kelly Gilson. "(We) are in favour of supports and services that help those struggling

with mental health and addictions, and we understand that a variety of programs and services are required. We are very much in support of SWPH's move to Phase 2 of the Feasibility Study." Gilson added that people should not rush to judgement that a site would be negative for the city but rather get educated on the big picture. "We believe that decisions must be informed by data, research, facts, financial analysis, evidence-based practices, local needs, etc., and should not be made before a full review with all the necessary information available. We will be speaking to that at the Special Council meeting as a delegation."

Gilson explained why her organization will be presenting in favour of the idea. "We are in support of services and treatment options that are compassionate, evidence-based, that can truly help people who are struggling with substance abuse and looking for assistance. We believe in harm reduction and services. This is one of many tools." She added the United Way funds and partners with organizations who are the service providers. "They know what treatments can help people. It's complicated but we believe in it. What we want to see is good evidence presented and analyzed so that best decision for the people in the community can be made."

Southwest Public Health is moving forward with part two of their study into what is commonly called a safe injection site in Woodstock in addition to one in St. Thomas. Gilson said members of council will be able to hear important details that should educate them before making a decision. "City council will need to have information on the cost of the financial, human, and healthcare implications. It is fantastic that Mayor Acchione has called this meeting to hear from the communi-

ty and we certainly encourage people to listen in." Gilson added she will be making a presentation at the meeting from a United Way Oxford lens. "As a funder of social services, we certainly have a role. One of the other things we are committed to is shining a light on unignorable issues. We want to build community awareness, understanding, and empathy to do things together."

When asked her thoughts on the argument that a safe injection site will bring more drug users and homeless people into the city, Gilson rejected the claim. "Those are opinions and not necessarily based on fact. It would be far better to look at communities that have already gone through this process."

Woodstock City and County Councillor Deb Tait doesn't share Gilson's positive attitude towards public health's study. She said the best people to talk to in regard to the ups and downs of a CTS are those dealing with it day in and day out. "Any research and data can be swayed on both sides. I am going to take the advice of law enforcement and health officials I have talked to. The stats show that about two per cent of drugs users will actually utilize (a site). I always ask people why would you not advocate for money for mental health and addiction beds." She added she has talked to police in municipalities that have sites, and it isn't pretty. "There is a ring around them about 500 metres where petty theft is off the charts. The only people benefitting are the drug dealers. They know where to go. They know where to prey on people. Why would you put vulnerable people where they can be preyed upon?" She added the normal hours for a site is 8 a.m. to 8 p.m. and questioned what addicts would do after the doors close. An emotional Tait also believes a CTS would just make the current problem in Woodstock worse. "We have all of these social agencies in Oxford County. There are millions of dollars being spent. Advocate for mental health beds and addic-



tion help."

Tait said her four years of research has told her that these sites do not help the problem. "I don't see anywhere they have helped. As I have said before, the most important thing is to help these people and get them off drugs. Drug addiction and mental health help is what I would advocate for, not encouraging that doing drugs is safe or beneficial to anybody."

Those wanting to appear before council on this topic must complete a delegation request form by September 22 at 12 p.m. The public may also submit feedback in writing by email to clerkinfo@cityofwoodstock.ca or by mail to PO Box 1539, Woodstock, ON N4S 0A7. All feedback received will be circulated to Council as part of the publicly available meeting agenda. Any personal or identifying information received will be redacted and not shared publicly. Meeting details are available at www.cityofwoodstock.ca/agendasandminutes.



WATERMELON FUN

Ezraleigh Zinn, of Woodstock, with her parents, feeds fresh watermelon to one of the animals at Hobby Hills Farm's Watermelon Sugar Farm event on August Saturday, 5.

(HANNAH MACLEOD PHOTO)

Are you a youth (aged 15-30) interested in creating community change for yourself and other youth in Oxford County? Do you want to be a leader in your community? If you have at least 3 hours a month you can spare, you may be just the youth innovator we're looking for!



COMMUNITIES BUILDING
Youth Futures
OXFORD COUNTY

We are seeking diverse youth from Oxford County to be volunteer Youth Innovators guiding the Communities Building Youth Futures (CBYF) initiative. Our main goals are to increase high school graduation rates and improve youth outcomes in Oxford County. We focus on areas related to mental health, youth inclusion, youth employment and futures, accessibility of information, and rural challenges.

As a youth innovator, you would attend meetings twice a month, usually during after-school hours. Your role would be to collaborate with other youth, and representatives from local organizations to identify the needs of youth in our community and create and implement projects that will address these recognized needs and gaps. You will receive a \$20 gift card for every meeting attended, as well as volunteer hours for your time. Transportation can be provided to meetings if needed.

Our vision is that all youth in Oxford County will feel a sense of belonging in our community and hope for their future. The first steps in doing so are to ensure youth are at the center of all of our efforts. If interested, please email nethnie.nandadasa@spcoxford.ca or call/text 226-503-4083.

To learn more, head to our website www.oxfordyouth.ca

Woodstock City and Ontario Provincial Police briefs

LEE GRIFFI

Local Journalism Initiative Reporter

A 26-year-old Woodstock man faces four charges following an ongoing child pornography investigation. He has been charged with one count each of accessing, distributing, and possessing child pornography along with one count of failing to comply with a release order. He has been remanded into custody and a publication ban is in effect. The Woodstock Police Service is a member of the Provincial Strategy to Protect Children from Sexual Abuse and Exploitation on the Internet and conducts investigations into internet child exploitation offences in partnership with numerous Ontario police services. This investigation has been made possible by a grant from the Ministry of the Solicitor General. Members of the public can report suspicious internet activities relating to child exploitation to the Woodstock Police Service, or online at www.cybertip.ca.

Stabbing investigation

Woodstock Police are investigating an early morning stabbing incident that took place on Thursday, July 28 just before 4:30 a.m. The incident occurred near the intersection of Dundas and Wilson Streets where a 32-year-old victim was transported to hospital for treatment with serious but non-life threatening injuries. The accused fled the scene but police have charged a 28-year-old male with two counts of possession of a weapon for a dangerous purpose. Two counts

of assault with a weapon, aggravated assault, assault causing bodily harm, possession of a schedule one substance, and failure to comply with a release order.

Oxford OPP investigating Ingersoll arson

Police were called to a King Street residence in Ingersoll on August 6 around 3:30 in the morning. The investigation determined that an unknown person or persons attended the property and intentionally set fire to the unoccupied residence. Video surveillance obtained is being reviewed with hopes to determine who is responsible. The Oxford OPP Crime Unit with the assistance of the OPP Forensic Identification Services in conjunction with the Ontario Fire Marshal's office are investigating.

Woodstock man killed in Caledon collision

A 20-year-old Woodstock man is dead after a three-vehicle collision in Caledon on Saturday. Officers from the Caledon Detachment of the Ontario Provincial Police are trying to find out what happened just before 2 p.m. at the intersection of Hurontario Street and Mayfield Road. The Woodstock man was driving a motorcycle and was transported to a Toronto-area trauma centre and where he was later pronounced dead. The intersection was closed for several hours while the OPP Technical Collision Investigators and Reconstructionists were on scene. Anyone who may have witnessed the collision or has dashcam footage is asked to contact Caledon OPP.



(HANNAH MACLEOD PHOTOS)

COUNTRY FUN

Above, Club president, Chris Budd (left) and club member Bev Hughes (right) give advice to director Bob Walter as he fixes his tractor.

Below, Drumbo Lion's Dave Ridley, Ken Whytock, Karie Montgomery, Mark Peterson and Graham Cordon were busy at the grill.



(HANNAH MACLEOD PHOTO)

BEACHVILLE BBQ

Volunteers Arya Heintz, Steve And Teresa VanRees, Dillon Heintz, Dayton Fores, Riley, Craig and Tanya Gillis, were serving up a delicious spread for hungry attendees at the annual Beachville District Museum's BBQ supper on Friday, August 11.



(HANNAH MACLEOD PHOTO)

BEACHVILLE BBQ

Catching up we're friends and family Maria Bowerman, Jane and Joanne Muterer, Mark Ellah and Shirley Doney.

2023 Hike for Hospice in support of VON Sakura House

For more than a decade, VON Sakura House in Oxford County has provided compassionate end-of-life palliative care at no cost to individuals experiencing an advanced, life-limiting illness. More than just a hospice, Sakura House is a home where every day is a gift and life is celebrated. Sakura House staff work hard to help alleviate fear and pain, offering an environment where families can gather together and be supported, in peace. Through the cooperation of a skilled team of medical professionals and trained volunteers, our patients, and their families, are at the centre of all we do; focusing on living fully with comfort and dignity. We are so fortunate in Oxford County to have Sakura House and for the incredible support we receive from the surrounding community, primarily through fundraising events like the annual Hike for Hospice, presented by Toyota Motor Manufacturing Canada.

Celebrating its 21st anniversary this

year, the Hike for Hospice is a beloved event where families and community come together to raise funds in support of Sakura House and in memory of loved ones. The event will take place on Saturday, September 16 at Roth Park in Woodstock and features a relaxing hike along the water, a free BBQ lunch, great prizes, fun kids' activities, and more! Registration/T-shirt pick-up opens at 9:00am, with the official hike kicking off around 10:30am. To register, simply scan the QR code!

There is no cost to register and interested hikers can choose to sign up as individuals, or as a team with friends, family, and/or coworkers. Leading up to the event, to help us reach our \$100,000 goal, hikers are encouraged to collect pledges and any participant that is able raise at least \$250 will have their name entered into a draw for a chance to win a locally donated prize. Hikers can choose to walk their preferred distance, but there will be markers along the trail at 1km, 5km, or 8km. All funds raised

directly support Sakura House's ability to continue to offer quality palliative care at no cost.

Sakura House, and events like the Hike for Hospice, are a testament to the power of community support and generosity. This house means so much to so many and is a place where life is cherished, pain is eased, and precious memories are made. This event would not be possible without your support, and that of our local sponsors, and we want to thank everyone who has committed to supporting this event so far!

VON Canada is a not-for-profit, charitable home and community care organization. VON Sakura House is one of over a dozen programs delivered to the communities of Oxford County by VON Oxford. VON Sakura House is a 10-bed residential hospice where palliative care is provided to patients 24 hours a day by a team of specially trained physicians, nurses, personal support workers, and volunteers. All at no charge to the patient. VON Sakura House opened its doors to patients in September,

2009. VON Sakura House costs approximately \$1.6 million each year to operate. Government funding covers the costs associated with front-line nursing staff and patient care. All other remaining costs are covered by fundraising dollars. Since opening, we have supported more than 2,500 patients and their families through their end-of-life journeys.

For more information, please contact our Fund Development team: Allie Neeb (226-377-2056) or Zarna Mistri (226-385-6298) or email oxfordgiving@von.ca.



Lotto luck in Oxford County



Stephen Rossiter

HANNAH MACLEOD

Echo Correspondent

A Salford resident as well as a Tillsonburg resident have brought home big bucks through Lotto Max.

63-year-old Stephen Rossiter of Salford won \$1,000,000 in the July 21 Lotto Max draw. He has been playing the



Simon Muggleton

lottery for ten years, and this is his first big win.

Rossiter says he didn't think it was real when he discovered he had won. He plans on paying it forward with some of his win, and planning for his future with the rest. The ticket was purchased at Foodland in Ingersoll.

46-year-old Simon Muggleton of Tillsonburg won \$500,000 in the July 25 Lotto Max draw.

Muggleton says he was surprised to discover the win, and pranked his wife by telling her they had won \$5. He plans to treat himself to a toolbox and manage his finances with the big win.

The ticket was purchased in Tillsonburg at R&P Convenience.

Truck and tractor pull attracts a huge crowd to Embro



John Hardy, pulls his tractor 'Holy Cow', 189.28 metres, putting him in third place in the OGDBA single engine modified tractor category.



Steven Whitelaw and his John Deere 4020 pull the sled 299.46 metres.



Addison Mandziuk, with Renee and Monique Casciano got out their matching cowboy hats for the fun country day in Embro.



"Little pullers" Aydan and Abel Leathwood, with Zac Downham, enjoyed digging in the corn at the kids zone, while taking a break from the heat and noise of the pull.

(HANNAH MACLEOD PHOTOS)

A Good Ole Time is coming to Purple Hill Country Hall

*Ram Rodeo, Good Brothers and much more
August 25-27*



STEWART GRANT

Publisher

If you've never been to Purple Hill Country Music Hall, located halfway between Thorndale and Thamesford, the weekend of August 25-27 promises to be one heck of a show.

For the second year, Purple Hill is hosting the Ram Rodeo Tour, and combining the thrills of buckin' broncos with an incredible lineup of country music talent throughout the weekend.

"It's really a live action event for a wide range age of people," said Purple Hill Country Hall owner George Taylor. "It's billed as the largest rodeo this side of Calgary." Last year, more than 2,500 people came out for the first Ram Rodeo event and Taylor expects an even bigger crowd this year.

The headline band on Saturday is The Good Brothers, who chose the Purple Hill rodeo weekend as the ideal moment to celebrate their 50 years of international touring. They will be accompanied by Meredith Moon, who is the daughter of legendary Canadian singer-songwriter Gordon Lightfoot. The relationship between Lightfoot and The Good Brothers goes back a long time - Lightfoot made the Good Brothers' song "Alberta Bound" a huge hit back in 1972.

"We're really excited about the lineup," said Taylor of the entire weekend of talent, which begins Friday at 8:00 p.m. with the Cowboy Kick Off Party featuring the Southbound Dance Band.

On Saturday, the Rodeo gates open at 11

a.m., and at noon the Canadian Country Cowgirls host the Kids Free Rodeo before the Ram Rodeo live action event starts at 1:00 p.m. Legendary fiddler Shane Cook takes the outdoor stage at 2 p.m. during the rodeo intermission, and the Country Music Showcase with the Good Brothers and Meredith Moon begins at 5:00 p.m.

Sunday is a full day of rodeo and music, again with gates opening at 11 a.m. Matt Wood and Kiln Country will entertain during the rodeo intermission, while the 5:00 p.m. Country Music Showcase will include the Canadian Country Showband starring Scott Woods, and the Purple Hill Grand Ole' Country Opry starring Paul Weber, Naomi Bistrow, Hector James Sturgeon, Mike Pollard, Caroline Danowski-Burchill and Shelley Rastin.

The event is fully licensed and there will be a variety of vendors - not just cowboy clothing and accessories but also many food and drink options available under the big tent, expertly installed by Marshall's Tent Rentals. For the kids, there's bouncy castles, balloons, face-painting and more. The whole event is a huge community effort that wouldn't be possible without the support of so many volunteers and sponsors.

The cost to attend each day is \$30 at the gate for adults and discounted rates for kids. For more information, please visit www.purplehillcountrymusichall.ca or call 519-461-0538. Purple Hill Country Music Hall is located at 20903 Purple Hill Road, Thorndale.

Fritzie's, Fifty and Thriving

HANNAH MACLEOD

Echo Correspondent

A Woodstock dining staple, Fritzie's, recently celebrated 50 years.

The current owner, Steve Charron, is a Woodstock native and has owned the restaurant for 26 of his 50 years in the business. His uncle, Alfred (Fritz) Charron, originally opened the restaurant as a food truck in 1973.

Alfred and his wife, Margaret, were young energetic parents of seven children and prioritized providing for their family over everything.

"Fritz had a knack for building what he envisioned," said Charron, in a write up of the restaurant's history. "And with a spark of inspiration, he came up with the idea of making a food truck to provide a stable income for his large family, and to be self employed."

With their meagre savings, they purchased an old school bus.

"Fritz spent months refurbishing and equipping the truck with all the necessary amenities," he recalled. "Together, the couple sourced out suppliers and created their menu. They set out to learn everything they could about business, and thanks to the generosity of experienced business owners who freely gave advice and information, they were able to get their new enterprise, aptly named Fritzie's, off the ground.



To celebrate 50 years, Fritzie's staff and family enjoyed personalized cakes, as pictured, a decorated restaurant as well as all day specials.

The food truck has called many locations home over the year, but eventually settled down on Dundas and Huron location.

"Two parking meters were paid all day long to keep their spot and they soon had a following of dedicated customers," said Charron. "The food truck became a local sensation, with people lining up down the block to sample their fresh cut fries, hamburgers, footlongs and onion rings."

"Even though the hours were long and it was hard work, Fritz and Margaret never gave up," he continued. "Despite the cha-

otic and hectic lifestyle that came with running a fast food truck, their children were able to work alongside their parents, and as they grew older, they took on more responsibilities. They learned the value of teamwork, perseverance, entrepreneurship and the importance of following their dreams."

The Charron's were offered a chance to expand their business when they purchased the property at 32 Perry St., but they never let go of their food truck roots. They continued to provide services at local events in and around Oxford County

for years to come.

"Fritz was energized by the people who enjoyed the food that he lovingly produced. He never forgot where he came from or the struggles that they had faced, and was grateful for every customer that had supported them along the way," continued Charron. "Fritz and Margaret showed their children that with hard work, dedication and a lot of sacrifice, anything is possible."

Fritz and Margaret's story truly is a testament to the power of determination and commitment. They started with no experience, but possessed the drive and passion to succeed. In the end, they created a legacy that is carried on today with their nephew Steve (Fritzie's West) and their grandson, Caolan Wilkins (Fritzie's East) in Woodstock.

To celebrate, the staff advertised on social media and had beautiful cakes made up. They also decorated the restaurant, handed out homemade ice cream sandwiches, and had all-day specials.

The restaurant has a long history within the community, sponsoring local sports teams, and connecting with the schools by offering gifts for fundraising and donating to many charities.

"We continue to serve great quality food and boast our exceptional service, and hope to continue this for another 50 years," said Charron. "We look forward to continuing to serve our customers.



(HANNAH MACLEOD PHOTO)

NEW ART EXHIBIT IN INGERSOLL

Anne Williamson and Debra Lengyell both of the Kitchener Waterloo region are two artists who have their work on display at the newest exhibition at the Ingersoll Centre for Creative Arts. The new work was on display starting Saturday, August 12. The artwork will be on display until September 23.

Weekend Quiz

- 1) What is the formula for the chemical compound known as "carbon dioxide"?
- 2) In which country would you find the ancient city of Machu Picchu, often referred to as the "Lost City of the Incas"?
- 3) During which years did WWI occur?
- 4) Which animal is capable of rotating its head up to 270 degrees in both directions?
- 5) Who was the first woman to become the Prime Minister of the United Kingdom?
- 6) What are the names of the Titanic's two sister ships?
- 7) Who sculpted the famous statue of "David"?
- 8) In the 2000 horror/thriller film "American Psycho", which actor plays the leading role of Patrick Bateman?
- 9) In the nursery rhyme "Twinkle, Twinkle, Little Star," what is the object that the star is compared to?
- 10) Fissures, vents, and plugs are all associated with which geological feature?

This week's answers are found on pg. 29

visit us online at www.thecho.ca

Thamesford News

DORIS WEIR

Contributor

Thamesford Trojans

The team is coming together nicely with the coaching staff scouting out new players and working with many players from last year. They are working hard practicing and will be ready for their first season opener on Friday September 15th in Thamesford!

Thamesford Lions

The Thamesford Lions have made a generous donation of \$5,000 towards the Embro pavilion project. The project, which was initiated by the Caledonian Society (Embro Highland Games), aims to construct a 40x80 foot pavilion behind the Embro arena that will be used for the Highland Games and be available for other organizations and events. A Zorra Township committee is now running this project, and personal or corporate donations can be made through the township offices. This donation is part of the Thamesford Lions' efforts to support projects and organizations throughout the township. The picture shows Councilor Crystal Finch, Lions Bob Fisher, Scott Barr, Tony Redix, Dave Salhani, Bill Kerr, Jack Broadfoot, Gus Bobotsis and Jim Keron, Caledonians Helen Dowd, Gord MacKay, and Mayor Marcus Ryan.

If you are in Embro, you can also do your part in supporting the Lions' fundraising efforts by purchasing catch-the-Ace tickets at the Highland Restaurant. This will go a long way in assisting the Lions in their mis-



(DORIS WEIR PHOTO)

Back row, from left, counsellor Chrystal Finch, Bob Fisher, Tony Redix, Helen Down, Gord Mackay, Scott Barr, Marcus Ryan (Zorra mayor), Dave Salhani, Bill Kerr. Front row, Jim Keron, Gus Bobotsis, Jack Broadfoot All Lions members but Helen and Gord, (Embro), Crystal and Marcus Zorra council

sion to support different projects and organizations within the township.

One of our major fundraisers is at the Ontario Farm show where over 60 of our members volunteer their time to do multiple tasks to ensure a smooth day/week for all participants and vendors. You will see multiple clubs at the show. Many of the volunteers from our club and others will work for the whole week to ensure everything runs smoothly. Rain or shine they will be there!

Embro Tractor Pull

On Friday August 4th, I attended the Embro Tractor Pull. What a great organized event! Many volunteers were there to help ensure the event went smoothly. On Friday

only heavy Farm Stock Tractors were pulling. Many of these tractors you will see in the fields planting and harvesting the food we eat! How cool is that! It was a great afternoon/evening watching these tractors compete to see who is the winner is!

Harvey Beaty Memorial

To raise money to maintain the Harvey Beaty Memorial I will be selling a book that compiles the Down on the Farm Newsletters from Cold Springs Farm – dated 1984 until the year of Harvey Beaty's death, in 1994. Contact Doris Weir at csf149brock@yahoo.com to preorder your book by September 15, 2023.

Brunnys cruise in

Brunnys had a cruise night on Wednesday July 19, 2023. Over 20 cars, many local, came to show off their vehicles. Many have not seen each other in quite awhile, so it was a reunion of sorts, too. It was a great night with good music, food and drinks!

Unifor Local 88-Ingersoll

Unifor Local 88 will be having their annual Labour Day Picnic on Monday September 4th from 11-3. Come on out as there will be a car show (free entry for participants), food, drinks and entertainment. This is an event that is open for everyone to attend. If you need more information about the car show you can contact Doris at doris-weir88@gmail.com

"Let's CAN cancer" fundraiser set to reach \$100,000

HANNAH MACLEOD

Echo Correspondent

Thamesford native David Elliott is making it his life's purpose to do what he 'can' to make a difference, through an ongoing bottle drive in support of the Princess Margaret Hospital.

"Let's CAN cancer", is a fundraiser started by Elliott and his friend Frank Koncan. The idea came to fruition after the pair each lost their wives to cancer within a year of each other. In 2021, Koncan passed, giving Elliott even more drive.

"Just when I think I'm going to stop, something happens and it gives me a reason to keep going," he said.

Since its conception in 2016, the bottle drive has raised over \$80,000. Elliott hopes to reach \$100,000 in the next year.

Cancer has affected Elliott's life in many significant ways over the years, starting in 1981 when he organized a tribute to Terry Fox in Thamesford.

"It was an honour to work with the likes of Al Waxman, Ron Calhoun, Brad Marsh and Bill Carroll," he said. "This tribute was about keeping the Dream of Life and the Marathon of Hope alive."

The following year, Elliott lost his father to leukemia.

In 1990, Elliott organized a trip for Paul Beckberger, who was suffering from leukemia, to see a hockey game at Maple Leaf Gardens.

"We had supper with the Gretzky's and Paul got to meet Wayne," he recalled. "We travelled by limo there and back."



(CONTRIBUTED PHOTO)

Dave Elliott on his weekly trip to the Thamesford Shell station to collect cans for his fundraiser in memory of his and his best friends wives. 'You have made a difference - thank you! We are close to reaching \$90,000.

In 1995, Elliott was diagnosed with prostate cancer, and underwent a complete operation. Five years later, his two sisters were diagnosed with breast cancer. That same year, he became a volunteer driver for the Cancer Society, which he continues to do today.

In 2008 he lost a brother to melanoma.

"I sold tickets on a hockey stick signed by Wayne Gretzky to support Princess Margaret Hospital in memory of Phyllis Gretzky, Wayne's mother, who died from lung cancer," said Elliott. "The stick raised \$7,000. I sold tickets in Toronto at Port Dover's Friday the 13th - what an experience that was!"

In 2010, Elliott raised \$4,000 for the Relay for Life walk, in memory of his father and brother, for the Oxford County Cancer Society.

In 2015, he lost his wife, Margaret, to cancer. Only one year later, Koncan lost his wife as well. In 2017, he lost his sister to cancer.

Elliott remembers his wife fondly, reflecting on the meeting of the odd-pairing; he had only a grade eight education and was to be marrying a schoolteacher. His wife taught in Thamesford for 33 years.

"My wife always said, 'you don't need an education to make a difference,' he explained.

Elliott worked for Harvey Beaty at Cold Spring Farm.

"Harvey always encouraged me to make a difference," he recalled. "He often said, 'it's better to try something and fail than do nothing and succeed.'"

He was an active member of the Lions Club, which he says has led to many great experiences with people who are very giving.

"This project gives me a purpose, I feel good doing it," he concluded. "If I didn't have this, I wouldn't have anything, and everybody needs a purpose."

He closed with some wise words from his good friend Walter Gretzky:

"Cherish today, it's so precious," he said. "When we left any event, fundraiser, or even just a dinner out... he'd ask 'do you think we made anyone smile today?' He was always so encouraging."

Elliott has a barrel at the service station in Thamesford for people to drop cans off at, and once a week picks up from specific towns. On Monday, he visits Thamesford, on Tuesday he comes through Ingersoll and on Wednesday he makes his drive through Dorchester.

To be added to Elliott's weekly pick-up, he can be contacted by phone at 519-425-0384.

Fanshawe's Women of Steel cohort enjoying learning welding techniques in supportive environment

EMILY STEWART

Echo Correspondent

Fanshawe College's Woodstock/Oxford regional campus welcomed its first cohort of the Women of Steel program earlier this summer, and the program is well-liked with lots of enthusiasm.

The Women of Steel web page on the Fanshawe College website said the college is one of 14 across Canada to partner with the CWB Welding Foundation to train women and women-identifying individuals welding.

Tam Visser, the student engagement specialist of Fanshawe's Woodstock/Oxford regional campus, said the group of 12 students earn 70 hours of theory and 12 weeks of hands-on learning. The program concludes with a two-week practicum. The program began in late June and will finish in late September.

The students, ranging from recent high school graduates to adults in their 40s, enjoy the program and are quickly learning the trade.

"They've absolutely taken to it," Visser said. "I swear some of them have been welding for years and they hadn't touched a welder at all before this program. We've picked a great group and they are super



(EMILY STEWART PHOTO)

Women of Steel student Terri Masters said the program at Fanshawe College's Woodstock/Oxford regional campus has been a great opportunity. Fanshawe is one of 14 colleges selected to run the program in partnership with the CWB Welding Foundation.

enthusiastic about it."

Along with teaching the students six

tickets from the CWB Welding Foundation to help them enter the workforce, the

Women of Steel program allows the students to work together in a supportive environment.

"It's women working with women, and we very much have it where we are all cheerleading on each other versus instead of competing against each other," Visser said.

Terri Masters, one of the students, enrolled in the program for a career change. She enjoys welding to express her creative side and aspires to work in a shop environment after the program wraps up.

"It's been a lot of fun. Especially the people in the group too. It's been a really good environment," Masters said.

She also called it an empowering opportunity, knowing there's a shortage of skilled trade workers and of women in the industry.

"It feels good to do things that as you're younger, you're told you can't do or don't really get much of a chance at," she said. "It's been really awesome and a lot of these girls are really talented too that have never tried it before."

More information about the program can be found via fanshawec.ca/cts/products/training/trades-and-technology/women-steel.

Woodstock City Council briefs

LEE GRIFFI

Local Journalism Initiative Reporter

The city's last regular meeting of council was held on Thursday, August 10 where councillors voted to move forward with a ban on the sale and discharge of consumer fireworks within in Woodstock effective Jan. 1, 2024. The implementation date was intentionally selected to take effect after Diwali on Nov. 12 of this year, which is the last approved holiday for the use of consumer fireworks under the current bylaw. This will give local retailers the opportunity to sell their remaining stock and ensures enforcement of the bylaw for Diwali will be consistent with Victoria Day and Canada Day earlier this year.

Council heard from two delegations opposing the fireworks ban and an on-line petition in favour of fireworks was also presented. Weighing feedback from the community and information on complaints enforcement from staff, council decided a complete ban will address frequent complaints around non-compliance and allow for easier enforcement. Staff is preparing the bylaw and draft which will be submitted with an application for approval by the Ministry of the Attorney General.

Community improvement applications approved

Council approved four applications through the city's Downtown Community Improvement Plan. It was created in 2012

for the core to maintain its role as the city's primary business, shopping and cultural centre by encouraging private investment. It provides loans and grants for improvements to enhance downtown properties including façade, awning, signage, lighting and design costs. Four applications were submitted:

- 379 Dundas St. — Dee-Lights Bakery
- 507 Dundas St. — Floral Buds & Design
- 521 Dundas St. — Destinations, So-dapop & Marigolds, Knotty Beauty
- 75 and 85 Brock St. — Construction of an eight-unit, two-floor apartment building

The money for the projects is taken from the downtown reserve fund.

Council supports increased capacity of new school in north Woodstock

Mayor Jerry Acchione will be submitting a letter to the Ministry of Education and Oxford MPP Ernie Hardeman urging the province to immediately approve changes to plans for a new school in north Woodstock. The school was originally planned to have space for 660 students. Thanks to an increase in the number of residential units proposed in the area, Thames Valley District School Board is now looking to increase the capacity of the school to 856 students. The board has submitted the revised plans to the Ministry. Construction is expected to be completed by 2026 or 2027.

Henrietta Mulder's Great Cycle Challenge

STEWART GRANT

Publisher

The road to fighting children's cancer is a long one, but Ingersoll's Henrietta Mulder is taking it on... one kilometer at a time.

In her seventh year of the Great Cycle Challenge, which takes place every August, Mulder is currently the third-highest fundraiser in all of Canada out of over 15,000 riders. She is riding in memory of her daughter, Arlene Mulder Papaioannou, who lost her fight in a battle against colon cancer in October 2018. As Henrietta describes, "she was 49 when she passed... not a child, but nonetheless, MY child!"

The Great Cycle Challenge, which started in 2016, has become a huge event across Canada as participants of all ages and abilities set personal riding goals to pedal throughout the month of August to raise funds to fight kids' cancer. The money raised goes towards SickKids Foundation, the largest charitable funder of child health research, learning and care in Canada. SickKids treats approximately 25% of all childhood cancer patients across Canada at its Garron Family Cancer Centre.

"I started biking in the summer of 2017. Then in January of 2018 Arlene was diagnosed with colon cancer so I dedicated my ride to her," Mulder told the Echo. "By October, she was gone so now I bike in her memory."

Henrietta has set an August 2023 goal



of 400km and an initial fundraising target of \$15,000.

Through her 7 years of fundraising through the Great Cycle Challenge, Mulder has cycled 2,670 km and raised over \$105,000. This year, she currently ranks 2nd in Ontario and 3rd in Canada and would welcome further support to help make a difference in the fight against kids' cancer.

"Right now, over 1,700 children are diagnosed with cancer every year [across the country], and it's the biggest killer of children from disease in Canada. Kids should be living life, not fighting for it," Mulder wrote on her fundraising homepage.

To donate, visit www.greatcyclechallenge.ca and find participant "Henrietta Olthoff Mulder".

Route to the Past: Enrolled in God's Hall of Fame

SCOTT GILLIES

Echo Contributor

Born on October 9, 1890 on a farm just west of Salford, young Aimee Elizabeth Kennedy became one of the most influential women of the 20th century. The family knew her as Betty, but the world knew her as the flamboyant female preacher Aimee Semple McPherson.

The young girl was raised in a deeply religious family. Her father James Morgan Kennedy sang in the Salford Methodist Church; her mother Minnie Pierce had been raised by members of the Salvation Army and often attended services in Ingersoll.

Miss Kennedy studied at the red brick school on the Culloden Road, with Walter Bloor as her teacher. (He would later become a famous chemist in the United States.) While attending the Ingersoll Collegiate Institute, Aimee went to a revival meeting led by an itinerant Pentecostal preacher named Robert Semple.

Irish-born Semple was preaching in the summer months out of a tent erected near Smith's Pond, and in the colder months in a vacant office building on Carnegie Street (present-day site of the McDonald's). Aimee attended her first service on a lark. She had expected to be able to counter any theological philosophies brought forth by Semple; after all she had easily won a debate sponsored by the local newspaper. However, it would seem that she too became enthralled with Robert's message and underwent an out-of-body experience speaking in tongues.

It wasn't long before 17 year old Aimee and Robert fell in love. They were married in the parlour of her family farmhouse "Kozy Kot" on August 12, 1908. A few months later they were on their way to China as missionaries.

Shortly after their arrival, tragedy struck when Robert died of malaria. Two months later Aimee gave birth to their daughter Roberta. Friends arranged for the 19 year old and her baby to sail to America. She met up with her mother in New York City where they both became involved in church work.

Aimee eventually met and married American grocery salesman Harold McPherson. She bore him a son they named Rolph. It seems that Aimee was no a stay-at-home Mom! She returned to Oxford County in the early days following that second birth but while here she kept preaching in local towns across southern Ontario.

Aimee was becoming ever more active preaching the gospel and doing God's work. She would be gone for weeks at a time. Harold and Aimee divorced within four

years of their marriage; he charging her with desertion. She was always on the road!

Aimee crisscrossed the continent as part of what was known as the Sawdust Trail – hundreds of preachers who travelled by horse and buggy or automobile, from town to town setting up their large tents. Sawdust covered the dirt floors.

Aimee's stage presence garnered her a popular reputation – both as a preacher but also as a faith healer. While some like Billy Sunday, preached of hell fire and damnation, Aimee spoke of love and laughter, happiness and healing. Her meetings were always noisy and joyful, with plenty of clapping and singing hymns of her own creation. Her style of revivalism appealed to the masses who were searching for an escape from the anguish and heartache that followed World War One.

She felt the call to head to California, so mother and daughter along with the two young children in tow, arrived in Los Angeles with "nothing more than \$10 and a tambourine".

Within four years she had established the Church of the Foursquare Gospel and built Angelus Temple to house it. Designed to seat 5,300 people, the main feature of this fireproof structure was its large unsupported concrete dome coated in abalone shells. When constructed it was the largest domed building in North America. Designated a national historic landmark in 1992 by the U.S. Parks Service, the Temple still stands today.

It was filled to capacity three times a day, 7 days a week, with Aimee directing, choreographing and starring in every service. These were not ordinary church meetings; they were spectacles that rivaled the best created by neighbouring Hollywood. They regularly featured a full orchestra, massive choirs, theatrics and dynamic preaching, but props like live camels, motorcycles and boats were not uncommon. Sister Aimee became known as the "High Priestess of the Jazz Age".

She was described as "dynamic, irrepressible and complex." Her charismatic style captured the hearts – and wallets – of all in attendance. Her novel fund raising techniques would be the admiration of today's televangelists and professional fund-raisers alike.

And yet, she never seemed to be far from the flurry of self-induced publicity and scandal. She claimed that a five month disappearance had been a kidnapping. The courts disagreed but charges of fraud were dropped when evidence was uncorroborated ... or went missing.

During the Great Depression, she organized the largest



private charity in Los Angeles, running soup kitchens and shelters for the homeless. She fought for improved working conditions and pay for firemen and police officers.

One of the first women in the United States to have a radio licence, she established the LA station KSFG with twin towers high atop the Temple's dome. It was so powerful, other radio stations in the city were drowned out. McPherson was adept at the use of radio and film as well as the stage. Film clips of her preaching can still be found online, including one that reflects her lifelong connection to Oxford County.

Both the Church and LIFE Bible College which she established 100 years ago are still active. Followers from around the world visit the Ingersoll Museum to see her childhood cradle and journey in her footsteps. Her life story has inspired numerous books, stage and radio plays, television shows, and Hollywood movies.

When the spotlight of her life was extinguished in 1944, Aimee was buried on her birthday, and was eulogized as "a country girl that had been enrolled in God's Hall of Fame".

The Friendly Ghost Costume Stop is coming to Cowan Park in Woodstock on September 30th

We need Halloween Costume/ decoration donations. Donations can be dropped off during business hours at two locations in Woodstock Little Caesar's Pizza-998 Dundas Street in Woodstock and Jax Jungle Play-520 Dundas Street in Woodstock.

More details about the event will be coming in the next edition of The Echo



KIWANI'S INGERSOLL HARVEST MARKET
WITH THE INGERSOLL CHEESE AND AGRICULTURAL MUSEUM AND INGERSOLL CREATIVE ARTS CENTRE

SATURDAY, AUGUST 26TH
9:30AM TO 4:30PM

INGERSOLL CHEESE & AGRICULTURAL MUSEUM
Activities taking place throughout Centennial Park, Centennial Lane, and the Ingersoll Creative Arts Centre

A DAY FILLED WITH FUN, FAMILY ACTIVITIES

THERE WILL BE NO PARKING ON THE GROUNDS OF THE MUSEUM. A TRACTOR AND WAGON WILL ASSIST IN TRANSPORTATION.
FOR THOSE WISHING TO RIDE THEIR BUCK, THERE WILL BE A BUCK VALET PARKING AREA, MANAGED BY THE INGERSOLL BUCK CLUB!

Farmers' Market and Handcrafted Artisan Vendors		Grain Threshing Demonstrations
Model T Assembly Demonstrations		Static Tractor Display
Children's Obstacle Course and Bouncy Castle		Chainsaw Wood Carver
Transition to Less Waste		Live Musical Entertainment

Children's Activities Include:

- Face Painting
- Balloon Artists
- Petting Zoo
- Miniature Train Ride

Ingersoll Creative Arts Centre:

- Try It Series
- Displays and Sales from Local Artists
- Outdoor Children's Activities



NO ENTRY FEE
NO COST FOR KIDS' ACTIVITIES

FOR MORE INFORMATION

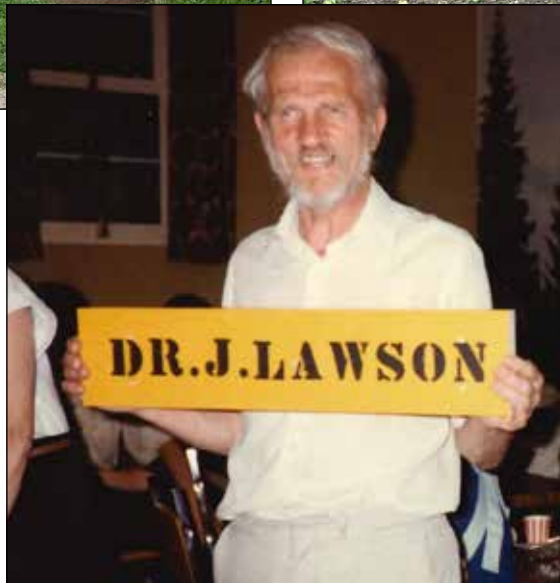
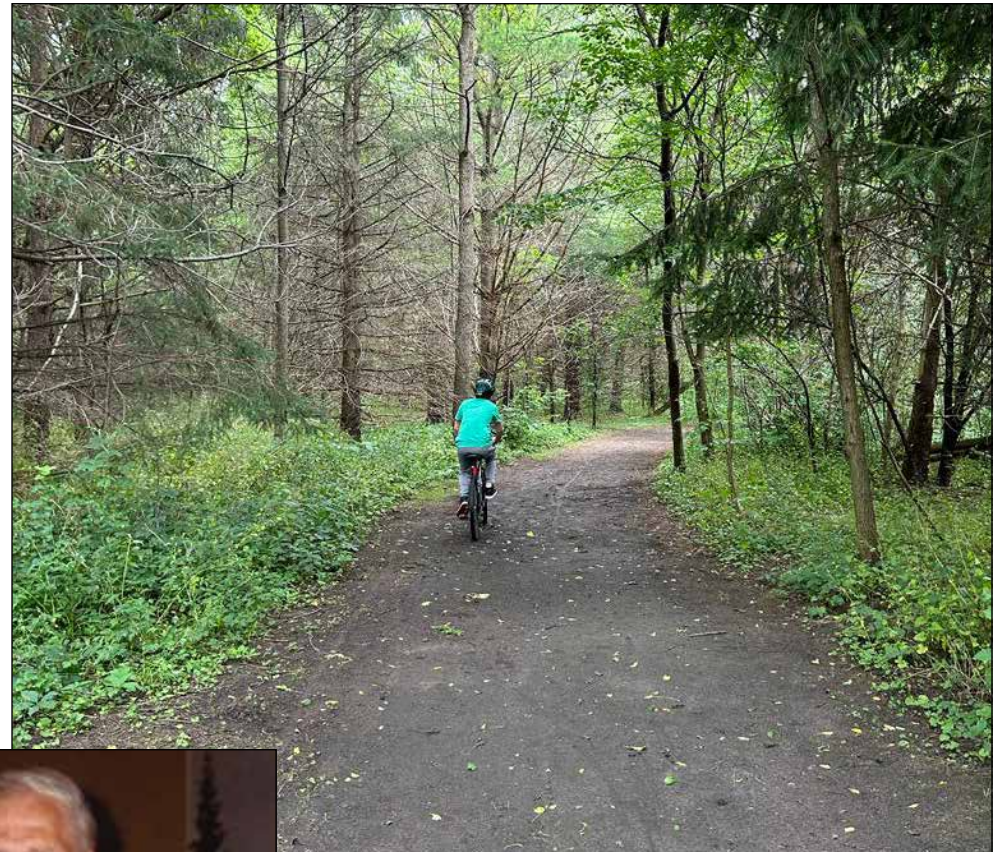




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WE ARE AIMING FOR **ZERO WASTE**

The Lawson Park Trail: A Portrait of a Man and his Vision



DAWN BORND AHL

Contributor

Ingersolls of a certain age will know the name Dr. John Lawson. And even more will remember the eccentric older gentleman, clad in a starched white-collar shirt, well-loved English tweed sport jacket and black tie, riding his bike through town with gleeful abandon and a gentle joie de vivre. He was a doctor of an older, gentler time.

Originally from Scotland, Dr. Lawson brought his family to Ingersoll in 1957 and practiced medicine from his office on King Street West, often taking house calls on his bicycle. In fact, he always rode his bike. A friend of Dr. Lawson remembers him saying that “if I’m called in at 3 a.m. on a cold January morning to deliver a baby, it would take a good 6 minutes just to start and warm up my car. But if I hop on my bike, I can be at the hospital in 7 mins - fresh, alert and alive.” That’s the kind of man he was.

Dr. Lawson was keenly interested in everything going on around him, be it the ins and outs at Alexandra Hospital where he practiced or in his beloved town of Ingersoll. An ex-colleague recalled him sometimes dropping in on her staff education sessions. Baffled, she asked him what these sessions could possibly add to his expertise? With a twinkle in his eye, he told her that there was something to learn from everyone.

Very much an environmentalist before it became cool, he was always curious about the world around him. It has been said that although he was medically trained, his first love was nature and he had early thoughts of becoming a forester.

Perhaps it was these thoughts that brought about the original trail committee.

Dr. Lawson had his sights on a neglected piece of land that snaked along the Thames River. With municipal approval, he formed a trail committee and recruited the original members himself; likeminded people who had an awareness of ecological issues and could understand his vision to bring about a nature trail for the people of Ingersoll.

The inaugural group consisted of six or seven town folk who met at the old Ingersoll Town Hall. The formality of a meeting lasted 30 minutes at most before Dr. Lawson would insist they take to the trail because “it’s all just theory when you are sitting at a desk”. And off they would go. The group learned quickly that sturdy mudders were the de rigueur dress code for committee meetings because inevitably they would end up on the trail, rain or shine, in the mud and bush, experiencing the trail in all its glory and returning home covered in burrs, scratches and their fair share of trail earth.

The trail was rough back then, lots of fallen tree branches and obstructions, and it was years before the overpass on Ingersoll Street was constructed. It was hard to get through much of the path, but the group faithfully walked, removed obsta-

cles, built makeshift bridges and mapped out plans for future footbridges, benches and paths that would eventually come to fruition with funding from provincial grants.

The committee felt it was important not to erode the riverbanks but also wanted to open up vistas along the river. They wanted interesting walking paths but didn’t want to transform the natural beauty of the land into a formal park. It was a fine balance.

“It was the best committee in the world to be on,” said one original committee member. “Dr. Lawson believed in hands on experience and that every member had something valuable to contribute. He didn’t like sitting in a room discussing something, he wanted to be out in the fields seeing it and explaining it.” He was clearly a man of action.

In fact, it was on one such walk that this committee member asked why a pearl shaped deformation had formed on the stalk of a plant. Dr. Lawson stopped the group, pick up the weed and handed the stalk to the curious member. He told her to bite it open. After she did, he told the group that the pearl was where a fly lays its larvae. The pearl shaped growth protected the vulnerable larvae from predators. In recalling this long-ago memory, the committee member broke out into a

cheeky grin and said it was a lesson she never forgot.

Dr. Lawson wanted a nature trail, not a pristine trail. To this day, the trail still boasts wild areas, and although non-motorized, the path is wheelchair and electric-powered wheelchair accessible and has grown to include an off-leash dog park. Michelle Kelly and her 3-year-old dog, Joe, enjoy the off-leash dog park a couple times a month. Since Joe is a rescue dog, Michelle loves that the trail is secluded and low key which doesn’t overwhelm her pup. But the off-leash area allows Joe to open up for a good run. Friends of Dr. Lawson would agree he’d be happy to know his trail is loved and accessible to all.

The 2.75 km loop trail begins just past the Ingersoll Key Putt on Wonham Street, north of Charles Street, and continues beside the Thames River until it reaches the Ingersoll Street overpass. It is wide and open on the path south of the river, but the inner loop offers tree sheltered paths that wind through forested vegetation, crossing a delightful babbling brook that sparkles in the cracks of sunlight sneaking past the overhead foliage. It is perfect for a lazy meander, a bike ride, a stroll with your favourite furry friend or a cross country ski in the winter snow.

Dr. Lawson had a vision. And together with his motley crew of muddy boot enthusiasts, he created the first trails in Ingersoll over long afternoon brambles and lots of big dreams. The trail is no longer full of burrs nor as inaccessible as it was in those early days, but it still holds a quiet mystique and a tranquility tucked away on the shores of the Thames River. Just remember to stay away from the pearls.

visit us online at www.thecho.ca

Auto fun in Oxford



Mikayla Hunter, Becky, Keith and Susan Korpan check out a 1955 Chevrolet 210 at the Beachville Museum car show on July 23.



Roy Carter (seated) immediately recognized one of his favourite vehicles, a 1938 Chrysler Royal, at the Southgate Car Show, which wrapped up Woodstock Streetfest on July 23. With him were Buck VanGeel and Ruth Lonsberry.



Ross Hewitt sits in his 1981 Chevy Camaro.



Caleb and Kane Marshall loved the fun M&M's van on display.

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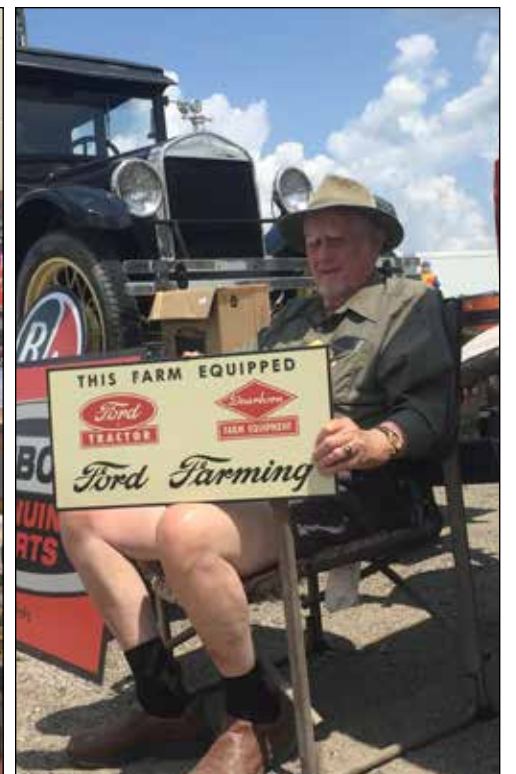
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Left, Darcy Ralf picked out her favourite model cars for a photo, while running her husband's vendor table at the Automotive Flea Market at the Woodstock Fairgrounds on July 23.



Right, Bud Chamney and some close friends were happy to be in attendance for the great weather and huge crowd at the Automotive Flea Market.

(HANNAH MACLEOD PHOTOS)

Tavistock K9 handler and police community say goodbye to Taz

LEE GRIFFI

Local Journalism Initiative Reporter

Hundreds of police officers along with over one hundred K9s and their handlers converged on Woodstock Tuesday to say goodbye to Police Service Dog (PSD) Taz who died in the line of duty.

The dog, a K9 with the Woodstock Police Service, responded to a call to help the Stratford Police with a drug-related investigation on July 3. While conducting a search, Taz and another dog, PSD Striker, both ingested drugs. Narcan was administered and they were rushed to a veterinarian clinic. Taz did not survive while Striker was released and went home shortly after.

Police and dogs from across Ontario including York Regional, Halton, Saugeen Shores, Waterloo Regional, Brantford, Toronto, Sault Ste. Marie, London, OPP, and others along with local emergency services all took part in a procession and full police funeral at the Reeves Community Complex to pay tribute to their fallen comrade. A private police funeral took place inside the facility on the arena floor.

Grant Rieder is an Innerkip resident and volunteer firefighter in the East Zorra-Tavistock community who attended Tuesday's funeral. In his previous life, he was a K9 officer and sergeant with the Waterloo Regional Police Service. Rieder had extensive experience as both a handler and trainer for other officers, including Taz's handler Dan Skillings, a Tavistock resident. "I trained seven police services including a few from Woodstock and trained Dan with his first dog, Striker. When I retired, I went to the Ministry of Natural Resources for six years where I was in charge of their K9 program."

Rieder, who has lived most of his life in Oxford County, said he feels for what Skillings is going through. "It's a terrible thing to lose your dog in the line of duty. We have brought a number of dogs into the vets over the years, and I know what they did to try and save Taz. His work ethic really cost him his life. Like what was said at the funeral, the dog was a phenomenal tracker which means he has a really deep nose. He just inhaled enough of it that he couldn't be brought back." Rieder has had seven service dogs over his thirty-plus-year career and said handlers get to know and trust their partner intimately. "It's just incredible the bond that is developed. I have had so many dogs, and I know Dan has too with his. You're looking for somebody in the dark and you can't see him, but you know he's there because your dog is telling you."

It is difficult to understand what Skillings has been going through since early July when he and his dogs were called to Stratford, but Rieder



PAYING THEIR RESPECTS

Nearly 100 K9s and their handlers traveled to Woodstock from across the province to support Taz as he was laid to rest this week.

(LEE GRIFFI PHOTO)

der said he has been in regular contact with his comrade. "We talk almost daily, and I have been out to see him several times over the last few weeks. He's pretty broken up about it. He tries to put on a brave front, but I know how it affects him and lots of other cops. Whether it's losing a dog in the line of duty or because of age or illness, it's a tough thing to go through." One aspect of the tragedy is that Skillings plays out the incident to see if something could have been done differently. "Dan and I have gone over everything back and forth several times, and he did everything right. The dog did everything right. Sometimes things happen."

What is next for Skillings is left up to the policing powers that be, but if Rieder had a say he would be a handler again as soon as possible. "Dan is a phenomenal dog handler. If you asked him how his dog is doing, he would say he's just okay, we need to work on this and that. His dogs are always as good or better than all the dogs around him. And for him, good is never good enough. He is so good at what he does, and I know he wants another dog and not knowing is weighing on him. I really hope the service stands behind him and recognizes the role he has taken on." He added the general public really doesn't

understand what K9 units do to help keep the peace. "K9s are one of the most prevalent units when it comes to doing demonstrations and contact with the public that put the police in a positive perspective. They always steal the show so from the police perspective the dogs help the relationship between the public and the police."

Rieder said what people don't see is the positives these animals can do for mankind in the interest of public safety. "We can search for sick, injured, and missing people with a dog in a couple of hours, something that couldn't be done with 20 people in six hours. I personally have found so many Alzheimer's patients and people with mental health issues. On the other hand, a lot of the criminal elements are not afraid of the police, but they are afraid of a dog." When K9 units are called out it is often a case where culprits are fleeing the police and many suspects are armed. "We are dealing

with drugs and weapons, so they are trying to get away from us. So many times, we would have never found them, known who they were, recovered the weapons, if it wasn't for the police dog," he added.

The support from officers and K9s from across Ontario was heartwarming, something Rieder said helps with the healing process. "The family within the police service and the dog community showed up from all over the province. Hamilton sent their K9 and mounted unit. The horses are also service animals, and it feels reassuring to know you have the support of all these people behind you." Both of Rieder's sons are police officers in Hamilton, Ryan being with the mounted unit who attended Tuesday's service. "It was a proud moment for me. I trained the Hamilton K9 unit for many years and now I have two boys working there."

Tuesday's service was a private affair for police, first responders, and family members. Many members of the public, along with their dogs, crowded the procession in support of Taz.

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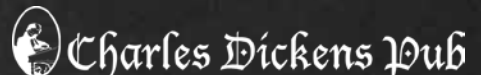
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Ingersoll teens headed to Arizona for soccer tournament

HANNAH MACLEOD

Echo Correspondent

Two Ingersoll teens, Zach Zylstra and Eli North, are headed to Arizona this fall to compete with their soccer team in the prestigious youth soccer tournament, the Arizona Desert Cup.

The Arizona Desert Cup is a prestigious youth soccer tournament held in Phoenix and Scottsdale, Arizona. Referred to as 'The Desert Super Cup', it is ranked top five event for pristine fields and quality competition in the United States of America (USA) and where the best youth teams in the USA and Canada compete. This tournament is widely recognized as one of the premier events in the industry and offers an unparalleled platform for showcasing talent.

"London Alliance FC 2008 boys' soccer team is made up of hardworking and dedicated boys from London and surrounding communities," said coach Ugo DeCandido. "We compete throughout Southwestern Ontario in the Western Region Soccer League and play in several out-of-town tournaments domestically and in the United States. In addition, the team competes in the Provincial Cup (Ontario Cup) in the under 15 age group."

The team earned entry to the 2023 Desert Super Cup by virtue of winning the 2023 Umbro Top Rated Showcase and Super Cup held in Toronto, in May of this year.

"The team was thrilled when we found out that our championship victory at the



Eli North

Umbro Showcase earned an automatic invitation to the Desert Cup," continued DeCandido. "The 2023 Desert Super Cup promises to be an unforgettable tournament, filled with high-level competition and exciting moments. We are ecstatic and look forward to attending and experiencing this vibrant American Thanksgiving weekend tournament."

Zach is a grade ten student at Ingersoll District Collegiate Institute. He has been playing soccer since he was three, and has been playing with Alliance FC since the



Zach Zylstra

club was formed in 2018. Before joining Alliance he played for the London Whitecaps. He started playing in London at eight years old.

"We work hard together as a team training two to three days a week and often playing one or two games a week the entire year," Zach went on to explain. "Soccer is an all year sport for us and if I'm not out with my team I am practicing here at home as well as running or biking."

"Being from a small town I am excited to see a bit more of the USA, as we have played in Ohio and New Jersey," he concluded. "I'm looking forward to seeing what the caliber of soccer is there and representing Ontario and Canada."

Eli is also a tenth grade student at Ingersoll District Collegiate Institute. He has been playing competitive soccer for two years, one of those playing with Alliance FC.

"I'm not going to let me being new to the game stop me from being the best I can possibly be," he said. "It felt amazing to find out that I would be competing in the Arizona Desert Cup. I feel that we are now able to show other cities that London soccer is truly something they should look out for."

Eli explains that there is a lot of training involved leading up to the tournament, especially mental and physical training.

"A lot went into being able to achieve this accomplishment such as hard work, dedication, and have heart for the game," he said. "This training helps you to know what to do on and off the pitch."

The boys are currently raising money for the trip, which will occur on the American Thanksgiving Weekend, November 24-26.

"Eli and I are hoping to be able to cover the cost of at least our plane tickets," explained Zach. "We are gone for eight days so if we happen to be able to cover some of our room fees also that would be fantastic. The Ingersoll community has been great so far in donations. We are so proud and thankful to be apart of this community."

To donate to their bottle drive, the soccer duo have two drop off locations, 41 Laurel Cres and 285 Kensington Ave, both in Ingersoll. You can also contact their parents by text to have them come out and pick up, at 519-536-5201 or 519-535-8213.

Tremblett's Independent has also agreed to let Eli and Zach hold a BBQ on September 2, where they look forward to seeing more of their supporters.

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Call the church at 519-421-4722 or visit www.huronparkchurch.org for more information.

WESTERN ONTARIO SOCCER LEAGUE
Premier Division
 (standings through August 10, 2023)

	GP	W	T	L	GF	GA	+/-	PTS
Jagiellonia	12	9	2	1	40	3	37	29
Woodstock Stallions A	11	8	2	1	40	7	33	26
London Olympians	11	6	3	2	29	14	15	21
Tillsonburg FC A	11	5	3	3	18	16	2	18
London Croatia A	9	5	2	2	28	11	17	17
Taxandria A	11	4	2	5	18	21	-3	14
GCFC Premier	12	4	2	6	14	21	-7	14
Chatham Express	12	4	0	8	14	41	-27	12
St. Thomas A	9	1	0	8	11	30	-19	3
Carib Stars	10	0	0	10	6	54	-48	0

WESTERN ONTARIO SOCCER LEAGUE

First Division

(standings through August 10, 2023)

	GP	W	T	L	GF	GA	+/-	PTS
LS Croatia A	11	9	2	0	51	11	40	29
Chatham Attack	11	7	3	1	24	9	15	24
Woodstock Stallions B	10	7	1	2	24	14	10	22
African Carib Utd.	10	5	2	3	18	9	9	17
London Scottish	11	4	1	6	17	18	-1	13
London Thunder A	10	2	0	8	13	47	-34	6
London Croatia B	10	1	2	7	12	25	-13	5
Taxandria B	11	1	1	9	11	37	-26	4

WESTERN ONTARIO SOCCER LEAGUE

Third Division

(standings through August 10, 2023)

	GP	W	T	L	GF	GA	+/-	PTS
Norfolk Athletics	11	8	3	0	46	7	39	27
Woodstock Stallions C	11	7	4	0	42	10	32	25
Ingersoll Flyers	11	7	1	3	19	12	7	22
St. Columban B	12	5	1	6	32	27	5	16
GCFC Third	10	3	3	4	22	21	1	12
LS Croatia B	10	3	2	5	21	28	-7	11
Tillsonburg FC B	10	2	2	6	12	45	-33	8
Taxandria C	11	0	0	11	3	47	-44	0

WESTERN ONTARIO SOCCER LEAGUE

Fourth Division

(standings through August 10, 2023)

	GP	W	T	L	GF	GA	+/-	PTS
Brazukas FC	9	8	0	1	32	8	24	24
PCL	8	7	0	1	38	16	22	21
Strathroy UFC B	9	4	3	2	19	17	2	15
St. Marys Juggernauts B	10	4	0	6	19	31	-12	12
London Thunder B	9	2	1	6	23	33	-10	7
Woodstock Stallions D	7	1	2	4	9	15	-6	5
AEL FC	8	0	2	6	11	31	-20	2

Ingersoll Karate demonstrating at Ingersoll's Pizzafest



(CONTRIBUTED PHOTOS)

SHOWING OFF THEIR SKILLS

Top: Mohamad holding the pad
 Middle: Ziad AIDaqaq (left) performing Seipai and Yaser AIDaqaq (right) performing Kururunfa
 Bottom: Olivia holding the black board for a police officer



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We played games at Civic Center Arena, Reeves Community Complex, and had games at Ingersoll District Memorial Centre Arena.

Our season started in late April and ended at the end of June. We play the majority of our games on Saturdays.

We sent 3 all star teams into the provincial championships in July. Our team name is the Woodstock Wolverines.

Our U14 team had some tough games. Their tournament was held in Kitchener July 7th to 9th. They lost 1-0 in the BB semi finals to the Hamilton Tigers in a hard fought



battle.

Another tournament was held in Mississauga from July 14th - 16th.

Our U10 team made it to the BB semi finals, losing a close game to the Burlington Aces 4-3.

The U8 team made it to the A final and won the Silver medal losing 6-3 to Caledon Kings.

We are looking to grow even further next year. Registration will open up in January 2024. Our season will begin mid to late April.

Adult League:

We started an adult league on Wed nights at Reeves Community Complex. This is our first season and we have 2 teams. We use a draft style system for creating the teams. It's been a great success and we plan on having this grow next year. This season started in May and will conclude shortly. The next season will begin in May 2024 with registration opening in February. For more information, visit woodstockballhockey.com

Woodstock Lakers 'making waves' with roster additions

STEWART GRANT

Echo Correspondent

It has been a busy and productive summer for Jeff Zehr and his Woodstock Lakers' crew as they gear up for the 2023-24 Western Ontario Super Hockey League (WOSHL) season.

As reported earlier within the Echo, WOSHL leading scorer Kevin Hu will be returning to the squad this year, while other early commitments were from forward Hunter Debecki, defensemen Mitch Randell (captain) and Andrew Randazzo, and goaltender Ben Edwards.

Since our last update, the team has added several players, including:

-Matt DiPaolo – this big (6'3", 235lb) 26-year-old defenceman from Brantford brings four years of Junior C experience, most recently with the Wellesley Apple Jacks

-Brody Martin – the 24-year-old Woodstock native will be returning to the Lakers; he's a gritty forward who adds sandpaper to the lineup;

-Kyle Brezinski – last season, in his 5th year of Junior C, the versatile player posted 29 points and 106 PIM in 39 games with Norwich;

-Brady Schmidt – New Hamburg forward is returning to the Lakers; two-way player put up 16 points in 23 games last season

-Karson Massey – this tall (6'5" 225lb) 23-year-old from Guelph makes the strong first pass; a solid defender bringing experience from the NO-JHL and GOJHL

-Alex Mourani – a 6'3", 192lb forward, Alex played for Team Lebanon in the Arab Cup, scoring 6 goals and 8 points in 5 games; he's been a point-per-game player with Lakers in stints over two seasons;

-Tyler Simon – a St. Thomas native, the 6'3", 195lb puck-moving defenceman is returning to the Lakers this season

-Kellen Gedies – this

26-year-old is a Thamesford native and former Tavistock Braves Jr C and St. George Ravens Jr. A player; he posted 43 points in 33 games with the Ravens in his last year of junior;

-Hunter Monkhouse – from the Kettle Point First Nation, this 21-year-old stands 6'1" tall and weighs 220 lb. For the Lucan Irish last season, he posted 30 points and 66 PIM in 38 games.

The Lakers' team has strengthened off the ice as well.

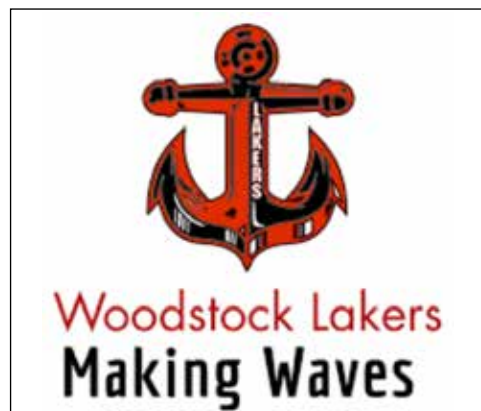
The bench staff is comprised of former

NHL draft picks Jeff Zehr and Mike Torchia along with associate coaches Rob Hutchison and Max Partlo.

The community has stepped up in a big way to support this team, with new sponsors being announced with appreciation each week on the Lakers' social media accounts. It takes so many great sponsors and volun-

teers to make an organization like this succeed, and anyone who wants to get involved is encouraged to reach out to Jeff Zehr at jefzfzehr@live.ca or at 519-301-5467.

For more information on the new Woodstock Lakers, follow the team on social media or visit the club's website at www.woodstock.woshl.com.



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MIDWESTERN ONTARIO SENIOR BASEBALL LEAGUE

(standings through August 10, 2023)

	GP	W	L	T	RF	RA	+/-	PTS
Woodstock Nationals	15	14	1	0	141	59	82	28
Mitchell Astros (JR)	16	13	3	0	176	104	72	26
Listowel Legionnaires	16	8	6	2	123	104	19	18
Kincardine Cubs	16	8	8	0	107	104	3	16
Mitchell Astros (SR)	15	6	7	2	95	128	-33	14
Lucan Irish 9	16	5	11	0	116	136	-20	10
Byron Storm	15	5	10	0	87	117	-30	10
North London JR Nationals	16	4	11	1	96	124	-28	9
Hanover Hitmen	15	4	10	1	79	144	-65	9

INGERSOLL TUESDAY NIGHT SLO-PITCH LEAGUE

(standings through August 10, 2023)

	GP	W	L	T	RF	RA	+/-	PTS
Dbacks	11	9	2	0	261	139	122	18
Athletics	11	9	2	0	259	143	116	18
Pylons	11	8	3	0	204	161	43	16
Goodfellas	11	5	5	1	195	217	-22	11
Jagerbombs	11	4	7	0	225	176	49	8
Sociables	11	4	7	0	181	227	-46	8
Contractors	11	2	8	1	117	232	-115	5
Wolves	11	2	9	0	112	259	-147	4

THAMESFORD SLO-PITCH LEAGUE

(standings through August 15, 2023)

	GP	W	L	T	RF	RA	+/-	PTS
Damaged Goods	13	12	1	0	263	121	142	24
Trash Pandas	14	12	2	0	278	125	153	24
Designated Drinkers	15	12	3	0	260	123	137	24
NADS	17	11	6	0	246	182	64	22
Outcasts	15	8	7	0	200	210	-10	16
Bulldogs	13	6	7	0	168	214	-46	12
Silver Bullets	16	6	10	0	166	254	-88	12
Scared Hitless	16	6	10	0	210	268	-58	12
Red Eyed Riders	15	4	10	1	177	14	-37	9
Dewy's Auto	14	3	11	0	142	247	-105	6
One Hitters	16	1	14	1	140	292	-152	3

Ingersoll curling club granted seed funding for 2024 Tankard

LEE GRIFFI

Local Journalism Initiative Reporter

For the second time in eight years, the Town of Ingersoll has granted seed funding to the Ingersoll Curling Club to host a major provincial curling tournament.

The 2024 Tankard will be again held in Dorchester but hosted by the Ingersoll club and town council unanimously supported the request for \$10,000. Staff received an ask in July of this year from a representative of the club asking for financial support for the upcoming 2024 Ontario Men's and Women's Curling Championships, to be held at the FlightExec Centre in Dorchester from January 21-28, 2024.

The town offered financial support for the same championship in 2015 in the amount of \$10,000 and then provided an additional \$2,000 for an event luncheon. Both amounts were funded through the Community Development Grant Program.

Town staff were all for granting the re-

quest, as was Deputy Mayor Lindsay Wilson. "I'm supportive of the request and the benefit it will provide to the town, but I do want to make sure there are efforts being made to actually bring people physically to Ingersoll. To visit the businesses and the hotels, so I guess I am just curious to staff, outside the \$10,000 sponsorship, how will we get those people to set foot in our community?"

Part of the sponsorship means the town will be able to set up a booth at the event and 18,000 to 20,000 visitors are anticipated to attend. "Obviously Dorchester doesn't have the facilities to house that many people so there will be a spillover effect. Having the tradeshow booth will give us an opportunity to exhibit and show some of the opportunities. If council is supportive of this request, then we will find ways to partner with the BIA, Chamber of Commerce, and different organizations," said Curtis Tighe, Manager of

Economic Development and Tourism. He added they could also look to partner with local businesses to highlight what type of opportunities to promote. "We will get as many people spending as many tourism dollars as we can," he added.

Councillor Kristy Van Kooten-Bossence was working in the hospitality sector the last time the tournament was held in Ingersoll. "I was working at a hotel when the Tankard came. We put together packages and had the hotel filled. The curlers participating stayed in Ingersoll and drove to Dorchester and I'm sure if we talk with the Comfort Inn and the Elmhurst Inn, hosting events there will be one way to get them back into the town, our restaurants, etc. We are not that far of a drive, and it was amazing how many spectators wanted to stay in Ingersoll and not go to London." She added it's a matter of working with the curling club along with getting local services clubs involved to grow not only the event but bring more young people into the sport.

Councillor Mike Bowman echoed support for the event and referred to the last time it was held in Dorchester. "I believed we offered some incentives for people to eat in the downtown core so we did everything we could to capture the audience that was here. I think if we approve this it will be a successful event for all."

Mayor Brian Petrie echoed the sentiments of his peers just before the vote was taken. "I am certainly in support of this event. The deputy mayor was right, and we certainly want to capitalize on it. This is an Ingersoll Curling Club event and I know it is in January so maybe Dorchester can hold the event and we can hold the party. We have the resources to contribute to that."

The motion was carried unanimously. The event will be live-streamed to over 2 million viewers and will provide the town with a series of marketing opportunities such as having the town logo displayed on the game ice.



(CONTRIBUTED PHOTO)

INGERSOLL SOCCER AWARDS

Ingersoll Soccer House League recently handed out their season end awards. The Scott Rossiter Player of the Year award was awarded to Leland Schell and Morgan Ferreira. The Alanna Tree Referee award went to Jacob Peter and Rory Spence, and Peter Thomas won Club Member of the Year. Pictured, from left, Brent Tree, Jacob Peters, Rory Spence, Leland Schell, Constable Trevor Bachelor, Morgan Ferreira, and Peter Thomas.

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(HANNAH MACLEOD PHOTO)

FISHING DERBY

Kinley and Aidan Goodyear take a break from fishing at the Cops and Kids fishing Derby in Woodstock on August 13.



(HANNAH MACLEOD PHOTO)

'COP'ING THE PERFECT CATCH

Heather Roosendaal helps sons Hendrick and Spencer get the perfect catch.

Second book release 'dream come true' for Shelby Marie Poetry

EMILY STEWART

Echo Correspondent

A Southwestern Ontario-based author and entrepreneur released her second book of poetry and plans to write many more.

Shelby Caudle, known professionally as Shelby Marie Poetry, released "To Dance in Stardust" on July 28. The writer has nearly 25,000 followers on TikTok and Instagram and is hoping to publish more books.

"Releasing my second poetry book, 'To Dance in Stardust' feels like a dream come true. It's been a few years since I released my first poetry book, 'To Walk on Moonbeams' and I am endlessly grateful to have received an outpouring of love and support for both of my books."

"To Dance in Stardust" also features original illustrations digitally drawn by the poet.

"This book of poems is so much more than meets the eye," she said. "It is born of years of hard work behind the scenes and a breathtaking amount of faith that I would overcome every hurdle along the way to seeing this dream realized."

The book explores what it is like falling for the right person at the wrong time.

"I have this belief that there is someone meant for everyone, but that it is not the job of our soulmate to save us - we are responsible for healing ourselves," Caudle explained. "I wanted to explore the idea of healing and learning to celebrate self-love before making our way back to the things and the people that are truly meant for us."

She began writing in a journal to manage stress and anxiety. She loved writing short stories and especially creating a resonating ending.

"I fell in love with the way a short piece of writing could make you feel like you

were flying and seize your soul all at the same time."

Caudle began sharing her writing online and discovered how much her writing impacted other people.

"I found that others were also struggling with their mental health, going through a tough time in a relationship, or looking for sparks of magic in their ordinary every day," she said. "My books have helped others to feel less alone in their own struggles and I'm glad that I was brave enough to publish them."

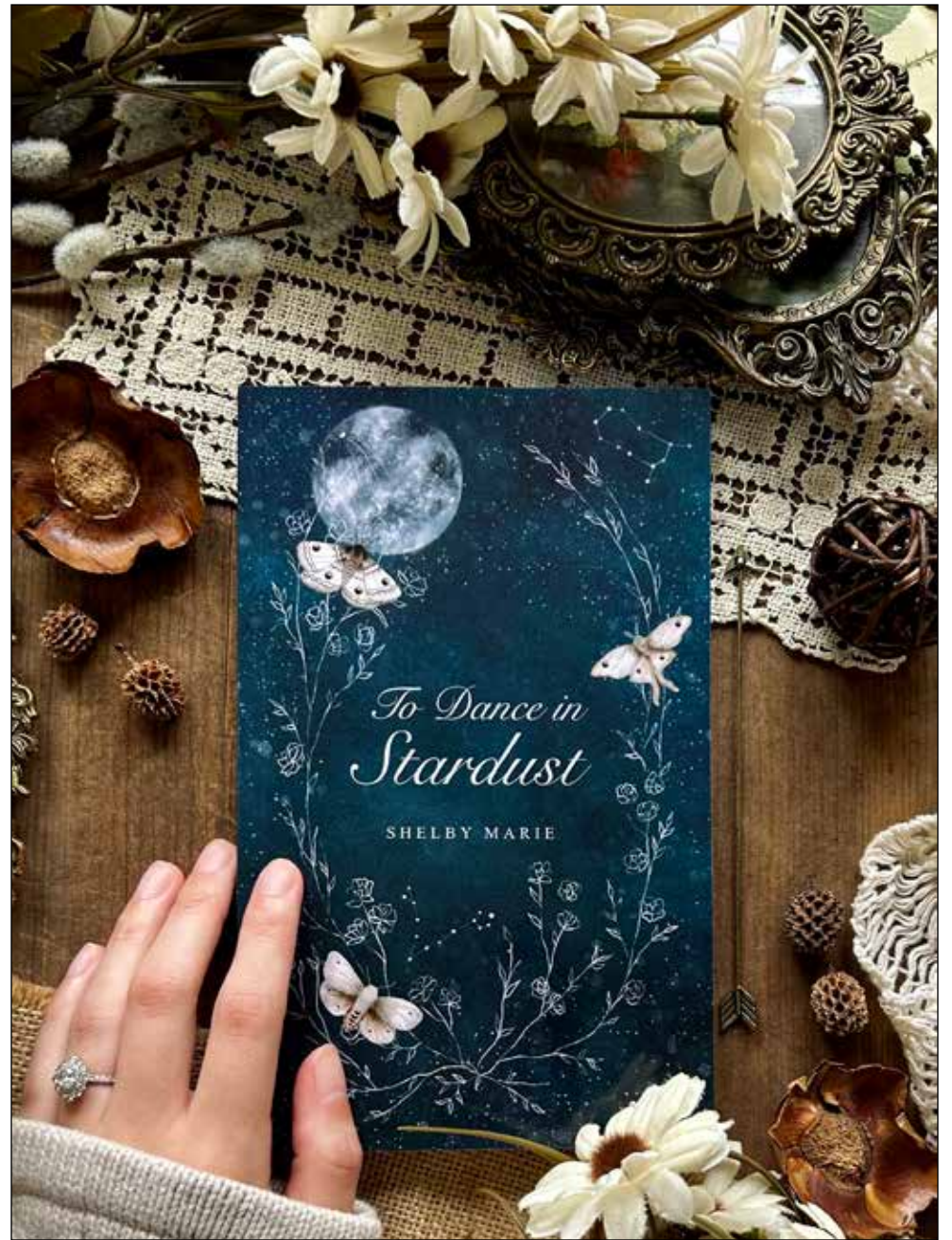
Along with the two poetry books, Shelby Marie Poetry also has a store featuring items such as bath bombs, candles, jewelry, home décor, and framed poetry. She channels her creativity through different avenues to avoid burnout. The framed poetry is a combination of writing typed on an Underwood typewriter from 1911 and antique frames found when shopping.

"I pour a whole lot of love into something that could never be fully replicated, not even by me. I think there's something especially creative and magical in that," Caudle said.

For anyone considering publishing their writing, Caudle encourages them to take the leap.

"Someone is feeling exactly as you are now, struggling with their pain or exultant in their joy," she said. "They need someone to remind them they're not alone in how they're feeling - take the leap and be brave enough to publish your words. You are needed and necessary."

"To Dance in Stardust" can be purchased via Amazon and Barnes and Noble. Signed copies of the book can be bought via shelbymariepoetry.ca. A pickup option in Caudle's home in Ingersoll is available when ordering the book through her website to avoid shipping costs.



(SHELBY CAUDLE PHOTO)

'Hungry to get back together and have some fun' - Taste of Art returns

EMILY STEWART

Echo Correspondent

After a four-year hiatus, Taste of Art will be coming back to the Woodstock Art Gallery.

A press release from the City of Woodstock announced the fundraiser featuring tastings from local restaurants and breweries will return the evening of September 23. The event also features live music and art activities.

"We're just all so hungry to get back together and have some fun, so it feels really, really great," Mary Reid, director/curator of the Woodstock Art Gallery, said.

The event began in 2015 to raise money for the Woodstock Art Gallery's programming and was last held in 2019. Taste of Art took a break following the COVID 19-Pandemic declared March 2020.

In light of health and safety protocols,

the Woodstock Art Galley ran alternative programming. Taste of Art in a Box featured samples from recurring vendors in a snack box ordered online for curbside pickup. The snack box ran in conjunction with the online Visual Elements exhibition. The gallery also ran Taste of Art Selects, which included a \$50 voucher to be used at participating local restaurants.

"We're super appreciative of that, but at the same time there's nothing better than to see a room full of people in the gallery, enjoying themselves, laughing, having fun, and really partaking in what the gallery has to offer," Reid said.

Featuring mixology demonstrations from London, Ont.'s the Travelling Tapster and scotch tasting, Taste of Art will give residents a preview of Woodstock's nightlife.

"If you're wondering about different restaurants in town or different food vendors, you can certainly taste all of the



things we have to offer," Reid said. "I'm hoping it provides you with a different experience - a different opportunity to consider the gallery and consider how art can break down barriers and everybody can come together and have lots of fun."

The event is sponsored by 104.7 Heart-FM and The Investment Planning Coun-

sel. Taste of Art will run from 7 to 10 p.m. at the Woodstock Art Gallery on Sept. 23. Early bird tickets are selling for \$55 until August 30. Tickets from August 31 on will be \$60. More information and updates on Taste of Art programming can be found via cityofwoodstock.ca/en/live-and-play/wag.

Lions Daze in Hickson - another successful weekend of activities



(GARY WEST PHOTO)

Sue Butt was one of over 300 who enjoyed the fish fry during the Lions Daze weekend recently in the Lions Park in Hickson.

GARY WEST

Echo Correspondent

It was the middle of July, and many activities were happening in the village of Hickson. The Hickson Lions Club, who put on their "Lion's Daze" fundraiser every year, were more than pleased with the community, whose support was greatly appreciated again this year.

Lions club member Colleen Shrigley said the weekend got off to a busy start Friday night, with the co-ed three-pitch tournament that ran into Saturday night, and eight teams participating. The Hickson Firefighters were the eventual winners.

There was also a live and silent auction on Friday night with items donated by community members and businesses from Tavistock, Hickson, Woodstock, Embro, and the surrounding areas.

Everything from baked goods, gift certificates, gift baskets, Toronto Bluejay tickets, and more, and the top selling item was a generator that brought \$800 at the live auction. There were 120 area supporters in attendance with 49 registered bidders, with total funds raised at \$4,900.

The John Tipping humanitarian award was presented at the end of the auction. John was the first president and founding member of the Hickson Lions Club in 1974. The award went posthumously to Sherman Kropf in recognition of his dedicated community service.

Sherman was a fireman and fire chief

in Hickson, and later deputy chief of the township of East Zorra-Tavistock. He also sat on the Tavistock Arena fundraising committee and was a coach of both minor ball and minor hockey.

The award was received by his family, and the Hickson firefighters were there in full uniform in recognition as well.

Saturday morning began with an Egg on a bun breakfast, sponsored by local egg farmers in the area.

There were children's activities throughout the day run by a community volunteer group that included Candace Smith, Brian Kennedy and Nicole Olivieri. There were also bouncy castles, a batting machine and a radar gun, face painting, crafts and a scavenger hunt with many local youth getting involved.

The sold out fish fry included over 300 enjoying the Lions Club hospitality in the Park's Pavillion before the thunderstorm and a deluge of rain arrived.

Past President Jim Butt and members of the Hickson Lions Club are very proud of the fact that they will be celebrating 50 years as a charter club next year in 2024.

They are an active service club that sponsors many ongoing activities in the community and they are always looking for new members to continue the good work they do in the Hickson and surrounding areas, including Tavistock and Embro.

For more info about the club, call President Brad Smith at 519-462-2786.

Full arena for Ingersoll Firefighters' fish fry



Brody, Josh and Lisa Robles sit down for their fish dinner at the Ingersoll Arena on Thursday, August 10, during the fry up hosted by by Kiwanis and the Ingersoll Firefighters.



All hands on deck! Local firefighters were hard at work feeding the masses.



Mitch, Samuel, Penny and Lauren Crowder finish dressing up their dinners and search for a place to sit.



(HANNAH MACLEOD PHOTOS)

Kiwanis volunteers were busy behind the bar. Pictured, from left, were Randy Rosiak, Kristy VanKooten, Jane Cole, Paul Henderson and Bill Mott.

Gino's Pizza takes the win at second annual Pizzafest



PIZZAFEST JUDGES

from left; Heart FM staff Marcie Culbert, Ingersoll Deputy Mayor Lindsay Wilson, Mayor of Ingersoll Brian Petrie, Town of Ingersoll Staff Phil Atkinson, Oxford County Paramedics Justin Dixon, ITOPA representative Jim Konopetski.

(CONTRIBUTED PHOTOS)

HANNAH MACLEOD

Echo Correspondent

Pizzafest returned to downtown Ingersoll for the second year in a row, on Thursday, July 27. The event is hosted by the Ingersoll BIA and is a huge hit.

"There was a noticeable increase in turnout from last year," said Virginia Armstrong, BIA representative.

There was no shortage of entertainment, with The Ingersoll Pipe Band and Rob Cromwell providing live music, and The Amazing Pizza Chef Stilt Walker and The Fire Guy impressing the masses. The Ingersoll Karate Club provided demonstrations, and plenty of local service clubs, as well as the Oxford County Library, provided childrens activities. Local pizzerias mascots were happy to pose for pictures, and local downtown vendors provided shopping and outdoor displays.

"[The event] generates pedestrian traffic to the Downtown Core, sidewalk sales take place, people visit our local restaurants and view window displays for future shopping, which benefits local businesses," said Armstrong.

This year saw more pizza restaurants participating, with a total of eight competing for the winning title; Tito's, Domino's, Pizza Hut, Little Caesars, Gino's, Ingersoll Lanes Miss Ingersoll and The Olde Bakery Cafe. Gino's Pizza took home award for both best pepperoni pizza and most creative pizza.

This was Gino's Pizza's first year participating in the event, and they were surprised but happy to bring home both prizes.

"We are very happy and proud of ourselves," said Asha, of Woodstock, who has owned Gino's Pizza for a year, since the business first opened in June of 2022. "We would not have done it without the help of our dedicated staff. We'd like to thank them as well as everyone who participated."

"Also, we'd like to take the opportunity to thank Downtown BIA Ingersoll for organizing this event, all the judges and all the other pizza brands for participating for this event," added Asha. "We are also thankful to the community of Ingersoll and surrounding areas. You all are very amazing and great. We are very happy be around such an amazing community."

A percentage of ticket sales for pizza are donated to the following not for profits who also volunteered at the event; Ingersoll Creative Arts Centre, Ingersoll Salvation Army Food Bank, Ingersoll Pipe Band.



A FAMILY AFFAIR

Winning restaurant Gino's Pizza is a family business. With their awards are Asha and Don Wasantha and their son Tishen.



WINNING PIZZERIA

Gino's Pizza staff are proud to hold bragging rights after taking home both awards at pizza fest; Jashanjeet Kaur, Navneet Kaur, Asha Wasantha, Don Wasantha and Paras Arora.

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Janet Lebold

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Woodstock teen travelling to Scotland to compete at the Cowal Highland Games

HANNAH MACLEOD

Echo Correspondent

Kate Carnegie, a grade 11 student at Woodstock Collegiate Institute, has been dancing since she was three years old, and all of her work is beginning to pay off as she travels to the Cowal Highland Games in Scotland on August 24.

Carnegie dances in Milton at the Jacqueline Smith School of Dance, under Jacqueline Smith.

"My favourite part of highland dancing is the travelling I get to do," said Carnegie. "I get to go to so many interesting places and have incredible experiences. The friends I meet at these places are also my favourite part. I have friends from all over the world, especially in the U.S., and Scotland."

"I have been dancing for as long as I can remember," she continued. "My mom put me in the sport because she used to do it when she was little. Motivation is a little difficult to maintain when you are constantly doing an activity, but what helps me are my goals. I set goals for myself, and after each one is completed, it motivates me to keep going. Winning is also a great motivator for me. I am in this sport because I enjoy winning and competing, so when I win it motivates me a little more."

"Highland dancing is a sport in our house," her mother, Sandra, added. "Her stepdad and I are in awe of Kate's dedication, drive, and determination to constantly improve in her sport. She is a beautiful dancer."

Carnegie encourages anyone considering highland dancing to go for it.



"It is very fun," she said. "It is very time-consuming and hard physically, but the friends you make and the experiences you share are incredible. Highland dancing gives you incredible strength and the Highland Dance community is very welcoming."

In 2022, Carnegie tied for the most Championship wins out of any Ontario dancer in her age group. In July of this year, she represented Ontario at the Canadian Championships and placed top 10 in the country.

Carnegie says that during important competition times, extra training is essential.

"Personally, I train up to six hours a week with my teacher, plus I do my own strength-building, practicing, and mental training on my own time," she explained. "If you want to be one of the best in Highland Dancing it takes a lot of extra hours and work."

Carnegie is competing on the 24th in hopes of qualifying for the World Junior Finals. She is also competing at the Braemar Gathering, where the Royal Family will be in attendance.

"I am most excited to be back in Scotland and to compete with (and against) my international friends," she concluded.

(CONTRIBUTED PHOTOS)

TROPHY WINNER

Left, Carnegie holds the trophy she was awarded for being the shared winner of the Oscar for the most championship wins of any Ontario dancer in her age group last year.

Below, This past weekend Carnegie won the age 16/17 championship at the Glengarry Highland dance competition.

COMING SOON


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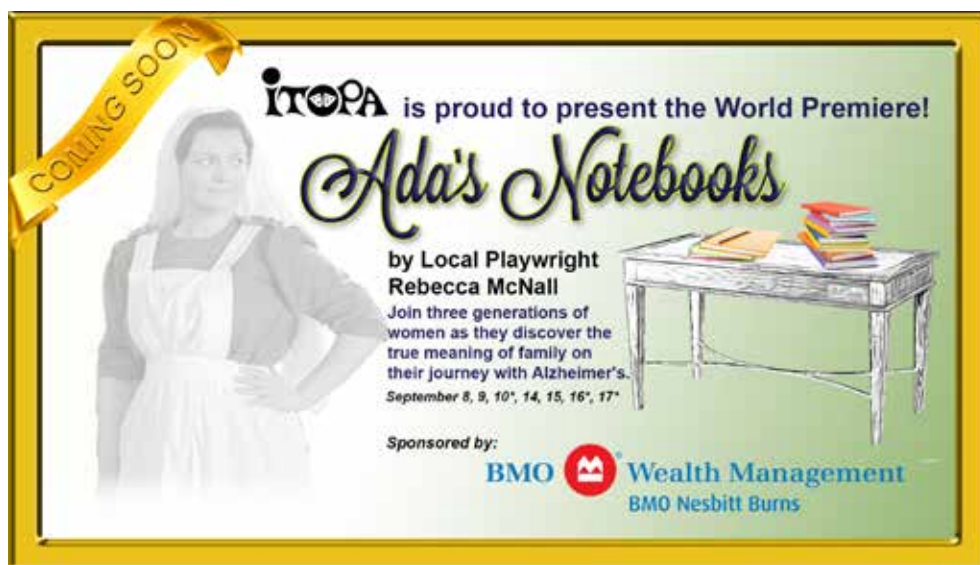
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Caring Hearts Support Network offers much needed support through grief

In August of 2021, Nicole's husband Brad died of liver failure due to complications from cancer. Although educated in the fields of death, dying, grief and bereavement, and having received her certificate in Grief and Bereavement from Kings College, she soon realized it is totally different when it happens to you!

Despite the challenges of the pandemic, she was able to access an online grief support group that helped her process her grief and begin to heal. Nicole recognized that part of the healing would entail getting back to a passion she had discovered many years ago. Both Nicole and Brad volunteered for many years at the local hospice. Founding the Caring Hearts Support Network was a natural next step. It was full circle, from supporter to seeking support, and back to offering support.

Nicole approached Joanne, her long-time friend and fellow grief supporter to join this passion project.

Through a grant program with the United Church of Canada, they received the "Embracing the Spirit" grant which allowed them to advertise and roll out their programming in January.

All their services are free to the community. Nicole offers end of life support to families and patients who are living with a life limiting illness/terminal illness. She can gently, compassionately walk beside anyone as they navigate the health system, facilitate conversations with loved ones and simply listen. Respite care, legacy work, emotional support are just a few examples of the support that Nicole offers.

Joanne as a certified Grief Recovery Method Specialist and Gentle Trauma



(CONTRIBUTED PHOTO)

Nicole Bruder and Joanne Stienstra - Partners in the "Caring Hearts Support Network".

Release Practitioner (IT) is available for one-on-one support. She too, has suffered loss and grief, and brings an array of gentle guidance to all who meet her.

Together they facilitate a grief support group "Living with Loss". It is a 6-week program that runs several times a year. Although grief is a very personal experience Nicole and Joanne can tailor the program to meet the needs of those attending. Group participants and individual clients can access ongoing support the first Tuesday of each month for "Heart to Heart Tuesdays", where the

facilitators make themselves available to anyone needing extra support.

From January to June and September to December, they offer to everyone in the community a "Food for Grieving Hearts" event on the third Wednesday of the month. There is the opportunity to assist in the meal preparation if desired, or simply come and enjoy the meal with others who are grieving. This is a very popular monthly event. \$10 is collected to help offset the cost of the meal.

Part of the Caring Hearts Support Network mandate is to educate the com-

munity. From September to May they host a "Death and Donuts" event where like-minded people come together and discuss death, dying and all things related. This is not a support group, but it is a safe place to have interesting, thought-provoking conversations. There is also much laughter at these events. The next one is scheduled for September 30 and will be hosted by Beantown Coffee in Woodstock from 10 am to 12 noon.

They also host different educational events throughout the year. For up-to-date listings, these events can be found on their website.

They have developed a workshop "Debrief your Grief" specifically to help Health Care Workers. It was clear that health care workers working during the pandemic had grief associated with the many losses they witnessed during this time. Although, the workshop was developed to address the unique experience during COVID, this is appropriate at any time, as death is always present in health care environments. The workshop can be presented as a one-day workshop, or as an on-site to any workplace that might be interested in offering it to their employees. Workshops, seminars, presentations can be tailored to your specific needs.

As lifelong learners, Nicole and Joanne continue to educate themselves in many areas that relate to the work they do.

The Caring Hearts Support Network invite anyone who may want more information to contact them either through their website (www.caringheartssupportnetwork.com), email info@caringheartssupportnetwork.com or call/text 519-536-3370.

Ingersoll Music Academy joins the downtown hub

HANNAH MACLEOD

Echo Correspondent

The Ingersoll Music Academy is debuting their new, larger, downtown location, in Ingersoll, on Saturday, August 19.

The drop-in celebration of the new space will include a ribbon-cutting ceremony, as well as exciting giveaways and will offer both current and prospective students a chance to meet the instructors and get hands-on experience with instruments such as drums, piano, ukulele, guitar and violin.

George McMaster and Karen Quaegebeur have owned the business since 2019, and lived and worked in Ingersoll since 2010. McMaster grew up in Thamesford and Quaegebeur in Tillsonburg, and they both attended Ingersoll District Collegiate Institute (IDCI).

The Ingersoll Music Academy sells instruments and music gear from leading brands in the industry, and offer instrument repairs and lessons for guitar, bass guitar, drums, piano, ukulele, violin and vocals.



George McMaster and Karen Quaegebeur, co-owners of the Ingersoll Music Academy have officially moved to downtown Ingersoll. They are excited to get back to doing what they love in a fresh space.

"We have always had a passion for music," said McMaster. "I have always been a musician entrepreneur - teaching music lessons out of my home since I was a teen,

playing in bands and facilitating music activities within the community."

McMaster also worked for the previous owner of the Ingersoll Music Academy.

"In July 2023 we opened our new, larger downtown location and are over the moon excited to be part of the downtown core offering music lessons, instrument sales & repairs," said Quaegebeur.

They now have a large retail display area offering leading brands in the industry and four lesson rooms.

"We are grateful that the community has been very supportive, encouraging and reciprocating our excitement," she continued. "We appreciate the warm welcome from other downtown businesses, too. We certainly see that there is a big arts community in the area...lots of music enthusiasts! We expect we will continue to grow and evolve in really exciting directions."

To register for lessons or learn more, you can call the store at 519-485-1213 or by email at ingersollmusicacademy@gmail.com or drop by the store. They are open Tuesday - Friday, 1 to 7 p.m., and Saturday 10 a.m to 3 p.m.

Ingersoll Pipe Band Sets Its Sights in 2024 for Arizona

VERONICA JACKSON

Contributor

The Ingersoll Pipe Band has set its sights on a goal for next March 2024. Several of our members will be heading to Phoenix Arizona to represent not only Ingersoll and Oxford County but Canada as well and take part in the 59th annual Phoenix Scottish Games and Tattoo. We would be the first Canadian band to represent our country and community at these highland games. The Highland Games and Tattoo in Phoenix begin on March 1st and extend until March 3rd. As well as performing at the games for three days, we would be playing at other events in the Phoenix / Mesa / Gilbert Arizona area. We would be the featured international band.

Well-known and respected, the Ingersoll Pipe Band is Canada's oldest, non-military, independent pipe band. Beginning in 1910 with two brothers, Jack and James Little, their cousin William Collins, and Pipe Major Tom Johnston the band was formed. For over 113 years the band has attracted many talented players, competed and travelled world-wide making great memories, friends and sharing music.

We are a teaching band and all our lessons are given for free. There are no annual fees for members or learners. Our goal is to have our players of various ages experience the participation and competition at an internationally long-established highland games and tattoo. Representing our communities abroad is a distinct privilege and we have put Phoenix as our next destination.

With so many pipe bands in both large and small cities and towns closing owing to the lack of leadership, teachers, and declining memberships due to age, our goal is to continue to promote the inclusive nature of pipe bands and share Scottish Canadian music locally and farther afield.

The band has a history of performing locally in Southern Ontario and in the United States in Michigan, Indiana, North Carolina and Illinois. We regularly perform as individuals, mini bands and a full band for parades, ceremonies, weddings, funerals, graduations, public and private celebrations and gatherings, and at long term care and retirement centres. Many of our performances are free or by donation. During the Covid pandemic years, we entertained outdoors at nursing homes and retirement



Ingersoll Pipe Band 2023

residences all over Oxford County and in Brant County. Our members voluntarily paid for all their transportation.

We are also proponents of supporting all the local branches of the Royal Canadian Legion by donating our services for Remembrance Day Ceremonies; Battle of Britain recognition events; and New Year's Levees.

Maintaining a pipe band requires many uniforms, and instruments/equipment; as well as the general expenses of keeping the band running. It takes considerable financial resources for all pipe bands to keep the bands operating with minimal barriers to participation.

Most of the uniform components - the kilt, sporran, belt, vest, hat badge, flashes, jacket, tie are supplied by the Ingersoll Pipe Band. Many of our uniforms are more than 30 years old so various components are always in need of replacement.

Some of the introduction/training instruments, as well as the drums and covers for bag pipes are provided by IPB. A new drum head for a bass drum will cost over \$1000 and new tenor drums are need-

ed and they are about \$500 each.

The expenses for the uniforms, and instruments are continuous. In order to keep items replaced, we engage in many fundraising activities throughout the year, including a yearly Robbie Burns Dinner in January, and participation in parades beginning in May and extending through to community Santa Claus parades in December.

At this time, we are planning a celidih (a social event at which there is Scottish folk music and singing, traditional dancing, piping and drumming) at our band hall in Ingersoll for October 21st. Tickets will soon go on sale for this special fundraiser. Watch our Facebook Page for details.

We are also available for hire at family, community and corporate events. Our Pipe Major Doug Collins would be only too happy to return your call or email and address any requests you might make. You may only need a solo piper or drummer, or a mini band, or even better a full band.

We are also looking for sponsors both private and public; individuals and corporations or service groups. One of our

organizing team members for the Phoenix Trip would be more than happy to explore this with you.

No sponsorship amount is too small for us to consider! We would be privileged to let our community and the broader community in Phoenix know about your support for the Ingersoll Pipe Band.

If you are interested contact the Ingersoll Pipe Band through our Facebook (Messenger) page, or, fill out the contact form on our IPB web site (<https://ingersollpipeband.com/>) or, call or text 519-535-4467.

If you want to come out and see us perform here are some of the places where we will be performing late August and into the fall -

Kincardine - Gathering of the Bands - August 26th; Port Rowan - Bayfest - Sept. 3rd; Delhi - Harvest Fest - Sept. 9th; Ingersoll - Battle of Britain Ceremony - Sept. 17th; Simcoe - Warrior's Day Event - Oct. 7th

Thank you in advance to everyone for their support and enthusiasm in assisting us to reach Phoenix in 2024!



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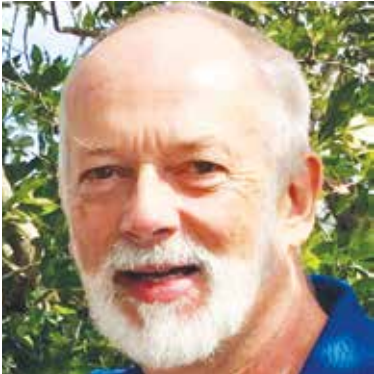


Remember when **Facebook** bought a case of Girl Guide cookies to support your daughter?



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

OH, THE PLACES WE'LL GO: Kermit the king of Key Lime Pie



PAUL KNOWLES

Echo Contributor

Some people think he's a statue. Others, that he is a cartoon character brought to life. Me? I think he's a genius. And a terrific chef.

I'm talking about Kermit Carpenter, owner and founder of Kermit's Key West Key Lime Pie Shoppe.

If you have been to Key West, odds are good that you've seen Kermit, decked out in what he calls Key Lime yellow, posing with a pie in front of his main Key Lime Pie shop. I got the chance to photograph him, and then spend some quality time with Kermit, in the crowded office next door to his shop and restaurant.

And he gave me the recipe for success in the Key Lime Pie business.

Actually, he gave me two recipes – one, the story of how he became the leading figure in the Key Lime Pie world; the second, the actual recipe for his pie. Because it isn't a secret – it's right on any bottle of Kermit's Key Lime juice you might wish to purchase.

But that doesn't mean his pies aren't special. They are. In fact, when the bicentennial of the Florida Keys was celebrated last month, the centerpiece was a 4-meter in diameter Key Lime pie created by Kermit and a col-



(PAUL KNOWLES PHOTO)

A bit of heaven for dessert lovers, near Key West's Historic Seaport.

league.

He says that the open secret is, "My juice is double strength... it adds a little firmness to the pie."

Kermit came to Key West 31 years ago, after living in West Virginia and then in Maryland. Why? One word – "cold." His grandmother lived in the Keys, and visits to her inspired Kermit to move as far south as you can in the United States. They also inspired something that would establish his career for the next decades – "My grandmother taught me how to make Key Lime pie," he told me.

He found an available location in Key West, at the corner of Greene and Elizabeth, and opened a store. To which nobody came. The first months were a challenge.

But then two things changed. First, Key West built the boardwalk that is now crowded with

visitors and locals, strolling along the waterfront, visiting the shops and restaurants. And second, Kermit threatened a trolley driver.

Well, that's sort of true. Kermit had decided to be his own trademark, so he had taken to standing in front of his store, decked out in his colourful chef's costume, pie in hand.

The tourist trolleys and Conch Train routes run right past his shop, but the drivers were always pointing out the music studio then owned by Jimmy Buffett, on the other side of the street. Passengers were always looking the other way! Until one day, when Kermit caught the eye of a trolley driver, and pretended to throw his Key Lime pie at the chap.

The driver loved it, and directed his passengers' attention to the crazy pie-throwing chef. It caught on with other drivers, and

Kermit's marketing problem was solved.

To this day, you can usually spot Kermit in front of the store. "In season, I try to get out there," he says. "It's fun."

But he also has a big business to run. There are now two Kermit Key Lime Pie Shoppes in Key West, the second on iconic Duval Street. And Kermit ships thousands of Key Lime pies throughout the US, from a 30,000 square foot warehouse farther north located elsewhere in Florida. He has a total staff of 35.

And the guy will turn 80 years of age in October. So I asked about his succession plan. He gave me a quizzical look – there is no succession plan, because there is no plan for Kermit to stop working!

Besides, in addition to making a living for himself and his staff,

Kermit makes a huge difference in his community. He donates to dozens, perhaps hundreds, of charities.

When Kermit came to Key West and started making his pies from his grandmother's recipe, there was only one other Key Lime pie business in the city. Today, every restaurant worth its salt has Key Lime pie on the menu – including a breakfast joint called Blue Heaven, where you can top off an excellent breakfast with a unique slice of their pie.

Does the competition bother Kermit? He laughs. "Try 'em all," he says. "It makes a fun thing to do."

Kermit gives this suggestion with the confidence that, when all is ordered and eaten, folks will return to Kermit's shop – including celebrities who drop by from time to time. He laughs that country-rock star Zac Brown ordered a blueberry Key Lime pie – and "he ate the whole thing."

I didn't eat a whole pie – but I scarfed down a nice slice of Kermit's original Key Lime pie – yum! – and then shared a slice of Coconut Key Lime pie with Kermit – also yum!. Kermit admits that he eats at least a few bites of his pie "almost every day."

He claims that he is trying to adjust his working schedule a bit, to allow him to travel farther afield than the sidewalk in front of his shop. But it's hard to believe he'll ever leave for very long, because, as Kermit told me, "It's fun. It's been fun from day one."

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.



(PAUL KNOWLES PHOTO)

Kermit, the king of Key Lime Pies.



(PAUL KNOWLES PHOTO)

Blue Heaven, which serves Key Lime pie for breakfast.

Riddles

Which way did the outlaw go when he stole the computer?

He went data way

Why wasn't the outlaw allowed to be buried in the town cemetery?

He wasn't dead

What kind of horse eats and drinks with its tail?

They all do. They do not take their tails off to eat or drink

Where do race cars go swimming?

In a car pool

What kind of egg travels to unknown places?

An eggs-plorer

Why can't you play basketball with pigs?

Because they hog the ball

Backward I am heavy, but forward I am not. What am I?

The word "not"

What can be swallowed, but can also swallow you?

Water

Sudoku

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

Solutions on page 29

Pets of the Month



HANK

Hank is an eleven year old Beagle Walker owned by Hannah, of Ingersoll. He loves meeting kids and eating ice cream, going for long walks or truck rides, and visiting the pond and trailer.



MISS LOLA

Lola is a 3-year-old West Highland Terrier who loves belly rubs, car rides, and visiting grandma. Her favourite food is cheese! Lola is owned by Stephanie Jones.

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

Word Search

BLUE JAYS ROSTER

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

- GAUSMAN
- BASSITT
- JANSEN
- CHAPMAN
- GUERRERO JR
- MERRIFIELD
- KIERMAIER
- SPRINGER
- VARSHO
- BELT
- SCHNEIDER
- ESPINAL
- BIGGIO
- SWANSON
- ROMANO
- BICHETTE

Happy 90th Birthday
Donna Chalkley
Cheers to 90 Years

Please join us to honour Donna at an Open House to celebrate her 90th Birthday on Sunday, September 10, 2023 • 1 - 4 p.m. at Sweaburg United Church 474425 Dodge Line, Sweaburg
Best wishes only please. Your presence is present enough.

SUDOKU

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

For adolescents aged 12 – 18 years looking for fun and challenges, consider joining 109 (Ingersoll) Royal Canadian Army Cadet Corps.

This youth based organization provides outdoor training opportunities such as hiking, map & compass, camping, marksmanship and team building activities. Cadets leading cadets is a major part of the program, so developing citizenship and leadership skills are stressed.

Uniforms are provided at no cost as are most activities. This unit parades at Ingersoll District Collegiate Institute from 7 – 9 pm on Wednesdays, September to June.


For more info on the program see <https://www.canada.ca/en/department-national-defence/services/cadets-junior-canadian-rangers/cadets/what-we-do/army.html>.

For unit recruiting info please call 226-377-1556.



QUIZ ANSWERS

1) CO2	Britannic
2) Peru	7) Michelangelo
3) 1914-1918	8) Christian Bale
4) The Owl	9) A diamond
5) Margaret Thatcher	10) Volcanos
6) The Olympic and the	



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COMING EVENTS Email to inquire info@theecho.ca

<p>Kiwanis Ingersoll Harvest Market Saturday, August 26; 9 a.m. - 4 p.m. Ingersoll Cheese & Agricultural Museum A day filled with fun, family activities. No entry fee.</p> <p>Alpaca Farm Days September 16 & 17; 12 p.m. - 4 p.m. 335358 -- 33rd Line, R.R. 4, Embro Alpacas love to be in pictures! Relax and enjoy their calming pace of life. Activities: meet an alpaca, scavenger hunt, face painting, fun activities, information about alpacas and their soft, warm fibre. Fee: Donation to Big Brothers Big Sisters in lieu of admission charge. This is an outdoor event, rain or shine.</p> <p>Kiwanis Ingersoll Harvest Market Saturday, August 26; 9 a.m. - 4 p.m. Ingersoll Cheese & Agricultural Museum. A day filled with fun, family activities. No entry fee.</p> <p>Cowapoloza Friday, August 18 and Saturday August 19; Southside Park in Woodstock. Free</p>	<p>live music with headliners Sam Roberts Band.</p> <p>Outdoor Farm Show Monday, September 12 - Wednesday, September 14 Over 100 acres of farm exhibits and demonstrations</p> <p>Kids drop-in art day Tuesday, August 22; 11a.m.-3p.m. Ingersoll Creative Arts Centre Free western themed art activities</p> <p>Woodstock Fair Thursday, August 24-Sunday, August 27 at Woodstock Fairgrounds. A weekend full of free family fun. Stock tractor pull and demolition derby \$5 entry.</p> <p>Doors open Saturday, September 23; 10a.m.-4p.m. Explore Woodstock's unique heritage and cultural sites.</p> <p>Taste of Art Saturday, September 23; 7-10p.m.</p> <p>Woodstock Art Gallery 19+ evening of artful experiences, bodacious beverages and local cuisine.</p>	<p>Embro Fall Fair Saturday, September 16-Sunday, September 17 Parade, car show, kids activities and more fall fun</p> <p>Fashion show Wednesday, September 13; doors at 6:15, show at 7p.m.</p> <p>Carnegie Hall Cash bar, door prizes and a raffle draw, show featuring local clothing stores</p>
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Woodstock Ingersoll Echo

<p>THAMESFORD Circle K Thamesford Variety JC Graphics Tim Hortons</p> <p>EMBRO Embro Food Market Kintore Coffee Co. Highland Restaurant Embro Hub - Fuel & Coffee</p> <p>WOODSTOCK Tim Hortons Tim Hortons Sobeys Subway Woodstock Ford Sales Woodstock Toyota</p>	<p>Gord Anderson Automotive Anderson KIA Woodstock Nissan Woodstock Home Bldg Centre Zehrs Woodstock Civic Centre Arena Woodstock Ag Society 7-Eleven Jesse's Breakfast Coffee Culture Rosso Barber-o Shop Shoppers Drug Mart City of Woodstock Beantown Coffee Dino's Dining Lounge Union Burger Royal Canadian Legion Woodstock YMCA Food Basics</p>	<p>Goodwill Community Store Tim Hortons Quesada Burritos McDonald's Restaurant Woodstock Hyundai Honda Woodstock Dubois Mazda Woodstock Jeep Peavey Mart Haight's Garden Centre Tim Hortons Early Bird Coffee WalMart McDonald's Restaurant Canadian Tire Service Dept Scott's No Frills Holiday Inn Express Days Inn by Wyndham Tim Hortons</p>
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Pick Up Locations

<p>Quality Hotel & Suites Best Western Plus Pharmasave Woodstock General Hospital Lobby, Woodstock General Hospital Reeves Community Complex South Gate Centre Daisy Mart</p> <p>BEACHVILLE Beachville Museum</p>	<p>INGERSOLL Riverside Minimarket Canadian Tire Ingersoll Karate Tim Hortons Cooperators McFarland Rowlands Foodland Miss Ingersoll The Olde Bakery Café Kraft Korner Hometown Style Ingersoll Public Library Town of Ingersoll Ingersoll 50+ Centre Tremblett's Independent Grocer Tim Hortons Home Building Centre</p>
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The Kiln Room bringing a new art medium to downtown Woodstock



Holly Jo



Jennifer Dawes

HANNAH MACLEOD

Echo Correspondent

The Woodstock-Ingersoll Echo, Hannah MacLeod, would like to apologize for a communication error which led to only half of The Kiln Room's ownership being represented in our original story.

Jennifer Dawes of Ingersoll and Holly Jo, originally from Toronto, and living in Woodstock, are finally witnessing the result of years of dreaming in their first joint business, The Kiln Room, which is located on Light St., in Woodstock.

The Kiln Room officially opened on June 5. The duo sell their handmade ceramic

wares in their boutique, but also offer the unique experience of ceramic workshops for new and not-so-new skill-levels. They currently offer six week programs, and hope to provide one day workshops in the near future. They also plan on offering rental space in their kiln for experienced ceramists who don't have access to a kiln to fire their works.

Dawes (she/her), is an Ingersoll born Ceramic artist with a BFA from the Nova Scotia College of Art and Design in Ceramics with a minor in art history. Since then, she completed a year long residency at Medalta and a seven-month residency at Banff Centre for the Arts and Creativity. Dawes has worked as the ceramic studio technician for

several studios including NSCAD University, Banff Centre for Arts and Creativity and the Ingersoll Creative Arts Centre.

Dawes work comes from a profound passion for pop culture and nerd references. She works with wheel-thrown porcelain vessels which have a rich tradition of storytelling. Utilizing an array of mark-making techniques such as sgraffito, under-glazing, glazing and luster to create surface depth and complexity. Dawes uses the historical facet of decorated vessels to contextualize them within her own spectrum of identity.

"I believe that there is a huge necessity for an expanding art scene in the City of Woodstock," she said. "The people of Woodstock

and surrounding areas have been extremely excited to have an artistic space to create and explore the wonderful world of clay and art."

Holly Jo (she/they) is a Toronto born queer interdisciplinary artist who fell in love with clay during her undergrad at Ontario College of Art and Design, where she received her degree in Sculpture & Installation with a minor in Ceramic Art in 2020. HollyJo finds solace in storytelling through object making and leaning into the wisdom of vulnerability, memory, trauma, lived experience and the joy of novelty, wonder and reflection. Her ceramic processes include hand-building, slip-casting, mould-making, wheel-throwing, glaze layering, stamping, and colour blocking techniques. She is excited to bring her knowledge of various art-making and story-telling mediums to the Woodstock and Oxford County community.

"It has been one of my dreams to open an art studio space that facilitates the teaching and sharing of creative practices since receiving my art degree in 2020," she said. "My other dreams are to continue my studies in Art Therapy and begin to make work again for gallery installations and group shows."

"We have had a resounding welcome from the Oxford County community and are learning that experience based art learning is something that this community is drawn to and is yearning for and we are excited to be a part of the broader art culture that we believe is having a growth spurt in Woodstock right now," concluded Holly Jo.

FASHION SHOW

Wednesday, September 13th, 2023 at The Carnegie Hall
Doors Open at 6:15pm - Show Starts at 7:00pm

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Kristy - 519-859-5097
Or visit: Hometown Style and
Roberts & Co. Ladies Wear

www.kiwanisingersoll.com

info@kiwanisingersoll.com

The Kiln Room is a new ceramic & art studio in downtown Woodstock. We host adult ceramic classes, demos and a tiny boutique where you can purchase hand-made wares.

**Come check us out at
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You can find us on instagram and facebook
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 [thekilnroomwoodstock](https://www.instagram.com/thekilnroomwoodstock)

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