

Woodstock Ingersoll Echo

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Woodstock mayor offered strong powers from the province

LEE GRIFFI

Local Journalism Initiative Reporter

The Ministry of Municipal Affairs and Housing has offered mayors of several more municipalities strong powers in an attempt to get more homes built faster. Now, Jerry Acchione has a big decision to make. “As a council, we haven’t had any issues moving forward with any of our plans for subdivisions or intensification projects. We have been fantastic.”

Should the mayor decide to accept these powers he would need to commit to the province that 5500 new homes will be built in the city limits by 2031. He has until October 15 to decide. “I think it’s attainable. We have done 3,500 already this year. The catch is that’s it. We are done now with big subdivision plans. Now we are within the borders of intensification, and can we find another thousand units within the city of Woodstock? I think so. Looking at apartments and some other projects being discussed right now.” He added he isn’t ready to sign on the dotted line, but the city is putting numbers together which means more provincial funding. “Our share of that \$1.2 billion they announced. If a few million dollars are available for the City of Woodstock, then who am I to ignore that? If that is something we can attain knowing those strong mayor powers rely on me doesn’t mean I have to use them. We have such a great council right now and don’t see a need.

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(RON YUZARK PHOTO)

TWO THUMBS UP FOR CANADA'S OUTDOOR FARM SHOW

Jake Burly, Easton Lester, Todd Burly and Brian Powers attended the annual Canada’s Outdoor Farm Show on September 12th in Woodstock. The show ran from September 12-15th. See more photos on page 28.

Oxford County officially has a new MP

LEE GRIFFI

Local Journalism Initiative Reporter

Arpan Khanna was sworn in as Member of Parliament for Oxford last week following his victory in the June 2023 federal by-election. Nearly 300 Oxford residents, family, friends, and Ernie Hardeman, MPP, attended the historic ceremony in West Block on Parliament Hill. “I am honoured and grateful to be sworn in. My promise to the people of Oxford is this: I will champion our community. Whether you are a farmer, single parent, autoworker, or a newcomer to our riding, I will be a strong voice for our community values,” said Khanna. “I will do

my best to represent Oxford in the House of Commons proudly,” he added.

Khanna said it was a moment he will never forget. “It was a very humbling experience. There were so many residents from Oxford there who drove nearly seven hours to be a part of it. I was told it was one of the largest swearing-in ceremonies Ottawa has ever seen. I wanted to reach out to residents so they could be a part of the moment. In Oxford County, these things don’t happen often whether it’s federal or provincial. I was honoured to have so many people come out.” He added he was blown away by the love and trust of his supporters. “I am so grateful for everything.”

CONTINUED TO PAGE 2



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Embro Fall Fair

This year the Embro and Zorra Agricultural Society is celebrating 165 years of hosting the Embro Fall Fair! A one and half day event, located just 20 minutes outside of Woodstock, is one of the few local fall fairs that still celebrates local agriculture, local business and community connection.

Located at the Embro Zorra Community Centre, the Fair is home to many traditional events and activities. The main arena is transformed into the primary stage as well as the display area for Homecraft exhibitions. The art of homemaking includes practices such as gardening, baking, sewing, kids crafts, photography etc. The Embro Fair is proud to display the fine works of exhibitors who still practice these essential skills and hope that the homecraft competitions encourages others in the community to keep these homemaking traditions alive.

The Saturday afternoon commences with a parade, followed by opening ceremonies, a presentation from a local business and the ambassador competitions. This year the presentation will be delivered by local farmer Dave Green who will share about his award winning farming practices. The Green Family has farmed in the Embro area since establishment in 1843. David Green along with his parents Gord and Laura own and operate Greenholm Farms Limited which is a Dairy Farm north of Embro. They have taken an aggressive approach to sustainability and land conservation by adopting minimal tillage and cover cropping practices. In 2013 they started producing green energy by way of an anaerobic digestion, a process that takes manure from their livestock as well as organic waste from food processing and converts it into methane gas that in turn is turned into electricity.

Following Dave's presentation will be the ambassador competition and then

the ever popular Saturday evening Wing night. The Wing Night is always packed with folks enjoying wings, fries and craft beer while their children are welcomed to adjacent small hall to watch a children's movie with free popcorn.

Sunday is a full day of both indoor and outdoor events at the Fair. Inside the community centre, the Sunday kicks off with a community church service which this year features guest speaker Senator Rob Black. There is also the ever popular Baby Show at 1pm that is by far the cutest event at the Embro Fair.

On the grounds, families can wander between the Horse Show, Children's Inflatable Playground and the Petting Zoo hosted by Little Hobby Hill Farm. Children are able to get up close with a variety of animals at the Petting Zoo and even get their picture taken with their favourite farm yard animal. The Embro Fair is home to the annual Nash Barnett Memorial Car Show. Last year was the inaugural event which proudly hosted over 70 unique vehicles! This year the Car Show is inviting antique tractors and farm equipment to the impressive display and will have extra entertainment including a live band and beer gardens.

Be sure to visit embrofair.com for information and to buy your tickets online. The Embro and Zorra Agricultural Society is a fully volunteer run, non-for profit organization. The EZAS proudly hosts many community events including the Embro Fall Fair, Embro Dinner Theatre, Farm Safety Day and many more. These events are only made possible by the generosity of volunteers who offer their time and skills, and by sponsors who donate to fund activities. Please visit embrofair.com if you would like to join the EZAS volunteer list or inquire about sponsorship opportunities. See you at the Fair!



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SWORN IN

Eric Janse, Acting Office of the Clerk at the Government of Ontario, Arpan Khanna, MP for Oxford, and Khanna's wife Sim and son Arvin.

CONTINUED FROM FRONT

Despite not officially becoming a member of parliament until recently following his by-election victory on June 19, Khanna said he has spent the last two months working hard to get to know the riding better. "I have been travelling across Oxford County meeting folks from all walks of life whether business owners, farmers, or citizens, I've been knocking on doors to meet people and hear their concerns. My job is to take issues and concerns from my constituents to Ottawa, even those who didn't vote for me."

Khanna's constituency office is now open and is located in the same location as former MP Dave Mackenzie on Huron Street in Woodstock. "We have hired some great staff who are here to serve the community. My number one criteria were to hire staff who believe in public service, believe in giving back. We have staff who are very focused on customer service." He added there are a number of problems they can help with. "Any issues involving passports, employment insurance, Canada Revenue Agency, immigration, Canadian Pension Plan, disability, veteran affairs, anything that comes from a federal ministry. We are getting a lot of calls right now regarding CERB repayments." Khanna said if people have any other concerns his office will be able to triage and get support elsewhere.

The 33-year-old plans to hold pop-up

events across the county to provide opportunities to hear directly from constituents. "My team and I will come out to different parts of the riding. A lot of people feel Woodstock is a bit of a drive, so we'll be setting something up in Tavistock to hear concerns and help people with any issues they are having." One issue Khanna said he is passionate about is homelessness, something Woodstock is currently struggling with. "That is something I am very focused on, and I will potentially be bringing forward some solutions. I did meet with local mayors and community partners, but we may look at some sort of private members bill to support those needing help the most." He added supporting farmers is also a priority.

Khanna is the eighth Member of Parliament to serve the federal riding of Oxford. The House of Commons is scheduled to resume Monday, September 18, something he is looking forward to. "I'm excited about it. Ottawa is where the nation's decisions get made and I think it is important to have a grassroots voice and I think I bring that to the table. I'm not afraid to speak up, I'm not afraid to push back, and that's what people want to see. People want to see that their public servant is serving them. Pierre (Poilievre) sees it the way I do, we are public servants. I work for the people of Oxford. They pay my salary, and they are my bosses."



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

Echo trending in the right direction

STEWART GRANT

Publisher

Starting a new business is very exciting, yet it is always stressful as one wonders whether there will actually be a demand for your goods or services.

Having now completed four issues of the Woodstock Ingersoll Echo, I thought I'd share some random thoughts about how things are going and where I think we are headed:

• This has been the most successful start-up newspaper that I've done (out of four). You always have to expect that it takes time to become known, but I'm very appreciative of how people have taken to the newspaper.

• We need to print more copies and improve distribution. For example, I visited Ingersoll at the start of the month to replenish at many of our drop-off locations and our free paper was "sold out" nearly everywhere that I looked. This month we will print an extra 1,000 papers and will continue to adjust as needed.

• Advertising revenue has grown in each of the four issues. Again, I'm very appreciative to the municipalities, the businesses, and the organizations who have supported us. The business is officially a "going concern" and as we continue to grow, I look forward to increasing our print distribution from monthly to twice-a-month, and ultimately to being a weekly newspa-

per that the community deserves.

• Though the name is the Woodstock Ingersoll Echo, the paper has also been extremely popular in Embro and Thamesford and I'll try to keep up with demand there in terms of dropping off extra copies. I'd also like to get our papers over to nearby Innerkip, and we recently started dropping off in Salford.

• Next month I'd like to launch a Business/Service Directory near the back of our paper, to provide a useful resource to readers and to give businesses and organizations a super-affordable option to meet all budgets. These rates would start as low as \$15 per week and would have your 1.9" w x 1.0" h ad listed below your area of Service or Product. A double-space would be available for \$25. I believe that with this option, up to our full-page priced at \$480, we have a great advertising solution for nearly any budget.

• The very best part of the newspaper business is hearing from people in the com-

munity. We love your suggestions, your feedback, and your articles and photos so please keep them coming to info@theecho.ca

In summary, we love putting this newspaper and are thrilled to be a new member of the community. Thanks for welcoming us and we look forward to growing, improving, and consistently being a go-to spot for your local news and events.



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, October 21, 2023
Friday, November 17, 2023

info@theecho.ca

SUBMIT YOUR LETTER TO THE EDITOR TO US!
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Woodstock Ingersoll Echo

Guiding Principles

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

Woodstock mayor offered strong powers from the province

CONTINUED FROM FRONT

Woodstock has several empty lots that could potentially be used for additional housing units, including the former Cowan Insurance building across from the city's waste and recycling depot. Acchione said the city is constantly looking at available land. "That's exactly what we are doing. 98 percent of these properties the city does not own. We don't have direct control. We rely more on a phone call, are you interested, have you thought of this? We know things have been slowed down a bit because of higher interest rates."

He added any decision on accepting the powers is up in the air, but he knows the deadline is looming. "I don't like the term strong mayor powers, I really don't. I don't like the title of it. Do I see what the province is doing with the idea, yes, I do. Their housing goals are very clear, but I think we are very lucky here in Woodstock because of our council and cooperation. We will find out a bit more before I make a decision on signing off on the letter before October 15, but we are certainly going to look at all options for the better of Woodstock."

East Zorra-Tavistock has, for now, balked at any land adjustment talks that could provide Woodstock with more developable land until their strategic plan is completed. Acchione said he has a job to do and that is to grow the city. "We are going to continue to look at all areas of Oxford County that touch our borders. The province has made it extremely clear that they expect growth. Our location right along the 401 and 403 has made is an ideal situation for people to come to so we have a responsibility to make sure housing is available from big to small."

Members of council debated the issue at this week's meeting and Councillor Bernia Wheaton said the term strong mayor is unfortunate wording and she is of the belief Woodstock simply doesn't need the additional development tool. "We truly have a fine, upstanding mayor and we have a council that works well together so the strong powers aren't necessary. My concern is down the road, who will choose to



JERRY ACCHIONE

run for the position of mayor because of the perception of power? That is a very scary notion for me." She added she doesn't believe that signing a pledge to build the 5500 houses doesn't mean it will happen any faster as she alluded to the slow rate of new builds today. "We have 14 thousand units approved in Oxford County but only 1100 building permits. We have done our work as a council to approve housing projects and yet shovels aren't going in the ground." Wheaton added factors like inflation and interest rates are making it more difficult for homes to be built.

Councillor Deb Tait wanted to make it clear to residents that council does not have a decision to make regarding strong powers as Acchione would be the one singing on the dotted line. She added the mayor would also have the power to

hire and fire as he sees fit. "The CAO would basically become a chief of staff and is going to follow whatever the mayor wants because if he doesn't, he's going to get fired." She added any municipality with a strong mayor is going to find it difficult to retain staff and find quality recruits to fill vacancies. "I think it is a piece of legislation that was designed for large cities, and I don't know why it's been brought to us. Even if we got a couple of million it would certainly never cover the amount of money that we need for health care, schools, our roads, our police, and our firefighters that residential growth brings."

After hearing from councillors Acchione asked for patience while staff works diligently to get more information from the province. He also made it clear he likes what Mayor Cam Guthrie has done in Guelph with his strong mayor powers. "I like what they have done with their delegation of powers. I'm definitely leaning that way. As mayor, I am asking for your trust right now."

If Woodstock hits less than 80 percent of the annual target for housing, they will receive no provincial dollars. If they reach 100 percent, they get just under \$1.5 million and 110 percent nets them \$1.76 million.

Ontario attempting to reduce wait times in Oxford emergency rooms

LEE GRIFFI

Local Journalism Initiative Reporter

The Ontario government is investing \$44 million this year in 165 emergency departments to reduce wait times and provide people with faster and easier access to timely care close to home. This includes an investment of more than \$2.2 million for hospitals in Oxford.

This funding is in addition to the \$90 million Ontario invests each year to reward emergency departments that put in place innovative solutions to reduce ED wait times including hiring additional healthcare staff, accessing more transportation to help transfer medically stable patients out of emergency departments, and creating new beds.

"When someone experiences a medical emergency, it is vital that they get the urgent attention they need quickly," said Sylvia Jones, Deputy Premier and Minister of Health. "By offering more funding for hospitals who show the greatest success in reducing wait times in their emergency departments, we are providing more support for them to deliver faster emergency care to the communities they serve."

As part of this investment, Alexandra Hospital Ingersoll will receive \$150,000, Tillsonburg District Memorial Hospital will receive \$260,000, and Woodstock

Hospital will receive \$1,828,400.

"I'm pleased to see this funding announced for Oxford's hospitals," said Ernie Hardeman, MPP for Oxford. "When it comes to an emergency medical situation, we want to be sure hospitals have the resources to provide a patient with the care they need quickly."

Hospitals have the flexibility to decide how to spend this funding on local solutions that will help people receive care faster and reduce their length of stay in an emergency department. Prior to the COVID-19 pandemic, this annual funding helped emergency departments connect people to care sooner by decreasing the average time spent in emergency departments by 12.2 percent.

To continue building on this success, Ontario is investing an additional \$29 million this year to 75 high-volume emergency departments across the province to increase their capacity to help more patients and reduce the amount of time people have to wait to access care.

An additional \$15 million will also expand the number of smaller hospitals now eligible to receive this funding. This will help support up to 90 hospitals across the province that provide emergency care to fewer than 30,000 patients a year, so they can hire and retain the staff they need to keep their emergency departments open.





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Ingersoll looks to revitalize its community improvement plan

LEE GRIFFI

Local Journalism Initiative Reporter

Ingersoll Town Council has asked staff to have a look at its Community Improvement Plan (CIP). Staff brought the issue to council's attention at this week's regular meeting for guidance on how to proceed. The town's latest strategic plan identified the need to examine how the plan has been working.

Mayor Brian Petrie said he's in favour of having staff review the now five-year-old program. "We want to have a good effect on our downtown, but we need programs that will be made use of and are effective in reaching our goals. It's been a good five years and I think it's more than fair to say, okay, let's go back and see what the public has to say." He added the community and council both want to see investments made

not only in the downtown core but throughout Ingersoll.

The intent of the Community Improvement Plan is to outline, in one document, the possible range of improvement options that may be undertaken to promote and encourage renewal, redevelopment, and rehabilitation within the key areas of Ingersoll. It also provides general design direction to complement and assist with the implementation of financial incentive programs.

Deputy Mayor Lindsay Wilson said the CIP is based on the current central area design guidelines, some of which she said are outdated. "The one that concerns me the most is the guidelines now only promote three stories even though the zoning would permit six. Through the consultation process would staff be looking at feedback on

that?" Curtis Tighe is the town's economic development officer and said staff could do that but added they are just guidelines. "The zoning bylaw would obviously take precedence but if council wants to undertake a review, we can certainly take a look at that."

As part of the CIB review staff would consult groups such as the BIA and Chamber of Commerce as well as business and building owners and report back on those conversations. Councillor Kristy Van Kooten-Bossence agrees that it's time to have another look at the CIB given its age. "I'm happy that you brought this to us Curtis and gave us an outline of where we are at. It's good to refresh our memories but I think it's time to go to the chamber and the BIA and ask people what might possibly help them

further." She added the plan might still be very relevant in its present form. "We have had some improvements in our downtown recently which is great to see, and I applaud the owners doing that. Let's see what we can do and see what they have to say."

Council passed a motion to receive the staff report on the CIB and directed staff to get feedback and report back recommendations at a future meeting. "Everybody wants to see our downtown as a healthy and vibrant place. Certainly, there is always room for investment and the more we can try to incentivize that to happen the way we want to see it happen is a positive. A refresh to look at what's working and hear from people what could work better it always a good thing and I think our community members will appreciate that," added Petrie.

Bi-annual eco-friendly event returns to Embro this month

HANNAH MACLEOD

Echo Correspondent

ReuseapalooZaha is returning to Embro Community Centre on September 23.

The free bi-annual event, which has been occurring since 2014, is a giant free swap meet where people bring unwanted, but reusable or upcyclable treasures to leave behind, and hunt among other's former goods for things they need, want and desire. Thousands come out regularly, and nobody leaves empty handed - even those who come to purge.

"They purge and feel joy with acquisition," explained Bryan Smith. "It's also a massive social event where friends meet year after year at both spring and fall events."

ReuseapalooZaha turns excess goods into social good, giving any remaining ones to community organizations that provide training, education, services and even housing to local families.

"Good Will and the ReStore use them to give meaningful work to help people develop their skills, habits and experiences for a CV, or to turn into building materials for new housing for those without adequate shelter," said Smith.

ReuseapalooZaha supports local cul-

tural groups, such as, this year, the Ingersoll Pipe Band or Oxford Ontario helps Ukraine with fundraising for their good causes.

The event saw their humble beginnings at a deserted truck garage in Foldens in 2014.

The event was originally called "Trashapalooza", but the name was eventually 'trashed'.

"The trashy idea went, in favour of reuse, recovery, recycling, upcycling and a circular economy," explained Smith. "And a Circular Economy is not just the game wheel to appear in Embro on Saturday, September 23rd."

Reuseapaloozahas have been in Swenburg, Brownsville, Mount Elgin, Embro, Woodstock and Ingersoll in the spring and fall. Copy cats have replicated it in Hagersville and Nova Scotia.

Everyone can benefit in different ways from an event like this. Teens can earn the volunteer hours they need to graduate high school by helping out. Attendees save money; treasure hunters, pickers and grinders take home free goods which would otherwise cost them thousands; Every item diverted from municipal waste collection means tax savings for all.

People can drop off goods on the day of the event between 8 and 11a.m., and shoppers are invited from 8 until noon, a full extra hour of hunting for treasure.

"Volunteers can earn gratitude, know they are doing the right thing, take home lessons in budgeting for a better environment as well as things they want," said Smith. "Teens can see the use of old wisdom, sports equipment, tools, toys, games, puzzles, books, auto accessories, all the wealth of an affluent society doing our part to avoid an affluent economy."

Donations collected by ReuseapalooZaha will go to supporting the activities of the Oxford Coalition for Social Justice, including our printing budget for posters, as well work the Coalition does on protecting the environment and restoring it to a better place of humans, butterflies, bees and humming birds, turtles and sundry other creatures.

Other organizations involved include: The Township of Zorra, for providing their hall, parking lot and staff assistance with the facility, Transition to Less Waste, demonstrating upcycling of goods to make good goods better value, The Jarful Refillery, winners of an award from Zero Waste Oxford for reduction, reuse, recycling and repurposing, Cycles

of Life for Transitional Housing, providing food, hygiene supplies, clothing and planning for supportive transitional housing for the less fortunate, Good Will, who has given people new life through meaningful work, and giving goods new life through charity retail sales and repurposing, The Township of South-West Oxford for frequent use of facilities, in previous and in Spring 2024 events on Earth Day, and for pairing solid goods reuse ideas with organic composting and digesting assistance, water saving, recycling and restoration of tree cover. The Woodstock Agricultural Society for the use, formerly, of their barns as locations, The Woodstock Environmental Advisory Committee for brilliant ideas and strong backs, The Ingersoll District Nature Club, for help, naturally, and occasional scrounging of shovels, forks, hoes, 4H clubs for food service, The Ingersoll Pipe Band for snacks, coffee and cross-merchandising, Various metal haulers for removal of electronic and other scrap, Homes 4 Humanity for pick up and resale or reuse of supplies need to build up our compassionate community, OPAL Alliance for years of dedication to this demonstration lesson that we can do without trash.



SHOPPING FOR A BARGAIN

Above: Attendees rummaged for a hidden treasure at the Embro Community Centre. Books, videos, puzzles, games, clothing, toys, housewares could all be picked up from the ReuseapalooZaha Right: Linda Ulch and her hand-puppet friend checking out bed-time reading for a grandchild.

(CONTRIBUTED PHOTOS)

Increased student spaces at future Woodstock school good news for Hickson

LEE GRIFFI

Local Journalism Initiative Reporter

A new elementary school planned for Woodstock's north end is good news for families with children going to Hickson Public School, although the scheduled opening date is three years away.

As part of the province's ongoing efforts to build and improve local schools, they have given the Thames Valley District School Board (TVDSB) approval to change the new Woodstock elementary school to create more student spaces. This is supported by an investment of \$25.6 million. Once completed, this expanded project will deliver 856 elementary spaces and 88 licensed childcare spaces for local families.

"The funding for additional student spaces at the new north Woodstock elementary school is great news for our community," said Ernie Hardeman, MPP for Oxford. "This investment will ensure families and students have access to a quality learning environment in the years ahead." The new project includes 196 additional student spaces and five new childcare rooms increasing that number to 88.

"I'm thrilled that this funding will enable us to increase the size of the future Woodstock elementary school from 660 to 856 students," said TVDSB Director of Education Mark Fisher. "Thames Valley looks forward to enhancing our ability to support Oxford County students and families." The new Woodstock elementary school will be located at Block 195 Sobeski Avenue.

The Echo asked the TVDSB if the announcement was positive for students and parents at Hickson Public School. Cheryl Weedmark, Communications Manager at TVDSB, said Woodstock residents will benefit. "This is great news for Oxford as students in Woodstock will be able to be accommodated at a proximal school in their home community." Weedmark did say the hike in Woodstock's population led to the move. "The level of development activity has been increasing, with a number of new projects being planned in north Woodstock since the business case was first submitted. We are thrilled to receive this additional funding to support the growth in Oxford." She added anyone interested can follow the new school's progress. "We are currently working towards a September 2026 opening. As we move through the process, we will have a better idea of the construction start date." The website at <https://www.tvdsb.ca/en/our-board/new-woodstock-school.aspx> will provide updates.

Many parents have expressed concerns about the school's septic system, an issue that came to light during the last school year when E-coli and fecal matter were found in pooled water in the yard and a report from East Zorra-Tavistock said the septic bed was failing. Several orders were issued to rectify the problem as daily pumping was ordered and continues to



be done. "We have engaged with an engineering consulting firm to assist with the upgrades to the system. Geotechnical investigation and review are ongoing to inform next steps at this time," said Weedmark. There is no word on when the septic system will be replaced.

The Echo also asked Weedmark regarding the portable situation for the opening week of school in Hickson and what the enrolment numbers will be but didn't receive an answer. "We won't have official enrolment numbers available until mid-November. New families in North Woodstock are attending Zorra Highland Park which has created some enrolment pressure relief at Hickson." Enrolment at Hickson Public School jumped from 395 students in 2012 to 667 last year resulting in multiple portables being installed over the years.

Minister of Education Steven Lece said Ontario is taking action to ensure that school board capital assets are used effectively and efficiently to meet the

needs of growing communities, support

student learning, and ensure value for taxpayer dollars. "The Better Schools and Student Outcomes Act will empower decision-makers to build modern schools faster by better utilizing school capacity, reducing barriers for school boards to facilitate agreements for schools in multi-use buildings such as condo towers, and shortening planning time by requiring school boards to use certain designs or plans when constructing, renovating, or making additions to schools." He added that the province is determined to build schools and expansions faster, part of the commitment to modernize schools in fast-growing communities. "We are proud to deliver this critical expansion to the capacity of the new Woodstock elementary school for local families, along with increasing funding, staffing, and tutoring to help ensure students graduate with confidence that they can succeed in good-paying careers."

Discovery Workshop

LOCAL
HISTORY
COLLECTION

Oxford County Library



Ingersoll Library
Wednesday, October 25
2:00 PM

Join us for a local history collection tour!

Our discovery workshop will focus on resources made available through Oxford County Library.

Take away valuable search tips & learn research pathways to more effectively uncover local information & ancestor stories.

No registration, everyone welcome.

When social
media blocks
your access to
the news, turn
to your local
newspaper.

Former Hydro One Building to be redeveloped for housing

WOODSTOCK INGERSOLL ECHO STAFF

info@theecho.ca

During their September 7th meeting, City of Woodstock Council approved the sale of the former Hydro One property at 16 Graham Street to The Cora Group and Arnold Spina, in trust for a corporation to be incorporated.

The price of the sale was \$1,000,000. The Cora-Spina offer for the surplus property was selected by the City out of three proposals that were received.

Per the report filed by Brad Hammond, Development Officer for the City, the winning bid was deemed to be “the most advantageous in terms of accomplishing the City’s strategic objectives for the downtown. The proposal intends to construct between six and 12 stories of newly built residential space and a minimum of 100 new residential units. The Cora-Spina proposal offers nearly 60% more residential units compared to the highest cash offer. The Cora Group has indicated that they would seek to maximize density on this property.”

Development staff offered 16 Graham Street for sale as a re-development site starting in March 2022. Over the past 18 months, Economic Development staff have been working toward preparing the property for sale. In 2022 Council approved the expenditure of approximately \$135,000 to complete a Phase 1 and 2 Environmental Site Assessments (ESA) for the property.

The agreement includes restrictive covenants which must be met in a reasonable timeframe, such as filing for a Record of Site Condition within 1 year of taking ownership, receiving a Record of Site Condition within 2 years of taking ownership, and receiving a Building Permit for a 100-unit residential building OR a

minimum 100,000 sq ft building of which 80% is residential within 36 months of taking ownership. The agreement also contains a right of repurchase at 90% in favour of the City of Woodstock which is triggered by a breach of the performance terms of this agreement. In addition to the real estate attached to 16 Graham Street, the agreement of purchase and sale also includes a small portion of land to the South of the property that includes 8 municipal parking spaces. The addition of this extra property is key to the successful redevelopment of the site as it squares up the property and allows for a more regularly shaped development site.

Built in 1961, the building at 16 Graham Street has historically housed a succession of municipal utility operations. The building was first home to the Woodstock Public Utility Commission (PUC) which delivered municipal water and electrical services in the city of Woodstock. The Woodstock PUC was disbanded in the early 2000’s and replaced by Woodstock Hydro who maintained responsibility for the delivery of electrical services in the City as well as a number of associated separate service corporations. Woodstock Hydro was eventually sold to Hydro One in 2015 with an agreement to lease 16 Graham Street for up to 5 years while a new operations centre was constructed on Devonshire Avenue. The building at 16 Graham Street has been vacant since Hydro One vacated at the end of 2020. Since becoming vacant, the City has leased the building on a short-term basis to a variety of organizations including Elections Canada, Elections Ontario, and Community Employment Services. The building has also been used by the Woodstock Police Service for training and for storage by the City Public Works Department.

Free Hallowe’en costumes offered for all September 30th event at Cowan Park Sportsplex

STEWART GRANT

Publisher

With inflation hitting everyone’s pocket-book, it’s refreshing to hear of an instance where someone is organizing a thoughtful event to save families’ money.

Such an event is forthcoming on September 30th when The Friendly Ghost Costume Stop is coming to Cowan Park Sportsplex (895 Ridgewood Ave. in Woodstock) from 9:00 a.m. to 12:00 p.m.

This event, which is being organized by Sarah Allen, is completely free and allows families to come and get a Halloween costume for their kids at no charge. Kids are

welcome at the event on September 30th to peruse the many costumes or to get creative at the “make your own costume” station. Treats and door prizes will also be available, and the range of costumes extends from kids right up to adults.

Sarah is hoping that the community can assist with this venture through the donation of Hallowe’en costumes and decorations. Donations can be dropped off during business hours at two locations in Woodstock: Little Caesar’s Pizza at 998 Dundas Street (receive a FREE Crazy Bread when you donate a costume/decoration) and Jax Jungle Play (520 Dundas Street).

Woodstock Doors Open

WOODSTOCK INGERSOLL ECHO STAFF

info@theecho.ca

All are invited to visit Woodstock’s unique heritage and culture sites during the City’s Doors Open event on Saturday, September 23 which will feature 11 different locations. Free entry and activities will run from 10:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m.

Doors Open is a provincial tourism program organized by the Ontario Heritage Trust. The provincial theme for 2023 is: “Food — exploring Ontario’s historical traditions of food production as well as the spaces that shape and define our culinary traditions today.”

This year’s event is hosted by the City of Woodstock’s Heritage Advisory Committee, and a complete set of information is available at www.doorsopenontario.on.ca/woodstock.

This year’s participating locations are Brickhouse Brewpub, Habitual Chocolate, Knox Presbyterian Church, Oxford Early-On Child and Family Centre, RedBarn Berries & Veggies, Reel Treats, Southside Park, Whitelaw Machinery Co. Ltd., Woodstock Masonic Lodge, Woodstock Museum National Historic Site, and Woodstock Public Library.

Brickhouse Brewpub - 190 Fairway Road

The first of its kind in Oxford County, the Brickhouse Brewpub offers onsite brewing, a retail shop and 25 taps of independent Ontario craft beer. This brewpub is housed inside the old Powerhouse, built in 1931 — the only remaining part of the Oxford Regional Centre. The Centre opened in 1905 and served as a hospital for the mentally ill. (note: hours at Brewpub are 11:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. for Doors Open event)

Habitual Chocolate - 389 Dundas Street

Over the years, many businesses have occupied this building. Today, Habitual Chocolate makes chocolate right from the cacao bean. They roast, winnow, grind, temper and mold, using the best-quality ingredients they can get. And the store always smells delicious! During Doors Open, stop by and watch chocolate bars being made, or fruit being dipped. Samples will be available!

Knox Presbyterian Church - 59 Riddell Street

This Richardsonian Romanesque-style church was constructed in 1896-97. Cantilever trusses support the coffered ceiling of the main sanctuary. The organ inside was built by D.W. Karn and Company of Woodstock. During Doors Open, come and see the stained-glass restoration project, spearheaded by former members of the decommissioned Chalmers United Church on Vansittart Avenue, displayed in our polygonal rotunda.

Oxford EarlyOn Child and Family Centre - 75 Graham Street

The Oxford EarlyON Child and Family Centre offers free, high-quality programs for families and children from birth to six years old. You can learn and play with your child, meet people and get advice from professionals. During Doors Open, come and visit one of Oxford County’s registry buildings, just down the street from the one built in 1875.

RedBarn Berries & Veggies - 744716

County Road 17

About 150 years ago, this timber-frame barn was built using locally sourced stone walls (using mortar with horsehair) and some hand-hewn timbers. There is a hidden room under the barn hill for holding turnips. Around 1900, the barn was expanded. During your Doors Open visit, find out where the expansion occurred. Tours will be run by Ontario Barn Preservation.

Reel Treats - 495 Dundas Street

The E.J. Coles Company — a local department store — originally occupied this building. In 1928, Coles was sold to Canadian Department Stores (a subsidiary of the T. Eaton Company Ltd.); it remained in business until 1964. Reel Treats is a popcorn and rare-candy shop with a retro soda bar begun by the same couple who run the local drive-in.

Southside Park - 192 Old Wellington Street South

Southside Park is the largest park in Woodstock. Opened in 1909, the park is home to many beautiful gardens, walking trails and sports fields. Some of the historical features include the pond (1914), the boathouse and bathing house (1914-18), the pavilion (1918) and the memorial arch (1925). For Doors Open, bring a picnic or wander the gardens and trails.

Whitelaw Machinery Co. Ltd. - 572 Main Street

The oldest running business in Oxford County, this foundry, established by Robert Whitelaw in 1856, manufactured agricultural machinery — from turbines to cheese-making equipment. In 1958, they diversified their portfolio to include automotive parts. Today, along with their sister company, Whitelaw Trucking, they continue to provide manufacturing, warehousing and transportation. During Doors Open, take a guided tour of the original foundry.

Woodstock Masonic Lodge - 10 Brock Street

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

Woodstock Museum National Historic Site - 466 Dundas Street

Come and explore the Old Town Hall, constructed in 1853 as Woodstock’s first public market, council chamber and concert hall. Serving later as the fire hall and jail, the building became the home of the Oxford County Museum in 1947. Today, the Woodstock Museum celebrates its 75th anniversary. For Doors Open, take a behind-the-scenes tour of this fascinating site.

Woodstock Public Library - 445 Hunter Street

The Woodstock Public Library is your destination for discovery, providing a welcoming place for the community to create, connect and explore. The Woodstock Public Library has a rich history. In 1905, the Carnegie Foundation awarded the City of Woodstock a grant for the construction of a library. In 1909, the beautiful building of ficially opened.



(RON YUZARK PHOTOS)

OXFORD COUNTY WALK FOR PARKINSON'S

Sunday, September 10th, 2023

Top: Successful drive with the help of all the volunteers for Oxford County Walk for Parkinson's

Bottom: The Borges family participating in the Oxford County Walk for Parkinson's, Cameron, Jennifer, Michael and Colton.

Right: Entertainment by Daniel Jones



(HANNAH MACLEOD PHOTO)

GREAT CROWD AND GOOD WEATHER FOR BEACHVILLE CAR SHOW

Max and Madison Minihane, with their dog Lucy, pose with one of their favourite vehicles, the '55 Chevrolet

Weekend Quiz

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

This week's answers are found on pg. 29

SHOP LOCAL. SAVE LOCAL.

Support businesses that keep your community and its newspaper thriving



(RON YUZARK PHOTOS)

WOODSTOCK MODEL TRAIN SHOW

Above, Paul Hurlly (Western Ontario Division MNRA) with Glen Strub and Jeffrey Boyko at his stall on Sunday, September 10th.

Below, Gail and son Brent Bouteiller from 2B Trains, Fergus ready to serve customers.



Brett and Colby Bachus examining items at Pete's Trains, London.

Launch of Woodingford Lodge's Adult Day Program

LEE GRIFFI

Local Journalism Initiative Reporter

Woodingford Lodge has announced the launch of a new Adult Day Program, designed to provide comprehensive, full day, supervised, therapeutic care for Oxford County residents in crisis need of long-term care. Offered through the home's Family Transition Program, the program aims to enhance the well-being of participants awaiting long-term care placement while providing invaluable support to their caregivers and easing the transition process.

Oxford County Warden, Marcus Ryan, along with Oxford MPP Ernie Hardeman were at the home this week to officially open the program. It provides full-day programming, companionship, and supervised care for Oxford County residents awaiting placement into long-term care. Participants can engage in activities tailored to their cognitive, social, emotional, and physical needs. Daily activities include functional fitness, wellness programs, reminiscing/discussion groups, arts and crafts, educational and interactive games, outdoor programs, music therapy, entertainment, pet therapy and multi-aged

programs. The Adult Day Program is a pilot program supported by an investment from Ontario Health's Local Priorities Fund.

Caregivers of participants are eligible for on-site or virtual support from staff who are well-trained in dementia strategies and interventions and can help families cope better at home to reduce the need for emergency services.

The Family Transition Program is for Oxford County residents 18 or older waiting for permanent placement into long-term care. It aims to support the individual and their family during the long-term care admission process by providing a unique, supportive, and transitional model of care to help the individual adjust to the long-term care experience before their first day of admission into a residence. Individuals and their families are invited into a host facility to allow them to become more familiar and comfortable with the experiences, programs, and care team within the facility while still on the waitlist for permanent placement into long-term care. Once a placement becomes available, the Family Transition Program will assist with transitioning into the individual's selected long-term care home.



(CONTRIBUTED PHOTO)

Funding coming for mental health and addictions support

The Ontario government is investing \$5,841,667 to provide operating funding toward mental health and addictions support services for 641 new supportive housing units across Southwestern Ontario.

These units are located at seven In-dwell projects and include two sites in Oxford. Harvey Woods (Woodstock), Blossom Park (Woodstock), and Woodfield Gate (London) will share \$750,000 for community mental health supports.

"This is excellent news for our community," said Ernie Hardeman, MPP for Oxford. "Our government recognizes the acute need to provide mental health and addictions supportive housing to assist people in making successful transitions from housing instability to permanent homes."

This investment is in alignment with our Roadmap to Wellness plan and will

support vulnerable groups requiring affordable housing and support services to live independently with access to the community-based supports they need.

The Ontario government is also investing an additional \$202 million each year in homelessness prevention programs through the Homelessness Prevention Program and Indigenous Supportive Housing Program, bringing the province's total annual investment to close to \$700 million. This funding is in addition to the province's Social Services Relief Fund, which provided over \$1.2 billion of support throughout the COVID-19 pandemic, to help municipal service managers and Indigenous program administrators create longer-term housing solutions and help vulnerable people in Ontario, including those who are homeless or at-risk of homelessness.

Woodstock and Ingersoll offer diverse business selection

HANNAH MACLEOD

Echo Correspondent

Dairy City CrossFit

Ben and Valerie Taylor, of Dairy City CrossFit, located on Parkinson Rd., Woodstock, opened their doors in May of this year.

Dairy City CrossFit is a CrossFit gym that offers a barbell club, bootcamp, competitive classes, personal training and Fascial Stretch Therapy (FST).

This is the couples first business venture, and they have very high hopes.

"We have grown this business a lot in such a short time and we arnt slowing down anytime soon," said Valerie. "Our community is amazing, my FST clients are amazing and soon we will be able to have Massage clients."

Ben grew up in Woodstock, and has his Level 2 CrossFit coach, and is a weightlifting specialist. Valerie, who grew up in Whitby and moved to Woodstock ten years ago, has her Level 1 CrossFit coach, FST certification and Massage Therapy diploma. She is working towards her registration.



Friendly City Cornholes

Andy Smith was born and raised in Woodstock, Ontario, as was his business, Friendly City Cornholes. His business will be coming to Ingersoll very soon, with his home-base remaining his home city.

Smith sells his product, personalized corn-hole boards, also known as bean bag toss, from his home on Facebook and Marketplace, for now.

"Friendly City Cornholes became a name about three years ago," said Smith. "I've been building them for about five years now."

"I started out making Signs, Growth Charts, Porch signs and much more," he added. "I would also be known under the name Crafty Dad Design."

"The response has been amazing," said Smith. "I really put my heart into my work and try to make it unique for the buyer but also try to keep it at competitive pricing."

"My hopes for Friendly City Cornholes is to have a store where people from anywhere could come in and buy what they want," he explained. "I want people to come in, choose their design, and be able to provide that to them quickly. I am slowly expanding my business to have other options available. I want my store to have a wide range of products from bean

bags, carrying cases all the way up to pro boards."

Smith doesn't have a background in business, and started out with only having borrowed machines, to now having a full workshop of my own with many different machines.



Luscious Looks

Crystal Staples-Upton grew up in Oxford County, in Ingersoll, where she has had her home-based business for six years.

Just this past month, she was able to open her first storefront downtown Ingersoll, Luscious Looks, which offers a range of beauty services, such as lash treatments, lash extensions and training, nails and hair extensions.

"Being home based got me through having three babies, Covid and all the other startup issues with a business, and I finally reached a point where I was ready to open up a storefront and all the opportunities that come with it," Staples-Upton explained. "This is my first business and I absolutely love this adventure."

"I have such high hopes for my business," she continued. "As Ingersoll expands, so does the market, it's absolutely full of opportunities. I have two girls that started working for me and I can't wait for us to all grow in our field. There is nothing quite like supporting other women and making them feel great and teaching them how they can start their own hussle with my courses."

"The town has been amazing and supportive, we have had so much support," she concluded.

Studio73 Digital Media

Jay Panaseiko was born in London, however his mothers family was originally from Oxford County, and he frequently visited his grandparents here, before moving to the area as a young teen and attending Ingersoll District Collegiate Institute and worked at Hammond Air Conditioning as a Summer job.

"I decided that school was not for me and took a job at CAMI automotive at the age of 17," he explained. "I worked there for eight years as a team leader, until they announced a big lay off and I decided to take the buy out at age 25 and go back-packing across Europe."

"I visited almost 17 countries in one year," Panaseiko continued. "Upon my return I wasn't sure what to do. I had a friend in Taiwan who invited me to visit, I used my credit card to buy a ticket and the remaining \$200 dollars of my buyout to go to Taiwan, where I soon ran out of money. I need a job and became an English Teacher for almost 19 years!"

"Life was amazing and I lived like a rockstar but I always knew I was meant for more," he reflected. "While in Taiwan I rekindled my love for computers and everything about them. I taught myself Photoshop, Illustrator, all of the Adobe suite ... I learned graphic design, web design, game design, coding..."

It was at this point, Pansieko knew it was time to leave paradise and start his business, Studio73 Digital Media.

Studio73 are dynamic visual storytellers and digital content developers with more than 25 years' experience in brand promotion.

Studio73 Digital Media specializes in Graphic Design, Logo Design, Branding, Websites and hosting, E-Commerce, Video Production, Live Stream Production, Voice Overs, Social media content creation, and social media management and Consulting and producing.

They are basically a one stop shop for all digital media needs

"I design concert shirts for all most every Canadian Classic rock band, such as April Wine, Helix, Big Naked," Panaseiko explained. "I run 20 websites that I both host and designed, some Social Media for Honeymoon suite through a company called Rock Paper Merch."

The business started as more of a hobby than a career, about five years ago, and only this year became his career.

"Prior I was teaching high school co-op graphic design in London as a full time job and working for a lot of different entertainment related companies.

Studio73 is located in Ingersoll, where Pansieko works out of his home Office.

"I had been doing a lot of work in London but have since joined the Ingersoll Chamber and I'm hoping to bring my skills back to Oxford County as deep as heart I am a small town person."

"I hope one day to grow beyond a one man team and pass my expertise on to people that may work for me and also hope they bring ideas to the table and

we can build and grow into a worldwide design company," he concluded. "And, yes I have the bar set very high... the response on all levels has been fantastic."

2nd Annual Kiwanis Winter Gala

The Kiwanis Club of Ingersoll are busy planning the 2nd Annual Kiwanis Winter Gala. This year the event will be held at the Elmhurst Inn and Spa on Saturday November 18th. The event features a wonderful Elmhurst full sit down meal which will include a seasonal soup, wine, a choice of salmon, chicken or beef plus dessert, including coffee, or tea. Gluten free or other dietary options are available.

For those who wish to dance the night away to pop and classic tunes, live entertainment will be provided by Maggie Habkirk's local band, Maggie and the Pies. A live auction will feature among other items, a one week stay at a luxurious cottage in the Parry Sound area. A silent auction is planned exhibiting fine art pieces from our local artists.

The Kiwanis are collecting sponsorships with our key sponsor Green Private Wealth leading the way. We do expect to have a substantial number of sponsors who will certainly be well recognized for their contribution to the community through the Kiwanis Club of Ingersoll. This year the proceeds of the Gala will go to the following organizations and program:

- The Ingersoll Fusion Youth Centre and their efforts to create a safe and learning environment for local youth.
- The Easter Seals Camp Woodeden in their continuing programs for children with disabilities.
- The Thames Valley Children's Health Foundation (London Health Sciences) in their research and medical assistance to children with physical disabilities, communication disorders, developmental delays, and those struggling with autism spectrum disorders.
- The Ingersoll Kiwanis Club's many local programs including school library and nutrition programs, the IDCI Key Club and Key Putt, the Kiwanis Fire Safety Village and assistance to local youth and families in need.

Tickets will be \$150.00 each and are available by contacting Sam Horton sam.horton@rogers.com - phone or text - 226-228-4630, Jane Cole ljane@hotmail.ca phone or text - 519-902-5999 or any Kiwanis member. Please join us, we look forward to your company and friendship.

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Jarful Local Refillery's steps in sustainability supported by community

EMILY STEWART

Echo Correspondent

The first refillery and eco-friendly product shop in Oxford County has lots of support from the community.

Jarful Local Refillery has plenty of zero-waste and sustainable products, including package-free hand soap, body wash, and cleaners customers can stock up on using their own containers or ones bought at the store.

Thessaly Sammon, owner and operator of Jarful, said the store on 9 Light Street, Woodstock is well-received by residents.

"Some people are new to the concept but love the idea of being able to refill your old containers with new, natural products," Sammon said to the Woodstock Ingersoll Echo. "Others have been to Refilleries in bigger cities and are so grateful to have one close to home; people who were already regulars have continued to express how glad they are that we stayed open!"

Jarful Local Refillery had their grand re-opening on August 12. Woodstock Mayor Jerry Acchione and coun. Kate Leatherbarrow attended the ribbon cutting ceremony. Several customers flocked to the event and enjoyed receiving 20 per cent off bulk refills through the day and entering the contest to win \$250 worth of prizes.



GRAND OPENING

From left to right: Mayor Jerry Acchione, David Brown, Thessaly Sammon, and City Councillor Kate Leatherbarrow at the ribbon cutting ceremony for Jarful Local Refillery's Grand Re-Opening on August 12.

(THESSALY SAMMON PHOTO)

"Overall, it was a great turn out and we are so thankful to everyone who supported us!" Sammon said.

The top best-selling product at the refillery is laundry detergent, followed by shampoo and conditioner, dish soap and dishwasher tabs, deodorant, and shower melts.

For anyone new to making sustainable swaps, Sammon said to take it step-by-step.

"As you slowly run out of the products you already have you can make the switch to a refillable option," they said. "No ones eco journey is perfect and any changes you can make are impactful, so don't feel like you're alone in trying to make the planet a better place!"

She added that anyone striving towards sustainability can lead by example for others by shopping at stores like Jarful.

"By choosing to shop at sustainable stores you are using your power as a consumer to influence companies, small and large, to make positive changes to gain your business," Sammon said. "Eco-Friendly businesses aren't just concerned with profits but making a positive impact on the environment and the community."

Visit jarfulrefillery.ca for more information and to order products online.

Barkin Boujee one-stop shop for raw food for dogs

EMILY STEWART

Echo Correspondent

Chantelle Lackenbauer, owner of Barkin Boujee, first became passionate about advocating for raw food for dogs in her experience as a breeder.

She began feeding the dogs part of Glitter Doodles on kibble until one of her dogs became ill. Lackenbauer further researched and took courses on raw diets for dogs to learn how to wean them off of milk and introduce them to raw food.

"It's been several years now that we've been using raw in our own program for all of our dogs as well as our own breeding stock and we just found a plethora of health benefits so we've never looked back," Lackenbauer said.

Lackenbauer and her husband Joel opened Barkin Boujee, a pet store specializing in raw food, on 109 Thames St. S, Ingersoll. She said that raw is the most species-appropriate diet for dogs.

"There is no fillers, there is no corn, there is no sugar, there's no carbs," Lackenbauer said. "It's just very natural from organ, bone, and meat and again, with your supplementation of vegetables and fruits. It's super healthy for the dog."

She added some benefits include ex-

tended life expectancy by a few years, and improved digestion, coat, and skin. The couple wanted to share their passion for feeding raw and wanted to provide options for pet owners.

"It's important for people, families, individuals, to be able to have options and come and get educated, try these different companies out to see what would best for their fur babies," Lackenbauer said. "It's

super important for me to be able to have that as an option for people to come in and grab that instead of grabbing these kibble that is full of synthetics and again, lots of sugar, lots of corn, and lots of carbs, which dogs do not need."

So far, Barkin Boujee has had lots of positive feedback from customers.

"Everyone is quite excited that we have a hub between Woodstock and London," Lackenbauer said. "It gives them a local place that they can come and shop. Everyone's given me really great feedback on my options that I have here, the cost, the affordability and just all around coming in and how beautiful the store looks with the exposed brick and they're just generally, overall, super excited that there's an option within this tiny little town for them."

Follow Barkin Boujee on Facebook for updates including new products.

Theatre Woodstock presents...

THE BIRDS AND THE BEES

BY MARK CRAWFORD

Director Kim Di Lello
Producer Susan Robinson

Featuring...
Alex Attridge
Tanya Thompson
Dan Grass
Josh Hansen

Evenings 7:30pm **Sept 15, 16**
21, 22, 23, 2023
Matinees 2pm **Sept 17 & 24, 2023**

Get tickets online at theatrewoodstock.com
or Visit the Box Office
22 Reeve St., Woodstock 519-537-2582

Adult situations and content - strong language - Age 14+

Ingersoll accepted into coalition of inclusive municipalities

The Town of Ingersoll is thrilled to announce its acceptance into UNESCO's esteemed Coalition of Inclusive Municipalities, marking a momentous achievement in the journey towards a more inclusive and welcoming community.

This accomplishment is a testament to the dedication and hard work of the Ingersoll Diversity and Inclusion Committee and received unanimous endorsement by Ingersoll Town Council

at their regular meeting in August, underscoring the collective vision and commitment of municipal leadership to building a community that embraces all its residents, regardless of their background, beliefs, or identities.

Joining the UNESCO Coalition of Inclusive Municipalities is a significant milestone, signaling the initiation of the committee's mandate. The committee will now focus its efforts on the development of a comprehensive action plan

to celebrate the Town's diversity, foster inclusion, and cultivate a sense of belonging and safety among those who live, work and visit the community.

Mayor Petrie expressed his excitement, stating, "Ingersoll is a community known for its warmth and hospitality. This recognition by UNESCO affirms our commitment to becoming an even more inclusive and welcoming town. We look forward to collaborating with the Coalition of Inclusive Municipal-

ities and working together to create a better future for all."

The journey towards inclusivity and diversity is ongoing, and the Town of Ingersoll remains resolute in its dedication to creating a community where everyone can thrive.

As we embark on this exciting new chapter as a member of UNESCO's Coalition of Inclusive Municipalities, we invite our residents and partners to join us in this transformative journey.

Efforts towards Truth and Reconciliation continue in Oxford

STEWART GRANT

Publisher

ISAN (Indigenous Solidarity & Awareness Network) Oxford is organizing several events leading up to and during the National Day for Truth and Reconciliation on September 30th.

Patricia Marshal, Director of ISAN Oxford, spoke with the Echo about Ingersoll's 3rd Annual March for Truth and Reconciliation, taking place on "Orange Shirt Day", the last day of September.

The activities will run from 4:30 p.m. to 8:30 p.m., with vendor booths open during that time. Cody Groat, Professor of Indigenous Studies at Western University, will speak at 5:00 p.m. along with Patricia Marshal of ISAN-Oxford.

The March, representing a walk together towards truth and reconciliation, will begin at 6:00 p.m., going from Yvonne Mott Memorial Park to Ingersoll Cheese and Agricultural Museum Pavilion. At 7:00 p.m., Wilfrid Laurier University Indigenous Studies Professor Ryan Neepin will speak, as will Becca Neepin of ISAN-Oxford. For more details, see the accompanying poster on this page.

On Tuesday, September 28th at 7:00

p.m., a virtual community talk will be held regarding Trust and Reconciliation in Oxford County, presented by United Way Oxford. Special Guests will be Patricia Marshal, Gloria Thompson, and Kim Parker. To register for the online event, please email amanda@unitedwayoxford.ca.

Marshal told the Echo that the Red Dress tree will be set up at Sunset on September 29 near Smith's Pond, for those wishing to attend.

Also, Marshal wishes to remind all to check out Ingersoll's youth-made Truth and Reconciliation art project in the ICAC during the month of September as this year's Indigenous Art Installation, along with the Indigenous Awareness crosswalk on King Street.

ISAN is a volunteer and donation-based organization dedicated to truth and reconciliation in Oxford County by means of raising awareness of history and current events as well as showing solidarity with the Indigenous community.

Marshal summarizes, "We are a mix of Indigenous people and non-Indigenous allies working together to walk towards meaningful Truth and Reconciliation in Oxford County."

3RD ANNUAL MARCH FOR TRUTH & RECONCILIATION

WALK TOGETHER TOWARDS TRUTH AND RECONCILIATION IN OXFORD COUNTY

MMIWG2S+ TREE SEPT 29-30TH

SEPTEMBER 30TH

VENDOR BOOTHS 4:30-8:30 PM

SPEAKERS @ 5 PM
 => Professor **CODY GROAT** of Indigenous Studies at UWO
 => **PATRICIA MARSHAL** of ISAN-Oxford

MARCH @ 6 PM
 Yvonne Mott Memorial Park to Ingersoll Cheese and Agricultural Museum Pavilion

SPEAKERS @ 7 PM
 => Professor **RYAN NEEPIN** of Indigenous Studies at Laurier
 => **BECCA NEEPIN** of ISAN-Oxford

SPECIAL GUEST DRUM
DOREEN GUIMONT of Fox Lake Cree Nation

WHEN
September 30th 2023
4:30pm - 8:30pm

WHERE
Ingersoll Ontario

Yvonne Mott Memorial Park to Ingersoll Cheese and Agricultural Museum Pavilion

SPEAKERS- VENDORS- MARCH- MMIWG2S+ MEMORIAL TREE

Also check out the RECONCILIATION FEAST @ STICH SUPPER CLUB on Sept 28th at Trinity United Church 4:30-6pm and a Film Screening of THE SECRET PATH on September 30th @ Woodstock Public Library 2-3:30PM

Along with the INDIGENOUS AWARENESS ART EXHIBIT @ ICAC, the INDIGENOUS AWARENESS CROSSWALK ON KING ST in Ingersoll & the INDIGENOUS HISTORY EXHIBIT @ CHEESE MUSEUM all September long!

ISAN OXFORD

LOCAL MATTERS.



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



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



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

Ingersoll organizations come together to create fun summer sendoff event



Above, Hayley Greenhill has help from her dad to finish a craft in the Museum School. Below, Tractor rides went through the park throughout the day.



Gisa Euripide shows Brookston Boast how to throw the perfect punch during the Tai Chi and Karate demonstrations during the Kiwanis Harvest Market at the Ingersoll Cheese Museum on Saturday, August 26.

(HANNAH MACLEOD PHOTOS)

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Mason's John Needham and Jack Peters were two of many volunteers handing out ice cream to attendees. Meghan, Brookston and Addison Boast were happy for the cool treat.

EMBRO FALL FAIR

SEPT 16 & 17 2023

- Embro Parade
- Ambassador Competition
- Haflinger & Heavy Horse Show
- Little Hobby Hill Petting Zoo
- Wing Night & Children's Movie
- Artisan Market
- Kids Inflatable Playground
- Nash Barnett Memorial Car & Antique Farm Equipment Show
- Craft Beer Gardens
- NEW THIS YEAR: Used Book Sale



VISIT EMBROFAIR.COM

FOR MORE DETAILS AND TO BUY TICKETS

Fall fun at the Woodstock Fair



Harlynn Fraser and DJ Mayhew get ready to spin in the teacup ride at the Woodstock Fair on Saturday, August 26.



Scott Gauer and Clark Liella go head to head on the rolling log, with Liella coming out the winner.

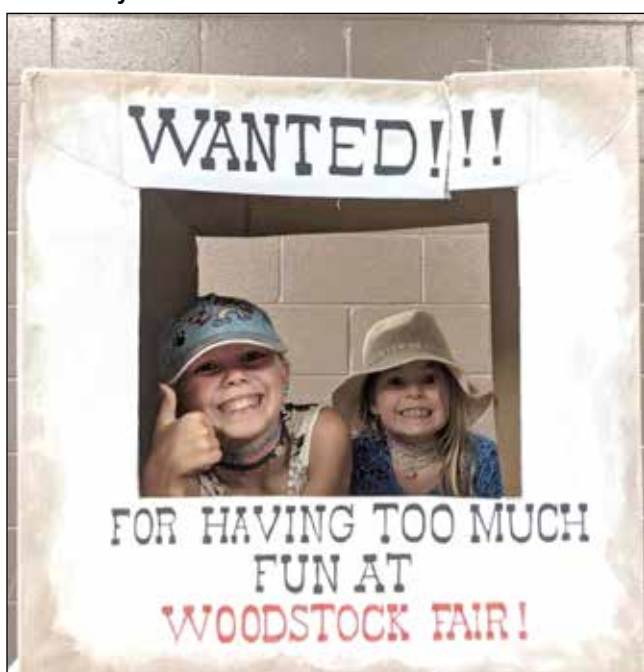


Savannah Miller is laser focused on getting the perfect catch at one of the many games at the midway.



Hannah, Clara and Audrey Cooper cooled off in the arena with their family to check out some fun and impressive displays.

(HANNAH MACLEOD PHOTOS)
Below, Charlotte and Ben, with dad Chase Glass, devoured some fun fair treats between rides.



Aria and Skyler Hughes were found guilty of having too much fun at the fair.



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Upcoming Events

September 24th

BBQ Party
2:00 p.m.- 4:00 p.m.

October 12th

OctoberFest
2:00 p.m.- 4:00 p.m.

November 25th

Christmas Bazaar
11:00 a.m.- 2:00 p.m.

Call Lisa to RSVP or schedule a personal tour

519-771-4973

Visit [Brightwaterseniorliving.com](https://www.brightwaterseniorliving.com) To Learn More About The Community



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

Woodstock Ingersoll Echo **SPORTS**

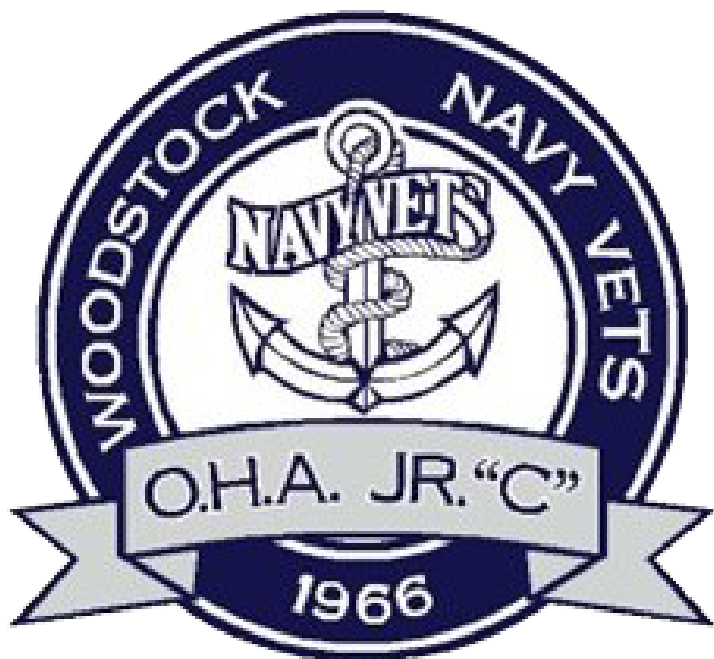
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2023-24 Navy Vets Season Preview



Only 2 players graduated from the Vets following the 2022-23 season ... forward Griffin Sinden who was injured most of the season and Tommy Zufelt.

Overage veteran goaltender Graeme Noye was traded to New Hamburg and overage veteran defenceman/forward Eric Tuori was traded to Paris for 2nd year goalie Scott Rodrigue.

They acquired defenceman Chris Coulter and forward Owen Lukings from Komoka Kings of the GOJHL, overage defenceman Mitch Penner from the 2023 Schmalz Cup Champion Wellesley Applejacks, as well as overage defenceman Tyler Smeda and overage forward Ty Crombie

from the PJHL Bloomfield Division Champion Glanbrook Rangers.

Signed from the OHF U18 A Champion Woodstock Jr Navy Vets are forwards Aiden Kindurys, Brady Carne, Connor Stanley, and defenceman Michael Vermeersch.

Returning from last year's team are goalie Tyler Bouck, defencemen Jordan Thomson and Jake Phelan, as well as forwards Cole Dann, Sam Barry, Nolan Brett, Matt Brooks, Rhylan Warford, and their MVP-Rookie-Scorer Awards winner Davin Gray.

Other newcomers on the team are defenceman Tim Mervyn and Ethan Domjan, as well as

forwards Michael Boyle-Ricupero, Aaron Bullock and Brandon Lamb.

Sam Barry has been named Captain of the team, while the Alternate Captains will be Davin Gray, Ty Crombie, and Mitch Penner.

OPENING WEEKEND

Fri. Sept. 15 vs HESPELER at Southwood Arena at 7:45pm – Season & Home Opener

Sat. Sept. 16 at PARIS at 7:30pm

Tickets Online:

<http://woodstocknavyvets.eventbrite.com/>

UPCOMING GAMES - LOCAL PJHL TEAMS

DATE	TIME	AWAY	HOME
Fri. Sept. 15	7:30 p.m.	Petrolia Flyers	Thamesford Trojans
Fri. Sept. 15	7:45 p.m.	Hespeler Shamrocks	Woodstock Navy Vets
Sat. Sept. 16	5:30 p.m.	Thamesford Trojans	Mt. Brydges Bulldogs
Sat. Sept. 16	7:30 p.m.	Woodstock Navy Vets	Paris Titans
Fri. Sept. 22	7:30 p.m.	Lucan Irish	Thamesford Trojans
Fri. Sept. 22	7:30 p.m.	Woodstock Navy Vets	New Hamburg Firebirds
Sat. Sept. 23	7:45 p.m.	Tavistock Braves	Woodstock Navy Vets
Sun, Sept. 24	7:30 p.m.	Dorchester Dolphins	Thamesford Trojans
Fri. Sept. 29	7:45 p.m.	Wellesley Applejacks	Woodstock Navy Vets
Fri. Sept. 29	8:00 p.m.	Thamesford Trojans	Exeter Hawks
Sat. Sept. 30	7:00 p.m.	Thamesford Trojans	Port Stanley Sailors
Sat. Sept. 30	7:45 p.m.	Norwich Merchants	Woodstock Navy Vets
Thurs. Oct. 5	7:30 p.m.	Thamesford Trojans	Petrolia Flyers
Fri. Oct. 6	7:30 p.m.	North Middlesex Stars	Thamesford Trojans
Fri. Oct. 6	7:45 p.m.	Paris Titans	Woodstock Navy Vets
Sat. Oct. 7	7:30 p.m.	Woodstock Navy Vets	Norwich Merchants
Fri. Oct. 13	7:30 p.m.	Aylmer Spitfires	Thamesford Trojans
Fri. Oct. 13	7:45 p.m.	Hespeler Shamrocks	Woodstock Navy Vets
Fri. Oct. 20	7:30 p.m.	Mt. Brydges Bulldogs	Thamesford Trojans
Fri. Oct. 20	7:45 p.m.	New Hamburg Firebirds	Woodstock Navy Vets

UPCOMING GAMES - LOCAL PJHL TEAMS

DATE	TIME	AWAY	HOME
Fri. Sept. 29	7:30 p.m.	Woodstock Lakers	Strathroy Jets
Sat. Oct. 6	8:30 p.m.	Woodstock Lakers	Delhi Flames
Sun. Oct. 7	7:45 p.m.	Strathroy Jets	Woodstock Lakers
Sun. Oct. 14	7:45 p.m.	Tillsonburg Thunder	Woodstock Lakers
Sun. Oct. 21	7:30 p.m.	Elora Rocks	Woodstock Lakers

Fall **Future Oxford Speaker Series**

The Future Oxford Speaker Series presents two free events this fall focusing on how to reduce energy costs and lower carbon emissions at home and in our workplaces. Join us to learn from local experts and enjoy refreshments from local businesses.



Get Smart! Energy audits for greener homes

Wednesday, September 20, 2023, 6:30 – 7:30 p.m.
Oxford County Library – Ingersoll Branch

Get Smart! Fundamentals of energy management in the private sector

Thursday, September 21, 2023, 11:45 a.m. – 1:00 p.m.
Oxford County Administration Building, Woodstock
This event will be live-streamed

Learn more at www.futureoxford.ca/events

FutureOxford



CRAIGOWAN 2023 CLUB CHAMPIONS

(CONTRIBUTED PHOTO)

In late August, Craigowan Golf Club recognized its various 2023 Club Champions. Pictured, from left to right: Connor Gilson (Men's A Flight), Scott Roode (Men's Club Champion), Bentley McNamara (Bantam Boys), Daman Grevers (Junior Boys), Randy Thomson (Men's B Flight), and Lisa Hagen (Ladies Club Champion). Absent: Ian Boright (Men's C Flight).



10U | OBA B CHAMPIONS

(CONTRIBUTED PHOTO)

Back (left to right) James McDougall, Henry MacDougall, Weston Demarest, Sam Cruz-Ventura, Dax Smith, Jordan Longlade, Jack Oliver, Carter Zehr
 Front (left to right) Jack Lisk, Kellen MacLean, Lincoln Leonard, Blake Roberts
 Not pictured (coaches) Mike Zehr, Ryan Smith, Adam MacLean, Geoff Zehr, Ron Larocque, Jeremy Parking

MIDWESTERN ONTARIO SENIOR BASEBALL LEAGUE

(final regular season standings)

	GP	W	L	T	RF	RA	+/-	PTS
Woodstock Nationals	16	14	2	0	141	68	73	28
Mitchell Astros (JR)	16	13	3	0	176	104	72	26
Listowel Legionnaires	16	8	6	2	123	104	19	18
Kincardine Cubs **	14	7	7	0	100	97	3	14
Mitchell Astros (SR)	16	6	8	2	95	137	-42	14
Hanover Hitmen	16	5	10	1	88	144	-56	11
Lucan Irish 9	16	5	11	0	116	136	-20	10
Byron Storm	14	5	9	0	89	110	-21	10
North London JR Nationals	16	4	11	1	96	124	-28	9

** Kincardine Cubs won league playoff title in 8-6 extra-inning win over Woodstock Nationals

Send in your sports reports

Coaches and/or parents are invited to send in your sports reports and pictures to the Echo to let Woodstock, Ingersoll and area know how your teams are doing throughout the 2023 season (and to create some great scrapbook material to be reflected upon in future years).

Game reports should be kept to a maxi-

mum of 100 words. Please include a brief description of what happened during your games, including the names of those who scored and any special efforts made by your players.

Please have all reports and pictures in by the 10th of the month by emailing info@theecho.ca.

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TAI CHI
Tuesday and Thursday
10:30 to 11:30am

KETTLEBELLS AND HIIT
Tuesday - 8:00 to 9:00pm

ATHLETES YOGA AND MEDITATION
Wednesday - 6:30 to 8:00pm

TRX TRAINING
Sunday - 10:00 to 11:00am

31 THAMES ST S INGERSOLL 519-537-9090 WWW.INGERSOLLKARATE.COM INFO@INGERSOLLKARATE.COM

Camp Tanner

Fundraising Concert

Allison Lupton Band

SEPT 30TH
Saturday

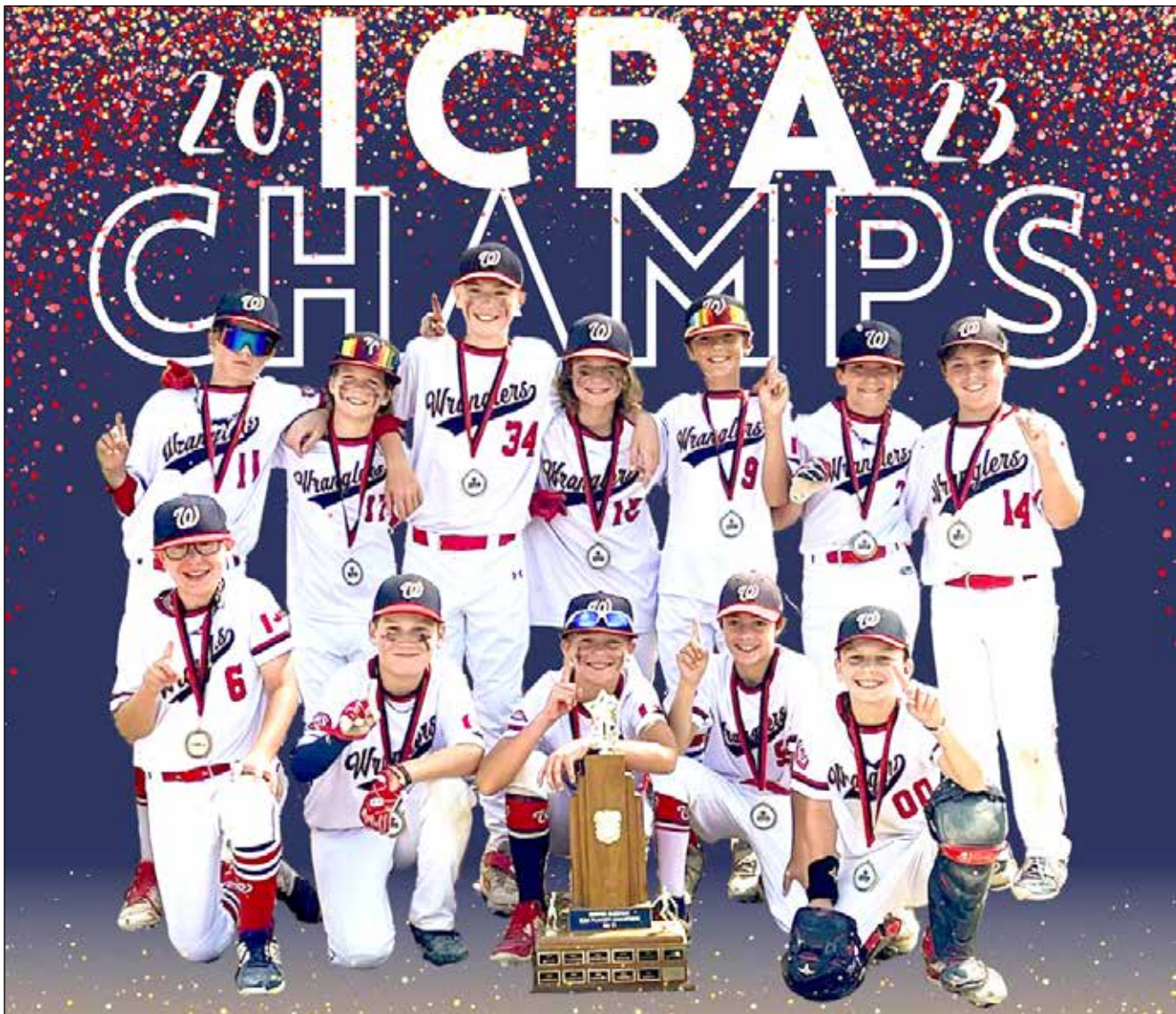
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12U | ICBA SEASON CHAMPIONS, OBA AA CHAMPIONS

(CONTRIBUTED PHOTO)

The Woodstock Wranglers 12U team earned the title of Provincial Champions of the 12U AA division earlier this month. Back (left to right) - Coaches Brady Shapton, Mark Hamulecki, Ty Shapton, Adam Gignac, Jeff Shapton Middle (left to right) Ryder Hawkins, Sullivan MacDougall, Grant Hamulecki, Trent Parsons, Finn Paton Front (left to right) Maddox Bowes, Owen Gower, Duncan Murphy, Parker Eaton, Everett Jukema, Clarke Gignac, Lynden Wilkins



11U | ICBA SEASON AND PLAYOFF CHAMPIONS

(CONTRIBUTED PHOTO)

The 11U Woodstock Wranglers continued their dominant season by winning the ICBA Championship on Sunday, August 27 at Upper Canada Park in Kitchener. The team went 5-0 in tournament play, defeating the Waterloo Tigers in the finals. This amazing group of boys also took the coveted ICBA regular season title with a 19-4-1 record. Back (left to right) Holden Bruno, Austin Martel, Liam Roper, Chase Ireton, Chase Elliott, Lukas Lattimer, Cooper Hawkins Front (left to right) Jacob Baron, Joel Larocque, Drew Klein-Geltink, Aiden Murphy, JT Lonsberry Not pictured (coaches) Mitch Lattimer, Chris Hawkins, Ian Ireton, Shawn Lonsberry, Ron Larocque

Back on the ice

The 2022-2023 Yeck Division Champion Thamesford Trojans are getting set for another exciting season of PJHL hockey starting with their home opener vs the Petrolia Flyers this Friday, September 15th at 7:30. Fans are invited to come tailgate with the team at a Barbecue and Beer Garden at the arena, beginning at 5pm.

The Trojans play in the extremely competitive Yeck division along 8 other teams from around the London area. The Exeter Hawks, Lucan Irish, Port Stanley Sailors, Mount Brydges Bulldogs, Petrolia Flyers, North Middlesex Stars, Aylmer Spitfires and Dorchester Dolphins make for tough competition any given night. For scores, scheduling and up to date information go to thepjhl.ca.

GM Brad Underwood has been very busy during the summer building this year's team. Last year's team had several players who are no longer eligible to play due to age, so replacing them and their talents is no easy feat: "We spent the summer trying to fill some big shoes and find players that are committed to understanding what we are about and how we do things in Thamesford. We've been able to pick up new players from Junior "B", minor hockey, and other Junior "C" teams so I'm very confident the eleven new players donning the green and white will do a fantastic job. I would be remiss if I didn't thank all the players not able to return with us this year. We wish them continued success in all their future endeavors and the organization appreciates their dedication and hard work both on the ice and within the community. I would also like to personally thank the volunteers, fans and our sponsors who are the backbone of our organization. Their continued support is invaluable and so very much appreciated."

Repeating as Division champions will not be easy for the Thamesford Trojans this year, as many of their competitors within the division have also loaded up significantly with talent and key player acquisitions. This high level of competition will provide fans with many exciting nights of hockey. Head Coach John Caldarozzi and Assistant Coach Dick Howard, along with current President Tony Redix, the Executive and the team of volunteers have been working hard to ensure that the Green and Gold will once again continue the long-standing tradition of excellence on the ice.

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SEPTEMBER 23RD, 30TH AND OCT. 7TH

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- 2014 Boys/Girls 2:00pm - 3:00pm Field A
- 2015 Boys/Girls 10:00am - 11:00am Field M
- 2016 Boys/Girls 4:00pm - 5:00pm Field M

FREE REGISTRATION PLEASE BE DRESSED TO PLAY WITH SHIN PADS AND CLEATS!

QUESTIONS OR INQUIRES PLEASE CONTACT
RICK JANESS @ rickjaness@yahoo.ca or 226-235-0104

TO REGISTER PLEASE VISIT WWW.INGERSOLLSOCCERCLUB.COM



LOCAL PLAYERS WIN ONTARIO CUP

Ingersoll teens Zach Zylstra and Eli North, who are travelling to the Arizona Desert Cup with the Alliance FC soccer team, won the Ontario Cup game on August 26. This qualified them to play at the Canadian Nationals against top teams from Canada in October in Waterloo.

Soccer is booming in Woodstock

The accompanying soccer standings on this page, where Woodstock is generally at or near the top of their competitive leagues, is only one measure on which to judge the success of the state of soccer in this area.

The Echo recently spoke with Sharon Docherty, President of the Woodstock Soccer Club. Docherty has been with the club as a player, coach, and executive member for over 40 years.

“Our club is much more than our competitive men’s program,” she said. “We were founded in 1976 and started with the house league program that has been a staple in the community ever since. We also offer indoor soccer for all ages, as well as run an incredible women’s competitive program.”

Docherty says that the number of players within the organization continue to

grow. This year, over 1,500 participated in outdoor leagues while 600-700 took part in indoor soccer. She gives much credit and appreciation to all the volunteers and Board of Directors whose selfless efforts make it all possible.

“We love the game, and we love to give back to the community,” she expressed.

Registration for the 2023/24 indoor soccer league began in August, with some age groups already maxing out while spaces are still available in others. For more information on the upcoming indoor soccer league or 2024 outdoor soccer (for which registration launches in January-February), please visit www.woodstocksoccer.com.

Players interested in playing competitive soccer with Woodstock Stallions are also encouraged to visit the website for more information. Competitive program

tryouts begin in October, and the team trains all winter long to prepare for the season. All Woodstock coaches, competitive or non-competitive, are required to complete a series of well-rounded training modules before each season.

Woodstock is very fortunate to have Canadian soccer icon Iain Hume as the Head Coach for the competitive program. Hume had a long and successful playing career, with hundreds of professional

league games contested in England and Spain and has also represented Canada on the national stage a total of 42 times. He brings an incredible amount of experience and passion for the game to his current coaching role in Woodstock.

Whether you are a youngster playing for the first time, or a seasoned player hoping to make the next step, Woodstock FC is a great place to be.

WESTERN ONTARIO SOCCER LEAGUE Premier Division

(standings through September 9, 2023)

	GP	W	T	L	GF	GA	+/-	PTS
Woodstock Stallions A	16	13	2	1	73	11	62	41
Jagiellonia	15	11	2	2	54	6	48	35
London Croatia A	15	11	2	2	40	13	27	35
London Olympians	14	8	3	3	36	20	16	27
Tillsonburg FC A	16	7	3	6	27	27	0	24
Taxandria A	16	6	2	8	26	30	-4	20
GCFC Premier	16	5	2	9	16	27	-11	17
Chatham Express	16	5	1	10	18	50	-32	16
St. Thomas A	15	1	1	13	14	56	-42	4
Carib Stars	15	0	2	13	12	76	-64	2

WESTERN ONTARIO SOCCER LEAGUE First Division

(standings through September 9, 2023)

	GP	W	T	L	GF	GA	+/-	PTS
LS Croatia A	14	12	2	0	66	16	50	38
Woodstock Stallions B	14	9	1	4	40	21	19	28
Chatham Attack	14	8	3	3	31	22	9	27
African Carib Utd.	14	7	2	5	27	19	8	23
London Scottish	14	4	3	7	21	24	-3	15
London Croatia B	14	4	2	8	23	41	-18	14
London Thunder A	14	2	2	10	20	58	-38	8
Taxandria B	14	1	3	10	17	44	-27	6



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, October 21, 2023

Friday, November 17, 2023

Friday, December 15, 2023

info@theecho.ca

Aralyn Smith, Natalie Dodd among medalists at World Dragon Boat Championships

STEWART GRANT

Publisher

Two Grade 12 students at Woodstock Collegiate Institute had an extraordinary end to their summer – travelling to Thailand and winning a pile of medals at the 16th World Dragon Boat Championships.

Aralyn Smith and Natalie Dodd were both key members of the U18 Canadian National Team that won 12 medals overall in Pattaya, Thailand. The U18 team's medal count was part of the overall total for Canada's delegation, which included 52 Gold, 26 Silver, and 13 Bronze medals by all the Canadian teams. Canada finished as the overall global leader at the World Championships.

Both Natalie, 17, and Aralyn, 16, recently spoke with the Echo about their experiences in dragon boating which culminated in their recent success in Thailand.

"I got into dragon boating through a family friend when I was 9 years old," said Natalie, who along with her four brothers grew up on parents' (Darrin and Kathy Dodd) farm just outside of Hickson. "I started off at the recreational level, before quickly moving up to join the more competitive teams. This coming season will be my 9th in the sport."

Aralyn, who hails from Embro and whose parents are Greg and Amy Smith, recalled, "When I was 10 years old, I followed a family friend who had competed in World Dragon Boat Championship in Welland in 2015. She invited me to winter pool practice and weight training with Thames River Paddling Club and Stratford Juniors. I was already loving the sport before I even got to the water. I started training at 11, went to my first national team tryout the same year in 2018, and was 12 years old representing Canada for the 2019 Worlds in Thailand."



(CONTRIBUTED PHOTO)

HEADLINE

From left to right: Aralyn Smith, coach Geoff Johnson, Natalie Dodd celebrate Canada's overall victory at the 2023 World Dragon Boat Championships last month in Pattaya, Thailand.

During the 2023 World Championships, Natalie and Aralyn both competed in the U18 Mixed Standard Boat and U18 Women's Standard Boat, winning 3 Golds and 5 Silvers and hoisting the Junior Cup while Canada won the Nations Cup.

"I think the team's key to success was dedication, and coaching. We had four amazing coaches that helped us improve our technique and they frequently used the motto 'one team, one unit, one family'. Individuality means nothing in dragon boating, every time you get on the boat you have to paddle not only for yourself but also for every single one of your teammates," Dodd said.

Smith agreed that coaching

was the difference for Team Canada. "Key to the success of the program was our coaches Geoff Johnston, Kat Messina with assist by Katie Trinh and Max Carrier; we're a united group. They really pushed us and always challenged us throughout the year. Our team really meshed and bonded well; we knew our roles in the boat."

Aralyn also credits her long-time coach Ken Gene, as being the constant force to push her into new goals and challenges. "He is an amazing wealth of knowledge and so generous to provide a space to train. My favourite part of my sport is the weightlifting/erg with Ken and when the boat is in complete unison - it sounds like a heartbeat."

The roughly two-week experience in Thailand ended on August 15th with many memories in and out of the water for the girls.

Natalie said, "Overall Thailand was amazing. We were able to do a little bit of tourism and saw a few temples and a palace, visited the night market, and went shopping at the mall. My favourite part of the experience was making friends with my teammates and being able to earn a gold medal on the podium. On the women's boat we received a gold medal for our very last race of the competition, and we all cried together afterwards in celebration, but also because we were so sad that it was ending."

Aralyn recalled, "My favourite race was on the last day of racing. In the third race, USA and Australia got a good jump off the start, through the middle we were tied with USA, and coming into the last 250m we pushed the boat to a half boat length victory. After the race all three teams joined in a circle, shoulder to shoulder and cheered with hugs."

"Between daily practices and some team bonding activities,

we were able to enjoy some other adventures in Thailand. We went on a 28km ATV ride through the jungle and plantations. Also, took tuk-tuk rides through Pattaya to various night markets. Met some amazing people from all over Canada from Senior A, B, C teams as well as my fellow teammates. Friendships were made and plans to meet up over the next year," Smith added.

Natalie said of the sport, "I strongly encourage any teenagers to go ahead and join their local dragon boat team and try out for the national team. If they work hard, the payoff in the end is life changing and completely worth it. Anything is possible, but you have to believe in yourself and put in the work to achieve your goals."

Both girls have their eyes on the next World Championships, to be held in Germany in 2025.

"The nice thing about dragon boat there is a team for you at any stage of life or level of competition. This sport has given me so many opportunities to meet amazing people and different adventures, I don't see an end for me any time soon," said Aralyn.

Rank	Country	Gold	Silver	Bronze
1.	Canada	52	36	13
2.	China	30	17	6
3.	United States	24	39	19
4.	Thailand	12	19	11
5.	Australia	7	11	42
6.	Philippines	6	3	5
7.	Indonesia	5	-	1
8.	Germany	2	2	6
9.	Hong Kong China	2	1	6
10.	Iran	1	2	4
11.	India	1	1	2
12.	Macau China	1	-	3

WESTERN ONTARIO SOCCER LEAGUE

Third Division

(standings through September 9, 2023)

Team	GP	W	T	L	GF	GA	+/-	PTS
Norfolk Athletics	14	10	4	0	58	11	47	34
Woodstock Stallions C	14	8	5	1	50	14	36	29
Ingersoll Flyers	14	8	2	4	27	16	11	26
GCFC Third	14	6	4	4	44	26	18	22
St. Columban B	14	7	1	6	38	30	8	22
LS Croatia B	14	5	2	7	33	34	-1	17
Tillsonburg FC B	14	2	2	10	12	63	-51	8
Taxandria C	14	0	0	14	5	73	-68	0

WESTERN ONTARIO SOCCER LEAGUE

Fourth Division

(standings through September 9, 2023)

Team	GP	W	T	L	GF	GA	+/-	PTS
PCL	12	10	1	1	46	20	26	31
Brazukas FC	12	10	0	2	40	12	28	30
Strathroy UFC B	12	5	5	2	25	22	3	20
Woodstock Stallions D	12	4	2	6	22	23	-1	14
St. Marys Juggernauts B	12	4	1	7	21	36	-15	13
London Thunder B	12	3	1	8	29	40	-11	10
AEL FC	12	0	2	10	14	44	-30	2

New inductees to Ingersoll Sports Hall of Fame to be honoured September 24

STEWART GRANT

Publisher

The public is invited to Ingersoll Arena on Sunday, September 24 to join in the celebration of local sporting excellence as three individual athletes and three memorable teams will be the newest inductees into the Ingersoll Sports Hall of Fame. The induction ceremony, which is free to attend, will be held upstairs at 2:00 p.m.

In a statement made by the 2023 Committee, "It is important to recognize these accomplishments because success exists not only on an individual level, but on a community level for those who surround the athlete. As a group of people that share a passion for local sports, strive for greatness, and actively build into the next generation – as many of our inductees do and have done – the success of one is felt by all. Every inductee should take immense pride in both their achievement and the realization that this honour only comes through hard work, effort, and perseverance."

This year's inductees are John Glassford, Elizabeth "Liz" McKinnon, Billy Graham, 1987 IDCI Junior Girls Volleyball Team, 1992-93 Shelton Ford Peeewe B Hockey Team, and 2003-04 Ingersoll Express Novice Hockey Team.

John Glassford made his mark in football, first in high school for the South Secondary Lions as his team won the Conference Final. He went on to win a Yates Cup with Wilfrid Laurier University, be named a Golden Hawks Team of the Century member, and in the CFL won the 1981 Grey Cup Outstanding Defensive Player Award.

Liz McKinnon began figure skating with the Ingersoll Skating Club when she was seven years old, developing a love of the sport that would one day take her around the world as a member of Rhapsody on Ice, Canada's interna-

tional touring amateur precision skating dance team. She later helped form the successful Nite Line team based out of the London Skating Club.

Billy Graham had an extremely successful professional boxing career while living in Halifax, winning all 25 of his fights. In the years that followed, he passed along his knowledge to hundreds of children and young adults who joined his boxing club in the Ingersoll community, with several athletes becoming Ontario champions under his guidance.

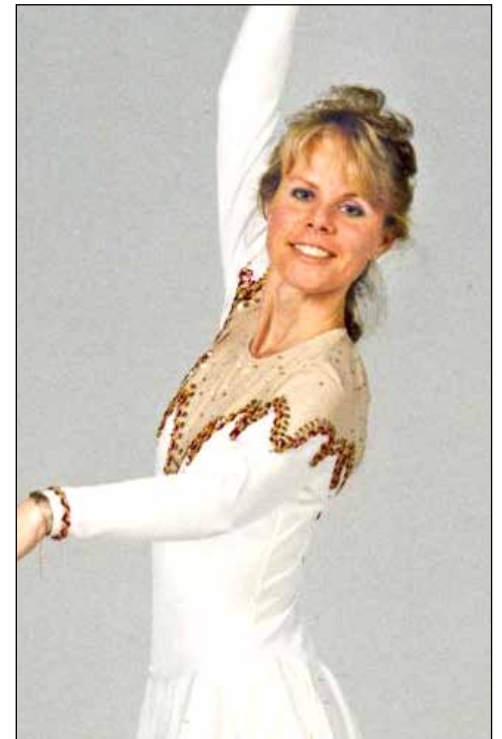
The 1987 Junior Girls Volleyball team at Ingersoll District Collegiate Institute won multiple tournaments and compiled a record of 105-23.

The 1992-93 Shelton Ford Peeewe B Team fared well in numerous tournaments during their season.

The 2003-04 Ingersoll Express Novice Rep Team had a dominant season that ended with a Provincial Championship.



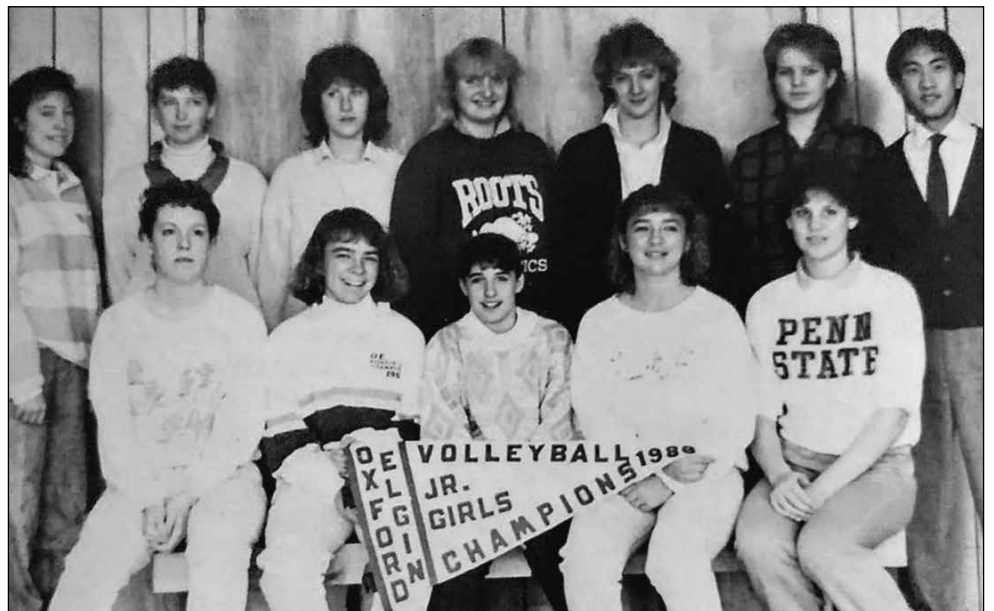
JOHN GLASSFORD



ELIZABETH MCKINNON



BILLY GRAHAM



1987 IDCI JUNIOR GIRL'S VOLLEYBALL

Pictured in the front row: Laura Moore, Lisa Wilson, Tanya McFarlane, Cathy Wilson, Jeannette Arts. Back row: Heather Cummings, Tara Heeney, Cathy Reeves, Ricki Martin, Anita Greenwood, Tracy Jean-Louis, Kelvin Hui.



1992-93 SHELTON FORD PEEWE B

Dan Budreau, Paul Smith, Jon Hathaway, Scott Chalkley, Jonathan Dilanni, Dave Gardham, Dave Mott, Chris Lamers. Back row: Wayne Chalkley, Bill Whatley, Jim Whatley, Ken Mos, Dusty Ward, Jason Elliot, Chris Barber, Christian Ratcliffe, David Forbes, Derek Boersma, Ryan Summers, Rick Johnson, Bob Shelton.



THE 2003-04 INGERSOLL EXPRESS NOVICE REP

Pictured in the front row: Michael Nutt, Brett Dzyngel, Jacob Parkhill, Kyle Flynn, Joel Hall, Jordan Travis, Brett Nicholson, Laura Deller. Middle row: Hannah Kruger, Austin Kieft, Jesiah Sweetland, Austin Malchesky, Quinton Pow, Mitchell Fitzmorris. Back row: Dale Hall, Keith Dzyngel, Tom Tyrrell, Jeff Nicholson, Brian Nutt.

Woodstock dancer off to represent Ontario in Prague

HANNAH MACLEOD

Echo Correspondent

Woodstock youth, James Veniott, will be travelling to Prague in June of next year to represent team Ontario at the Dance World Cup.

Veniott is a grade six student who has been dancing since he was only two and a half years old!

"My older sister danced and I wanted to join," he explained.

Veniott studies tap, jazz, ballet and hip hop under Lainy Zimmer at Footprints Dance Centre.

"There were so many dancers at the audition I was surprised when I was accepted," said Veniott. "I felt very proud."

"I am most excited to dance with other dancers from around the world," he continued.

Veniott has been practicing everyday, along with practicing his dances for his home studio.

He plans to take some master classes at The World Dance Cup, while in Prague.

He would also like to see the astronomical clock and wants to stand on the bridge that Tom Holland and Zendaya stood on in the Spiderman movie 'Far from Home'.

"I am excited to see James' hard work pay off in such a fantastic way," added his mother, Stacey. "He loves music and dance. He lights up when he walks on a stage."

"He has already enjoyed meeting all the kids on his team and has made friends already," she continued. "I am most thrilled to see the World Performers Canada team represent Canada on the world stage. These talented little dancers will make Canada proud."



JAMES VENIOTT



(DOIRS WEIR PHOTO)

CATCHING SOME AIR

15 local local skaters from 5 and up participate at the 2nd annual skatepark on Aug 26th.

A few were at the event last year and have been looking forward to showing off their skills they have been practicing all summer on. Lori McDonald did an amazing job organizing. the Thamesford Lions club had a booth with free rock painting.

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Theatre Woodstock kicks off 2023/2024 with first September show in theatre's history

EMILY STEWART

Echo Correspondent

Theatre Woodstock's upcoming performance season will include plenty of laughs and beloved children's stories.

The Mark Crawford comedy "The Birds and The Bees" will kick off Theatre Woodstock's second season since the COVID-19 Pandemic began. "The Birds and The Bees" runs from Sept. 15 to 24.

"Last season was our first full season after COVID and we are definitely hitting the ground running this year," Sarah Hodgkinson, marketing and communications coordinator with Theatre Woodstock, said. "We never had a September show. We want to come out strong in September with the 'Birds and The Bees' and we're looking forward to filling our seats again and welcoming theatre people back to theatre."

Theatre Woodstock will also present "When A Reaper Calls" between Oct. 20 and 29, just in time for Halloween, and "A Good Old-Fashioned Big Family Christmas" from Dec. 1 to 10 leading up to Christmas.

"Matilda JR. The Musical" will follow from Jan. 12 to 14, along with daytime performances for the schools on Jan. 11. There will be cross-promotion with the Woodstock Public Library in honour of Matilda's frequent library trips and love of books in the Roald Dahl story. The musical will be performed by Theatre Woodstock's Stages program, one of the few youth theatre programs in the region.

There are 50 young performances to be part of the "Matilda" production, with

50 more waitlisted. The Stages program is divided into three groups based on age and ranges from Grade Two to Grade 12/13.

"To have these kids in these shows with real stage lights - not just a row of light-bulbs like I dealt with at a public school," Hodgkinson said. "Real stage lights that are controlled by Rob [McLaughlin] and other professionals and real microphones and real directors and real musical directors and it is such an awesome experience here in Woodstock for these kids."

Rob McLaughlin, the vice-president and technical director of Theatre Woodstock, said the Stages program has several opportunities on-stage and behind the scenes for youth in hopes of sparking a life-long interest in theatre.

"When we get the kids involved at a young age those kids become teenagers who are involved and those teenagers then become young adults who are involved with the theatre and on and on they go," McLaughlin said. "And if we don't cater to that younger generation and bring those kids and get them involved, we run the risk of possibility that theatre goes by the wayside."

Rogers and Hammerstein's "Cinderella" will be the large-scale musical production for Theatre Woodstock's upcoming season from Feb. 16 to 25. Auditions for the production occurred from Sept. 10 to 12.

"That's the great thing about Theatre Woodstock, is we get our actors and actresses from our community," Hodgkinson said. "They're the butcher, the baker, the candlestick maker and they come out and they audition."

"A Series of One-Act Plays" will return to the Theatre Woodstock stage between April 11 and 13. There will be around three or four one-act plays presented in the evening.

"It's quick, it's a little easier it's a little more focused," McLaughlin said. "We have a lot of people that get involved in that as first-timers. They've never been in the theatre, they've never been on stage before, but it is an opportunity to sink their teeth into something that is not overwhelming."

The season will conclude with "Something Rotten" from May 24 to June 1.

Tickets for every show is \$25 for adults, \$18 for students, and \$12 for those 12-years-old and under.

Visit theatrewoodstock.com for more information and to purchase tickets.

ADA'S NOTEBOOKS kicks off the 2023-2024 Season

A heartfelt tale makes its world premiere.

The Ingersoll Theatre of Performing Arts season begins with a touching play called *Ada's Notebooks*. Local playwright, Rebecca McNall, is also directing the production. "Ada's Notebooks is based on my Aunt Ada Dale," said McNall. "The story revolves around some of my family, and there's a bit of truth inside the fiction."

Aunt Ada Dale was never married, nor had any children. Because of that, there was a real bond with Rebecca, as well as Rebecca's mom. "I inherited my aunt's desk, and discovered many notebooks inside," recalled McNall. "As I read through them, the writings showed her gradual struggle with dementia. Writing down her memories was Ada's way of maintaining her senses."

Ada's Notebooks brings some of the stories McNall discovered to the stage. Ada and her sister, Mabel, both served in World War II, but took very different paths during that time. Ada became a teacher upon her return to Canada. She wrote about her life experiences throughout the years. The notebooks reveal a remarkable woman.

Director McNall is really enjoying working with her amazing cast. "They have all their lines figured out. Everyone

is part of the team," she said. "It's a family environment. The whole cast and crew are pitching in to make the show come together."

The most challenging part of writing and directing *Ada's Notebooks* is watching the different actors trying to discover the characters. McNall adds, "I'm very familiar with how the real-life people act. It's quite interesting to see the actors add their creativity to the characters I know so well as family members."

Audiences can expect to laugh a bit during the show as well, as there are some humorous moments. "Ada was a real spitfire," said McNall. "She was adventurous, daring, and would try anything. It was part of what made her so special. Ada lived a good life." Writer/Director Rebecca McNall has a message for theatre patrons - "It's going to be awesome!"

Ada's Notebooks is playing at the Ingersoll Theatre of Performing Arts, 88 Thames St. S. Ingersoll, and runs Sep. 8, 9, 10*, 14, 15, 16*, & 17*. (Sep. 8, 9, 14, & 15 at 7:30pm. Sep. 10*, 16*, & 17* at 2:00pm). Sponsored by Mark Williams of BMO Nesbitt Burns. Reserved tickets now on sale at www.itopa.ca or 519-485-3070. A stair lift and hearing assist system are available to ITOPA patrons.



ADA'S NOTEBOOKS

Rehearsing for *Ada's Notebooks*. From left to right: Joanne Barker (seated), Julie Buffett, MJ MacDonald, Michelle Murphy, and Writer/Director Rebecca McNall.

(JIM KONOPETSKI PHOTO)

Echo

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

**our next editions are:
Friday, October 21, 2023
Friday, November 17, 2023
Friday, December 15, 2023**

**Contribute to your local community newspaper!
Send articles, sports or event recaps, and photos to**

info@theecho.ca

WWW.THEECHO.CA

Wreck the Dress 2023 cancelled

EMILY STEWART

Echo Correspondent

Udderly Ridiculous Farm Life cancelled their second Wreck the Dress event, but they're still raising money for the Women's Crisis Centre of Waterloo Region.

Wreck the Dress, which was scheduled for Sept. 23, involves participants of all genders wearing dresses to be destroyed in a photoshoot fundraiser for the Moving Forward Scholarship fund for the Women's Crisis Centre of Waterloo Region.

Udderly Ridiculous Farm Life announced on Sept. 12 that Wreck the Dress

was cancelled.

"It is with incredible sadness and disappointment that we are coming to you with the news that we are canceling Wreck the Dress 2023," the post said.

The silent auction, however, is still running until Sept. 28 at 5 p.m. to raise money for the Moving Forward Scholarship fund for the Women's Crisis Centre of Waterloo Region.

"Please bid generously and together, we can make a meaningful difference in the lives of women affected by domestic abuse," the post also said.

Cheryl Haskett, founder of Udderly Ri-

diculous Farm Life, said to the Woodstock Ingersoll Echo that the in-person Wreck the Dress event was cancelled due to a lack of registrants.

"We only had eight people registered and we could not count on the next week and a half having enough people to warrant all the people involved including vendors and food trucks who expected to generate revenue, Haskett explained.

She added the Moving Forward scholarship supports women and their children who faced domestic abuse and are preparing for the next steps in their post-secondary education journey.

"Last year Wreck the Dress fundraising enabled 10 women to access grants and this year through our fundraising efforts like our online auction we are aiming to raise even more. We want to empower women to thrive not to just be 'survivors,'" Haskett said.

Items at the silent auction include yoga sessions, tickets to Drayton Entertainment Productions, a hot air balloon ride for two, gift cards, a nail care set, and many more.

Visit <https://event.auctria.com/f9324b8c-408a-4cbf-8cc2-a89e43d12ee4/a780d600ec2e11e9ae081db830846aa5> to access the auction.

FROM THE GARDEN: Fall's bounty



NANCY ABRA

Echo Contributor

As summer wanes and the days advance to fall, our gardens are yielding the last of its season's produce. As for area orchards, they are just coming into their bounty. For many families, a visit to a local orchard for fresh picked apples has been a long tradition and some orchards offer tours which adds to the farm experience.

Last weekend we had the opportunity to tour an organic apple farm in Ayton, near Hanover, Ontario. Filsinger Organic Products is a 100-acre apple farm, originally established by Alvin

Filsinger. He believed there was only one way to grow apples, and that was the natural way. His farm was one of the first organic farms in Canada and he was honoured by an award for his life-long work in the organic industry. The present owners also have the same passion of growing naturally and still follow the same process Filsinger used over 75 years ago.

The Filsinger farm consists of approximately 30,000 trees of a few types of pears and over 30 heritage and newer varieties of apples. Grown naturally, without herbicides and pesticides, the apples aren't pretty or perfect. As the consumer wants blemish free, Filsinger's apples are not appealing for fresh from the trees purchase. But the taste of organically grown apples comes through in their apple juice, sweet apple cider, sauce, and apple cider vinegar, they produce in their facility at the farm.

We witnessed a demonstration on how they manufacture their apple cider vinegar. Donna, our guide, and present owner, said they use the older varieties such



as Courtland, Spartan, Ida Reds, Empire in making their cider vinegar because of their higher acid levels. The production of their cider vinegar from tree to bottle is approximately two months. The newer varieties, such as Honey Crisp, Jonagold and Gala have lower acid level, are juicier, so they are used in their apple juice.

Apple cider vinegar is made through a process called fermentation. The process has main two steps. First the washed fresh apples are crushed, then dumped into a filtration device to extract the juice which is transferred into huge, contained vats. Yeast is added to these vats to speed up the fermentation process, so the sugar converts into alcohol after a couple of weeks. Then, natural bacteria break down the alcohol into acetic acid, which

gives the vinegar its tangy taste and odour.

Filsinger Organic Products produce and bottle raw apple cider vinegar, meaning it is not pasteurized. It has a rich amber colour, has a cloudy appearance, and referred to as the 'mother of vinegar'. In this natural cider vinegar all the vitamins, minerals and enzymes are still present. Pasteurization process removes these natural components, has a brighter colour and free from cloudiness, meaning it is more visually appealing to the consumer.

Filsinger Organic Products as available across Canada, in most health food stores and at some Bulk Food stores. They also ship to Thailand, a couple of countries in South America, and most recently, China.

There are many claims that

raw cider vinegar has many health benefits from boosting weight loss, curing with chronic diseases to controlling blood pressure and enhancing the immune system. I remember that my grandmother would drink down an ounce or so everyday of cider vinegar and swore that this daily dose improved her health. And yes, it was cider vinegar. A little sniff of the glass confirmed this was. Before you start guzzling down cider vinegar as a daily routine of preventative medicine, do the research. For me, I won't be usually it as a health benefit but will stick to using it in my preserves. Only now, I will make sure the apple cider vinegar I use will be non-pasteurized and in glass bottles for the best results in my pickles and preserves.

OH, THE PLACES WE'LL GO: Up, up and away over the Thousand Islands



PAUL KNOWLES

Times Contributor

There are a lot of great ways to see the Thousand Islands – well, some of them anyway – and we did several of them.

But let's start with the math. Here's a trivia question: "How many islands are there, in the Thousand Islands?" Answer? Nobody actually agrees. In fact, they don't even agree on the definition of "island."

Some will tell you that an island is any piece of land surrounded by water, said land being above the surface of the water, year-round, and having at least one tree. Others will say, no, it needs at least two trees. Others may argue that some islands may be submerged, sometimes, but they are still islands.

And then, there are the numbers. Several of the local experts we met said there are 1,864 islands. But a plaque atop the Thousand Islands Tower insists "There are officially 997 islands in the Thousand Islands. This is often exaggerated by including all the shoals and rocks, to make the total 1867." The Canadian Encyclopedia cites "an official count" that totalled "1149 islands and islets."

Suffice it to say, there are a lot of islands in the Thousand Islands, probably more than 1,000, and to-



(PAUL KNOWLES PHOTO)

An aerial view of the popular tourist attraction, Boldt Castle.

gether, they create one of the most beautiful areas in the world.

And, as I said before I went down the rabbit hole of arithmetic, there are a lot of fine ways to enjoy them. We took a Thousand Island cruise, we toured the waterway closest to Gananoque in an heritage, wooden power boat, and we ascended the Thousand Islands Tower, so we thought we had a pretty comprehensive perspective on the area.

That is, until we climbed into a four-seater helicopter at 1000 Islands Helicopter Tours, for a flight piloted by company owner Dave Kouri.

Our flight lasted only about 20 minutes – but the magic and the awe stretched that into an amazing adventure. Seeing the Thousand Islands from the deck of a boat gives you a good look at what humans have accomplished in

this highly sought-after destination – you see the heritage cottages and the elaborate homes, and you can consider the differences between how people have settled in Canadian territory compared to the U.S.

By the way – for both boat and helicopter, it's okay to enter U.S. waters or airspace, as long as you don't put a foot on American soil.

So we had experienced the islands from a water-level viewpoint, but seeing it from 1400 feet up, was something completely different. From there, the clear, clear waters of the St. Lawrence look like an impressionist painting, changing hues depending on depth. It reminded me of the ever-changing waterscape you see as you drive the Overseas Highway in the Florida Keys.

And the islands are revealed to be, in the main, forests, with tiny

plots of land claimed by humans along the shores. There is green everywhere. My perspective of the landscape changed completely with this air-borne perspective.

Dave Kouri has owned 100 Islands Helicopter Tours since 2008. Originally, it was based in Kingston (the St. Lawrence officially begins somewhere between Kingston and Gananoque), but he moved the operation to a site minutes north of the town locals simply call "Gan", a few years ago.

Today, he owns three helicopters, and has a staff of expert pilots. He told me he flies less often than he used to, because he has accumulated way more than enough qualifying hours to keep him in the air. But he clearly enjoyed the flight with us almost as much as we did.

His company offers five tour options – 10 minutes, 20 minutes,

two 30-minute tours (one heading east on the St. Lawrence, the other heading west to include Kingston), and "the works" – a one-hour tour that combines everything.

Dave told me that people who take the 10-minute tour (\$99), always say they wish that had opted for something longer. I would say, the 20 minute flight was amazing (\$169), and while more would probably be more amazing, we landed happy and enthralled.

Our particular tour took us well east through the islands. The highlight, is the flight around Boldt Castle. This was constructed by American millionaire hotel owner George C. Boldt, starting in 1900. He intended it as a very ostentatious gift to his wife, Louise. But it was not completed when Louise passed away in 1904, and Boldt completely abandoned the project. The castle, which is located on an American island, sat empty for 73 years; in 1977, the U.S.-based Thousand Islands Bridge Authority decided to finish construction, to create what has become a popular tourist attraction.

And it is impressive. But as Dave told me, most of his customers on the 20-minute or 30-minute "Two Castle Tour", "go out to see the castle, but talk about everything else when they return."

I guess the lesson here is, humans can do pretty impressive things, but we can never top the sheer magnificence found in nature. Because the castle is interesting, but the waterways, rocks and forests of the Thousand Islands are spectacularly beautiful.

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)

Pilot and fleet owner Dave Kouri.



(PAUL KNOWLES PHOTO)

The lovely town of Gananoque – population about 5,500, but punching way above its weight as a terrific tourist attraction.

Riddles

Why didn't the moon finish his meal?
It was full.

How do you put an elephant in a refrigerator?
You open the door and put the elephant in and then close the door.

What do you get when you put a radio in a fridge?
Cool music

What goes around the world but stays in one place?
A stamp.

What did the math book say to the other math book?
"I've got a lot of problems."

What comes twice in a week, never in a month and once in a year?
The letter E.

What animal is NOT allowed to play in games or contests?
Cheetahs (cheaters)

Four men are in a boat and fall in the water. Not a single man gets wet. How is this possible?
All of them were married

Sudoku

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

Solutions on page 29

Pets of the Month



HONORAI

Honorai is an 8yr old American Eskimo dog miniature. His pet parents are Deborah and Marianne of Woodstock. He enjoys long walks, having photo taken and spending time with his family.



CHARLIE

Charlie is a 2 year old male bearded dragon. He loves hanging out on his rock or waving at his enclosure door waiting to come out. He likes snuggles and long walks on the beach.. LOL maybe not walks on the beach. He just looks intimidating he's a very sweet boy. He will fight you for blueberries. Those are his favorite.

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

Word Search

BACK TO SCHOOL

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

- ANSWER**
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 - COMPUTER
 - DESK
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 - FOLDER
 - GEOGRAPHY
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 - LIBRARY
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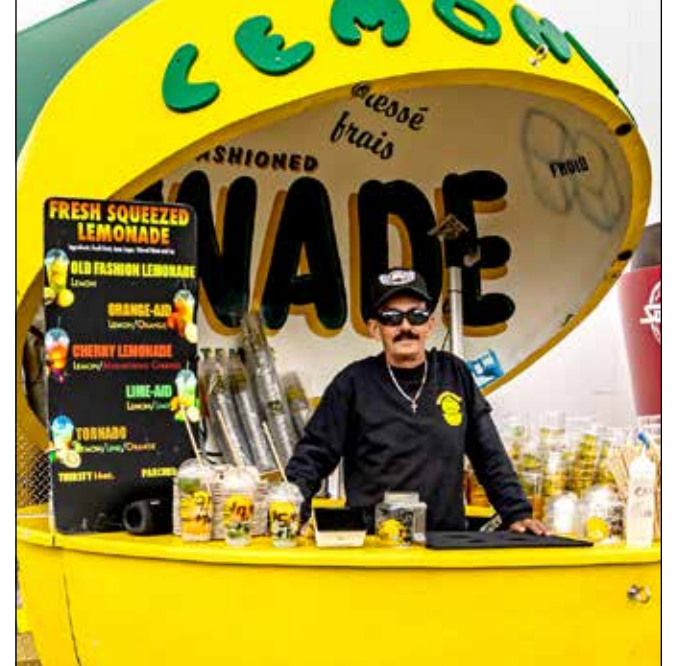
Scenes from the Canada's Outdoor Farm Show



Paul Montpetit and Ron Roglis checking out the sales book for a piece of farm machinery.



Lucas & Jen Dykstra climbing up the tractor steps to take a peak inside.



Darrell Holden serving up some lemonade.



Kyla, Katie, Eva, Marshall and Jacob Wiedrick were amazed by how big a tractor tire is.



Karen, Arlene and Rachel Robinson taking a break from walking around at the the show.



The Lions Club Cheryl Wieland, Tilda Adams, Larry Balkwill, Jim Koran, Les Wernhan, Waayn Wright and Ronda Otte selling drink tickets.



Ben, Philip, Jen, Immo and Lucas Dykstra

Eleven Lions Clubs come together to make for a successful Farm Show

HANNAH MACLEOD

Echo Correspondent

Jim Keron has been a part of the Thamesford Lions Club for sixteen years, and volunteering at the Outdoor Farm Show in Woodstock for fourteen.

Keron has served on the District Cabinet. One of his most memorable moments was setting up the hybrid zoom meetings during the pandemic. On one occasion, they listened to a member in long-term care address the club for, what turned out to be, their last time.

"Some highlights for me are singing songs while cooking fries," he said, in regards to his time volunteering at the Farm Show. "I just love joking with the customers. Once, while working cash, I had two thirty year old women purchase drink tickets. I asked them for proof of age - the one woman got a little huffy, but the



other slapped her arm and said 'think about it!'"

"We're always making friends with other clubs," he continued. "Just a minute ago we were laughing about singing old songs from the 60's while cooking."

It wouldn't be hard to make friends from other clubs at the Farm Show, seeing as they had volunteers

from eleven different Lions Clubs, within this zone, in attendance.

"I'd say there are about 180 of us here from eleven clubs working a total of about 2,000 hours," confirmed Keron. "My role is to plan the schedule for everyone working. Most of that happens at home, with six spreadsheets open on four feet of computer screen!"

"It appears chaotic, but it always seems to work out," he concluded. "Lots of fun and joking around. The best part? All the profits go right back into the community!"



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COMING EVENTS Email to inquire info@theecho.ca

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.
Doors open
Saturday, September 23; 10a.m.,-4p.m.
Explore Woodstock's unique heritage and cultural sites.

Taste of Art
Saturday, September 23; 7-10p.m.
Woodstock Art Gallery
19+ evening of artful experiences, bodacious beverages and local cuisine.

Embro Fall Fair
Saturday, September 16-Sunday, September 17
Parade, car show, kids activities and more fall fun

The Blazing Fiddles concert
Sunday, Oct 1; 4:30pm
Church of the Epiphany, 560 Dundas St., Woodstock

Tickets \$25.00. Tickets available at the door, Church office 519-537-3921 Wednesdays between 11am & 2pm or phone Marie Bowerman 519-539-1075. Refreshment will be available during intermission.

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

QUIZ ANSWERS

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

SUDOKU

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

Woodstock Ingersoll Echo

THAMESFORD

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- Thamesford Variety
- JC Graphics
- Tim Hortons

EMBRO

- Embro Food Market
- Kintore Coffee Co.
- Highland Restaurant
- Embro Hub - Fuel & Coffee

WOODSTOCK

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- Tim Hortons
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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

Goodwill Community Store

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- 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

Quality Hotel & Suites

- Best Western Plus
- Pharmasave Woodstock General Hospital
- Lobby, Woodstock General Hospital
- Reeves Community Complex
- South Gate Centre
- Daisy Mart

BEACHVILLE

- Beachville Museum

INGERSOLL

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- Ingersoll Karate
- Tim Hortons
- Cooperators
- McFarland Rowlands
- Foodland
- Miss Ingersoll
- The Olde Bakery Café
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- Town of Ingersoll
- Ingersoll 50+ Centre
- Tremblett's Independent Grocer
- Tim Hortons
- Home Building Centre

Pick Up Locations

ROUTE TO THE PAST: Very Superstitious!

SCOTT GILLIES

Contributor

As we enter the season of ghosts and goblins, ghouls and things that go bump in the night, it seems only fitting that we delve into the depths of mankind's fascination with superstitions. Through countless generations, we have struggled to come to terms with our

natural environment, to understand it, and perhaps to positively influence it. We have come up with talismans, charms, and shibboleths to guide us, to protect us and to help us.

How many superstitions do you already know and practice? Here are a few: don't sit at a table with 13 people; don't start anything new on a Friday; a broken mirror means sev-

en years of bad luck, but horseshoes are good luck charms.

The horseshoe may be considered magical because it is shaped like a crescent moon, and it is made from iron -- that metal which requires the mystical element of fire to produce.

The question still lingers though. Do you hang the horseshoe with the points facing up or down? Points up will catch all the good luck but the points downward keep the luck from leaving your home. Which practice do you follow?

Lucky in life and lucky in love. Other signs of luck include four leaf clovers, shooting stars, and rainbows. The ancient Egyptians viewed dolphins this way. Likewise tortoises and turtles have both been considered good luck signs, and even insects like the cricket.

Birds have long been considered harbingers of both good and bad luck. Barn swallows nesting in your garage is considered a good omen and will protect your property from lightning. How many of you make a wish when spotting the first Robin of Spring? On the other hand killing a Robin can bring dreadful results. Breaking their eggs is just as bad. That will result in something valuable of your own being broken.

Various birds have been connected with omens of Death. Seeing or hearing an owl can be considered unlucky. If a curious owl lands on your windowsill and looks inside, or it perches on your roof, or if strangely you happen to see one in the daylight, then bad luck and death are sure to follow.

Because a Great Horned Owl will attack porcupines and even skunks, it is felt that they possess remarkable powers. This may explain why they are said to be the only animals that can live with ghosts. In other countries and cultures, owls are believed to bring

good fortune. An Afghanistan legend states that it was the owl that presented humans with flint and iron so that they could make fire. It is viewed as a symbol of wisdom to the Greeks, and the people of Indonesia use its different hoots to determine whether it was safe to travel.

Many other animals have been used to predict the weather. What creatures do you use to predict the weather?

You can expect the weather to be fair when crows fly in pairs, and the day will be warm when ladybugs swarm. But, when chickens scratch together, there's sure to be foul weather. And have you ever noticed that flies bite more before a storm? If you listen, you will hear that frogs croak more and ducks quack louder before a rain.

The old saw, "Red sky at night, sailors delight; red sky in the morning, sailor take warning" actually has some scientific truth to it. For our ancestors, the sky was one big weather map. People looked to the sky for clues and turned to the sage advice of their forebears to determine what and when to plant, when to harvest, when to take a coat or umbrella before leaving home.

Stars that twinkle and then seem to fade away are indications of unstable air so there is a greater likelihood of some inclement weather approaching.

A ring around the tub can be scary. So too, a ring around the moon has been considered spooky. That halo is caused by moonlight reflecting on ice crystals in cirrus clouds which tend to precede low pressure systems.

If it rains, it is generally good luck to have an umbrella but never, ever, open it indoors! You may well say that you are not superstitious, but how often do you carry an umbrella on your journeys just to insure that it doesn't rain?

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Woodstock Ingersoll Echo

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After all, a community newspaper is at its best when it is the product of a community's efforts.

Here's some areas we'd love some help with:

- Local school happenings (sports, clubs, drama, academic, etc.)
- Surrounding area updates (i.e. Beachville, Embro, Innerkip, Sweaburg, Thamesford)
- Specific sports updates (karate, lawn bowling, golf, you name it!)

Historical columns

Features on local people doing interesting things

Submissions from local service groups, clubs, etc. Any other local ideas you may have!

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ANNOUNCEMENT

Operation Christmas Child is gearing up! Join us Monday, September 25 at 7 p.m. at Faithway Baptist Church, Brant St., Woodstock. Hear from a woman from Nicaragua who received a shoebox as a child, pick up supplies, and learn what's new. Call Karen at 519-425-0172 for more details.

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Holstein herd show winning ways in Oxford County

GARY WEST

Echo Correspondent

The Charlie and Jo-Anne Lupton family continue with their show winning ways with their Holstein Herd in Oxford County in 2023.

There are many herds of registered Holsteins in counties throughout southwestern Ontario, but none that have probably done as well in the show ring as the 2023 edition of the Up-Ridge Holstein herd of the Charlie and Jo-Anne Lupton family, north of Embro.

The Oxford County Holstein show took place recently at the Woodstock Fairgrounds during the Woodstock Fair and saw a large contingent of 120 animals, both heifers and milking animals, parade before a young judge from Dufferin County, Kevin McGriskin.

By end of the evening a Red and White

cow from the 70,000 Killo class for Up-Ridge Holsteins was named Grand Champion.

“Sweetview Avalanche Mitsou” was also awarded with the best udder in the show. This was a repeat win for the cow from the 2022 Oxford show.

The Reserve grand champion was selected from the Senior 3year old class for Roesbett Farms Ltd. of Lakeside, with their homebred Roesbett S.K. Risky, who was also named bred and owned Champion.

The Premier Breeder and Exhibitor banners were also claimed by the Lupton family, while the Breeders herd banner went to John and Fraser Doan (Doanlea) of Norwich.

The Tavistock area herd of Adam Zehr and family, bred the Premier Sire of the show-Walnutlawn Sidekick.



OXFORD COUNTY HOLSTEIN SHOW

(CLAIRE SWALE PHOTOS)

Left, Michael Lupton of Up-Ridge Holsteins with Sweetview Avalanche Mitsou, named overall Grand Champion of the recent Oxford County Holstein Show, judged by Kevin McGriskin of Shelburne. Right, The Up-Ridge Holstein Family, receiving their 7 winning banners from the various sponsors at the recent Oxford County Holstein Show in Woodstock.



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Satchel & Bagley

vol.#1

...So much shopping, eh!

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