

Woodstock Ingersoll Echo

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New emergency shelter beds opened in Oxford County

LEE GRIFFI

Local Journalism Initiative Reporter

A newly renovated space at Old St. Paul's Anglican Church in Woodstock is expanding the number of people served through Operation Sharing's homeless shelter.

More than 25 new beds have been added to Oxford County's emergency overnight shelter through an initiative between Operation Sharing (The Inn), Old St Paul's Anglican Church and Oxford County, helping more people in crisis.

"We are so pleased to be able to offer an additional 25 emergency beds and expanded space at The Inn. This will allow more Oxford County residents who are experiencing homelessness a safe, warm, and dignified place to sleep. We are thankful for the partnership with Oxford County and Old St. Paul's Church in bringing this to fruition," said Sheri Vindasius, Executive Director of Operation Sharing.

She expects to see an increase in demand with the extra beds and extended space. "This is a win for the homeless in our community, as this will allow an extra 25 more people a safe, warm and dignified place to sleep."

The expanded space at The Inn at 723 Dundas Street opened its doors Monday, offering 25 additional emergency overnight beds along with meals, clothing, shower and washroom access between the hours of 4:00 p.m. and 8:00 a.m. "On behalf of Old St. Paul's Anglican Church, we are pleased to be a partner in the expansion of this critical ministry for the residents of Oxford County," said John Maddox, Churchwarden at the church.

The emergency shelter uses space in the church that

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WOODSTOCK PET EXPO

(RON YUZARK PHOTO)

The Flying Fur Balls entertainment were Kyle with Jenga, Kathy with Bernadette, Jax with Rogue, Kate with Fuzzle and Luke with Dombro. More on Page 11.

Woodstock's 2024 budget approved after lengthy debate

LEE GRIFFI

Local Journalism Initiative Reporter

Taxpayers in Woodstock will see a 7.42 per cent hike in their property taxes this year. That translates into \$207.16 for every \$267,000 of assessed property value.

"This was the most challenging budget process I've been through in my time on council," said Mayor Jerry Acchione. "We see the financial stresses people are facing and that weighs heavily on all members of council as we consider the requests before us."

Heated and extensive discussion at the council table surrounded not only the budget as a whole but also the Streetscape Master Plan. One of the councillors who vot-

ed against phase one of the plan, which will dig up and replace the street and sidewalks on Dundas Street from Wellington to Riddell, is Deb Tait. She said the price tag can't be justified since the entire project is nothing but a new sidewalk and road. "That street was just paved five years ago. So, what they voted for will cost \$2.7 million for one block."

One councillor who voted in favour of both the budget and Streetscape was Bernia Martin. She said the Master Plan has been in the works for years and the previous council put money away for a long-term vision resulting in a vibrant community. "So many people have said to me that our downtown needs help. Downtown is this big

CONTINUED TO PAGE 2

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Streetscape project set to begin later this year

CONTINUED FROM FRONT

overarching topic, and it is not just about Streetscape. It is about homelessness, about addiction, about mental health." She added all these issues need to be addressed at the same time to benefit the community.

Tait said councillors who voted in favour of the new road and sidewalks believe it will help the downtown, something she just can't understand. "The focus should have been on Museum Square. If you want to get people downtown, you need to have events. Now businesses will be disrupted. I talked to an owner in the block affected and she asked me to not vote for it. She said it would devastate her small business because they would be closed. Businesses will be destroyed." She added there are streets in the city that need paving before Dundas.

Martin said postponing the master plan would cost Woodstock in several ways and the time to act is now. "Delaying has a cost socially and economically. It has a price because we know construction costs will continue to rise and it's cheaper to do something yesterday than it is today and it's going to be more expensive tomorrow. The option we voted for, number four, had the most support in the community and it's the option that allows us to move forward in a less expensive manner than doing it all at once." The majority of respondents to a city survey said they are in favour of a phased-in approach.

Tait explained that in her experience speaking to Woodstock residents they had no idea what the Streetscape plan even was. When they found out she said they

were dead against it. "It makes no sense, and it is a terrible, obscene waste of taxpayer money. Most people didn't even know what was going on." She added as the phased-in plan goes on, another block will be closed causing more disruption for downtown businesses and residents. The total plan to put in new sidewalks and streets today has a price tag of over \$7 million, something Tait said will be well over that figure when interest rates on borrowed money are factored in.

When asked if council could change its mind, Tait explained that would be up to those who voted in favour of it. "It was a recorded vote. Councillors Lauder, Schadenberg, and I voted against it so it would have to be someone who supported it. Either Councillor Martin, Leatherbarrow, Wismer-Van Meer, or Mayor Acchione would have to bring it back to council."

Martin's understanding is that the final design isn't etched in stone but it will replace the sidewalks and provide curbs that are angled rather than straight up. "What we have seen is the paving stones on the sidewalk will be replaced and transit



(CONTRIBUTED PHOTO)

BUDGET DEBATE

Councillor Deb Tait voted against the 2024 budget along with the addition of Phase One of the Streetscape Master Plan.

stops that are d-noted so there will be a visual improvement as well as an infrastructure safety improvement."

The Echo asked Martin if she had concerns like Tait's that some businesses would be adversely affected by construction. She explained that while the business she partially owns isn't on Dundas Street, the feedback she received from those in the area is favourable. "They said don't delay, let's make the improvement. The short-term pain is well worth the long-term gain. Let's get this done. Those comments were

a significant part of my decision-making process."

Tait was the lone councillor to vote against the budget, something she did out of respect for city residents because of irresponsible spending. "I cannot do that to the taxpayer. That's not what I was elected for. We are to represent the entire city and from all the feedback I've received everybody is struggling to make ends meet." Tait and Acchione were the only two Oxford County councillors who voted against that budget. It resulted in a 16.7 per cent tax increase.

When asked what she would like to

see next in terms of infrastructure in the downtown core, Martin said she wants to get a picture of what the financial reality is next year. "There are a lot of factors that will impact that. We have already approved the spending to expand South Gate Centre but again that project hasn't started yet. We won't know until that project is done and what the impact of that (loan) will be on the tax levy."

Phase one is not included in the 2024 budget but the borrowed money will hit the city's books in 2025. Martin said she is conscientious when it comes to taxpayer's dollars which is why she made a motion to cut a proposed new public pool at Cowan Park that would have come in with a \$5.35 million price tag. "The decisions we make today will impact residents on their tax bill in the future and that is one of the reasons I brought forward the motion to reconsider the spending on the outdoor pool."

The approved budget includes funding for several new initiatives, including increasing transit and para-transit hours by two hours on Saturday and adding service on Easter Monday starting in 2025. The Southside Park wading pool will also be free of charge for the 2024 season allowing families to visit the spray pad.

Construction on Dundas Street is expected to begin in late summer and be completed before the end of the year. The detailed budget and background information can be found at www.cityofwoodstock.ca/budget.

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New emergency shelter beds opened in Oxford County

CONTINUED FROM FRONT

was renovated and is being rented and staffed through Operation Sharing with additional funding from Ontario's Homelessness Prevention Program. The expansion doubles the number of people who can be sheltered at The Inn in Woodstock. In 2023, The Inn hosted an average of 24 guests each night, with 237 people using the service last year.

All municipalities providing housing and homelessness services are required by the province to maintain what's called a By-Name List of people experiencing homelessness to better connect them to the services and support they need. Oxford County's list has a total of 230 people on it

and an average of 10 first-time individuals per month were added to it in 2023. The good news is since April of last year 47 people from the list have been moved into more permanent housing.

Warden Marcus Ryan explained the additional resources are a step in the right direction. "The needs of vulnerable and unhoused populations can only be met by working together, with thanks to The Inn and Old St. Paul's for their tremendous leadership. This project marks a significant service expansion that will allow us to offer emergency support to more people, with more opportunities for people to access other services."



Pictured above is the expansion of a homeless shelter at Old St. Paul's Anglican Church in Woodstock.

(OXFORD COUNTY PHOTO)

Oxford County's 10-Year Shelter Plan and Master Housing Strategy focuses on programs to increase social options like transitional, supportive and affordable housing. It also works with community partners to support unhoused people through a range of services and supports, and advocates for increased funding from the provincial and federal governments.

Operation Sharing also provides emergency overnight shelter at Out of the Cold in Tillsonburg at 60 Harvey Street from 7:00 p.m. to 8:00 a.m. in partnership with Avondale United Church.

Anyone in need of emergency shelter should register in person at The Inn in Woodstock starting at 4:00 p.m. or 7:00 p.m. at Out of the Cold in Tillsonburg.

Oxford County Library launches rural questionnaire

LEE GRIFFI

Local Journalism Initiative Reporter

Oxford County Library is looking for feedback from its rural communities to help shape the future of local branches.

The Rural Community Engagement Survey is open until May 1 for public input on library branch hours, the physical set-up of library spaces, collections, technology offerings, programs and activities, and more.

CEO and Chief Librarian Lisa Marie Williams said the focus on feedback from rural branches is to make sure people's needs are being met and everything they are hoping to see in a public library. "We did get funding to increase hours at some of our small village branches so that's one of the pieces we are hoping to get, to find out what people are looking for in hours." She added the organization wants to make sure they put extra hours in the right place where people will be able to use the library more.

The survey, which can be accessed through Speak Up, Oxford! or the Oxford County Library website, takes about 5 to 10 minutes to complete and for taking part, rural residents will have an opportunity to win one of five \$40 gift cards to a local shop or restaurant of their choice.

For those who would rather send feedback directly, there is also an online question and comment form on the survey website. The survey is not intended for residents who use Oxford County Library's Ingersoll or Tillsonburg branches, or Woodstock Public Library.

Activities at branches of the library returned to normal once the pandemic ended and Williams explained business is booming. "A lot of them are strong and doing a lot of really great programming and events and people are coming back after we were closed for a few years off and on. People have come back and are using the libraries a lot. Our usage is up, people are coming into the branches to attend programs and take out physical books." She added now is a good time to look at things to see what more they can do, what they are doing right, and what can they change.

Branches often receive informal feedback from customers when visiting, something Williams said is also useful. "People put in book requests all the time and can do that when they are looking for something specific we don't have. We do get feedback every once in a while, through the online forms with the county."

Oxford County Library's rural branches are in Brownsville, Burgess-



Ingersoll Public Library

(CONTRIBUTED PHOTO)

ville, Embro, Harrington, Innerkip, Mount Elgin, Norwich, Otterville, Plattsville, Princeton, Tavistock and Thamesford. The Library also serves rural communities through Ox on the Run, a mobile book unit. To learn more or fill out the survey, visit www.oxfordcounty.ca/speakup.

Oxford County Library adds Ukrainian and Arabic picture books

EMILY STEWART

Echo Correspondent

The Oxford County Library expanded its collection and is working on adding more multi-lingual titles.

A social media post from the library's Facebook page announced the library added more than 60 picture books in Arabic and Ukrainian languages to their catalogue. The books were added after several requests from patrons for books in those languages.


"We're excited to bring this collection in," said Lisa Marie Williams, CEO and chief librarian. "Members of the public who have other languages they'd love to see come, we welcome their feedback to see what other collections and stories they can bring into the library."

As multi-lingual books have to be imported, there's a higher cost that comes with buying the books. The Oxford County Library spent about \$1,000 from the funding they received from the Peg Caffyn Estate to purchase the picture books.

"We felt like this was the perfect tie-in to something that she would be proud to have in the library," Williams added.

Adding books in multiple languages, Williams added, also meets the Oxford County Library's mandate to connect, discover, and share within the community. "They connect our families through their shared languages," she said. "They help other community members discover the beauty of new languages and new stories and they provide opportunities for caregivers and children to share stories in a language that they share or want to pass to their children. It helps our communities become more inclusive and engaged with different cultures and languages."

The books are available at the Ingersoll library on display to see and pick up. If the closest library is a different location, those interested can request books at another branch and it'll be sent to the location. Anyone can send in requests for materials in more languages by either chatting with one of the librarians in person or sending an email to myaccount@ocl.net.



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Woodstock swans find new home in Stratford

LEE GRIFFI

Local Journalism Initiative Reporter

The pair of mute swans living in Woodstock's Southside Park for the past 12 years are returning to Stratford. The Friendly City decided to end the program for several reasons, including the health and safety of the swans and city staff. Staff has been working with Stratford's experienced team and will be moving the birds to their new home later this week.

"Fortunately, the City of Stratford is in a position to welcome our swans back into their flock, so it seemed like the right time to make a change to the program," explained Grant Drygas, Supervisor of Forestry and Parks in Woodstock. "Stratford has a great program and I know our swans, named RJ and Betty, will have a good home there."

Stratford's swan population was reduced by six in 2022 thanks to the avian flu and Stratford's manager of parks, forestry, and cemetery, Quin Malott, says they are fortunate to have the swans coming home. "They know they will be well taken care of, and they are basically coming home. It's perfect timing because we're looking for birds when we are usually trying to sell them but because of the unfortunate incidents with the avian flu, we are looking to repopulate."

Stratford's annual Swan Release is scheduled for April 7, something Malott admits isn't the show it once was, but many people still look forward to it. "We let the swans out and invite locals and others to come down and watch. At one time there was a lot of hoopla around it with bouncy castles and food trucks, but now it's just more of a release."

Mute swans are not native to North America and are considered an invasive species. A migratory bird aviculture permit is required, and staff must follow strict conditions under the permit including clipping or pinioning of their wings to prevent escape. While the swans spend the summer in and around Southside Pond, during the winter months, the swans are housed in a small, heated facility behind the Parks Department office.

As one of the largest species of waterfowl in the world, Mute Swans can weigh up to 19 kilograms (more than 40 pounds) with a wingspan of seven or eight feet. They also eat up to 4 kilograms of aquatic plants each day, often uprooting entire plants.

"We understand there are many who enjoy watching the pair of swans swimming in the pond, but ultimately they haven't had the desired effect on the number of geese and may be negatively impacting the natural ecosystem," added Drygas. "Communities in other parts of Ontario are now seeing a return of the native Trumpeter Swans, so we're hopeful that could happen here too."

The swans' size and aggressive behavior has also been a challenge for parks' staff responsible for moving them to their winter facility each fall. Because the swans resist being captured, the process poses a risk of injury to both the birds and staff.

According to the Government of Canada, Mute Swans were brought over in the 1870s by European settlers looking to beautify parks and gardens. Their populations have since flourished in Ontario, from 500 in 1985 to more than 3000 in 2012.



HOME SWEET HOME

RJ (left) and Betty are seen above before they leave Woodstock for their new home in Stratford. They are making themselves right at home and Woodstock will be getting updates about any potential cygnets on the way later this spring. (CITY OF WOODSTOCK PHOTO)

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Woodstock Ingersoll Echo

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Woodstock Ingersoll Echo

Guiding Principles

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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

Oxford builders group makes its return

LEE GRIFFI

Local Journalism Initiative Reporter

The Oxford County Builders Association (OCBA) ceased to exist four years ago but has resurfaced thanks to some former members.

The group folded back in November 2019 just before the pandemic. Board member Derek Jukema is one of the professionals behind its resurrection.

"It was losing its steam and we just couldn't run it properly with the resources we had. On the flip side, we have done interviews and we have a potential executive officer who would operate in a part-time role."

Jukema said they were trying to get the word out before a launch at the Elm Hurst Inn this past Wednesday where the Canadian and Ontario Home Builders Associations were in attendance to talk about the roles at the national and provincial levels."

He added at a local level the group will be meeting and consulting with municipalities in the county.

"We will be lobbying, offering training, education and networking. Discounts are extended to members for services such as group insurance."

The association's interim board president Cedric Tomico said there has already been considerable interest across the county.

"A very good response with well over 60 organizations showing interest in re-igniting the OCBA. Technically we have not been signing people up yet, but I have had many confirm they will become members. I would say that number looks like it's at 20 or more already."

Affordable housing is one of, if not the biggest socio-economic issues of our time, something Jukema hopes they will be able to help with.

"Provincial laws have changed quite



a bit recently in terms of intensification and other areas. The association is there to help builders be a uniform group and meet with municipal governments to get through the issues of the day."

Tomico added he is confident the orga-

nization will be able to make it more efficient to build homes in Oxford.

"We believe that with a collaborative approach of all our members, we can advocate to municipal and regional planning and building departments to streamline processes concerning building. This will essentially reduce time, costs and stress with respect to how our approvals currently go, which will not only benefit us as the OCBA but all those individuals who plan to ever build a home in the future."

Jukema explained there has been a fair bit of interest from potential members so far but, ultimately, he is waiting to see how the launch goes and is hoping for interest outside of the Friendly City.

"In the past, it was mainly just Woodstock members. We have reached out to Ingersoll, Tillsonburg and builders from other areas as well as trades and other businesses from all corners of the county."

Large item collection runs from April to July in Oxford

Oxford County's Large Item Collection kicks off in Ingersoll on April 1. The annual waste collection program is offered yearly in Blandford-Blenheim, East Zorra-Tavistock, Ingersoll, Norwich, South-West Oxford, Tillsonburg and Zorra.

Large Item Collection is for large items only, it is not a spring cleanup. Acceptable materials include household furniture, carpet rolls and under padding (6 inches maximum, rolled and bundled), pool filters (no sand) and pool covers, water softeners (no salt or contents inside), along with mattresses and box springs. Unacceptable items like glass, mirrors, automotive parts, small garbage that can fit into garbage bags, and items piled on trailers/wagons or loose in cardboard boxes, will not be collected.

Items must be set out by 7:00 a.m. on the Monday of your collection week, including statutory holidays. Bag tags are not needed, and late setouts will not be picked up. The maximum weight for any item is

45 kg or 100 lbs. Residents are responsible for removing unacceptable items left behind from the curb.

Large Item Collection starts in April and will take place in the following communities:

Ingersoll - Zone 1 - April 1, Zone 2 - April 8, Zone 3 - April 15

Zorra - April 22

East Zorra-Tavistock - May 6

Norwich - May 13

Blandford-Blenheim - May 27

South-West Oxford - June 3

Tillsonburg - Zone 1 - June 17, Zone 2 - June 24, Zone 3 - July 2

Large item collection for Woodstock residents is provided by the City of Woodstock starting April 17. More information is available on the city's services calendar.

The county wants residents to think before they throw. Many items can be donated, sold, or upcycled. For more information and updates, visit www.wasteline.ca.



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Henrietta Mulder focusing on fundraising for children with cancer

EMILY STEWART

Echo Correspondent

Ingersoll resident Henrietta Mulder is gearing up for another Great Cycle Challenge to raise money to help children with cancer.

Mulder will be participating in her eighth Great Cycle Challenge and plans to raise \$15,000 for the SickKids Foundation. The Great Cycle Challenge website indicated that about 1,700 children in Canada are diagnosed with cancer each year, with 25 per cent of them receiving treatment at SickKids Toronto's Garron Family Cancer Centre.

The Great Cycle Challenge cyclists ride for 400 KM in August.

"I mean, I probably will do a little bit more than that depending on the weather of course," Mulder said. "For me, the fundraising is more important than the cycling. Cycling doesn't help the kids fighting cancer - it's the money that does."

Mulder lost her own daughter, Arlene Mulder Papaioannou to colon cancer in 2018. Her donation page notes that while Arlene "was no longer a child, she was MY child!" She raises money for kids who are battling cancer and in memory of her daughter.

"Any research that happens for kids'



Henrietta Mulder will be participating in the Great Cycle Challenge for an eight time to raise money for children battling cancer. (HENRIETTA MULDER PHOTO)

cancer is also going to battle adults that are battling cancer. It's always important to be fundraising," she said. "Adults that

die of cancer, as sad as it is, they have lived their life. Little kids that are four and five years old, they haven't really

had much of a chance to live a life yet." As of March 25, Mulder's raised \$2,441 for the 2024 Great Cycle Challenge. Last year, she raised \$30,864.

Mulder fundraises throughout the year by putting together giveaway baskets. For example, she created the local plus basket where most of the items in the packages are donated from Ingersoll businesses.

The giveaway basket is worth \$1,285. Anyone interested in the draw can purchase a spot on a spinning wheel for \$25, and get another spot for free if they refer three friends to get their names on the wheel.

"It's one of those random wheel spinners that I do," Mulder explained. One person gets to win that whole package, so it's a big incentive to try to get your name on the wheel."

If there are any items in a package that the winner doesn't want, Mulder encourages donating unwanted items to places such as a women's shelter to help those in need.

The fundraising continues until May 15. Donations can be made either by e-transfers to omulder@rogers.com, arranging a drop-off time by calling 519-532-3768, or by visiting greatcyclechallenge.ca/Riders/HenriettaOlthoffMulder.

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Happy Easter
 to you and your family!

May your Easter basket be full of joy this year.

ERNIE HARDEMAN
 MPP - Oxford

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Oxford County Career Expo

The Oxford County Career Expo took place on March 21st at the Woodstock Fair Grounds. This event connected job seekers with over 300 local employers across various sectors, including Transportation & Logistics, Hospitality, Canadian Armed Forces, Skilled Trades, Health & Wellness, Agriculture, Early Childhood Education, Retail, Municipality Employment and Politics, Business Administration, Construction, Sports & Leisure, Non-Profit, Manufacturing, Entrepreneurism, Arts & Culture, and more. The expo was an excellent opportunity for attendees to learn about current and future

job opportunities. Here are the key details: This Employment Ontario service is funded in part by the Government of Canada and the Government of Ontario. The Woodstock Fairgrounds was the venue for the Oxford County Career Expo. From 8:30 a.m. until 2:00 p.m., over 3,000 students attended to explore career pathways, options, and potential co-op and volunteer opportunities. Following that, from 3:00 p.m. until 6:00 p.m., the event was open to the general public. It was great chance for job seekers to connect with employers and learn about job possibilities in various sectors.

(RON YUZARK PHOTO)



Morning opening of The Oxford County Career Expo



Angelena Bane Jason Savage Alicia Parkin Laura Collins and Shawn Steyaert represented IMT Precision



Erth Corporation representatives were Giulio Robles Jocelyn Facciotti and John Barrett



Toyota Motor Manufacturing Canada Inc represented by Cathy Ward Meredith Federau and Caroline Kalenik



Pam Gerber (Owner) and Carly Lonsbery on hand for Brock and Visser Funeral Homes

Woodstock Home Show 2024

The Woodstock Home Show, March 15-17, was a delightful 3-day event held in Woodstock at The fairgrounds. This home improvement show was a delightful blend of innovative trends and creative ideas. Attendees explored captivating displays and exhibits related to interior

design, remodeling, and landscaping. But that wasn't all. There were educational seminars and informative demonstrations to empower homeowners in enhancing the beauty and value of their homes. There were activities for the whole family to enjoy. (RON YUZARK PHOTO)



Pots and pans and all with Chantrey Geibben from Canadian Tire - Paderno



Brookstone Windows and Doors represented by Donat Lemay and Brian Correia



Lisa Woods (Public Information Coordinator Fire Hall Headquarters) giving out advice on safety in your home



Taking a spin with Nancy Alston and Gin Rae of My Storage



Financial Advisor at Edward Jones, Amanda Murray, offered her skills for getting those home improvements a reality



Joe Booni, Founder and CEO of Joe's Sports Channel, present at the Shaw Booth

OPP news briefs



Three people were taken to hospital following a collision in Zorra. (OXFORD OPP PHOTO)

Two vehicle collision sends multiple people to hospital

Three people were transported to hospital with non-life-threatening injuries after a two-vehicle collision in Zorra Township.

At approximately 6:45 a.m. on Wednesday, March 20, the Oxford OPP along with members of Oxford County Paramedic Services and Fire Services from Zorra, responded to a collision that occurred at Road 92 and 37th Line in Zorra Township.

Neither driver reported any injuries however, three occupants from one of the vehicles went to hospital with non-life-threatening injuries. The investigation is ongoing.

Pride crosswalk damaged in Drumbo

Members of the Ontario Provincial Police (OPP) Oxford detachment are investigating a mischief incident in the Township of Blandford-Blenheim.

On March 14, 2024, police received a report of an incident that occurred over the weekend at the intersection of Centre Street and Pinkham Street.

Sometime between 6:20 p.m. and 6:40 p.m., on Sunday, March 10, 2024, an unknown individual attended the area in an older model red pick-up truck.

The vehicle was observed, on security footage, performing a "burnout" on the Pride crosswalk. This left tire tread marks on the crosswalk.

The investigation is ongoing.

Woodstock Police announces name of new K9

LEE GRIFFI

Local Journalism Initiative Reporter

After a highly successful Name the K9 Contest, Woodstock Police Service has named the newest member of the force CRUZ.

Twelve individuals suggested the name Cruz with various spellings through a Google form contest or by email.

After receiving nearly 4000 entries the suggested names were shared with community sponsors who have been instrumental in supporting the K9 program. The list was narrowed down to a short list and then K9 Handler, Constable Skillings, made the final decision.

Constable Skillings was looking for a name that suited our newest canine. While the name "Cruise" means bold and fierce, Constable Skillings preferred the shorter spelling, Cruz. The dog is a 2-year-old German Shephard born in the Netherlands.

Police want to send a heartfelt thank you to the community for their unwavering support of the canine program, particularly during the challenging time last year when PSD Taz tragically lost his



life in the line of duty. "As a token of our appreciation, we were honored to involve our community in welcoming our newest four-legged member," said a social media post.

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BROKERAGE

Polar Plunge 2024 Woodstock Police Service

Yes, it was a nasty cold day at Fanshawe College, Woodstock, on March 15th. The Polar Plunge was an exhilarating fundraising event where participants, often individuals, organizations, or businesses, took a daring plunge into icy waters. This initiative was designed to raise funds and awareness for Special Olympics programs. Participants, commonly referred to as “Plung-

ers,” sought sponsorship for their chilly challenge, with the funds collected contributing to Special Olympics initiatives, including year-round training and events for athletes with intellectual disabilities. The Polar Plunge is not only a thrilling experience but also a powerful way to support and make a positive impact on the lives of Special Olympics athletes. (RON YUZARK PHOTO)



Fanshawe College supporters were Lisa Wells (Manager of Continuing Education and Contract Training) Tam Visser (Student Engagement Specialist) and Jennifer McLean (Associate Dean)



Fearless Plungers into the brink while supporters looked on



Organizers of the Polar Plunge were Constables Ernst Skillings and Bryant with new recruit police dog to be named in a "Name the New Recruit" public contest

OXFORD COUNTY EGG HUNTS
SATURDAY MARCH 30TH, 2024

- WOODSTOCK**
10 AM • VICTORIA PARK, WOODSTOCK
- INGERSOLL**
10 AM • VICTORIA PARK, INGERSOLL
- TILLSONBURG**
11 AM • KINSMEN BANDSHELL @ MEMORIAL PARK
- NORWICH**
10:45 AM • HAROLD BISHOP PARK
- TAVISTOCK**
10 AM • QUEENS PARK PAVILLION
- BEACHVILLE**
12 PM • BEACHVILLE MUSEUM
- MOUNT ELGIN**
10 AM • HILLTOP PARK
- EMBRO**
10 AM • EMBRO CONSERVATION AREA
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10 AM • THAMESFORD FIRE HALL

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Woodstock Pet Expo

The Inaugural Woodstock Pet Expo was held at The Fairgrounds on March 8-9th. It was an unforgettable weekend at the ultimate pet extravaganza. Their large pet-focused shopping market boasted a wide array of unique vendors offering everything from gourmet treats to stylish accessories for your furry friends. And the best part? Admission was completely FREE. There were two action-packed days filled with exciting activities and demonstrations. Attendees marveled at the antics of adorable critters during Little Ray's animal show, where they witnessed fascinating creatures up close. There were informa-

tive Q&A sessions with expert trainers and veterinarians. They got hands-on with FREE paw print activity workshops, where attendees created lasting memories with their furry companions. Including capturing picture-perfect moments at their designated photo op areas, ensuring attendees had plenty of adorable snapshots to cherish forever. The first 25 attendees each day received FREE swag bags filled with goodies for them and their pet. Plus, throughout the event, there were exciting prize giveaways, ensuring that everyone had a chance to walk away with something special.

(RON YUZARK PHOTO)



Organizer for the Woodstock Pet Expo was Katz Bonneville



Stephanie Reibel of The Blonde Paint Brush creates images of your pets



Therapy dogs from St. John's ambulance



Rabbit Rescue and Foster Homing from Sarnia



Neil and Bev from Callie's Canine Collection



An adorable basket of cuties with Rachel and Elisa Goldfield of The Furry Beauties

Woodstock Sip and Sample Social 2024

The Woodstock Chamber of Commerce area Sip & Sample Social 2024 was hosted on March 19 at the Fairgrounds. It was a delightful evening for everyone. The event consisted of three hours of sampling the best local food and drinks in the Woodstock area. It was an opportunity

to enjoy craft beers, wines, regionally produced spirits, regional food, and live music. Whether they were with family, friends, clients, or suppliers, this evening delivered a tasty experience to the start of Spring.

(RON YUZARK PHOTO)



Lory Vanderploeg and Shelly McCutchen from Picards



A table of delicious chocolate treats from Habitual Chocolate presented by owner Angela Neddo and Denise Vyse



Attendees Margaret Walker, Karin Dona, Kelly Stringle and Sandra Lightbody



Best in spirits to try offered by Heather Davidson of Wolfhead Distillery of Amhurstburg



Nicole Morgan, center, provides sampling of fine wines to Doug and Heather Hyland



A fine selection of domestic and international wines on offer by Vernon Warren of VJW International Wines and Spirits

4-H fundraiser in Oxford

LEE GRIFFI

Local Journalism Initiative Reporter

The 4-H program in Oxford County is one that many areas in the country would love to emulate.

The North Oxford dairy calf-club members led by Jack Danen, served up pancakes at Jakeman's last Saturday and poured their famous maple syrup to complete the perfect breakfast.

Every Saturday and Sunday since March 9 and continuing until Maple weekend on April 7, a variety of Oxford 4-H clubs

serve up maple baked beans, pancakes, and fresh maple syrup at Jakeman's Pancake House near Sweaburg. Since 2005, the Jakeman family has graciously lent their dining space to the Oxford 4-H clubs for fundraising events. Family and friends can enjoy a pancake breakfast, shop local vendors, and tour the maple bush.

The Jakeman's are one of the oldest maple-producing families in business in Oxford County, since 1876. Along with their trees, they also source the sweet treat from over 200 local producers.



Above: 4-H members and leaders from left to right in the front row, Shonna Ward, Marilyn Lichti, Dakota Jones, Kirsten Dill and Levi Dill. In the back row, from left to right, Lexi Dill, Julie DeBruyn, Elizabeth Jones, Emma Overbeek, Olivia Overbeek, and Elizabeth Bruce. (KIRSTEN DILL PHOTO)

Oxford Deputy Warden takes the seat his great-grandfather once sat in

LEE GRIFFI

Local Journalism Initiative Reporter

Deputy Warden and Mayor of Blanford Blenheim Township, Mark Peterson, sits in the warden's chair to run a recent county council meeting in the absence of Marcus Ryan. "It was surreal for me. My great-grandfather was Warden of Oxford County in 1924. It was kind of nice for me to sit in the chair 100 years after he did. His picture is on the wall in council chambers." Lewis Peterson also represented Blanford Blenheim. "When I was first elected as a councillor I went to the county for training. I walked in and thought my great-grandfather is here somewhere and I was looking around but didn't know what year. I never thought much about it, but his picture was on the wall directly behind where I was sitting."



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Theatre Woodstock “roles out” 2024/2025 season

EMILY STEWART

Echo Correspondent

The audience roared with applause as Theatre Woodstock announced the productions for the upcoming 2024/2025 season.

Theatre Woodstock held their annual Role Out on March 19 at the 22 Reeve Street building. The new season begins in the fall with “My Old Lady” from October 17 to 21, followed by the Festival of One-Act Plays Four: “Get Ready, Get Set, Laugh!” running from November 15 to 17.

Ted McLauchlin, executive producer of the Festival of One Act Plays, said that the fourth edition of the festival will be trying something new and present eight comedies by Bruce Kane that are 10 minutes each. The Festival of One Act Plays provides new actors a chance to be on the stage in a less intimidating way than a full-scale production.

“We’ve seen people that have come through the years that we’ve been doing this going on to much bigger, much better parts as time goes on,” McLauchlin said. “It’s really satisfying to see that happen.”

The STAGES summer camp intensive production will be “Annie Kids”. Theatre Woodstock will present Norm Foster’s “A Snow White Christmas” from December 5 to 15.

January 2025 will see two STAGES

productions, “Switchermoo! A Cosmic Cow Caper” and Queen’s “We Will Rock You: Young at Part”. The productions will run between January 10 to 12. Iconic musical “Cabaret” will take the stage between February 6 and 15, 2025 and contemporary drama “A Rock Sails By” will be presented between April 3 to 15.

The season will wrap up with three STAGES productions – “101 Dalmatians Kids” and “Romeo and Juliet (Or the ‘You-Know-I-Really-Love-You-But-My-father-Really-Hates-You-Blues” from May 1 to 3 and the high school production “SpongeBob Musical” between May 22 to 31.

In between announcements, guests saw performances from the successful runs of “Matilda JR.” and “Cinderella,” along with the upcoming STAGES high school production of “Something Rotten!”

The reception was filled with lots of mingling and people signing up to lend their talents, either on the stage or behind the scenes.

“I think it was amazing. You could hear from all the excitement in the room,” Shannon Wijnker, artistic director, said at the reception. “I see a whole bunch of people at the tables now. They’ve got their calendars out and they’re like ‘OK, when are auditions? Sign me up.’”

Theatre Woodstock experienced lots of changes in the past year, including



Theatre Woodstock announced its 2024/2025 season line up on March 19. The announcements were followed with lots of applause from attendees. (EMILY STEWART PHOTO)

selling 1,000 tickets more than the previous season and including microphones with every production. The run of “Cabaret” will include a full orchestra.

“We’re growing, we’re reaching more people,” Wijnker said. “We’re getting more people through the doors, and we’re reaching out into our community and creating some joy.”

Issac Atfield, production coordinator, was recently elected on the board of directors and is hoping to meet anyone in-

terested in being part of the theatre.

“This is a very amazing opportunity right now for people for getting into the backstage, we’re having so many training seminars,” he said. “We’re having so many people come in to learn new abilities. If you’re just interested in the tech side of things, or if you’re interested in the theatre side of things. We’re here, right now, putting effort into that.”

More information can be found on the atwoodstock.com.

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Rehearsal Changing Rooms Rehearsal

Marie Calais, an American-born Greek soprano who was one of the most renowned and influential opera singers of the 20th century, said "I prepare myself for rehearsals like I would for marriage". And so it continues. One of three plays to be presented at The Festival of One Act Plays by Theatre Woodstock, Changing Rooms by Jackie Carreira, brings out the best in these aspiring Thespians. In The Changing Rooms, bride-to-be Sophia and her future mother-in-law Rosa are encountering challenges in selecting a wedding

gown that both find agreeable. Simultaneously, Jo is on the hunt for a well-fitting pair of jeans, while Gemma grapples with a top and her boyfriend Sam ponders over the prolonged wait outside the fitting rooms. Thankfully, Maggie, the perpetually cheerful shop assistant, is readily available to dispense some rather astute advice. Along with two other One Act Plays, Plan B by Robert Scott and Fidelity Farce by Gary Diamond, they will be performed at Theatre Woodstock on April 11, 12, 13, 2024 7:30pm. (RON YUZARK PHOTO)



Changing Room cast are Nikki Sloan (Rosa), Lilee Scotney (Sophia), Karen Trick (Jo), Awa Diop (Gemma), and Leaf Klein (Maggie)



Director and President of Theatre Woodstock is Sue Robinson with Stage Manager Isaac Atfield

Sarah Smith, Live in Concert at La Petite Chapelle

Sarah Smith, the talented singer-songwriter, performed live in concert at the enchanting La Petite Chapelle. This historic church venue, located at 153 Blandford Street, Innerskip, was an intimate evening filled with beautiful acoustics. Attendees immersed themselves in Sarah Smith's captivating music, indulged in a delightful spread of charcuterie and sipped on their favorite beverage. This special event took place on Friday, March 22. It was a unique opportunity to experience music in a truly magical setting. (RON YUZARK PHOTO)



Opening the show was Tracy Klassen with Sarah Smith



Tracy Klassen and Sarah Smith flanked by owners of La Petite Chapelle Dennis and Brandy

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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 2024 season (and to create some great scrapbook material to be reflected upon in future years). Game reports should be kept to a maximum 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.

PJHL Roundup

Firebirds strike first in PJHL division final



LEE GRIFFI

Local Journalism Initiative Reporter

New Hamburg has drawn first blood in their Provincial Junior Hockey League divisional championship series with Woodstock.

The Firebirds led 2-0 after the first on goals from Owen Bruder and Owen Fischer. Josh Soulliere made it 3-0 before Ethan Szabo put the Navy Vets on the board halfway through the second. Riley Benko added an insurance marker for New Hamburg in the third on a powerplay. 540 fans showed up on a Monday night to watch the Firebirds outshoot the Navy Vets 41-24 including 18-8 in the third. Kyle Kraemer added two assists for the winners.

Bruder said the team was well prepared. "Everyone was ready to go. We've been waiting for this game all season, so we were ready for anything," said Owen Bruder. "We were the first on pucks, we won battles, we gave them nothing and our neutral zone was unreal. If we keep playing like that, bringing the effort, we'll be good," he added.

Fischer said they have a game plan and will be sticking with it. "Woodstock is a good team, we've been neck and neck with them all year. It was a good win tonight and we brought some different keys to the table that worked out for us. We know what to do, we know what our game plan is. We will make a few changes in (Woodstock's) big barn, but we aren't changing much."

Game two in the Doherty Division final will be in Woodstock Good Friday afternoon at 1:45 with game three set for New Hamburg on Saturday at 2:30.

The Navy Vets finished in second in the Doherty Division, three points behind the Firebirds after spending the first 21 weeks of the season in first place. Woodstock did win the season series, four wins to three, the New Hamburg took the last two regular

season games.

Trojans battle Bulldogs for Yeck Division title

Thamesford is taking on Mt. Brydges in a repeat of last year's final won by the Trojans. Thamesford won the season series three games to two, but the Bulldogs won the last two games by scores of 4-3 and 2-1.

Trojans General Manager Brad Underwood is looking forward to it. "They're a great team, very well coached, a great organization, and highly skilled. We're more of a defensive team and they scored the second-highest number of goals in our division and we had the least number of goals against. It will be very interesting to see how things play out." Thamesford allowed a stingy 89 goals during the regular season, a stat that puts them in the top five in the PJHL. Mt. Brydges scored 199 goals and is led by 6-foot-4 hometown defenceman Nolan Griffiths who poured in 76 points.

Underwood said if he had a team to pick to play in the final it would be Mt. Brydges and he added the team has gelled as the season has progressed. "We had a turnover of about 11 or 12 new kids this year so the core of the kids that are back went to the conference finals last year and they know what it takes. The new kids on board have been fully open and willing to do what we have asked. They have bought into the program and I am very proud and impressed."

Thamesford ices a competitive team year after year, something Underwood said takes hard work. "This is a 12-month-a-year job. It takes a lot of dedication, and a lot of effort from a lot of people. Sometimes it's the luck of the draw and sometimes it's puck bounces. I give a lot of credit to our executive and the coaching staff because they do a lot of things behind the scenes to recruit players." He added the team has been blessed with the quality of kids who have played for the team.

WCI's Heavy Medal Tour

JEFF TRIBE

Echo Contributor

The Woodstock Collegiate Institute Red Devils 'heavy medal' tour through Western Ontario Secondary Schools

Athletic Association A championships included gold for the senior girls volleyball and junior boys volleyball teams, silver for the junior girls volleyball squad and bronze for the senior boys basketball unit.



Woodstock Collegiate Institute Red Devils senior girls volleyball team members proudly display their WOSSA A gold medals, representative of a berth at OFSAA provincial finals. (CONTRIBUTED PHOTO)



Woodstock Collegiate Institute Red Devils senior boys basketball team members recovered from a disappointing semi-final loss and slow start in their final to earn WOSSAA A bronze medals. (CONTRIBUTED PHOTO)



Woodstock Collegiate Institute Red Devils junior boys basketball team members show off their WOSSA A gold medals and championship plaque. (CONTRIBUTED PHOTO)



Woodstock Collegiate Institute Red Devils junior girls volleyball players captured silver medals during WOSSAA A championships. (CONTRIBUTED PHOTO)

Doherty Division Final: New Hamburg Firebirds vs. Woodstock Navy Vets

Game 1 – New Hamburg 4, Woodstock 1	
Game 2	Fri., March 29, 1:45 p.m. New Hamburg at Woodstock
Game 3	Sun., March 30, 2:30 p.m. Woodstock at New Hamburg
Game 4	Tue., April 2, 7:45 p.m. New Hamburg at Woodstock
Game 5*	Fri., April 5, 7:30 p.m. Woodstock at New Hamburg
Game 6*	Sat., April 6, 7:45 p.m. New Hamburg at Woodstock
Game 7*	Mon., April 8, 7:30 p.m. Woodstock at New Hamburg

* if necessary

Yeck Division Final: Thamesford Trojans vs. Mt. Brydges Bulldogs

Game 1	Wed., March 27, 7:30 p.m. Mt. Brydges at Thamesford
Game 2	Fri., March 29, 7:30 p.m. Thamesford at Mt. Brydges
Game 3	Sun., March 31, 7:00 p.m. Mt. Brydges at Thamesford
Game 4	Mon., April 1, 7:30 p.m. Thamesford at Mt. Brydges
Game 5*	Fri., April 5, 7:00 p.m. Mt. Brydges at Thamesford
Game 6*	Sun., April 7, 6:30 p.m. Thamesford at Mt. Brydges
Game 7*	Mon., April 8, 7:30 p.m. Mt. Brydges at Thamesford

* if necessary

Woodstock FC U18 Strikers win silver in Kings Hammer Spring Thaw



The Woodstock FC U18 Strikers accomplished some impressive wins since starting in fall 2023. Recently, they were the Scrooge Tournament champions in London, Ont's BMO Centre and had the second-highest score in the Kings Hammer Spring Thaw showcasing tournament."

EMILY STEWART

Echo Correspondent

Woodstock FC's newly formed U18 Strikers team had a successful weekend at the Kings Hammer Spring Thaw tournament.

The Strikers placed second overall in the showcase tournament in Cincinnati, Ohio after three wins and a loss.

Coach Metaxas Makedos said the tournament was showcasing the team's talents and the rankings were based on overall scores. There were no semi-final or final games, nor hardware. However, it was still a great accomplishment.

"It feels very good," Makedos said. "It was a wonderful experience and I think the girls worked very hard going into that showcase."

The Strikers won their first game 4-2 against the Kings Hammer Lebanon G05 team from Lebanon, Ohio. Despite being down 2-1 at halftime, the team set

a goal to score three goals at halftime, and in the dying minutes of the game they accomplished their goal and won the match.

Woodstock lost 2-0 to Sporting Queen City G2005 but maintained a strong defense in the second match.

Woodstock's goal to score three goals after halftime worked in their favour again during the 3-0 win over the Kings Hammer Bluegrass team from Kentucky.

After a close match between the Strikers and the Eclipse East FC Blast, the Strikers won their final game 1-0.

The U18 Strikers formed in October 2023 and is made up of players born between the years 2006, 2007 and 2008. The athletes hail from Woodstock, Kitchener, Paris, London, and Tillsonburg.

The Strikers also recently won the Annual Scrooge Tournament at the BMO Centre in London, Ont. during

the Christmas Break, recently they also clinched the indoor league title for the 2023/2004 EMDSL league.

Since starting the indoor soccer season in November, the team practices every Thursday and Saturday and play on Sunday. Leading up to the Kings Hammer Spring Thaw, many of the athletes took up extra training with head coach and former Canadian Men's National soccer team player and former professional player Iain Hume.

Showcase tournaments like the King's Hammer Spring Thaw, Makedos said, are for college coaches to watch the soccer players' performance and see who a good fit for their teams would be.

"It's a good opportunity for them to see players in an environment we're you're not working towards a championship," he said. "You're playing games against other teams that are also striving towards scholarship opportunities or playing at higher levels when they head

off to college or university."

As the athletes are nearing the end of their high school careers, the tournament also gives them a chance to explore post-secondary soccer opportunities.

"Whether it's within Canada or the United States, they're looking for opportunities to continue to play their soccer," Makedos said. "University and college is a great opportunity for them to take their skill sets and move forward into a higher level of competition."

The indoor soccer season will wrap up shortly. Then, the U18 Woodstock F.C. Strikers will get ready for some tournaments this spring, including the Joe Valvasori Sparta Cup on April 27 and 28th, and Western Regional Soccer League's Kickoff Cup on May 11 and 12.

"The kick off cup is a tournament where you play teams from within your own league for the summer," Makedos said. "It's just a good way to get started for the league."



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APRIL 08 INGERSOLL ZONE TWO

APRIL 15 INGERSOLL ZONE THREE

APRIL 22 TOWNSHIP OF ZORRA

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Beachville Firehall						✓						
South-West Oxford Township Office (Dereham Centre)						✓						

Note: The City of Woodstock provides large item disposal/collection services on behalf of Oxford County. Please check the City of Woodstock *City Services Calendar* for large item program information.

PROGRAM REQUIREMENTS

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Dropkick Wrestling - Hometown Homecoming

Dropkick Wrestling held Friday, March 15, 2024, and took place at the Woodstock Polish Hall. Here were some exciting highlights from the card:



Woodstock's Brother Earth makes his entrance



Main Event: Woodstock's own "The Saturday Night Delight" Tyler Tirva faced off against Highlander Robbie, a former WWE Superstar and Woodstock Sports Hall of Fame inductee. Both wrestlers have deep roots in the Woodstock area and are returning after nearly a decade.



Highlander Robbie, a former WWE Superstar and Woodstock Sports Hall of Fame inductee, posing with a loyal fan.



Brother Earth has Anthony Darko on the ropes.



On his 7th birthday, Conor met wrestler Cody Deaner and had a picture taken. The photo was used in making a championship replica belt for Conor.



Stare down. "The Ballroom Blitzzen" Miley Toke on Vanna Black in a women's match.

A portion of the event's supporting local wrestler Jesse Scott (known to fans as JT Playa) and his family. Jesse is battling a rare type of cancer, and many of the competitors on the Dropkick Wrestling card are close friends of his. It was an electrifying night of wrestling action in Woodstock.

(RON YUZARK PHOTO)

Route to the Past: Local Lad Lives a Knight's Tale

SCOTT GILLIES

Contributor

Have you ever dreamt of being a knight, fighting dragons and saving damsels in distress? The likelihood of finding a dragon to slay is mighty slim; however, becoming a knight is still attainable – even for someone born in Ingersoll.

On October 14, 1867 John Cunningham McLennan, the second child of local miller David McLennan and his wife Barbara was born. Immigrants from Scotland, the 1871 census for the Town of Ingersoll shows that David was 35 years old, his wife 32, while daughter Janet was 6, John 4 and wee David just 2. Within 10 years, the family had moved to Exeter, then Lucan and finally Clinton as the milling business evolved.

John attended Clinton High School and Stratford Collegiate Institute. His aspiration was to attend university, so he took a job teaching in various schools in Perth County in order to raise the necessary funds. Within a short while he was able to pursue those dreams.

Graduating from the University of Toronto in 1892 in the fields of mathematics and physics, McLennan found employment as a faculty member, firstly as a demonstrator then as a lecturer and later as a full professor. Along the way he received numerous academic awards and honours.

Following a post-graduate stint at Cambridge University in England, he returned to Toronto inspired to perform research—a decision which drove him the rest of his life.

His investigative interests were varied. He conducted research in radio activity and was the first scientist to discover the existence of cosmic rays. He studied the conductivity of metals at low temperatures and was able to explain the cause of the yellow-green light of the Aurora Borealis in the upper atmosphere. Coincidentally, he was not a friend nor supporter of another Oxford County old boy also working at the U of T, astronomer John Stanley Plaskett.

During Great War, his skills were put to use as a member of the Advisory Council of the Department of Scien-



(UNIVERSITY OF TORONTO PHOTO)

JOHN CUNNINGHAM MCLENNAN

tific and Industrial Research in Britain, and as a director of the research laboratory for the Admiralty. While living there, he was seconded from U of T to delve into the discovery and destruction of enemy submarines. His development of magnetic detection of this underwater

menace went a long way in limiting the destruction of allied shipping, as did his improvements to explosive magnetic mines.

Above the waters, his attention was directed to finding adequate sources of helium as an alternative to the more volatile hydrogen being used in airships, especially as the Germans became more effective in shooting them down. It was felt that helium would be safer. McLennan was tasked with finding a sufficient supply in Canada. Along the way, he came up with a means to easily mass produce liquid helium. Previously it had only been done once before by a Dutch physicist in 1908.

Following the war, he urged Prime Minister Borden to establish the National Research Council, however that did not come to fruition until 1928. Those post-war years were also considered his most productive. Between 1919 and 1932 he published more than 150 research papers; over half of them co-authored with his graduate students.

In 1900, John had become the first PhD graduate of the University. For more than 40 years, he had devoted his life to his Alma Mater, becoming Head of the Physics Department from 1906 to 1932. He was also a founder and secretary of the campus Alumni Association, and instrumental in raising the funds necessary to construct Convocation Hall.

Described as “extremely energetic” but lacking tact, McLennan’s temperament prevented him ever becoming president of the University. Even fellow alumnus Prime Minister Arthur Meighen had to concur.

In 1932, John and his wife of 22 years, the former Elsie Ramsay, left Toronto permanently to settle in England. He soon found his time was taken up with the study of radium in cancer treatments.

John Cunningham McLennan had received the Order of the British Empire from King George V in 1917, the Flavelle Medal from the Royal Society of Canada for “outstanding contributions to biological science” in 1926, and in 1935 he was made a Knight of the Realm for his contributions to the Empire. Sadly, the boy from Ingersoll did not live long to enjoy this knight’s tale. He died alone on board a train travelling from Paris to Calais that same year.

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Southwestern Ontario Native Butterflies and Plant Colors

Sarah Hodgkinson, the Marketing and Communications Coordinator at Theatre Woodstock, shared her expertise at the Woodstock Public Library. She represented both the David Suzuki Foundation and the Butterfly Project. During her talk, she discussed native plants that are best for local butterflies in Southwestern Ontario. These plants can be added to

your outdoor spaces to encourage native butterfly species like Monarchs, Swallowtails, and Mourning Cloaks to visit your homes and thrive in our community. If you're interested in creating a butterfly-friendly environment, this was a great opportunity to learn which Woodstock plants will attract these beautiful insects and Color Your World. (RON YUZARK PHOTO)



Attendees were enthralled with the information given by Sarah



Present at the event were Nan Bailey, Kaitlyn, Sarah Hodgkinson and Kaitlyn's father Les Brunton



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Great Backyard Bird Count

JEFF TRIBE

Echo Contributor

Family Day is also bird-watching day for Barry and Marilyn Merkley, Great Backyard Bird Count (GBBC) citizen scientists in the truest sense of the words.

They do contribute to the annual international exercise, but they're also happy to watch birds attracted to their array of backyard bird feeders year-round.

"It's part of our at-home routine," explained Barry of relaxed time shared in a glassed-in three-season room.

"They say nature is good for your mental health, don't they?" Marilyn smiled.

This year marked the 27th GBBC, an exercise initiated by the Cornell Lab of Ornithology and The Audubon Society. Birds Canada joined a decade later, expanding its reach throughout North America.

"Since then it's gone around the world," said Kerrie Wilcox, Great Backyard Bird Count Coordinator with Birds Canada.

Each year, GBBC participants record and report the numbers and species of birds viewed during a minimum of 15 minutes (there is no maximum), any of the three days of Family Weekend (Presidents' Day in the U.S.) or the Friday preceding it.

"It's exciting to see how many people get out and participate," said Wilcox, noting a running tally of 24,000 Canadian reports among 288,000 globally, identifying 256 individual species. Canada is third globally in terms of participation behind the U.S. and India.

The GBBC is open to birders of all experience levels, those at the lower end of the scale potentially supported by the Merlin Bird ID app (<https://merlin.allaboutbirds.org>).

A free smartphone download, the app

helps identify birds through region, size, colour and behaviour prompts, along with offering photo and birdsong or call identifier support. Users input as much data as they can and then are provided with potential matches to help identify their bird.

"This has really opened it up to new birders," said Wilcox.

The Merkleys have two main backyard feeders and several smaller ones, offering ornithological culinary attraction including nyjer seeds, black oil sunflower seeds, suet and peanut butter, the latter a favourite of hairy woodpeckers.

"And sometimes we'll put mealworms out," said Marilyn.

They are nature lovers first, Marilyn with an affinity for wildflowers, Barry for trees.

"They stand still, it's easier to identify them," he laughs.

Enthusiastic members of the Woodstock Field Naturalists' Club, they regularly rub shoulders with birders and were also inspired by the beauty of snow buntings on glaze ice in the winter of 1980. Their appearance provided welcome relief in arrears of surviving a devastating tornado which opened up the view through their Oxford Centre backyard.

"That was the instigator," said Marilyn, describing their approach as 'recreational.'

While some birders can be competitive in compiling life lists (recorded sightings of individual species), she shares one with her husband.

"We're not (competitive) at all," Marilyn smiled. "If I see a bird I haven't seen before I call Barry and he calls me."

They enjoy most birds' visits, with the possible exception of grackles.

"They're in the way of everything else," Barry explained.

Their GBBC participation began a de-



Woodstock's Southside Park is a great place to watch birds, including this mallard drake (foreground), and a domestic 'cousin' in the rear.

cade ago, putting in roughly six hours across the 2024 event.

"The weather was just right," said Barry.

They recorded 17, 17, 18 and 18 species respectively through its four days, including of note, 23 mourning doves, 31 brown-headed cowbirds, three purple finches, two males and one female, and an eastern towhee.

"I think the birds are coming back earlier and some don't leave," said Marilyn. "That towhee has been here all winter."

Her observations dovetailed with 2024 results anticipated to reflect unusual winter weather encouraging more overwintering, and open water expected to coincide with higher numbers of waterfowl.

The Merkleys recorded their findings on a checklist and ultimately inputted them into eBird, contributing to an extended snapshot of annual observations recorded during the same time period.

In conjunction with other initiatives such as The Christmas Bird Count, Project FeederWatch and operational banding stations, the resultant centralized database helps define trends in bird populations.

"We can identify which birds are in trouble, which birds need our attention," said Wilcox.

Bird counts during the Great Backyard Bird Count are added to a global database called eBird which now has more than 930 publications (<https://science.ebird.org/en/research-and-conservation/publications>) she continued, adding birds are also important indicators of both climate change and environmental health.

"We are doing very well," credits Wilcox, noting the crucial importance of the cumulative contribution from hundreds of thousands of participants, Merkleys included. "Scientists can't possibly do it alone."



Barry (left) and Marilyn Merkley are enthusiastic nature lovers, birds included. They host a variety of feeders in their backyard and have participated in the Great Backyard Bird Count for a decade.



Kerrie Wilcox, Great Backyard Bird Count Coordinator with Birds Canada.

Business group releases networking event schedule

LEE GRIFFI

Local Journalism Initiative Reporter

The Oxford Rural Entrepreneurs networking events are returning in 2024. Five county businesses are hosting events that will travel to township this spring and summer.

Crystal van Roekel, Rural Oxford's Economic Development Officer, expressed the enthusiasm of community partners for the continuation of these events. "A survey was released at the end of last year's events to gauge interest and gain some feedback from attendees,

Rural business owners see value in these events so we knew it was important to continue them into 2024."

The networking events offer a diverse blend of businesses from across the county, providing a platform for owners to connect, collaborate, share ideas, and enjoy local snacks and drinks while learning about the host business. Van Roekel explained there are many benefits of attending the events, including the opportunity to build rapport with others in the business community.

The 2023 events saw upwards of 30 attendees per event with hopes of drawing more entrepreneurs this year. "We have a unique dynamic to these events, the emphasis is truly on enjoying a social night out with like-minded individuals," she added.

The events are held at businesses that can accommodate outdoor settings, offering attendees a delightful 'patio-like' experience on summer nights. However, arrangements can be made to move indoors if weather conditions are unfavorable. "Thanks to the sponsorship of community partners, tickets for these events are provided at no cost to business owners. Rural Oxford Economic Development manages ticket distribution through its website. Although attendance is free, the organization requests a head count to manage food waste effectively," explained van Roekel.



Gunn's Hill Artisan Cheese is holding one of the network events

The Oxford Rural Entrepreneurs committee is made up of a collaboration of partner organizations across the county including Rural Oxford Economic Development, Community Futures Oxford, The Small Business Centre, Oxford County Library and Libro Credit Union. A local business venue in each rural Oxford township has agreed to host one of the travelling networking sessions. "That is our focus, and it will always remain in the rural townships where there are many incredible small businesses. This is rural networking at its roots," said van Roekel.

Events are scheduled as follows:

- April 10, 6 to 8 p.m. at Bright Cheese and Butter
- May 8, 6 to 8 p.m. at Willow Grove Animal Wellness Centre
- June 12, 6 to 8 p.m. at Gunns Hill Artisan Cheese
- July 10, 6 to 8 p.m. at Deep Purple Lavender Farm
- Aug 14, 6 to 8 p.m. at Orange Door Acres Farm

To register for these networking events, go to ruraloxford.ca/networking.

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Ask the Arborist

By Joel Hackett | 519 272 5742 | jtsquote@gmail.com



Dear Arborist,

The Maple trees are all losing their bark why? Also, they are not looking very healthy.

Just wondering why.

Dear Just Wondering Why,

Some maple trees, particularly Norway Maples, are getting a disease which appears to be new to this area. In the last two years this disease has become a real problem. Unfortunately, without doing actual testing in a lab, we can not be

sure which disease it is. However, it appears to be either Sooty-Bark disease or Hypoxylon canker. Sadly, there is not much you can do aside from remove and replace with a different species less prone to the problem.

Sincerely

The Arborist

Joel Hackett is a certified Arborist residing in the St. Marys area. Currently, he spends most of the year running Joel's Tree Service. For contact call 519 272 5742 or email jtsquote@gmail.com

Woodstock Police accepting applications for youth program

The Woodstock Police Service is accepting applications from students for the 2024 summer Youth in Policing Initiative program. In collaboration with the Ministry of Children and Youth Service, police will engage the students in positive, productive activities in a safe and healthy environment.

The program runs for eight weeks, beginning the first week of July 2024 to late August 2024. The goal of the program is to inspire young people to look at policing as a career choice, to become ambassadors by improving police and youth relations, and to develop employment and life skills.

This learning opportunity for students will consist of gaining knowledge of different units within the police service, acting as a mentor at children's summer programming, and participating in youth empowerment and diversity/inclusion programming. Some of the activities could be labour intensive and include assisting with office work and at community events.

To qualify for the youth in policing program, students must be between the ages of 15 and 18, be returning to school in the upcoming school year, reside in the City of Woodstock, and be legally eligible to work in Canada. Successful applicants will be responsible for their own transportation to and from police headquarters each day and

be available to work the entire 8 weeks of the program with hours as designated.

Students interested in applying should submit a resume and completed application form by email at communityservice@woodstockpolice.ca or in person at the Woodstock Police Service headquarters at 615 Dundas Street by 4:00 p.m. Monday, May 6.

City man charged with impaired driving

In the early hours of Wednesday, March 20 at the Woodstock Police Service responded to a report of a blocked driveway in the area of Devonshire Avenue near Wellington Street North.

When they arrived police discovered a pickup truck running, blocking a residential driveway, with a driver passed out behind the wheel. When attempts were made to rouse the driver, they attempted to drive away, resulting in a collision with a police cruiser.

The investigation revealed that the 41-year-old of Woodstock had a blood alcohol concentration nearly three times the legal limit. As a result, the driver is facing one count of operation while impaired – alcohol and drugs, and one count of operation while impaired – blood alcohol concentration (80 plus).

2nd Annual

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Old St. Paul's
Anglican Church
723 Dundas St.,
Woodstock

Holy Week at Old St. Paul's Anglican Church

Sunday March 24, 11 am PALM SUNDAY
Jesus triumphal entry into Jerusalem greeted by the crowd waving palm branches and shouting Hosanna marking the start of all that would happen over the coming week

Thursday March 28, 7 pm MAUNDY THURSDAY
The Last Supper Jesus had as he celebrated the Passover with His disciples on the night he would be betrayed and taken into custody after praying in the Garden of Gethsemane

Friday March 29, 11 am GOOD FRIDAY
We solemnly remember all Jesus went through in his trial and death on the cross

Sunday March 31, 11 am EASTER SUNDAY
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Get All Dressed Up with Hi-Way Pentecostal's formal wear drive

EMILY STEWART

Echo Correspondent

With prom, graduation, weddings, and other celebrations on the horizon, Hi-Way Pentecostal Church is making sure everyone has the perfect outfit.

The church is hosting the All Dressed Up formal wear drive. Formally known as Gals and Gowns, the free event will offer dresses and tuxes for Grade 8 graduations, proms, weddings, and other special events at no cost to guests. All Dressed Up will be held at the Ingersoll Services for Seniors Centre on 250 Ingersoll Street South on April 12 from 6 to 9 p.m. and April 13 from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m.

Cathy Hill, office coordinator for Hi-Way Pentecostal and a member of the All Dressed Up Committee, said that the formal wear drive will help families and individuals feeling the budget crunch from inflation and the subsequent rising cost of living.

"Fancy dresses and to go to some of these events are very costly to go out

and buy and it really hits the family budget hard when you do have to do go out and buy dresses like that for the prom, or the grad, or the wedding, etc." she said. "We are so excited that we're able to offer these dresses and suits and all that free."

The church on 548118 Beachville Road, Ingersoll, is still accepting donations of new or gently used dresses, formal shoes, jewellery, men's suits, dress shirts, dress pants, and other accessories. So far, the community has been generous.

"The community has just been wonderful," Hill said. "They've been bringing in donations, so we have lots of new stuff this year. We're just so grateful and thankful for that."

Last year, All Dressed Up gave away about 100 dresses. The Woodstock Police Services and the OPP created the event, but Hi-Way Pentecostal has been hosting the formal wear drive since 2022.

For more information, call 519-485-0961.

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Weekend Quiz

1. In what country did the tradition of the Easter Bunny originate?
2. What Christian event does Easter celebrate?
3. In what Canadian town would you find the Giant Ukrainian egg?
4. What baked good is a Good Friday tradition in England?
5. How many marzipan balls are traditionally on a simnel cake?
6. When was Cadbury founded?
7. What is the 40-day period before Easter?
8. Children in Finland dress as what on Easter?
9. What egg-shaped candy is illegal in the United States?
10. What US city hosts "The April Fool's Day Parade" each year?

This week's answers are found on pg. 31

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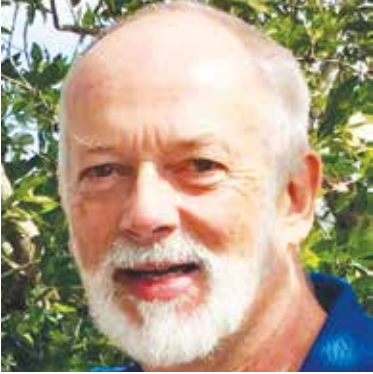
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OH, THE PLACES WE'LL GO: "There's something for everyone" is entirely true at Beaulieu



PAUL KNOWLES

Times Contributor



The Palace House, home of the Montagu family since 1538, and now also open for visitors to Beaulieu.

(PAUL KNOWLES PHOTOS)



A Rolls-Royce Silver Ghost, in the National Motor Museum at Beaulieu.

Imagine this family discussion. The question: "Where shall we go on our holiday in the south of England?"

The answers: "I'm going to England for the gardens!"

"No! I want to see history and ruins and stuff like that!"

"But you promised me great, aristocratic homes!"

"I'm only interested in stuff about World War II!"

"That's not fair! I don't like any of that old stuff – I want something modern!"

"I just want to playyyyyy!"

"I don't want to go... I want to stay home and watch movies on TV!"

Now it's your job to put together a day trip for this fractious, dysfunctional family who sound a great deal like many families planning a trip together. And I would have thought this to be an impossible task – until I visited Beaulieu.

There is so much going on at Beaulieu (pronounced Bewley) that it is impossible to capture its essence in a catch-phrase. This place is much more than a

Beaulieu Theme Park, or Beaulieu Historic Site, or Beaulieu Gardens. So the aristocratic family that own the destination have avoided complexity – this is, simply, "Beaulieu". And yes, there is something here to satisfy every member of our fictitious quarrelling family. Besides, none of them even mentioned Beaulieu's greatest claim to fame – this is the home of the United Kingdom's National Motor Museum, an absolute cornucopia of automotive ingenuity. The museum houses over 280 vehicles, ranging from the very first cars to travel the primitive highways of Britain to thoroughly modern racing cars and jet engines on wheels that have shattered speed records. To my delight, I found a car of the same make and model as my very first car – an Austin Cambridge, which I purchased from my grandmother. Which will tell you how much of a chick magnet that car was... I digress.

Gearheads will absolutely love the National Motor Museum, and if you only schedule half a

day – or even, more wisely, a full day – at Beaulieu, they are unlikely to see anything but all things motorized. They might roam among those vehicles for weeks on end. But there is truly something for every member of our squabbling family.

The gardens are amazing, and sufficiently large to accommodate a formal Victorian flower garden and a woodland Mill Pond walk.

Beaulieu once did have a second noun in its name – it was Beaulieu Abbey, a vast, medieval monastery. Today, the abbey is in ruins, but they are beautiful ruins, and visitors can stroll through history, and take in an exhibition.

And not far from the ruined abbey is the very much intact Palace House, also open for tours. This has been – and still is – a home of the Montagu family, since 1538. The family continues to own and operate Beaulieu to this day.

The house was one of the first of Britain's stately homes to be open

to the public. Visitors are greeted by helpful, costumed interpreters who will tell you about the palatial home, and also, if you ask, at least a little bit about the owners and sometime inhabitants, Ralph Douglas-Scott-Montagu, 4th Baron Montagu of Beaulieu (born in 1961), and Ailsa, Lady Montagu. Baron Montagu and Lady Montagu have no children, and one staff member quietly admitted that while there should be no immediate concerns, they are a bit worried about the long-term future for this multi-faceted attraction. In the meantime, the couple's portraits keep a close eye on everything, and the owners do stay at Beaulieu on occasion.

In the home, visitors will see both sides of an historic home – the lavish furnishings in the area occupied by the family, and the simpler decor in the sections where the servants lived and worked. Very "Downton Abbey".

So where does World War II come in? That would be the Secret Army Exhibition, where vis-

itors learn about Beaulieu's role as a top-secret "finishing school" for members of Britain's Special Operations Executive.

Something modern? Well, one of the U.K.'s most popular television exports is the show, "Top Gear", which was in production from 2002 to 2023. It was long hosted by acerbic Brit Jeremy Clarkson, who was fired after a physical altercation with a producer, and now stars in the unlikely realty show Clarkson's Farm. A latter-day host was Friends alumnus Matt LeBlanc. The show continues to be seen in re-runs by millions of fans around the world. And it can be explored at Beaulieu, in the exhibit, "World of Top Gear."

And what about those final two family demands? The one who wants to play will be fine – the expansive Beaulieu grounds include the "Little Beaulieu" playground, Britain's oldest monorail, and an antique bus that carries visitors around the groups.

And if the movie and TV lover isn't captivated by the Top Gear exhibit, there is always the "On Screen Cars" exhibition of TV and film favourites.

Human beings being human beings, there may be family members who won't want to visit Beaulieu. But my guess is, after a few hours there, they will be the same ones who won't want to leave!

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.



The view from the Victorian gardens.



A peaceful plaque mounted in the Abbey ruins.



The kitchen of the manor house – everything ready to go, "below the stairs"

Ukrainian Egg Workshop

EMILY STEWART

Echo Correspondent

On March 23rd at the Creative Arts Center in Ingersoll, attendees gathered to learn the art of creating their own Ukrainian Easter egg design. Taught by Phyllis Zapadinsky, the eager artists showed their individual skills at mastering this craft. Pysanky, also known as Ukrainian Easter eggs, are a cherished tradition in both Ukraine and Poland. These intricately decorated eggs are created using the wax-resist method, which is

similar to batik. In Java, an island in Indonesia, batik is part of an ancient tradition, and some of the finest batik cloth in the world is still made there. The word batik originates from the Javanese word “tik” which means to dot. Batik is both a verb (to batik) and a noun (a batik – an object made by batik). These exquisite eggs are not only works of art but also hold cultural significance. Traditionally, pysanky are given as gifts to family members and community leaders. Some believe that they can even ward off evil spirits. Whether you’re paying homage to your heritage or simply seeking a creative Easter project, creating pysanky is a rewarding and age-old tradition.



Eager participants were Liz Dempsey Trish Logan Deborah Schippling Kaitlyn Church Teacher Phyllis Zapadinsky Jen Church Anne Koch Annette Onoz and Kathy McBeath holding some created Ukrainian colored eggs



Setting up for the class was instructor Phyllis Zapadinsky

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Riddles

What sound does a space turkey make?
Hubble, hubble, hubble

What are unhappy cranberries called?
Blueberries

What's blue and covered with feathers?
A turkey holding its breath

What did the mom corn ask baby corn?
"Where is pop corn?"

Why did the kid put the mail in the oven?
Because he wanted to have hotmail

What kind of mail does a superstar vampire get?
Fang mail

What did Dracula's teacher say when he failed his math test?
"Can't you count, Dracula?"

What did one math book say to the other?
"Don't bother me, I have my own problem"

What's green and makes holes?
A drill pickle

What's big, black and eats rocks?
A big, black rock eater

What's another name for a grandfather clock?
An old timer

What do you call an ice cream truck operator?
A sundae drive

Sudoku

Sudoku

by PeterS 2024

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

Solutions on page 31

Basic (7)

Featured Pet



DASH

Dash is a 3 year old Golden Retriever. Dash loves to swim, go for runs, and plays neighbourhood watch out the front window. Never met a treat he didn't enjoy or a person he didn't want to snuggle.

Nominate your pet to be a Featured Pet by emailing info@theecho.ca

Word Search

EASTER

A	R	C	V	F	N	C	Q	V	E	E	T	A	R	B	E	L	E	C	Q
O	L	J	N	L	K	S	P	C	R	R	I	M	C	I	G	D	Z	F	A
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- Eggs
- Chocolate
- Bunny
- Treats
- Basket
- Celebrate
- Hoppy
- Springtime
- Sweet
- Carrot
- Pastel
- Cottontail
- Delicious

COMING EVENTS

Email to inquire
info@theecho.ca

MOVIE NIGHT IS BACK

Sunday, April 7; 6:00 p.m.

Huron Park Baptist Church, 199 Berwick St, Woodstock
Story of "MOSES"

LADIES EVENT – ENJOY A MEXICAN FIESTA

Friday, April 19th; 7:00 p.m.

Huron Park Baptist Church, 199 Berwick St, Woodstock
With our own Alyse Stavropoulos who is on furlough at this time

YOUNG AT HEART

Monday, April 25; 12:00 p.m. Noon

Huron Park Baptist Church, 199 Berwick St, Woodstock
Luncheon for seniors and music by Jane Valenta
Call the office for more details 519-421-4722

OUR FRIDAY NIGHT DANCES ARE MOVING TO SATURDAY NIGHT

Every Saturday starting April 1st; 7 p.m. to 11 p.m.

Woodstock Moose Lodge, 690 Sutherland Drive Woodstock

KARAOKE

Friday Nights; 7 p.m. to 11 p.m.

Woodstock Moose Lodge, 690 Sutherland Drive Woodstock
Once a month car show

ANNUAL CLASSIC CAR SHOW

May 18, June 29, July 27, Aug 24 and Sept 21

Woodstock Moose Lodge, 690 Sutherland Drive Woodstock
Once a month car show

MOTHER'S DAY BRUNCH

Sunday, May 12th; 11:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m.

Woodstock Moose Lodge, 690 Sutherland Drive Woodstock
Bring Mom for a Mother's Day brunch at the Moose! \$7.50 per person.

REIMAGINE YOUR FUTURE:

Monday, April 15th from 6 – 8:30 p.m.

250 Ingersoll St. S., Ingersoll

At this evening workshop, offered at Ingersoll Services for Seniors, a Creative Grief Coach will guide you to imagine a fulfilling future after loss. Together, we'll move from information to creation to revelation. You will tap into your innate creativity to illustrate your reimagined future. You may wish to write, draw, collage, or use a combination of these techniques or others. A collection of creative materials will be available. Your creative expression is about the process, not the outcome – you don't need artistic skills. The workshop will be run by trained facilitators in a safe, confidential, small group environment. Cost is \$30 members; \$35 non-members. Call 519-485-3869 to register.

ABBA TRIBUTE SHOW:

Sunday, April 14th; 2:00 p.m.

Mt Elgin Community Centre, 333204 Plank Line, Mount Elgin

Tickets are \$35.00 and include a light meal following the show. For tickets call Joanne - 519-485-1988, Dawne - 519-421-6836 or the church office 519-425-2091

ROYAL CANADIAN LEGION EVENTS:

642 Dundas Street, Woodstock

WING NIGHTS - April 3rd & 17th; 4:30-6:30 p.m.

Call the Canteen at 519-539-3401 after 3pm.

SOUP N' SANDWICH - April 4th & 18th;

11:30 a.m. -12:45 p.m.

SHUFFLEBOARD - Every Thursday afternoon

SUMMER DART LEAGUE - Starts April 25th

CADETS - Mondays

OUR ROAST BEEF DINNER - April 26th

with Mashed Potatoes & Carrots for \$18.00

SILENT AUCTION - April 13th

MEAT DRAW - April 27th

EVENING ENTERTAINMENT SATURDAYS

April 6th Easthill 7-11pm

April 13th Mike Thorpe 7-11pm

April 20th 2 of a Kind 2-4pm

April 27th Back to Back 7-11pm

In celebration of the 190TH ANNIVERSARY
of OLD ST PAUL'S Anglican Church

Join us for Celebrity Production's
**Live Tribute to
Canada's Best Known &
Best-Loved Artists**

Gordon Lightfoot

Paul Anka

Anne Murray

Neil Young

Joni Mitchell

Shania Twain

The Rankin Family

Tickets and more...

only \$25.
Kids
under 12
free!

Coming Saturday,
April 13th at 1:30pm
to
Old St Paul's Church
723 Dundas St.
Woodstock, Ont.

Refreshments will be
served after the concert.

For Tickets call Old St Paul's at
519-537-3912 or visit The Hallmark
Shoppe (Exact change only, please.)
oldstpauls.com

THE WOODSTOCK CHORALAIRES PRESENTS

LOOK ON THE BRIGHT SIDE

MUSIC OF THE 70'S

GUEST ARTIST CALLANDRA DENDIAS

GORDON LIGHTFOOT, THE CARPENTERS, PAUL SIMON, THE BEATLES, QUEEN, NEIL DIAMOND, MOTOWN, JAMES TAYLOR, CAROLE KING, CHICAGO, 10cc

SATURDAY, APRIL 27, 2024
at 3 pm
**KNOX PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH,
WOODSTOCK**
Lorinda van Wyk, Guest Director Susan Barta, Accompanist
Tickets: \$30 (Free to Children 12 & under)
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or by calling 519-456-5270

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SERVICES

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

BUSINESS DIRECTORY

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info@theecho.ca

Advertise here for as low as \$15 per issue! or call 519-655-2341

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- Records of Site Condition
- Excess Soil Management
- Groundwater and Surface Water Monitoring

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QUIZ ANSWERS

1. Germany
2. Resurrection of Jesus Christ
3. Vegreville, AB
4. Hot cross buns
5. Eleven
6. 1824
7. Lent
8. Witches
9. Kinder Surprise
10. New York City

SUDOKU

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

PUBLIC NOTICE

Replacement of watermain on Pemberton St and sanitary sewer on Charles St W

About the project

Oxford County has awarded a contract to Viewcon Construction Ltd. to replace the existing watermain under the Canadian Pacific (CP) railway and Canadian National (CN) railway on Pemberton Street between Charles Street East to Carnegie Street in Ingersoll. Additionally, sanitary sewer will be replaced on Charles Street West at Merritt Street. The work includes replacement of the existing infrastructure, including asphalt and concrete restoration works as required.

Construction begins on March 18, 2024 and is expected to be completed in June 2024. Construction schedules are weather dependent and subject to change based on contractor availability and other operational demands.

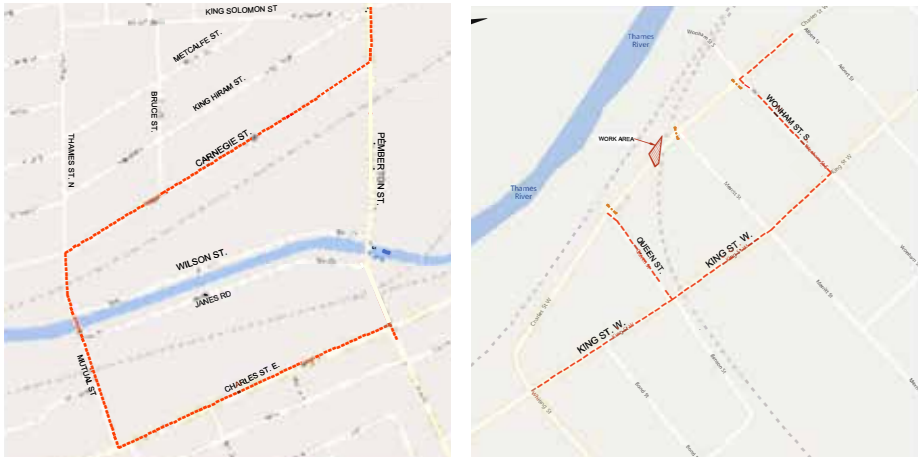
What you need to know

The watermain crosses a section of the CP railway and the CN railway on Pemberton St. in Ingersoll. The sanitary sewer replacement is on Charles St. W., between Queen St. and Wonham St. S.

In consultation with emergency services and Oxford County Public Works, two (2) detour routes will be in place.

Pemberton St. Detour (pictured left): Carnegie St. to Mutual St., and Charles St. E.

Charles St. W Detour (pictured right): Eastbound and westbound traffic will be routed to King St., with Queen St. and Wonham St. S. open to local traffic only.



The contractor will be required to maintain access as best as possible to all properties. Some short-term interruptions and delays can be expected during this work and will be communicated to impacted residents in advance.

If access for waste collection is interrupted by construction, the contractor will collect homeowner bins and containers and take them to a central location for collection. Property owners are asked to mark garbage and recycling containers with their house number so they can be returned to the correct property.

Project contacts

Michael Holstenson, M.Eng., P.Eng. Project Manager, Oxford County 519-539-9800 ext. 3020 mholstenson@oxfordcounty.ca	Jeremy Bienarz, C.Tech Inspector, Oxford County 519-854-1086 jbienarz@oxfordcounty.ca
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This notice first issued on March 13, 2024



HAVE A COMING EVENT COMING UP?

Let us know! Contact:
[info@theecho](mailto:info@theecho.ca) or call 519-655-2341




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HOME & LEISURE
SHOW

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13
 9AM-5PM

SUN APRIL
14
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\$6
 ADMISSION

FREE
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APRIL 13 & 14, 2024

📍 THE ROTARY COMPLEX: 353 MCCARTHY RD, STRATFORD, ON N5A 7S7

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