

# Woodstock Ingersoll Echo

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MARCH 15, 2024

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## Thanks to you the Echo is now available every two weeks

LEE GRIFFI

*Local Journalism Initiative Reporter*

When Grant Haven Media first launched the Woodstock-Ingersoll Echo as a monthly newspaper the plan was to increase the publication's frequency. That time has come.

Effective immediately, the Echo is a bi-weekly publication meaning you can find our paper copies at your local stores and online at [www.granthavenmedia.com](http://www.granthavenmedia.com) where you can also read our four other newspapers.

We pledge to bring you, our readers, the local news important to you but at the same time, we need to hear from you. There are so many incredible stories out there in the community that can't be found in a news release or on a city council agenda. The real stories are about what's happening to people in Woodstock, Ingersoll, and surrounding areas of Oxford County. You are welcome to send your news tips and story ideas to [info@theecho.ca](mailto:info@theecho.ca).

There are a few reasons why we are publishing every two weeks. Firstly, the support from area businesses has been tremendous. The media sector survives in large part on advertising revenue, and we can't thank our advertisers enough for purchasing space in the Echo. Secondly, you are reading the paper. I can't thank our readers enough for their positive comments about our local news.

I am proud and at the same time humbled to be the editor of the Echo and I can't wait to dig in and bring you double the amount of news going forward. Let's work together and make this the best darn paper this area has ever seen.



### COLDEST NIGHT OF THE YEAR

Hundreds of fundraiser walkers start out into the cold for their walk. See more photos on page 12.

(RON YUZARK PHOTO)

## Local chamber welcomes new GM

LEE GRIFFI

*Local Journalism Initiative Reporter*

The Woodstock Chamber of Commerce has announced the hiring of a new General Manager.

Mike Crabbe joined the organization on March 4. Born and raised in Woodstock, he has had an opportunity to gain a deep understanding of the community through both his professional background, as well as through his volunteerism.

"Joining us after years of dedicated service with United Way Oxford, Mike has been able to see firsthand how the power of community and creating a strong network of like-minded people can make change and positive growth for all. Mike's management experience expands from non-profit, in his role as General Manager for Theatre Woodstock, as well as corporate retail management through his position as a Store Manager for Loblaws Joe Fresh in the GTA," said board chair Ifhan Hudda. "Mike is excited to bring his unique business perspective, and

ability to connect people, with him to his position here," he added.

Crabbe said he's excited to start his new role working with former general manager Kim Whitehead to grow business in the city. "Kim and I and the chamber are excited about the growth of downtown Woodstock. It's nice to see development in the downtown is starting to reflect that more." He added the mission of the chamber is to connect businesses to businesses and with customers and communities. "When we have growth opportunities, we are well-positioned to be able to bring people together and help each other thrive."

Whitehead has been the lone employee at the chamber for some time and when asked if more resources are needed at the chamber to offer more help, Crabbe said he's thrilled she is staying on in a reduced role. "She's moving into a part-time position to help oversee the operations. She and I will work together, and this is a great moment for growth at the Woodstock Chamber of

CONTINUED TO PAGE 2

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**CHAMBER WELCOMES NEW GM** (WOODSTOCK CHAMBER OF COMMERCE PHOTO)  
 New Woodstock Chamber of Commerce GM Mike Crabbe is pictured with Kim Whitehead who is staying on to support the organization.

CONTINUED FROM FRONT

Commerce.” He joked the move is somewhat of a soft step into retirement. “We love her too much and she’s so well engaged in the community that she continues to want to be a part of the organization.”

The chamber is hoping to grow the number of businesses in the city’s core, particularly with the Woodstock Streetscape Project coming in the future. “We need that for the sake of the Business Improvement Area. The city of Woodstock has hired an economic development officer,

and they have a great team there. They are intuitive to the needs of the downtown,” said Whitehead. “A vibrant downtown makes for a vibrant community,” she added.

Hudda added he is confident the team of Crabbe and Whitehead will result in improvements. “We are filled with a sense of excitement and optimism. With the addition of Mike and Kim’s experience, we are confident that this dynamic blend of experience and fresh perspectives will lead to remarkable achievements.”

# Driver charged in South-West Oxford bus crash

LEE GRIFFI

Local Journalism Initiative Reporter

The driver of a bus that rolled over into a ditch between Woodstock and Ingersoll faces one charge under the Highway Traffic Act.

The unnamed 34-year-old, a resident of Oxford County, has been charged with careless driving causing bodily harm. The accused is scheduled to appear at the Ontario Court of Justice in Woodstock on April 18. The bus was picking up students attending the Woodstock Christian School, located on Juliana Drive. Emergency crews were called to the intersection of Dodge Line and Cuthbert Road at approximately 8:15 Tuesday morning.

A statement from Oxford County said paramedics transported six patients with minor injuries to area hospitals, including the driver. One was taken by ORNGE air ambulance to London with non-life-threatening injuries after being ejected from the vehicle. “The child was pinned under the bus and was taken to hospital for precautionary reasons.

There were no symptoms of external injuries, but it was important to make sure there were no internal injuries,” said Oxford OPP spokesperson Randi Crawford. “All the students are okay. There were 40 students on the bus but all those injured sustained minor injuries,” she added.

Police are thanking Oxford County Paramedic Services, South-West Oxford Fire and Emergency Services, and members of the public for their assistance and support at the scene. “Thank you to the good Samaritans who stopped by to help the students. We greatly appreciate you. Thank you for being such a close community and helping each other out,” said Crawford. A resident from a nearby farmhouse ran to the scene just after the crash to help students get out of the bus.

Ontario’s Education Minister was asked about the incident today at Queen’s Park, specifically if seatbelts need to be looked at on school buses. “This just happened so let’s let this independent school to conclude an investigation.” The Gazette reached out to the Woodstock Christian School for comment but an official there declined.



(OXFORD OPP PHOTO)

Two tow trucks attended the scene to take the Woodstock Christian School bus out of the ditch following a crash that sent six people to hospital with minor injuries.

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# Operation Sharing names new ED

## Sheri Vindasius hoping for more coordination and compassion

LEE GRIFFI

Local Journalism Initiative Reporter

It's the change of a lifetime for Operation Sharing's new Executive Director. Sheri Vindasius dedicated over 30 years working in the funeral industry and decided she was ready to move on. That's when she started looking into the homelessness issue.

"I just started researching and for whatever reason, it's just kind of been an interest that has formed into a passion. I was researching, and I heard Shawn (Shapton) was stepping down and I applied to the position." She was offered the about three weeks ago and didn't hesitate. "It's been a wonderful transition. After exiting the funeral industry, I had a lot of support and then entered this community. The staff and team here and the guests have been phenomenal."

Many people have mentioned the jump in career paths seems odd, but Vindasius doesn't see it that way. "Inherently, a lot of it is still helping people. That's a big part of me. Being in the funeral industry for that long there was a shift, and I could feel it was time for me to leave. It wasn't sustainable for me anymore. I looked into and read about the homelessness situation, and it piqued my interest." She started volunteering at Operation Sharing, enjoyed it, and decided to apply for the role.

Vindasius has several priorities as she takes on her new role but none more im-



### HELPING PEOPLE FIND NEW HOPE

Sheri Vindasius is the new Executive Director at Woodstock's Operation Sharing, taking over from the departed Shawn Shapton

(LEE GRIFFI PHOTO)

portant than pursuing alternative funding streams to make more of a difference. "We are funded through the county and rely on private donations. Money is always a big proponent for non-profits just to be able to offer more programs for people who are suffering in the community to continue the growth Operation Sharing has done under the guidance of (former ED) Shawn and the team." She is also looking

at opportunities for grants and more fundraising initiatives such as Coldest Night of the Year which raised about \$160,000. She added building more collaborative relationships with community partners is another area of focus to find other programs that could help people in the community who are in need.

"This situation just isn't a one-level crisis. There are so many layers to it, and we

need all the partners together. It's going to take a village. It's not going to take just one organization to make great strides. It will take the partners and the politicians. There is so much of it that crisis doesn't seem to fit it anymore," she added.

Vindasius explained she has noticed that along with homelessness comes mental health issues, addiction, and often scrutiny from the community. "When they are out in public and having a bad day, they are judged for it. When we have a bad day, we get to do it behind closed doors and not be judged. I am hoping to be able to see a shift of compassion. We have a lot of people suffering and I think the human part has kind of shifted because it has become so big and has become so public." She added people are frustrated seeing the behaviour and reading about the overdoses occurring in Woodstock. "But these are human beings, and they are hurting. I don't remember a time when we used to look back at people who suffered and were so judgemental."

Operation Sharing is looking for additional volunteers to help out with day-to-day chores such as laundry at their shelter in Tillsonburg. "There are so many different ways to volunteer. You don't necessarily need to be in-house," added Vindasius who said she's ready to get to work. "It's an amazing team and I am excited to be here. I'm still trying to wrap my head around everything, but I want to continue the growth and build relationships."

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**Woodstock Ingersoll Echo**

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5. Newspapers document history
6. Newspapers strengthen communities
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8. Newspapers should be locally-owned and operated

# Area health unit concerned about potential measles cases

LEE GRIFFI

Local Journalism Initiative Reporter

The Southwest Public Health Unit is encouraging residents of Oxford County to find out their immunization status in response to an increasing number of measles infections.

Federal Health Minister Mark Holland said in a press conference last week that he is deeply concerned about the emergence of measles outbreaks in Canada, a risk that experts say has grown as infections grow internationally and the country continues to struggle to meet vaccination targets. "Frankly, we're seeing a lot of illness that was almost rendered non-existent starting to come back because of vaccine hesitancy."

Joanne Andrews is the Manager of Infectious Disease at Southwest Public Health and said the potential for an outbreak locally is a concern. "Because we are such a mobile population these days and we know there is a risk of measles being acquired outside Canada. If people are not fully protected through immunization there's the risk that someone could acquire it either overseas or somewhere else in Canada."

Children are required to be immunized for measles as a requirement to attend school however there is an opportunity for people to opt out. Andrews said there are fewer people protected today than in previous years. "If that is the situation they need to complete a form to indicate the reason. I would say there is a decrease

in the number of people getting routine immunizations and unfortunately, it does present a situation where we have people who are vulnerable to the diseases that are circulating."

The health unit has no statistics available regarding the number of students who aren't protected against measles but there is a provincial system and staff are in the process of checking student immunization records. "Parents of elementary school children have been notified if we don't have a complete record. Sometimes the record might be incomplete, or it could be the child is missing immunizations. The vaccine team is completing that work right now which is very timely because we want to make sure parents are aware if their child is fully protected against measles which means two doses of the vaccine," explained Andrews. She is also encouraging adults to check up on their immunization status. "If they aren't aware they should reach out to their healthcare provider to see if they have a record or ask a parent if they were immunized as a child."

The health unit said parents of fully protected children don't need to worry about the virus, but those not up to date on their shots are at an elevated risk despite there not being any new cases locally. Despite that, she said they have launched an education campaign. "We are providing our local healthcare providers with information so they can be diligent and also for the public to be aware of the importance of immunization and be prepared if they are travelling somewhere they could be at

risk."

The Southwestern Middlesex-London health units recently had confirmation of a person who tested positive for measles. The individual lives in London and works in Woodstock. Investigators concluded the illness was picked up while traveling outside of Canada. After their return, they had limited contact with others during the time they were infectious.

Measles is highly contagious and health officials are reminding the community to be aware of the signs and symptoms which include fever, cough, runny nose, red, ir-

ritated eyes, light sensitivity, small white, grey, or blue spots in the mouth, and a red, blotchy rash, which is the last symptom to appear. The rash appears on the face and then spreads down over the body and will begin to fade after about a week.

Measles is spread through the air and complications can include pneumonia, ear infections, brain infections, other infections, and in rare cases, death. Those considered to be most at risk of infection are people born in 1970 or later who have not received measles-containing vaccine or have not had a previous measles infection.

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# Advocates say Pride flag approval by Norwich Council a step in the right direction, but there's more work ahead

EMILY STEWART

*Echo Correspondent*

After being banned last summer, the Pride flag will be flown in Norwich Township this year.

Oxford County Pride announced in a January 11 social media post the organization was pleased with Norwich Township's decision to include the Pride flag in the preapproved list of non-civic flags under the Township Flag Protocol. The January 9 memorandum, included in the post, indicated that the Pride flag, along with the Black History Month, Truth and Reconciliation Day, Remembrance Day, United Nations, Every Child Matters, minor sports, United Empire Loyalists, and service club flags are all part of a pre-approved list.

"We're very happy and relieved that they decided to do the right thing to really unite the community, versus divide, which is what they had been previously doing," said Tami Murray, president of Oxford County Pride.

2SLGBTQIA+ community and allies.

Chris Tackas, vice-president of Norwich Residents for Love and Acceptance, had mixed feelings about the decision to fly the Pride flag.

"While it is a victory in the sense that the flag will fly, there's still a lot of work to be done. Because the underlying problems are still here, and they were really highlighted when the flags first went up. It was something that really came to the forefront of how much opposition there is to the LGBT community in town."

The Norwich Residents for Love and Acceptance group is also restructuring following the decision. The organization was trying to run similarly to Oxford Pride, but several members faced burnout and lost momentum.


"We decided instead that what really worked for us was just building a sense of community between our members and things like that and getting that network of allies in town that we can turn to and know are safe people," Tackas explained.

The group will be running quarterly potlucks throughout the year, and anyone looking to learn more about the organization can either look up Norwich and Area JEDI Alliance on Facebook or send an email to [Norwich.JEDI.Alliance@gmail.com](mailto:Norwich.JEDI.Alliance@gmail.com).

Murray said that advocacy for the 2SLGBTQIA+ community includes education, dispelling myths and misinformation, and supporting organizations like Oxford County Pride by participating in their events and programming.

"Come to our events and learn more about our community instead of fear and fear mongering," Murray said.

In the spring of 2023 the township banned all non-civic flags. The decision was met with outcry from the



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# Oxford OPP looking for youth citizen academy applicants

LEE GRIFFI

Local Journalism Initiative Reporter

The Oxford Detachment of the Ontario Provincial Police is looking for community-minded teenagers interested in joining a Youth Citizen's Police Academy starting this spring.

The academy is an opportunity for youth to learn about policing. Chosen participants will hear presentations from members in specialty units within the organization such as Crime, K9, Emergency Response Team (ERT), Tactics and Rescue Unit (TRU), in-service training, recruiting, civilian roles, and many others.

"Each session is an interactive, information-sharing evening, similar to a night school setting. Upon completion of the academy, participants will better understand the multitude of ways in which the OPP supports public

safety in both their community, and the Province of Ontario," said Constable Randi Crawford.

After a tight vote and long debate at a board meeting at the end of January, trustees at the Thames Valley District School Board decided not to introduce a pilot program that would have brought police officers back into schools after a three-year hiatus. "It's a way for us to reach the youth in the county. We are trying to think outside of the box since we aren't able to be in the schools. We want to nourish the relationship with young people, and this is a perfect way to build that relationship," said Crawford. "This is also a way to show them what policing is all about and see if it is something they might be interested in turning into a career. At the end of the day, it's about having a strong community relationship with people of all ages, but it starts with our youth."

The program is looking for mature, moti-

vated, and community-minded individuals who are between 16 and 18 years of age and represent Oxford County's diverse communities. Crawford said other than that there isn't much of a criteria to join. "Anyone who wants to dedicate some time and see what policing is about. It is a chance to build a connection with the OPP. Even if some kids made a mistake or two in their lives, we aren't going to be punitive about that. This might be an opportunity for them to turn their life in a different direction."

The academy is scheduled to run in Tillsonburg, every Wednesday for six weeks. The classes are from 6:30 to 8:30 p.m. and start on April 17, running until May 29. The deadline to submit applications is Friday, March 15. Participants must pass a security check before selection. A valid photo identification is also required, which should be attached to the application.

Applications are available at the front counter of the two Oxford OPP detachments. The detachment in Ingersoll is located at 110 Mutual Street and the detachment in Tillsonburg is located at 90 Concession Street East. Crawford did want to add she realizes it may not be easy for those in rural areas to pick up an application in person. "This is our first time doing this and I am always someone to roll with the punches so to speak. I have gotten feedback that it is difficult for some to get to our offices, so I have done a video that is now on social media today. If someone is not able to get to a detachment, they can email me a request for an application, and I will send it." The video will be available on the West Region OPP's Facebook, Instagram, and X feeds.

Oxford OPP is also planning a citizen's academy for adults which may be coming in the fall of 2024. It would be for people 18 and over.

# Oxford Women In Networking Celebration of International Women's Day

On Mar. 6th at the South Gate Centre, Woodstock, the Oxford Women In Networking held their Celebration of International Women's Day. The International Women's Day 2024 campaign theme was: "Inspire Inclusion" The Inspire Inclusion campaign for International Women's Day 2024 was an initiative aimed at fostering

a more inclusive world for women. By inspiring both women and allies to understand and value women's inclusion, the campaign sought to create a sense of belonging, relevance, and empowerment. The in-person event planned as part of the campaign provided a platform for women from diverse backgrounds to come to-

gether, connect, and empower each other. Through networking, sharing experiences, and building relationships, attendees had the opportunity to strengthen their support networks and gain motivation for their personal and professional journeys. The lineup of inspiring speakers left attendees feeling motivated and em-

powered, ready to tackle challenges and pursue their goals. The event served as a celebration of women's achievements and a reminder of the importance of supporting each other in their collective journeys toward equality and empowerment.

Representatives for VON were Emily Dufton (Community Services Coordinator) and Janet Somers (Volunteer Coordinator SMART Instructure)



(RON YUZARK PHOTOS)  
Sonia Palleck, published author and local Orthodontist, has written a series of four novels titled Leave The Little Light On. Book one is set in Windsor, book two in London. The third book takes place in Dorchester and book four in Woodstock. Autographed sales from book one went to support Oxford Women In Networking.

## Ask the Arborist

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



Dear Arborist,  
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Sincerely,  
Owen (age 8)

tree in the world is named the General Sherman. The General Sherman is located in the Sequoia National Park, also in California. The General Sherman is 52,508 cubic feet, which is equivalent in size to almost 500 dump truck loads.

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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 briefs

## Truck rams into Norwich Avenue business

On Monday, March 11 just before 2 p.m., police responded to a collision at the Canada Post outlet at 433 Norwich Avenue for reports of a pickup truck that drove into a building. One pedestrian suffered serious but non-life-threatening injuries and was transported to hospital for treatment. The investigation is ongoing.

## Woodstock Police Disrupt Drug Trafficking Operations

The Woodstock Police Service has intercepted and seized drugs valued at over \$270,000 in an ongoing trafficking investigation.

In January the Woodstock Police Service Criminal Intelligence and Drug Enforcement Unit initiated a comprehensive probe related to drug trafficking in the city. On Monday, March 4, and Tuesday, March 5, the unit, in collaboration with the Woodstock Police K9 Unit, Community Response Unit, Uniform Patrol, and Brantford Police Service High Enforcement Action Team, executed search warrants at two addresses in Brantford and one address in Paris.

The ongoing investigation resulted in the seizure of approximately \$130,000 of cocaine, \$145,000 of fentanyl, over \$1000 in prescription medications, \$2110 in Canadian currency, and a 2016 Kia Sorrento.

Four individuals have been arrested and are facing charges concerning this investigation.

A 45-year-old Brantford man has been charged with six counts of possession of



a schedule I substance for the purpose of trafficking and five counts of operation while prohibited under the criminal code.

A 47-year-old Brantford woman faces six counts of possession of a schedule I substance for the purpose of trafficking, and two 27-year-olds from Brantford, one male and one female, have been charged with four counts of possession of a schedule I substance for the purpose of trafficking.

The Woodstock Police Service would like to extend a special thank you to the Brantford Police Service HEAT team for their assistance in this investigation.

## Three teens charged following Woodstock assault

On Thursday, February 29 at approximately 9:50 a.m., the Woodstock Police

Service responded to reports of a fight in the area of Cromwell and Berwick Streets. The investigation revealed three youths assaulting another youth.

As a result, a 16-year-old, and a 15-year-old, both of Woodstock, were arrested and are each facing one count of assault. A 17-year-old Thamesford is facing one count of robbery with violence.

## Thieves take ATM from city business

The Woodstock Police Service is seeking information from the public regarding an ATM theft that occurred in the early hours of Sunday, March 3, 2024.

At approximately 2:05 a.m. police responded to a reported break and enter in the area of Dundas Street and Norwich Avenue. Three suspects in a pickup truck

were involved in breaking into a business and stealing an ATM machine. The Hamilton Police Service has since recovered it, but Woodstock Police are actively seeking assistance in identifying and locating the suspects and vehicle involved in the investigation.

The vehicle is described as a black Ford F150 with an extended cab, a covered bed, and a damaged right taillight. All three suspects were dressed in black wearing masks, one wearing a Nike hoodie.

## Ingersoll man faces stunt and suspended driving charges

A suspended driver was arrested for stunt driving by the Woodstock Police Service during routine traffic enforcement on Saturday, March 2 at about 9:20 a.m.

A WPS Officer detected a vehicle traveling at a speed of 106 km/h in a 60 km/h zone and immediately conducted a traffic stop.

Police say the 28-year-old driver from Ingersoll was operating the vehicle with a suspended licence. They now face charges, including one count of operation while prohibited under the Criminal Code and one count of stunt driving due to excessive speed.

Under the Highway Traffic Act stunt driving includes, but is not limited to driving 40 km/h or more over the speed limit on roads with a speed limit of less than 80 km/h, driving 50 km/h or more over the speed limit, and driving a motor vehicle 150 km/h or more anywhere in the province, including freeways with limits of 110 km/h.

# OPP news briefs

## Driver charged following rollover

On March 11 at approximately 8:00 a.m. the Oxford detachment of the Ontario Provincial Police (OPP) along with members of Oxford County Paramedic Services and Fire Services from South-West Oxford, responded to a collision that occurred on Sweaburg Road.

The driver, a 21-year-old resident from Beachville, was charged with careless driving. They were taken to a local hospital, but no serious injuries were reported.

Police would like to remind drivers to always be mindful of their driving behaviours. By following the rules of the road, you help to keep yourself and everyone around you safe.

## Police investigating assault in Ingersoll

Police say a victim sustained minor injuries following an incident that took place on March 9 near 8:15 p.m.



A Beachville resident has been charged after a single-vehicle rollover. (OXFORD OPP PHOTO)

Oxford OPP were called to the area of Alma and George Streets to investigate an assault on an individual by three unknown suspects. All were wearing dark-coloured clothing and masks. The victim sustained minor injuries. The incident is being treated as a targeted event and there is no known

threat to public safety. A green four-door Volkswagen was seen in and around the area at the time of the assault.

Police are asking any homeowners in the area who have video surveillance or anyone who may have seen anything to them at 1-888-310-1122 or \*677 via cell phone.

## Multiple acts of mischief in Springford

Police are seeking assistance from the public in identifying those linked to acts of mischief in Norwich Township.

Over the past several weeks, Springford Community Park has reported multiple incidents on the property. Police are investigating complaints of graffiti as well as damage to items on the property and to the fields.

Police want to remind the public that mischief is a serious offence and can result in imprisonment. Mischief is defined under the Criminal Code of Canada as anyone who willfully destroys or damages property, renders property dangerous, useless, inoperative, or ineffective or obstructs, interrupts, or interferes with the lawful use, enjoyment, or operation of property.



## LOCAL MATTERS.



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



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



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



# EZT rejects proposed wind turbine projects



LEE GRIFFI

Local Journalism Initiative Reporter

Prowind will not be moving forward with its wind turbine project in the Casel and Innerkip areas of East Zorra-Tavistock.

A well-behaved, standing-room-only crowd of about 120 people attended Wednesday's East Zorra-Tavistock meeting in Hickson to hear presentations from Helmut Schneider, Prowind's Vice-President of Renewable Energy, and local farmer David Cunningham from Wind Concerns EZT.

A resolution was passed by council saying, "Be it resolved that the Township of East Zorra-Tavistock declares itself to be an unwilling host for wind turbine developments." Councillor Jeremy Smith asked for a recorded vote, and it was passed unanimously followed by loud cheers from most in the gallery.

Councillor Steven Van Wyk declared a conflict of interest and was not in chambers for the presentations, discussions, or the vote. He is employed by Stubbe's Precast in Hickson, the company that supplied concrete to the Gunn's Hill wind project and could have potentially done the same for any EZT wind farms.

After a few minutes of discussion on if and how council should proceed with a potential resolution, clerk Will Jaques read the motion which was followed by words

from Mayor Phil Schaefer. "I believe that renewable energy is important, and I also believe wind turbines may form a part of that. But I don't understand why the most valuable farmland in the township and the county would be proposed for a massive wind turbine development. It produces energy, yes, intermittently, but it also produces division. It pits neighbour against neighbour and puts a price on friendship. I will support this resolution."

After his presentation, Cunningham asked council to pass a resolution declaring the township as an unwilling host and in the end, that is exactly what happened. He said he's thrilled council made their decision so quickly, not letting the issue linger on and cause anxiety. "A little unexpected. I thought they might take a day or two to consider it and then vote, but thoroughly happy with the decision. It supports the community." His Wind Concerns EZT partner, Rick Hommes, added the resolution was unexpected. "I thought about it but never expected it to happen. And unanimous."

Councillor Scott Zehr spoke following the presentations and said the response from residents was overwhelming and he thanked Cunningham and Hommes for their efforts. "I think you guys did a great job of rallying the community and educating folks. From the amount of emails I received personally, people spoke up."



(LEE GRIFFI PHOTOS)

## SAVE PRIME FARM LAND

**Left: An EZT farmer drove a tractor to the meeting with a clear message for members of council. Right: About 120 local residents packed council chambers on Wednesday with the vast majority leaving pleased after the township declared itself an unwilling host for wind farm developments.**

Both men agreed the residents in attendance did help their cause. "100%. It was a community effort, that's what it was," added Hommes. "I am big on consensus, and they saw a small sampling of what the community was saying," said Cunningham who added it was a focused effort over a few months. "Since just before Christmas our heads were down, we were like sponges trying to get as many facts as we could to keep the emotions out of it to focus on the vital few things we thought were important. The community rallied together quickly."

Schneider said he is disappointed with the resolution and was hoping for more time to build relationships in the area. "The reason we did not make an ask of council is that we felt it was important for (them) to get to know us and to see if we are sincere in our community engagement process. Do we use this process to make sure we build trust in the community? We did not ask for a council resolution, but it has been made and we have to deal with that." He added the company will regroup

and see what it means for their proposed developments. "We do have other developments in Oxford and Ontario and for us, it is more comfortable to work with a willing host so that is what we will focus on."

Despite the company's setback in East Zorra-Tavistock, Schneider said he did have a lot of support for the project with 19 land option agreements for turbines signed to date. "I don't think it is correct to assume that all the people in that room were in opposition because I did recognize several people who had written letters to council in support of this project. It is a bit of a false assumption, but the majority of people came here because they were requested to. We did not ask anybody to come and support us. We did not think there was a need for that because we didn't have an ask for a resolution."

One of the lighter moments of the meeting came when a resident shouted, "Look outside at the trees. No wind!"

## Oxford County Junior Farmers helping area food banks

Oxford County Junior Farmers would like to sincerely thank the community again for an extremely successful 2023 Embro Truck and Tractor Pull. With the strong attendance of the community and the over 200 volunteers, we were able to give back across Oxford.

From the 2023 funds, we were able to donate \$15,000 to seven Oxford County food banks, including \$5000 to Operation Sharing Food for Friends. The Food for Friends Program gifts those in need with redeemable gift cards that can be used at local grocery stores. This was well received by Operation Sharing, as the need is incredibly high this year. In the words of Jess Cheyne, the Fundraising, Marketing, and Volunteering Coordinator, "We are so grateful for this donation to our Food for Friends Program. These funds will be used to help families who are currently struggling with food insecurity. By offering food cards to local grocery stores, anyone can shop with dignity and get what they need."

Oxford County Junior Farmers also donated \$4000 each to the Stratford, Woodstock, Tillsonburg, and Ingersoll hospitals to put toward purchasing new equipment. The members of the tractor-pull committee were also able to donate to a charity of their choosing. These selected char-

ities included those supporting the homeless, local church and youth groups, and the Thames Valley school nutrition program. The amount of these donations totalled \$8000.

We want to thank all our volunteer groups from 2023, Oxford County 4-H and Clover Buds, Embro Fire, Embro Fair, Embro Lawn Bowling, Embro Minor Soccer and Baseball, Harrington Community Club, Innerkip Lions, Embro Knox United Church, Norwich curling, Norwich merchants, Thorndale Lions, Wilmot Ag Society, Zorra Skating club, Innerkip Presbyterian church, and Ingersoll Curling Club. We are proud that our event helps finance all these groups throughout the year.

We hope to see everyone out for the 2024 Embro Truck and Tractor Pull on August 2-3.

Oxford County Junior Farmers is one of 16 clubs across the province with the mission 'To build future rural leaders through personal growth, travel, experiences, and community betterment'. We are a social group that strives to have fun through sporting, travel, and agricultural events while also giving back to the community. New members between the ages of 15 and 30 are always welcome. Contact our president Julie De Bruyn, at julie.debruyn@hotmail.com for more info.

## Weekend Quiz

1. What is the maximum number of golf clubs allowed in a golf bag?
2. What is the name of the longest river in the US?
3. What is the most abundant gas in Earth's atmosphere?
4. Who is known as the "Father of Modern Philosophy"?
5. Who was the very first American Idol winner?
6. How many railroads are there in Monopoly?
7. What is the world's most venomous snake?
8. What is the biggest and fastest roller coaster in Canada?
9. How many degrees measures a semi-circle?
10. According to Chinese Zodiac, 2024 is the year of what?

This week's answers are found on pg. 34

# Jakeman's kicking off new maple syrup season

JEFF TRIBE

*Echo Contributor*

Bruce and Lynda Jakeman tapped into the sixth generation of a classic maple syrup-making family to help launch his 71st season.

To be fair, five-year-old Lachlan mainly provided moral support on opening day, but seven-year-old Wesley was in the thick of things.

"He wielded the hammer and did a lot of tapping in," smiled Lynda.

The Jakemans were originally introduced to the agricultural art by Neutral First Nations people, says Bruce. Many regional settlers discovered maple trees provided a welcome dietary staple they could produce rather than purchase, both as syrup and boiled down further into sugar.

Bruce's grandmother Mary was the first to sell maple products, offering syrup, sugar and maple vinegar at the Woodstock farmer's market. Her efforts were foundational in what has evolved under Bruce's brother Bob, wife Mary and sons Devin and Chad into Jakeman's Maple Syrup just south of Woodstock, located directly across Trillium Line from Bruce and Lynda's wooded property.

Bruce joined the family operation when he was around Lachlan's age.

"We were all out down in the sugar bush," he recalls.

He and Lynda sell some syrup to long-term customers, many who also enjoy a spring visit to an active sugarbush.

"The rest of it gets barreled up and shipped over to Devin," Bruce explained.



## BOILING SOMETHING SWEET

**Bruce and Lynda Jakeman's evaporator can produce up to three draws of fresh, delicious maple syrup per hour when running at peak performance.**

(CONTRIBUTED PHOTO)

Some things have changed in the 70-plus years Bruce has been in the sugarbush, hand-powered brace and bits, spiles and buckets replaced with power drills and vacuum-powered lines, a reverse osmosis system removing up to 60 per cent of the water from sap to significantly accelerate the boiling process, and the thermometer signalling 219 degrees Fahrenheit where sap officially becomes syrup an automatic digital signal now. However, there's still enough tradition familiar to the old-

est-time syrup maker: a weathered sugar shack, wood-fired evaporator and clouds of sticky, sweetly-scented steam rising to mark a classic rite of Canadian spring.

Clear, sweet maple sap runs every spring, best although not exclusively around the combination of cold nights well below the freezing point and warm days well above it. Maple sap generally contains between 2.2 and 3.5 per cent sugar content, 'sugarbush' trees at the lower end. 'Yard maples' feeding more extensive expanses of leaf-expectant branches run higher, says Bruce.

"That doesn't sound like much, but it's a big difference in the boiling."

A 40-to-1 ratio of sap to syrup is the accepted standard, however given disparity both tree to tree and year to year, it definitely varies says Bruce. Legally, maple syrup must have 66 per cent sugar content to be sold as such, although they take theirs to 67.

"I just think it tastes better."

At peak performance, their evaporator can produce a draw (fresh batch of syrup)

roughly every 20 minutes, up to 12 litres per hour. What is very much a family tradition is also very much a family effort. Lynda was an initially skeptical partner, based on her family's (nee Heeney) sporadic syrup-making experience.

"It was just a few times here and there and it tasted terrible," she laughed. "He said 'Wait until you try ours,' and he was right.

"It was delicious."

The couple's four children, spouses and nine grandchildren support a group effort, son-in-law Nathaniel Arena from Tillsonburg helping a lot with the boiling.

"He can handle an armload of wood a lot better than I can," Bruce smiled.

The couple's son Mac, wife Rose and their daughters Hazel and Pearl live right next door, close enough to see telltale steam rising while they're boiling. It offers an unspoken invitation to stroll over for a taste at its finest, right out of the evaporator.

"It's the best," says Lynda.

But near or further, their whole family is connected to the tradition, up to and including 15-year-old Marley changing weekend plans to help open the season.

"She said if you're tapping Saturday, I'm coming," Lynda smiled.

As anyone who has ever made maple syrup intimately understands, it's not a fast track to easy money.

"No, golly no," Lynda laughed.

Beyond access to maple trees, their evaporator ran \$20,000 says Bruce, the reverse osmosis system \$11,000, not to mention sap lines, tanks, other equipment, wood and countless hours of labour. But it is an enjoyable family tradition they don't plan on giving up on anytime soon, even if they are down a few taps from their historical high of 8,000.

"Do it 'till I die, that's his summation," laughed Lynda, smiling at her husband.

She took a little longer to buy in, but also confesses to 'getting the itch' when spring is on the horizon.

"And then we get the kids on board and they're keen as keen."

"Definitely in our family," Bruce agreed in conclusion.

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# Echo

**The Woodstock Ingersoll Echo has moved to a biweekly newspaper that, thanks to the support of the community. The next editions are:**

**March 29, 2024**

**April 12, 2024**

**April 26, 2024**

**May 10, 2024**

**May 24, 2024**

**June 7, 2024**

**June 21, 2024**

**July 5, 2024**

**July 19, 2024**

[info@theecho.ca](mailto:info@theecho.ca)

# Plenty of plant-based products available at downtown business

MERCEDES KAY GOLD

*Echo Contributor*

Take a stroll down Dundas Street in Woodstock and discover Fair/Square, an adorable brick-and-mortar space Katharina Otulak opened in April 2021 to complement her already thriving online business. Katharina, a vegan for the past seven years, proudly supports a plant-based lifestyle highlighting fairtrade and cruelty-free vegan products. With 80% of the brands being Canadian and Ontario-based, Katharina supports rising entrepreneurs. Veganism and furry friends go hand in hand, and 10% of her sales go towards helping animal sanctuaries.

As a nutritionist, I was to the moon discovering the number of Canadian healthy plant-based lines that are available. For those looking for gluten-free goodness, you are in luck as 90% of fab-food finds in Fair/Square are 90% gluten-free. Katharina is passionate about the importance of offering a wide variety of one-of-a-kind gourmet products that are easy to find while living outside a metropolitan city. She has an eye for selling the latest and the greatest. From clean cacao-based chocolate to faux smoked salmon created from carrots and even tuna made from a non-GMO

soy protein, Fair/Square is one healthy hub. Katharina also sells certified gluten-free plant-based decadent desserts and breads, by baking sensation Alayne Brisson, owner of Rosy's Kitchen. It's no surprise the top-selling treat is cinnamon roll cake, but this nutritionist is nutty over the pecan pie brownies.

The store has evolved, now offering a wide variety of items from greeting cards and books to handmade jewelry and super cute socks. Katharina carries a curated collection of body, facial, hair, and bath care. The extensive lineup of superb self-care products is vegan and cruelty-free, holistic happiness for us and animals.

Opening a small business ignites passion and creativity, and the possibilities are endless. Choosing to spend locally supports the community, from stay-at-home parents to college students. Small businesses plant entrepreneurial seeds in the minds of the next generation.

First up is By Riss.Co, owned by girl boss Marissa Sangers, or Riss for short is a confessed creative soul who encourages her two daughters to shine unapologetically authentic. Riss began to put her passion on paper, designing accessories while sitting bedside daughter Charlotte in the hospital. Finding a balance be-



**Katharina Otulak is the owner of Fair/Square, a downtown Woodstock vegan store that opened in 2021.**

tween home and working while creating eye-catching earrings with a goal of inclusivity and all-age awesomeness is not an easy task. Everyone loves a good tagline. Stock up on slews of stickers with the sweetest sayings this Spring. Riss.Co

will be attending the Tillsonburg Community Center on March 16.

Mrunal Wakankar, another female entrepreneur is a sewing superstar who traded paying someone else for DIY, after receiving her first sewing machine as a wedding present from dear old mom. Her business, The Sivana Store launched October 22, and the name pays homage to the Sanskrit word sivan, meaning stitching or sewing.

From beautiful boho wall hangings to mugs, cushion covers, and coasters, there is no shortage of fabulous finds to add style to any space. Post-Covid, more Canadians are home chefs, and The Sivana Store showcases unique place mats and table runners to dress up any mealtime table. For feng shui followers, Mrunal is always on the hunt for the next big idea. Out hiking, she brought back the beauty of nature and incorporated driftwood into an eye-catching piece.

With all the big box shops catering to corporations, blending in is easy, but finding hot off-the-press items to tame a growling tummy or showcase style is a dream come true!

Visit Fair/Square in person at 475 Dundas St, Woodstock, or shop their fully stocked online store, shipping Canada-wide. [www.fair-square.ca](http://www.fair-square.ca).

# Zorra Township couple wins 2024 ag award

LEE GRIFFI

*Local Journalism Initiative Reporter*

Cobi and Steve Sauder have dedicated their lives to outdoor education and conservation. As a result, the couple has been awarded the prestigious Oxford Stewardship Award.

The couple stood out to the award selection committee for their long list of stewardship projects at their 100-acre farm in Zorra Township. They have planted an estimated 6,500 trees since purchasing their property nearly 30 years ago. Oxford County Warden Marcus Ryan presented the award at a recent Oxford County Council meeting.

Cobi says they have always taken pride in being good caretakers and land stewards. "We felt privileged to be afforded the opportunity to live on a 100-acre farm, so we just wanted to give back to it. Once you live within it and immerse yourself, you just get connected with all the different plant species and all the different possibilities, so it just made sense to us to be as kind as we could to the land."

Steve adds the farm is an extension of who they are. "We met while teaching outdoor education, and we just have a real love for the land. It was also an extension of who I was at work because we were always promoting conservation, and it was just a great opportunity to live the things about improving water quality and soil health."

The couple has been working towards improving their farm operation over time,



## AG AWARD

**Oxford Warden Marcus Ryan presenting the award to Cobi Sauder, and Steve Sauder.**

performing no-till and minimal-till crop rotations since the 1990s and cover crops over the past six years. Steve says they always look for ways to improve soil health. "We wanted a productive working farm, so our goal has been to continue to learn and take care of our soil as best as we can."

Tree planting has been an ongoing project over the years, and they estimate that they have planted over 6,500 since purchasing the property. The couple has established a wooded area with tree diversity, buffered a wetland, and planted windbreaks.

Cobi says they wanted to make the property accessible for their kids to give them room to explore. "The kids were always playing outside in the bush or outback exploring, and it just made sense to involve them in the process. All our girls are now working in the sciences, influenced by immersing themselves in nature from a young age. The property backs onto the Conservation Area, and there are lots of places to explore and learn."

Steve added they have also removed a lot of invasive species from the property and recently installed deer enclosure fencing. "Species diversification is important

to us. Working at reducing invasive species, we have worked with Oxford County to reduce glossy buckthorn from the farm as well as on the deer exclosures to help improve the woodlot health at the back and prevent the deer from eating all of the new vegetation."

Recent projects include establishing a wooded area with tree diversity, buffering a wetland, and planting windbreaks. Working with Oxford County, the Sauders installed deer exclosures to help reduce invasive species and help improve the woodlot health at the back of their property by preventing the deer from eating all of the new vegetation. They also plant cover crops at their farm, have decommissioned an old well, and created water and sediment control basins.

The couple received a \$500 gift certificate to purchase original artwork commissioned from an Oxford County artist of their choice. In addition to this prize, Cobi and Steve Sauder have been added to the recognition wall at the Oxford County Administration Building, designed to honour all past and future recipients.

The runner-ups were Paul Brenneman from East, Township of East Zorra-Tavistock, and Marsha and Gregg Litt from Zorra.

The Oxford Stewardship Award recipient is chosen by Stewardship Oxford and the Oxford Soil & Crop Improvement Association from the pool of projects that received financial and/or technical assistance through the County-supported Clean Water Program the previous year.

# Woodstock's Coldest Night of the Year

"The Coldest Night of the Year" is an annual event in Woodstock held this year on February 24 aimed at supporting local charities that serve individuals experiencing hardship, hunger, and homelessness. Registration and the starting point for a

2 km or 5 km walk was at College Avenue Secondary School. It invited families to participate in a walk, fostering a sense of community while raising funds for those in need. The event encouraged participants to team up, fundraise, and walk

together, emphasizing the importance of solidarity during difficult times. By braving the cold weather participants gained a deeper understanding of the challenges faced by vulnerable individuals. It served as a reminder to pause, reflect, and extend

a helping hand to those who may be struggling. This year their goal was \$150,000. To date 362 walkers have raised \$156,948.

(RON YUZARK PHOTOS)



Registering were left to right were Julia Green, Shelley Green, Perry Cannon and Tracy Brooks



Board Member for Operation Sharing Judi Brown with Jennifer Canten and Caroline Schneider on either side of her



Woodstock Police and Auxiliary Police on hand to ensure safety for all the walkers



Ready to start their walk for support were Amy McKague, Ray Riley and Natalie Robinson

# Woodstock Annual Rec and Leisure Fair

The Rec and Leisure Fair returned to Goff Gymnasium (formerly Goff Hall) for its 18th year on Sunday, March 3. Organized by the Recreation Advisory Committee, the event was a great opportunity to learn more about the wide variety of clubs, sports and leisure activities offered in Woodstock. "If you're new to the com-

munity or have lived here for decades, it's a wonderful way to find out what's available for you," said Dan Molinaro, chair of the committee. "Our goal is to get people doing something, whether as an individual, as a family or with a group." Admission to the event was free and attendees had a chance to connect with vendors including

the City's Parks and Recreation department, sports teams and associations, arts and culture groups and volunteer organizations. "In the past we've had weavers and spinners, model airplanes, dancing groups, Tai Chi — there's something for everybody of all ages," said Molinaro. Attendees got to • Explore a new hobby or

interest • Discover ways to get active and enjoy the outdoors • Become a volunteer and make a difference in their community • Meet like-minded people • Win door prizes and see demonstrations.

(RON YUZARK PHOTOS)



Above: Woodstock Triathlon Club Members Christine Cooke, Farah Foster-Mannig Nori and Janet Thompson  
Left: Present at their display were Sea Cadets Colton and Lux



Woodstock Radio Control Flying Club members Ulf Berggvist, Mark Stachniak and Gerald Maginnis showed their planes

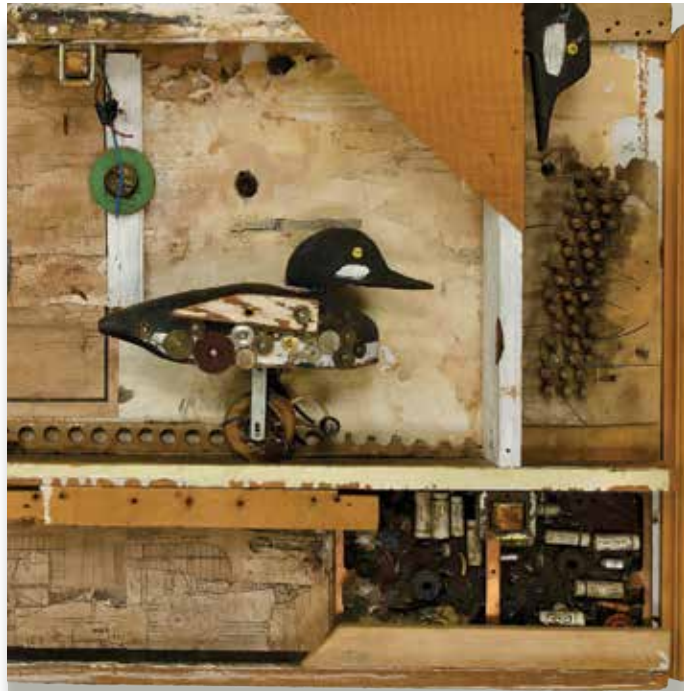


Answering inquiries for The Wranglers Baseball Organization were Alison Rochon, Rick Rochon, Rob Jackson and Brian Vanpee



WOODSTOCK  
ART GALLERY

2024  
WINTERS  
EXHIBITIONS



Terry Graff, *Ornithotronix* (detail), 1979

TERRY GRAFF  
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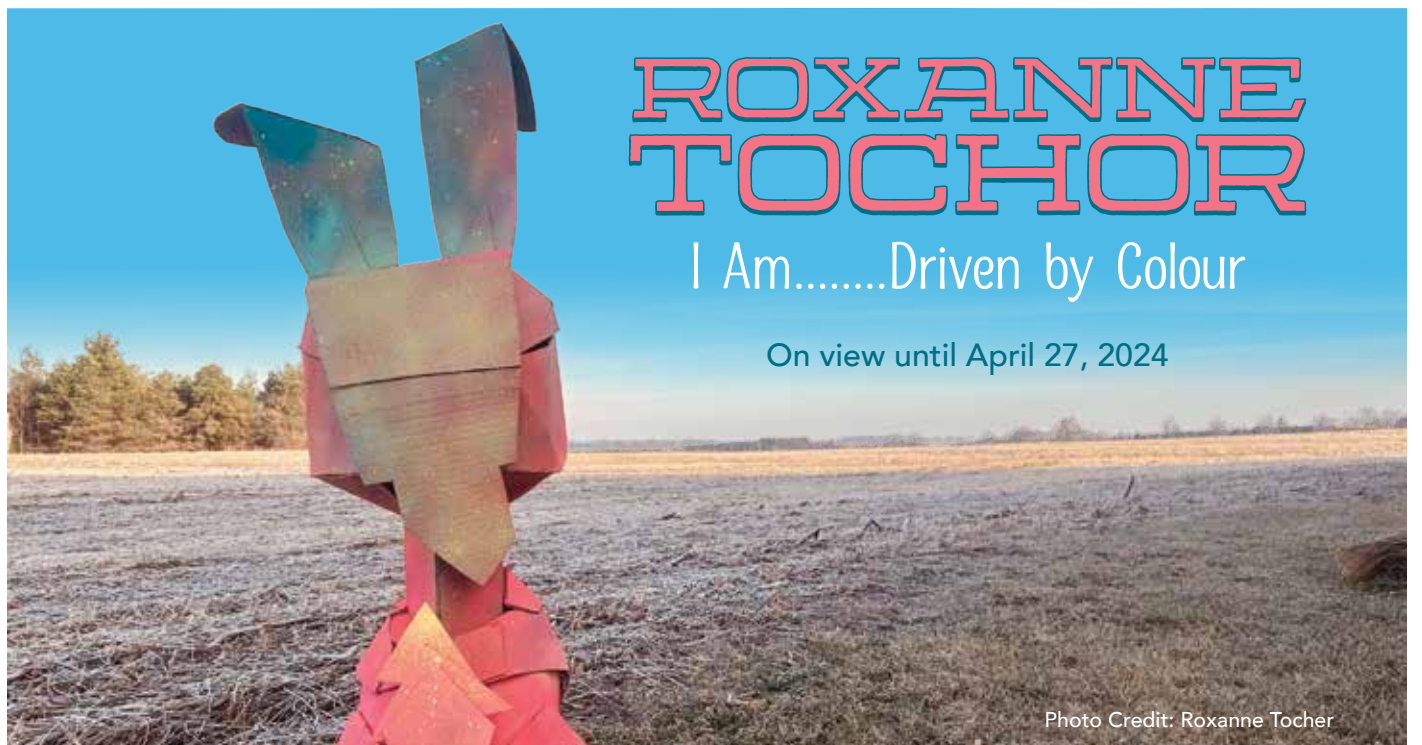
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ROXANNE  
TOCHOR

I Am.....Driven by Colour

On view until April 27, 2024

Photo Credit: Roxanne Tochor

# Career Expo looks to fill employment gaps in Oxford

LEE GRIFFI

Local Journalism Initiative Reporter

Oxford County Community Employment Services (CES) is hosting a free Career Expo next month at the Woodstock Fairgrounds.

The organization said a chronic skill and labour shortage continues to challenge the Oxford County business community and the inability to secure the talent required to maintain and grow local companies can have a devastating impact on the area's economic vitality.

Natalie Surridge is the group's director of workforce and community development and said CES, with their partners, has established a comprehensive Labour Force Attraction and Retention Strategy. She added the event is a part of that strategy and is much more than your typical job fair. "The number and diversity of the employers who will be on hand. Over 18 sectors will be represented and within those sectors, you will get the opportunity

to go hands-on into the work you would potentially do for the employers. It is not a booth and pamphlet-based event." She added there will be a welding simulator and other machinery attendees will be able to try out. "ERTH you will be able to go up in the lift bucket along with trying on gear firefighters use. There will also be virtual nursing stations. There are so many interactive opportunities," she added.

Oxford County is no different than surrounding areas where employers are looking for workers and employees are looking for jobs. Surridge said sometimes there is a skills mismatch, something the expo is also looking to address. "We will expose job seekers to the skills required for employers and how they can connect to get those skills locally. Whether that is through CES and our partnerships with Fanshawe and Conestoga, or directly with employers who have training centres built in. There will be people there representing skilled trades who will explain how to

tap into programs." Surridge added jobseekers can obtain skills through schooling other than their traditional post-secondary employment.

Thanks to the ongoing issue of baby boomers leaving the workforce, one priority of Community Employment Services is to retain all of the youth in Oxford County so they can work locally. "It is critical to our economic success that we engage our students for jobs that are in their backyards. The expo exposes opportunities that are right here for them."

Between 8:30 a.m. and 2:00 p.m. over 3000 students will be attending to explore career pathways and options, as well as co-op and volunteer possibilities. From 3 until 6 p.m. the event will be open to the general public. Surridge said the youth component will be a regular part of the expo going forward. "All students will have equal opportunity to be exposed to all sectors and all positions and opportunities that are local and drilled right down to their communities. For those

living in our rural communities, who are those big employers? It doesn't have to be jobs located in our urban centres." Surridge added the expo will also highlight part-time and summer job opportunities available to students that could help support their career aspirations. Students also need 40 hours of volunteer time to graduate from high school and the event will showcase those types of opportunities.

The organization also believes many people living in Oxford who want to work are experiencing roadblocks along with way. "There are barriers to childcare, barriers to transportation. Those are two big ones along with housing. There are multiple reasons why people aren't connecting to the workforce. At the expo, there will be a childcare component including opportunities to become an entrepreneur by providing home-based daycare," said Surridge.

On March 21st, 2024, 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 will be at the Woodstock Fairgrounds to connect with potential employees. The Career Expo is free for employers and job seekers.

The Career Expo will be held on March 21 with free admission. Members of the public can pre-register on the CES website at [www.cesoxford.ca](http://www.cesoxford.ca) and are encouraged to bring copies of their resumes. Over 300 employers are expected to participate in sectors such as transportation and logistics, hospitality, Canadian Armed Forces, skilled trades, health and wellness, agriculture, early childhood education, retail, construction, sports and leisure, non-profit, manufacturing, arts and culture, and more.

# ISAN Oxford continues Night of Truth, Conversation and Reconcili-ACTION discussions

EMILY STEWART

Echo Correspondent

After a successful first event, the Indigenous Solidarity and Awareness Network of Oxford County (ISAN) is preparing for a second Night of Truth, Conversa-

tion and Reconcili-ACTION.

The second event will be held at the Ingersoll Public Library on April 10 from 5:30 to 7:30 p.m. Metis Elder Gloria Thomson will be speaking at the event focusing on allyship and reconnection and a question and answer session

will follow.

"Gloria is going to share about her reconnection journey and some of our ISAN members are going to share what reconnection has looked like for their family to culture or what allyship looks like and means to them," said Pa-

tricia Marshal-Desutter, director of ISAN.

The event is the second of a four-part series. ISAN has both Indigenous and non-Indigenous members part of the organization.

"We believe in the power of understanding we're all treaty partners and we all have an obligation working towards Truth and Reconciliation and moving forward," she said.

The first Night of Truth, Conversation, and Reconcili-ACTION at the library had a great turnout with a curious audience.

"The audience was engaged. They asked questions," they said. "We had a list of questions prepared to ask our panelists just in case 'cause people can be shy sometimes about asking things, but we ended up only using one on our list and the audience did the rest and they had amazing questions."

The discussions are a chance to learn more in-person about allyship, reconciliation, and reconcili-action

and what that looks like.

"You can read books all you want and yes, they are wealths of information," Marshal-Desutter said. "But there's just something very unique about that human interaction and that chance to learn spirit-to-spirit."

"It also gives that motivation to other people to see that 'Hey, it's OK to learn that maybe it's important that we learn.' It's a good place where you can bring your friends, you can bring your family, and you can learn together and figure out how you can walk in a good way to be a helper on this path."

In addition to attending ISAN Oxford events, Marshal-Desutter recommends engaging with Indigenous communities and community members. They suggested learning more through Atlohsha Family Healing Services in London and attending pow-wows.

"We're coming into pow-wow season, so this is a great time for members of every race to go out and engage with the Indigenous community," she said. "Learn, ask questions, celebrate the resilience and the beauty of our communities."

ISAN Oxford can be found on Facebook or Instagram. Anyone looking for more information about ISAN Oxford can also send an email to [iisannetwork@gmail.com](mailto:iisannetwork@gmail.com).

## CONSTRUCTION UPDATE

### Oxford Road 59 (Vansittart Ave) bridge in Woodstock

February - December 2024

Construction work on the Oxford Road 59 (Vansittart Avenue) bridge in Woodstock is ongoing from February until December 2024.

During construction:

- Oxford Rd. 59 from Devonshire Ave. to Tecumseh St. will be closed to southbound traffic.
- Northbound traffic will remain open in a single lane.
- Tecumseh St. will be open to local traffic only.
- Pedestrian access over the bridge will be maintained on one side of the street.

Detour routes for southbound traffic at Oxford Road 17 are:

- Detour 1 - OR 17 west to OR 30/11th Line
- Detour 2 - OR 17 east to OR 4



Help keep our community and workers safe: please respect work zones and obey traffic signs.

For more information, visit [www.oxfordcounty.ca/59bridge](http://www.oxfordcounty.ca/59bridge).

# Udderly Ridiculous' Cheryl Haskett speaking at Women's Day

Udderly Ridiculous Farm Life founder Cheryl Haskett was the guest of honor at the Community Futures Oxford Women's Day Breakfast, which took place on February 27 at the Elm Hurst Inn in Ingersoll. The event began with registration at 7:30 am, followed by breakfast at 8 am, and Haskett's keynote speech at 9 am. Attendee also had the opportunity to network throughout the morning. Janet Wakutz from Community Futures Oxford expressed her enthusiasm for having Cheryl Haskett as the keynote speaker, citing her qualities as an exemplary figure not only for women but for business owners in general. Haskett's expertise in agritourism, creativity, willingness to innovate, and experience in public speaking were highlighted as reasons for her selection. Cheryl Haskett, in turn, expressed her gratitude for being invited to speak at the breakfast and emphasized her eagerness to share her experiences and learn from others. She discussed various aspects of marketing strategies, execution, and how to navigate challenges based on her own success-

es and failures in business. The decision to hold the breakfast before International Women's Day on March 8 was made due to Haskett's upcoming research commitments in Brazil and Costa Rica as part of her role as one of the six Canadian Nuffield scholars. During her absence, operations at Udderly Ridiculous Farm Life will be managed by another individual. Haskett also praised the support provided by Community Futures Oxford to small businesses, particularly women entrepreneurs like herself. She highlighted the challenges women face in accessing funding for their businesses and commended the organization for its assistance, especially during the pandemic. In addition to celebrating women in business, the event will support Domestic Abuse Services Oxford (DASO) through donations from attendees. This initiative reflects the broader goal of supporting women in various aspects of their lives. While the Women's Day Breakfast focuses on celebrating women, people of all genders attended and participated in the event.



In attendance were Amanda Murray, Holly MacDonald, Carole Eriksson and Jessica Clayton



Community Futures Oxford organizers were Luigi Basaco (Loan Consultant), Sharon McArthur (Administration & Accounting Coordinator), Janet Wakutz (CED Coordinator) and Alan Simm (General Manager)

(RON YUZARK PHOTOS)

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# Drawn to Directions offers then and now views Oxford County

EMILY STEWART

*Echo Correspondent*

Museum Woodstock National Historic Site's visitors can compare past and present maps of the city in the "Drawn to Directions" exhibition.

The display kicked off on February 24 and is a collection of maps from the 1800s to present day that the museum digitized.

"Due to their age and condition, most of the maps can't be displayed because they are too fragile," Adam Pollard, the curator of Collections for Museum

Woodstock, said in an interview with the Woodstock-Ingersoll Echo. "However, now that they are digitized, we can not only create a copy for the exhibit, but also make the maps larger and easier for people to see."

Pollard added that Oxford County Archives and the Mapping Department donated more maps to be included in the exhibit. The maps in the exhibit present visual data including population and land area growth over time.

CONTINUED TO PAGE 17



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# Drawn to Directions

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 16

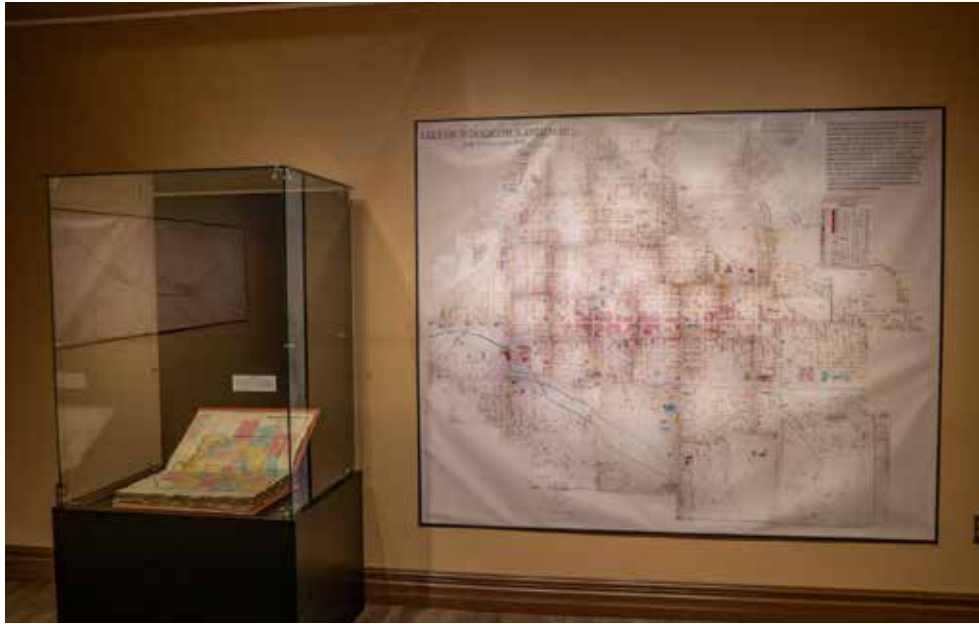
“We have maps that also show other data like the fire rating for properties, topographical information, business areas and important buildings,” he said. “They also can have a visual appeal, as there is a certain art to creating a good map. Finally, you get to see over time how things change from one map to another.”

Pollard also said the “Drawn to Directions” exhibit has something for every visitor to enjoy.

“If you’re a cartography enthusiast, you

are going to really love it but even people with little interest in or knowledge of maps can enjoy this exhibit, especially if they’re from Woodstock or the surrounding area. It’s also a great opportunity to teach kids about the history of maps before Google and other digital apps.”

The Museum will have the “Drawn to Directions” exhibition until June 29. More information about the exhibit and other museum programming can be found via [cityofwoodstock.ca/en/live-and-play/woodstock-museum](http://cityofwoodstock.ca/en/live-and-play/woodstock-museum).



(ADAM POLLARD PHOTOS)



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## Navy vets move onto Doherty Division second round

JIM TAYLOR

*Echo Contributor*

Woodstock disposed of Paris in five games and will now face Norwich in an all-Oxford County semi-final matchup.

The Navy Vets outscored the Titans 23-13 and had just 66 penalty minutes compared to 149 for their opponent.

The Navy Vets finished second in the division just three points back of New Hamburg with a 31-8-3-0 and lost only two of eight games in the month of February, both

against New Hamburg. The 31 wins was the fifth best in team history. The Vets also drew over 14,000 fans this season, just the second team in PJHL history to do that.

Davin Gray won the Doherty Division scoring title with 63 points on 16 goals and 47 assists with Nolan Brett finishing second with 29 goals and 28 assists. Tyler Bouck was the top goalie in the Doherty Division with 2.45 goals against average, 19 wins, a team record five shutouts, and a .927 save percentage.

(CONTRIBUTED PHOTO)



### VETS TAKES A SHOT

Doherty Division leading scorer Davin Gray has a shot turned away by Paris goalie Josh Roman in their first-round playoff series.

### PJHL STANDINGS South Doherty Division (final regular season)

	GP	W	L	OTL	T	PTS
New Hamburg Firebirds	42	33	7	2	0	68
<b>Woodstock Navy Vets</b>	<b>42</b>	<b>31</b>	<b>8</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>65</b>
Tavistock Braves	42	23	16	1	2	49
Norwich Merchants	42	19	17	5	1	44
Wellesley Applejacks	42	19	22	1	0	39
Hespeler Shamrocks	42	12	28	2	0	26
Paris Titans	42	8	31	2	1	19

### Upcoming PJHL Playoff Hockey:

#### Doherty Division SF: Woodstock Navy Vets vs. Norwich Merchants

Wed., March 13, 8:30 p.m.	Woodstock at Norwich, Game 1
Fri., March 15, 7:45 p.m.	Norwich at Woodstock, Game 2
Sun., March 17, 7:45 p.m.	Norwich at Woodstock, Game 3
Wed., March 20, 8:30 p.m.	Woodstock at Norwich, Game 4
Fri., March 22, 7:45 p.m.	Norwich at Woodstock, Game 5*
Sun., March 24, 1:30 p.m.	Woodstock at Norwich, Game 6*
Mon., March 25, 7:45 p.m.	Norwich at Woodstock, Game 7*

\* if necessary

#### Yeck Division SF: Thamesford Trojans vs. Exeter Hawks

Fri., March 15, 7:30 p.m.	Exeter at Thamesford, Game 1
Sat., March 16, 7:30 p.m.	Thamesford at Exeter, Game 2
Tue., March 19, 8:45 p.m.	Exeter at Thamesford, Game 3
Wed., March 20, 8:00 p.m.	Thamesford at Exeter, Game 4
Fri., March 22, 7:30 p.m.	Exeter at Thamesford, Game 5*
Sat., March 23, 7:30 p.m.	Thamesford at Exeter, Game 6*
Mon., March 25, 7:30 p.m.	Exeter at Thamesford, Game 7*

\* if necessary

## Kevin Hu repeats as WOSHL MVP

STEWART GRANT

*Publisher*

For the second consecutive season, Lakers' star forward Kevin Hu has been named Most Valuable Player of the Western Ontario Super Hockey League.

The Woodstock Lakers made the announcement earlier this week on social media. Hu put up an amazing 42 goals and 27 assists for 69 points in just 22 regular season games. Last year, when the team was based in Plattsville, Hu won his first league MVP title by scoring 30 goals, 14 assists and 44 points in 22 regular season games.

Hu led the WOSHL in scoring by 12 points this season – teammate Christian Polillo finished second with 57 points (18 goals, 39 assists). The next highest

point-getters in the league were Chris Donnelly of the Delhi Flames, Jamie MacQueen of the Tillsonburg Thunder, and James McEwan of the Alvinston Killer Bees, who each posted 48 points.

**Tilbury sweeps Lakers in first round**  
 In the 3 vs. 6 first-round matchup in this year's WOSHL playoffs, the Tilbury Bluebirds have defeated the Woodstock Lakers in three straight games to advance to the semi-finals.

Tilbury took the first two games at home, by scores of 5-2 on March 2 and 8-3 on March 8. Game 3 was a tighter contest with the Bluebirds sneaking a 4-3 victory in Woodstock.

The Bluebirds move on to play the first-place Tillsonburg Thunder in the next round which gets underway this Saturday.

### WOSHL STANDINGS

(final regular season)

	GP	W	L	OTL	T	PTS
Tillsonburg Thunder	24	16	8	0	2	34
Stratford Fighting Irish	24	16	8	0	2	34
Tilbury Bluebirds	24	15	9	0	1	31
Petrolia Squires	24	15	9	0	0	30
Alvinston Killer Bees	24	14	10	0	2	30
<b>Woodstock Lakers</b>	<b>24</b>	<b>14</b>	<b>10</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>28</b>
Strathroy Jets	24	12	12	0	2	26
Elora Rocks	24	10	14	0	2	22
Delhi Flames	24	9	15	0	1	19
Dunnville Aeros	24	8	16	0	3	19
Orangeville Blitz	24	3	21	0	0	6

# WCI high school sports round up

JEFF TRIBE

Echo Contributor

Four bands of Woodstock Collegiate Institute (WCI) Red Devils completed a heavy medal tour through Western Ontario Secondary School Athletic Association (WOSSAA) A competition Thur., Feb. 22.

The senior girls' volleyball team was seeking an encore performance at Ontario Federation of School Athletic Association (OFSAA) provincial championships, despite bringing a different lineup to the stage.

"That was our big goal of the year," said middle Gertie Mitchell. "OFSAA again."

Mitchell and outside hitter Emily Hall were among three returnees from a 2023-23 squad which 'demolished', heading into provincial championships on the strength of an undefeated season. This year's squad featured 11 newcomers, finishing up Thames Valley Regional Athletic Association (TVRAA) Southeast schedule with a highly-competitive 9-2 record against majority AA competition.

"There's a whole new team who really wanted to go," said Hall.

The Red Devils opened their quest at Ecole Seondaire Gabrielle-Dumont in London against St. Marys District Collegiate and Vocational Institute (SMDSVI), the team WCI had defeated the previous season to advance to OFSAA.

The Red Devils quickly squashed any thoughts of payback, riding a 13-serve performance from Ali Brown and strong role play from each player to a 25-11 victory.

"That kind of carried us the rest of the day," credited Hall of an eventual 25-11, 25-11, 25-14 semi-final sweep.

WCI faced London Christian in the WOSSAA A final, which had defeated the host squad 25-23, 17-25, 25-20, 25-18 in their morning match.

Their finals opponents had a quality setter credited Hall, whose efforts led to a varied attack.

"She could move it wherever she want-

ed," said Mitchell.

However, the Red Devils were able to adjust, taking a 25-15 win in the opening game and backing that up with 25-17 and 25-19 scores that clinched both WOSSAA gold and the coveted OFSAA berth.

"They were close until the 'tens' and then we took off," said Hall.

Their pre-provincials goals included ironing out some of the highs and lows the team experienced the previous season.

"We want to stay consistent and play as well as we did at WOSSAA," Mitchell concluded.

OFSAA A senior girls volleyball was contested in Blind River, Elliott Lake and the Mississauga First Nation March 4-6.

WCI opened with a 25-23, 25-17 victory over E.S.C. Le Caron in Blind River, following that up with a 25-11, 25-21 success over Saint-Charles-Garnier, before dropping its third match of the day, 13-25, 25-17, 5-15 to E.S.C. L'Horizon.

Their 2-1 pool play performance advanced the Red Devils to a quarter-final battle against the eventual OFSAA A bronze medallist University of Toronto Schools. WCI opened the best-of-five match with a 25-21 win before dropping its next three games, 16-25, 15-25 and a close 23-25 finale. UTS lost its semi-final to the eventual champion St. Clements before sweeping Hamilton DCHS in the bronze medal match.

## JUNIOR GIRLS VOLLEYBALL

The WCI junior girls' continued progress from a slow 0-3 start to their season finished with a silver medal performance against host London Christian.

"It's good," summed up middle Kaiden Martin, "it just feels less good because you lose to get it."

The junior Red Devils opened against SMDSVI, pulling away to sweep the final two games after splitting the first two.

"I feel we were more energetic," said setter Ava Bickell.

Bickell's 'powerful' serve led to eight points in a row in the third game credited Mikka Runstedler, giving WCI a psycho-

logical lift.

"It's a mental game for sure."

WCI closed out a 3-1 match victory in game four, advancing to the final against London Christian, which defeated Holy Cross in its morning semi-final.

"They were tall," said Martin, and also able to vary their attack, added Runstedler.

"They have good 'quicks.'"

The Red Devils dropped game one before roaring back with an estimated 25-13 win in game two.

"It was by a lot," said Bickell.

However, London Christian rallied for a tight game three victory, before taking the fourth and with it, the WOSSAA A gold medal.

Overall however, Bickell said the Red Devils could be proud of their season, how they had maintained a positive attitude in cheering each other on and good communication on the court, overcoming a slow start en route to a championship silver medal.

"We picked it back up."

## SENIOR BOYS' BASKETBALL

The Red Devils dug deep to overcome a slow start and bring home the bronze with an 84-64 victory over Ecole Seondaire Gabrielle Dumont at Mitchell District High School.

"We had to get out heads in the game," said shooting guard Adam Giroux, crediting the coaching staff for critical first-quarter time outs. "That was the key."

WCI had opened against the host squad in their morning semi-final, a match-up of the consensus two strongest teams in the draw.

"Even though that was the semi, that was kind of the final to us," said Giroux. "The winner of that was expected to go to OFSAA."

WCI got off to a strong start in their semi, leading 9-2 early and 11-2 after the first quarter.

"It was very intense," said Giroux.

Mitchell hit five threes in the second

quarter however, taking a 26-25 lead into halftime en route to a 19-8 run in the third quarter in front of a gym packed with its student body. WCI's William Halward hit back-to-back treys in the fourth quarter to cut the gap in the fourth quarter, but the home team was able to recover and close out a 62-52 win.

"They shot well," credited Giroux, adding the Red Devils may have pressed a little, trying to make up the deficit too quickly, which led to turnovers. "That gave them a big lead and pushed us out of the game."

WCI refocused and closed out with bittersweet bronze medals.

"But we really wanted to go back and compete at OFSAA," Giroux concluded.

## JUNIOR BOYS' BASKETBALL

The WCI junior boys backed up a TVRAA Southeast regular season in which they lost but a single game to St. Thomas St. Joe's with a clean sweep at their WOSSAA championships.

The Red Devils cruised to a comfortable 72-50 win over host Exeter South Huron, cruising after opening up an early 26-3 lead.

"We kind of just rode that for the rest of the game," said guard Jack Carnegie.

Goderich District Collegiate Institute turned the tables in the afternoon's gold medal final, stroking three early threes.

"It was like 9-3, 9-4 after a couple of minutes," said WCI point guard Zack Molinaro. However, the Red Devils broke the game open with a combination of full and halfcourt trapping 1-3-1 pressure, limiting Goderich to 16 points at halftime.

"It killed them," said Carnegie.

WCI closed out its season with a 73-35 victory, living up to the pre-event expectations for a starting lineup which had also started the previous year as Grade 9 students.

"Best way it could have," summed up Carnegie.

"We hope to do well next year," Molinaro added in conclusion. "And the following year."



WCI's Sam Huettlin powers to the basket against the defensive efforts of Mitchell's Will Korver during WOSSAA A senior boys basketball semi-finals in Mitchell.



WCI's Brayden Freeman cuts around Mitchell's Jared Vosper during WOSSAA A senior boys basketball semi-finals in Mitchell.



WCI guard Adam Giroux cuts down the baseline during WOSSAA A senior boys basketball semi-finals in Mitchell.

# Senior Men's Tier 55 Bonspiel

The Woodstock Curling Centre hosted the Senior Men's Tier 55 Bonspiel on February 23. The centre has a rich history dating back to 1867 when it operated out of the Canterbury Street rink as the Woodstock Curling and Skating Club. In 1905, it moved to a new facility behind what is now Central Public School and re-branded as the Woodstock Curling Club. However, in 1923, the facility was sold for the expansion of the school, leading to the closure its the club. After reorganizing in 1948, the club saw a resurgence with the construction of a new artificial ice facility in the same location, thanks to the efforts of Alan Bain Lawrason. Over the years, the club has been a focal point for social

gatherings, bonspiels, and various curling events, including hosting several Provincial Championships. In 2017, the club underwent another rebranding, becoming the Woodstock Curling Centre. The vision was to provide a central location for both recreational curling and non-curling social activities for individuals of all ages. The center offers a diverse range of leagues catering to different skill levels and age groups, ensuring there's something for everyone, whether they're recreational players or competitive athletes. Whether young, old, or somewhere in between, the Woodstock Curling Centre aims to provide a welcoming environment for all curling enthusiasts.



Team St Marys were Dave Ryde, Geoff Clays, Steve Elliott and Jim McCutcheon



Above: Organizers for the Spiel were Peter Harrison, Dave Clowes, Heather Fleming, Murray Caulk and Don Downing  
Right: Call for a Guard Stone



Woodstock Team were Barry Sales, Tim Favacho, John Weaver and Don Bacher

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# Woodstock high school curling playoff action

JEFF TRIBE

Echo Contributor

Victories by the closest of margins are propelling the St. Mary's Catholic Catholic High School Warriors boys curling team on a more distant return journey to Ontario Federation of School Athletic Associations (OFSAA) provincial championships.

The Warriors should be prepared for tight competition, having advanced through two playoff rounds on the strength of late-rock shotmaking. St. Mary's opened Thames Valley Regional Athletic Association (TVRAA) Southeast playoffs with a comparatively comfortable 11-4 page 1/2 victory over St. Thomas Central Elgin, which won its way back to the final by beating Ingersoll DCI 9-2.

There is an adage in sports about being tough to beat a team three times, and so it proved in that final game. St. Mary's entered looking to build on a regular season-opening 14-4 success and playoff-opening win with a Western Ontario Secondary Schools Association (WOSSAA) berth on the line.

The Warriors appeared to take control of the game with a five-point fourth end, the squad's front end 'piling draw after draw into the house,' according to head coach Richard Murphy.

"We made it feel like we were all set up for greatness," he smiled.

However, Central Elgin chipped away at their lead, closing to 6-5 by the eighth and

final end. St. Mary's had although would not need the hammer heading home. With Central Elgin having frozen, St. Mary's skip Carter Skevington's first rock curled just enough to tap his opponent's stone away and sit as apparent shot. A subsequent Central Elgin tap-back attempt was unsuccessful, leaving the Warriors confident they were sitting one by the finest of margins. Skevington was able to defer with his final stone en route to a tight 7-5 win.

"It came down to a measure," said Murphy. "It was maybe a half inch... maybe."

"About that much," Skevington confirmed, illustrating a tiny gap with his fingers. "That's what happened last year at WOSSAA too," he added. "It came down to the last shot."

Looking toward WOSSAA, Skevington's goals were to win and return to OFSAA, and additionally, make a mark there.

"We want to go back and improve."

Both Skevington's recollection of the tightness of WOSSAA 2023 and coach Murphy's predictions on 'skill combined with a little luck' to be successful in 2024 would prove prescient.

The Warriors opened the WOSSAA draw March 5 at the Vanastra Curling Club in Clinton with a solid 12-2 win over Exeter Central Huron SS, however would find a significantly tougher challenge in the gold medal final against Arva Medway, which comparably cruised past London Beal SS 12-3 in its semi-final.

The difference between silver and gold and the attendant provincial championship berth the latter represented came down to both skip's shots on the button in the final end, Skevington's closer to clinch a crucial 7-6 victory.

Both teams raised their stones in the final end, said Murphy.

"Our was the winner by about an inch again."

OFSAA is being hosted by the Eastern Ontario Secondary Schools Athletic Association March 20 to 23 in Kingston at the Catarquai Golf & Country Club. Fans and interested persons can follow the Warriors at the draw through the following website: <https://www.ofsaa.on.ca/championship/curling/schedules-results/>.

## WOSSAA Girls Curling

The Woodstock Collegiate Institute (WCI) Red Devils saved their best curling for the post-season, earning their way to WOSSAA with sequential 9-3, 9-3 and 7-3 TVRAA Southeast playoff victories over Tillsonburg Glendale, St. Thomas Parkside and Aylmer East Elgin, respectively.

WCI had finished its regular TVRAA Southeast season with a 4-3-2 (won-lost-tied) record.

"Hit our mark and just kept rolling," said coach Scott MacIntosh.

The team's final victory over East Elgin was particularly rewarding, not only locking up the regional playdown berth, but providing a measure of redemption from

the previous season's first-round playoff loss.

"It was very satisfying," said Red Devils skip Grace Curley, admitting it was 'intimidating' heading to Aylmer for this year's rematch. "A good boost," she added.

This year's team is made up of four re-tuning curlers with three newcomers: lead Sarah Porter, second Avery Howell, vice Alexis Schaeffer, Curley at skip and alternates Cassandra Stewart, Taylor Leis and Emilyn Fletcher.

"Everyone kind of has their own strength," said Curley, who was hoping to do well at WOSSAA.

"And hopefully we have fun, that's really all that matters."

WCI opened WOSSAA playdowns against the eventual gold medallists from Stratford District SS, dropping a 13-7 semi-final decision. The outcome was closer than the score might suggest said MacIntosh. WCI was trailing 8-7 heading into the final end, which affected how they approached and played the game. In the end, the decision came down to the Stratford skip making her final shot to ensure victory. Stratford went on to beat London CCH 9-5 in the gold final.

The Red Devils rebounded in their second game however, powering past London Banting to close out their season with bronze medals by a decisive 11-2 margin, a strong finish for a team with significant potential for returnees in 2024-25.



Members of the Woodstock Collegiate Institute TVRAA Southeast champion and WOSSAA bronze medallist girls team are (left to right): Taylor Leis, Sarah Porter, Grace Curley, Cassandra Stewart, Avery Howell, Emilyn Fletcher and Alexis Schaeffer.



(CONTRIBUTED PHOTOS)

The Woodstock St. Mary's Warriors TVRAA Southeast and WOSSAA boys curling champions included, front row, left to right: Sebastian Lagos, Jack Hurst and Christian Navarro-Canseco. In the back row, are: coach Karey O'Brien, Carter Skevington, Marius Klein, Killian Coghlan and coach Richard Murphy. Aiden Hogg and Renato Melo were absent from the photo.



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# Watercolor DIY Class

Budding artists participated at the Mill-Artisan Shoppe and Decor on February 17th in Woodstock for a one-of-a-kind watercolor and ink class on handmade paper. They immersed themselves in the beautiful world of watercolor and ink artistry as they created two finished pieces to take home. Their experienced instructor guided them through various techniques and methods to bring their creativity to life on this unique canvas. Handmade paper provided a distinct texture and character to their artwork, adding an extra layer of charm and individuality to each piece.

Whether they were a beginner or an experienced artist, this class offered an opportunity to explore and refine their skills in a supportive and inspiring environment. Not only did they leave with two stunning artworks, but also gained a newfound appreciation for the versatility and beauty of watercolor and ink on handmade paper. These pieces are sure to become treasured additions to their home décor or cherished gifts for loved ones. The boutique is filled with over 70 local talented artists. This amazing boutique will be your one stop shopping centre.



Artisan Instructor Jacqueline Jacques with owner Lisa Alborough



Brushes up and ready to create were Mel Crane, Becky Byerlay, Christine Moogk, Karen Gresty, Jacqueline Jacques (Instructor), Katie Moogk, Sharon Watcher and Judy Taylor

# Wild Woollies Rug Hooking Exhibition

The Wild Woollies Rug Hooking Group are hosting an Exhibition of their recent works at the Ingersoll Creative Arts Centre. On February 24th they had a hook-in with vendors and a centre full of happy hookers. The opening was on February 10. The Exhibition is ongoing until March. There will be a number of unique array of items that the group has worked

on such as floor rugs, hangings, 3-D rabbits and more. Rug hooking is both an art and a craft where rugs are made by pulling loops of yarn or fabric through a stiff woven base such as burlap, linen or rug warp. The loops are pulled through the backing material by using a crochet-type hook mounted in a handle (usually wood) for leverage.



Organized by Linda Burwell, Stacie Little John, Judy Boodhoo, Paulette Robertson, Susan Shurr, Marilyn Stewart and Shirley Carfat



Catching up on the local news and working on their wall hangings were Rhona VanZumeren, Pat Rivett-Kitra, Sanoka Thornton and Margaret Verkuil



Above: Patti Colen and Anneke Schroder preparing their hangings



Left: Lindsay Weber of Etsy/Field & Fleece Co shows the rug hooking materials she had on display for sale

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# Woodstock Tackle Show and Swap Meet

They came from near and far for the inaugural Tackle Show and Swap Meet at Woodstock Fairgrounds on March 3. This was a Canadian tackle manufacturers' show combined with anglers selling surplus tackle and gear. It was a great way to bring together fishing enthusiasts and pro-

vide them with access to quality products. This event demonstrated that you could create a dynamic and engaging event that caters to the needs of both vendors and attendees, while fostering a love for fishing and outdoor recreation among families and individuals of all ages.



Taking in the event were William Marshall, Chantal Guay and Ryan Marshall

(RON YUZARK PHOTOS)



Surveying the tackle were Natasha Lorie, Jamie Stuthart and Niki Christie of True North Baits along with Andrew MacDonald

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# South Western Ontario Dairy Symposium

The South Western Ontario Dairy Symposium committee held their Dairy Symposium in Woodstock, on Thursday, February 22, at the Woodstock Fairgrounds. Attendees joined in for an immersive and interactive event designed by producers, for producers. The Ontario Dairy Symposium is a collaborative effort brought by the Dairy Farmers of Ontario and its Dairy Producer Committees across various regions in cooperation with the On-

tario Ministry of Agriculture, Food, and Rural Affairs.

This symposium aimed to bring together dairy producers from Essex-Kent, Lambton, Middlesex, Elgin, Huron, Perth, Oxford, Waterloo, Wellington, Brant, Norfolk, Wentworth, Haldimand, and Niagara for a day of learning, networking, and collaboration. Whether they were a seasoned producer or just starting out in the industry, there were valuable insights

and discussions tailored to their needs. Highlights of the event included: Expert-led workshops and seminars covering topics such as herd health management, sustainable farming practices, technological advancements in dairy production, and market trends. Interactive panel discussions featuring successful dairy producers sharing their experiences, challenges, and strategies for success were held. There were Networking opportunities with fel-

low producers, industry experts, and representatives from the Ontario Ministry of Agriculture, Food, and Rural Affairs. Included were Exhibits showcasing the latest innovations, products, and services relevant to dairy farming. Q&A sessions with experts were held where they could get answers to their burning questions and gain practical advice for optimizing their dairy operation.

(RON YUZARK PHOTOS)



Jordan Poelman at his display for H2O2 Water



Cheese please with Hannie VanBergeijk and Lisa Griffioen of Mountain Oak Cheese

## Family Day Weekend Scavenger Hunt & Pancake Bar

On Sunday February 18 at Jakeman's Maple Farm in Beachville, a fantastic event was held on Family Day Weekend. There was a scavenger hunt down the Trillium Trail followed by delicious pancakes at Jakeman's Maple Gift

Shop. It was a perfect way to spend time with family. The combination of outdoor adventure and tasty treats was a sure hit with everyone. For five generations, the family has produced, the finest 100% pure maple syrup care-

fully sourced from their close-knit community of over 200 local maple farmers and refined at their facility in Beachville Ontario. The family invented the world's only patented pure filtration process, guaranteeing consis-

tency in flavour grade every time. The facility is able to produce thousands of bottles of maple syrup every month to meet the needs of their clients from all around the world.

(RON YUZARK PHOTOS)



Heading indoors for pancakes were Lincoln, Carrie, Dennis and Gibson Guy



Helping out with organization were Heather Millson, Amanda Kraft, Everhett, Oliver, Abigail and Bond



# Paper Bag Princess Day

The Paper Bag Princess Day celebration at The Ingersoll Public Library was a delightful event for Robert Munsch fans. Attendees had the opportunity to engage with Munsch's beloved stories and even participate in a themed tour with prizes. The theme of "STAND UP TO DRAGONS" likely resonated with the author's fans of "The Paper Bag Princess," one of Munsch's iconic tales. Additionally, the upcoming production of "Munsch At Play" at Theatre Woodstock sounds exciting. Adapted by playwright Irene Watts, this collection brings eight of Munsch's stories to life on stage, offering a fun and accessible format for audiences of all ages. Moreover, the inclusion of "Giants in the Sky" by Denver Casado and Kerry Kazmierowicztrimm adds another layer of enchantment to the theatrical offerings. This magical story takes audiences on an adventure with curious Giants exploring life on Earth. Showtimes are scheduled for May 3, 4, and 5. Attendees will have multiple opportunities to experience these imaginative productions. It's a wonderful chance for both children and adults alike to immerse themselves in the whimsical world of Robert Munsch and other captivating stories.



(RON YUZARK PHOTO)

## MUNSCH AT PLAY

Dragon (Sarah Hodgkinson), Paper Bag Princess (Autumn Luscombe) and fans of Robert Munsch at The Ingersoll Public Library

# Festival of One Act Plays' third year full of laughs, performance opportunities

## EMILY STEWART

Echo Correspondent

The Festival of One Act Plays returns for its third season at Theatre Woodstock this spring.

The event will show three new one-act comedies on April 11, 12, and 13 starting at 7:30 p.m. The playbill features Robert Scott's "Plan B," Jackie Carreira's "Changing Rooms," and Gary Diamond's "Fidelity Farce".

Executive Producer Ted McLauchlin said 15 actors are performing in the 90-minute presentation. Rehearsing and performing a series of one-act plays differs from a longer production with more acts. "They have to combine all of the plot and all of the characters, all of the twists and turns and humour in a very short period of time so they can be quite intense to watch," McLauchlin said. "Plus, it also gives the audience a variety."

The rehearsal time for a group of one-act plays is a bit less than a full-scale production. The first month consists of rehearsals once a week, whereas a larger production would have about three rehearsals a week. The time commitment will increase closer to production time.

Most of the actors performing in the Festival of One Act Plays are brand new to the stage. The format helps those who always wanted to perform in live theatre but were intimidated by a full-length production to get on stage and build confidence.

"They don't have as many lines to learn," McLauchlin said. "They don't have as many stage directions to follow, so it lets them really just kind of relax and enjoy their characters and it makes for a great play. What it does is it gives them some confidence so that maybe the next time, they will audition for a full-length play."

McLauchlin also said that it's best

to support the local arts community, whether that's by attending a local band's show, a visual art exhibition, or a community theatre production.

"It's your neighbours, it's your coworkers that are involved in this," he said. "It takes a lot, even in a one-act play to put yourself out there. I think it's really im-

portant that you go and support them so that they feel like they're accomplishing something creative."

Tickets are \$15 each and can be purchased online through [www.theatre-woodstock.com](http://www.theatre-woodstock.com) or at the box office at 22 Reeve Street in Woodstock.



(TED MCLAUCHLIN PHOTO)

Michael Charles and Michele Young will perform in "Fidelity Farce" by Gary Diamond as part of the Festival of One Act Plays.



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# Embroid Community Centre Comedy Show and Concert

March 1st 2024 the Embroid Community Centre hosted a Comedy Show and Concert. An inaugural fundraiser for The Embroid Agriculture Society. The attend-

ees fell off their chairs laughing at professional comedians Dylan Gott and Patrick Hays. Then followed by everyone on their feet rocking to a concert by the local band,

The Trash Whippers. Doors opened at 7pm, show started at 8pm. Fries, Poutine, hotdogs and snacks were available for purchase, and of course the bar was open.

This was General admission tickets - Age of majority event ( 18 yrs + ).

(RON YUZARK PHOTOS)



Fueling up on hot dogs for the concert were members of the The Trash Whippers  
Left: Jessica Nicholson had the bands merch for purchase



Embroid & Zorra Agriculture Society Ambassador Janeen Overdevest with Tyler Turpin (Volunteer)



Stepping up to organize this event were Chantel VanLith Kimberly Jakeman Eric Nicholls and Rebecca MacLeod



Kimberly Jakeman with comedians Patrick Hays and Dylan Gott



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# Thamesford News

## Thamesford downs Lucan to move on to round two

The Thamesford Trojans faced off against the Lucan Irish in round 1 of the PJHL Yeck Division playoffs. Game one was a tight match with Lucan coming out on top with a final score of 3-2. The Trojans came back strong in game 2 with a 4-1 win. Everything came together for the Trojans in game 3 when they earned a 6-1 win victory. The team headed to Lucan for game 4 and started strong with a 3-0 lead after the first period but Lucan fought back and tied the game. Everyone was on the edge of their seats for the overtime pe-

riod that saw Trojan Roj Abdullah score a power play goal to take game 4. Game 5 was held in Thamesford in front of a large crowd. The Trojans were all business and won 6- to take the first round in 5 games. The boys have earned some well-deserved rest before they face the Exeter Hawks in round two. Trojans point leaders so far in the playoffs are Jack Weber with 9, Matthew Pimentel with 8, Jaiden Hay has 6, and Ewan Meikeljohn 5. Round two starts in Thamesford on Friday, March 15 at 7:30 pm.

(DORIS WEIR PHOTO)



### HE SHOOTS, HE SCORES!

The Trojans Nolan Miller finds the back of the net against the Irish. The Trojans downed the Irish in five games and will now take on the Exeter Hawks in a best-of-seven series.

## Thamesford Tidbits



### FAMILY DAY

The Thamesford Lions Club Family Day event had over 400 people come through to play games, get their faces painted, enjoy a petting zoo, eat some hotdogs, and then skate in the arena. The Bingo was a huge success. Sarah Smale from the ZMCC (Zorra Multi Use Courts Committee) was on hand to help Lion's members Ron Bouwman and Jim Rogers with the bingo.



### CATCH THE ACE

As of last week, March 5, and week 40, the Ace was not found. The jackpot should be over \$17,000 for this week's draw. Exciting!



### DINNER MEETING

On Monday, March 4 the Thamesford Lions Club came together for their monthly dinner meeting. Two members celebrating their 91st birthday. Congratulations Chuck Dalton and Bill Kerr!

## Cold springs farm feedmill



### DOWN IT COMES

Between February 19th and March 11th the photos depicts the mill being brought to the ground. The landscape around Thamesford is now forever changed.



# Local museum hosts Bob Hayward

On Beachville District Museum warmly welcomed Doug Ferguson to their Speaker Series in February. Ferguson spoke about Bob Hayward, an international superstar as a speedboat pilot. It was great to see a community coming together to learn about local history. The discussion was intriguing, the event was well-attended, and everyone enjoyed the presentation and refreshments. Rob-

ert D. Hayward (October 28, 1927 to September 10, 1961) was a Canadian powerboat racer who was a three-time winner of the Harmsworth Cup as the pilot of Miss Supertest III. From Embro, Hayward was raised on his family's chicken farm and joined the Supertest racing team as a mechanic in 1957. Piloting Miss Supertest III, Hayward won the Harmsworth Cup in 1959, 1960, and

1961. A month after winning his third Harmsworth Cup, Hayward was killed while racing Miss Supertest II at the Silver Cup regatta on the Detroit River. The boat flipped over at 175 mph, breaking Hayward's neck. He was 33 years old. After his death, the Supertest team retired from racing. Canada Post issued a commemorative stamp in 2011 honouring the hydroplane racing boat, her

driver Bob Hayward, and businessman Jim Thompson, who designed and built her. The Thistle Theatre in Embro will present the play "Miss Supertest - The Bob Hayward Story by William Butt" on March 15, 16, 20, 21, 22, 23 at 7:30 p.m. and March 17 & 24 at 2:00 p.m.



Organizers for the event were Joan Hutcheson (Society Member), Eleanor Reeves (Society Member), Helga Thompson (Speaker Series Coordinator), Monica Van Ittersum (Curatorial Assistant), Sidney Williams (Curator), Susan Clark (Board Chair) and Teresa van Rees (Board and Society Member)



Doug Ferguson (centre & Speaker) with relatives of Bob Hayward, Mark and Scott Hayward



Museum Display of Bob Hayward's successful powerboat racing wins created by Don Gaudier



There was standing room only for Speaker Series on Bob Hayward (RON YUZARK PHOTOS)

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# Rehearsal SS Supertest - The Bob Hayward Story

This will be an exciting event, March 15-24 2024, at the Thistle Theatre in Embro. Bob Hayward's story seems quite intriguing, especially his journey from being a chicken farmer in Embro to an internationally famous speedboat/hydroplane driver. His talents as

a musician and mechanic add depth to his character, showcasing his diverse skills and interests. It's wonderful that Thistle Theatre is making the production accessible, allowing more people to enjoy and appreciate Bob Hayward's remarkable story. The combination of

his passion for speedboating, music, and his local connections promises to make for a captivating performance. It's great to see local stories being celebrated and shared on stage. Thistle Theatre, located in Embro Ontario, has been producing a wide variety of plays since its incep-

tion in 1994. Thistle's main production occurs every fall, usually in November, and on the rare occasion will have a second show in the spring. This usually happens if the production is going to be entered into the Western Ontario Drama League Festival (WODL).



Crew of the Production of SS SUPERTEST - THE BOB HAYWARD STORY



Cast of the Production of SS SUPERTEST - THE BOB HAYWARD STORY



Standing Barb Kirwinn (Mother of Bob Hayward), Kathy Fraser (Miss Supertest) and seated Peter Johnson (Jim Thompson)



(RON YUZARK PHOTOS)

Director Adam Corrigan Holowitz, William Butt Writer, Daniel Van Winden Musical Director and Don Hilborn Produce



The Woodstock Ingersoll Echo has moved to a biweekly newspaper that, thanks to the support of the community.

The next editions are:

March 29, 2024

April 12, 2024

April 26, 2024

May 10, 2024

May 24, 2024

June 7, 2024

June 21, 2024

July 5, 2024

July 19, 2024

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# Route to the Past: Son of Strathallan Starstruck

SCOTT GILLIES

Contributor

The hype about the upcoming solar eclipse in April seems like the perfect time to shed some light on the story of a Canadian astronomer with Oxford County connections.

John Stanley Plaskett was born in the hamlet of Strathallan in November of 1865, the oldest of ten children born to his parents Annie and Joseph. If you have driven Highway 59 north of Woodstock, you know that Strathallan is between Huntingford and Hickson, nestled in the bottom of a rich valley of drumlins dotting that part of the county.

Jack, as he was known by the family, was a natural tinkerer. He loved to make things -- from tools and machinery to electrical gadgetry. One story indicates that he pursued his early interest in electricity by making a homemade Leyden jar. If you remember some early science lessons, you may recall that this device stores static electricity. Family members (no doubt all his younger siblings) would hold hands and leap with joy as they received a jolt from this jar. It is further suggested that the family dog would give them a wide berth while engaged in these hijinks!

The Christ Church Anglican Cemetery in Huntingford reveals that Jack's father died in 1881, the same day as his eldest's birthday. Up until that point, young John Stanley had been going to school, taking the train to attend classes at Woodstock Collegiate Institute. With the death of his

father on his 16th birthday, he became head of the family farm.

However within three years he chose to pursue other interests. Leaving his eight younger brothers the farm, Plaskett took a job with the Whitelaw Machinery, one of the oldest foundries in the county. He later found work with the Edison Electric Company in New York state and Quebec. Having completed his apprenticeship, he then became chief mechanic and demonstrator for the Physics Department at the University of Toronto in 1890.

Plaskett was so enamoured with physics that he enrolled as a full-time student in the same department. This was no easy task as he had also become romantically enamoured with Rebecca Hope Hemley. His wife and their two sons supported his efforts as a 30 year old student. Apparently, he was able to complete his degree within four years, and without attending many of the lectures because he was concurrently working for the department. He is the epitome of the old adage to "never let your schooling interfere with your education".

1903 found Plaskett and family living in Ottawa as he worked for the astronomy branch of the Department of the Interior. Two years later he was part of the expedition by the Dominion Observatory and the Royal Astronomy Society of Canada to the wilds of Labrador to witness a solar eclipse as it trekked across the northern parts of the continent. A temporary settlement of military style bell tents,



(NATIONAL RESEARCH COUNCIL OF CANADA PHOTO)

**JOHN STANLEY PLASKETT**

telescopes and viewing stands were erected near an existing Hudson Bay Company trading post. Sadly, the weather gods were not smiling that day and cloud cover shrouded the solar phenomenon from scientific eyes.

In 1913, Jack convinced his superiors that Canada needed to construct an observatory on the west coast. The telescope for this new facility was of his own design. The mirror for it was made in Belgium

just before the start of the First World War. It measured 73 inches in diameter and 12 inches thick, making it at the time, the largest in the world.

The Plaskett Telescope placed within the Dominion Astrophysical Observatory in Saanich British Columbia was opened for use in 1918 and for the next sixty years was considered the world's leading facility for the study of our galaxy.

Jack was put in charge of this institution from the opening day until his retirement in 1935. Some of the discoveries made by him include Plaskett's Star – one of the most massive binary stars known in our solar system. It was Jack's work with the telescope in 1922 which revealed that this solar luminary was in fact two suns which are gravitationally bound to and rotate around each other. He was assisted in his researches by his son and fellow astronomer Harry Hemley Plaskett.

In 1932, John Stanley Plaskett was awarded the Catherine Wolfe Bruce Medal by the Astronomical Society of the Pacific for outstanding lifetime contributions to astronomy. That same year, he was also awarded the Flavelle Medal by the Royal Society of Canada for outstanding contributions to biological science.

Plaskett was in pretty good company. It should be noted that the previous year's winner of the Flavelle Medal was Sir Frederick Banting, while an earlier recipient was noted physicist Sir John McLennan who had also been born in Oxford County in 1867. He was from Ingersoll.

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**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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# OH, THE PLACES WE'LL GO: When real history elbows its way into our travels



PAUL KNOWLES

*Times Contributor*

"I never realized that!"

"Wow! I'm going to have to learn some more about this!"

"Who knew?"

If, during any of my travels, I find myself thinking those things, I know I am having a good experience. Sure, travel is about leisure and entertainment and adventure, but travel should also be about learning and expanding our understanding and our imaginations.

Walking into an exhibit at the Winnipeg Art Gallery-Qaumajuq was one of those light-bulb moments for me. It started a process of learning that has not stopped.

Consider the name "Louis Riel".

If you, like me, were raised to learn Canadian history in its traditional (might I suggest, "colonial") form, Louis Riel was presented as a bad guy, a rebel and traitor to our country who was executed for his misdeeds.

But then, I walked into this exhibit at the WAG-Qaumajuq and was stopped in my tracks by a wonderful piece of artistry, a chair featuring beautiful beadwork and a creative design by contemporary Métis artist Jennine Krauchi. This chair represented the chair Louis Riel was never allowed to occupy – his seat in Canada's Parliament. He was elected to Parliament a number of times, but was prevented from claiming his place on threat of death.

That was an "ah-ha" moment. I realized I needed to re-think this whole Riel narrative I had been taught. And – this being a travel feature – I feel I must point out I would never have experienced this moment had I not been travelling!

I was travelling again, months later, spending a few days in Ottawa. I toured the elaborate, temporary quarters of the Canadian Senate. The guided tour included a visit to the First Nations Standing Committee Room. To my surprise,

the Indigenous art on the walls of the room included a modern portrait of Louis Riel. It was a powerful statement that I believe reflects an acknowledgement by the Canadian government of today that repudiates the tragic, racist actions of their predecessors. Again – a light bulb moment in the midst of a touristy tour.

I thought of all of this today because I read of an amazing event back in Winnipeg. On February 19, Manitoba Métis Federation President David Chartrand and Manitoba Premier Wab Kinew unveiled a portrait of Louis Riel. The picture isn't new. It has hung in the Manitoba Legislature building for years. What's new is a plaque on the portrait, which identifies Riel with the honorary title of "First Premier of Manitoba."

This follows the passing of a bill in the provincial Manitoba parliament last year. The bill reads, in part, "In 1869, the Métis people of the territory known as the Red River Settlement established a provincial government... led by Louis Riel, [which] adopted a List of Rights based on multicultural, bilingual and inclusive vision of a province that respected the rights of Indigenous peoples and minori-

ty rights; and... the List of Rights was accepted by the Government of Canada as the basis for ... the establishment of Manitoba as a province."

The bill further notes that Riel himself submitted "Manitoba" as the name of the province, and that Riel "has been recognized as a founder of Manitoba and is regarded as Manitoba's father of confederation."

Wow. I never realized that.

It's probably no coincidence that the Premier of Manitoba who helped to unveil the portrait is Wab Kinew, from the Onigaming First Nation. He's the first Indigenous Premier of Manitoba. But these bits and pieces of historical information seep into my thinking, I have to wonder why it took that for justice to be done. Are we non-racialized people blind to the inequities of history? Probably. In fact, largely, yes. Can travel be one solution to that lack of perspective? I like to think so.

It's obvious that adding a plaque to a portrait is not a sufficient answer to the inequities and injustices that are baked right into the fabric of Canada. Métis leader David Chartrand was extremely clear about this at the unveiling: "This is an historic and momentous day

as we reflect on the true history of Louis Riel and the Métis of the Red River. Our history has been one of hardship, marginalization, racism and discrimination – a continued struggle for recognition of our identity as the Red River Métis people. We have been 153 years in waiting and advocating to correct this part of our history, and today we see the true title of Louis Riel further acknowledged. The stain on Canada remains for portraying him as traitor and a madman, instead of telling his true history as the first premier and the founder of Manitoba. We hope what we do here today will be a catalyst for real change, so that all know the truth and honour Premier Riel's legacy, and the legacy of our people."

So, no, a plaque on a picture is not enough. But it is something. Something important. And personally, I have learned something important about the legacy of Louis Riel.

Thank you, Winnipeg and Ottawa.

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

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# ITOPA promises an evening full of laughter with “A Night in Provence”

EMILY STEWART

*Echo Correspondent*

The Ingersoll Theatre of Performing Arts (ITOPA) will take audiences to Provence, France this spring.

The community theatre company presents the Robin Hawdon comedy “A Night in Provence.” The show will run from April 5 to 7, and April 11 to 14 at the theatre on 88 Thames Street South, Ingersoll.

“(The play) is a wonderfully hilarious production,” said Rebecca Schwarz, director. “It’s full of friskiness and frivolity in between three couples - An Irish couple, An English Couple, and a French couple who all end up at the same villa in Provence, France for one night.”

ITOPA is a volunteer-run organization, with between 40 to 50 people working behind the scenes of the play and more volunteers running the box office, making costumes, and painting the sets. Hundreds of people throughout the year volunteer for the group, whether as a member of the board of directors, an actor, a set builder, or another theatre opportunities.

“Everything is volunteer so it’s ac-

tually the community producing these plays for the community,” said Schwarz. “It’s a great opportunity for people to come out and view the talents that we actually have inside our community.”

Several of the ITOPA helpers will lend a hand in other community theatre productions. Many of them recently volunteered for Theatre Woodstock’s run of “Cinderella.”

“That’s the thing with theatre, you know everybody from everywhere because everybody goes from theatre to theatre, right?” explained Schwarz. “You don’t always just stay at one theatre. They go around and share their talents. It depends on the production if they want to do something for that specific play.”

Along with “A Night in Provence,” ITOPA will also host a one-night-only Valdy concert on April 18 and present a production of Agatha Christie’s “The Mousetrap” from June 21 to 30.

Tickets for “A Night in Provence” are \$26 for adults, \$24 for seniors, \$22 for students 12-years-old and older, and \$10 for students under 12-years old. Visit [www.itopa.ca](http://www.itopa.ca) for more information and to purchase tickets.



(ADAM GLASS/OTG PRODUCTIONS PHOTOS)

Above: Steve Howe and Becky Tanton will star in “A Night in Provence” this April at the Ingersoll Theatre of Performing Arts.

Right: You can see Mark Tindall and Monique Bouchard Nisbet take the stage in the comedy “A Night in Provence” this April at the Ingersoll Theatre of Performing Arts.



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# Riddles

If athletes get athletes foot then what do astronauts get?  
Missle-toe

Why was the clock in the cafeteria always slow?  
Because every lunch it went back four seconds

What is the hardest thing to hold that even the strongest person in the world has difficulty with?  
Your breath

What did the duck say to the waiter?  
"Put it on my bill"

Where does a 600 pound gorilla sit?  
Anywhere he wants

What did the doctor say to the rocket ship?  
"Time to get your booster shot"

What did the Nerds Candy want to be when it grew up?  
A Smartie

What did the bread say to the man?  
Nothing, bread can't talk

What did the bee say to the naughty bee?  
"Bee-hive yourself"

# Sudoku

Sudoku

by PeterS 2024

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

Solutions on page 34

Basic (4)

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



### LADY

Hello my name is Lady. I'm a 4-year-old girl. My favourite place to go is the dog park. I love chasing squirrels and playing with my dog friends. I'm a really good dog and I know how to sit pretty and how to catch a treat in my mouth when it's thrown at me. I can even do both at the same time! I also love to snuggle with the human puppies in the morning.

Nominate your Pet of the Month by emailing [info@theecho.ca](mailto:info@theecho.ca)

# Word Search

## MLB SPRING TRAINING GRAPEFRUIT LEAGUE

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

- Orioles
- Phillies
- Red Sox
- Mets
- Nationals
- Yankees
- Braves
- Tigers
- Astros
- Cardinals
- Rays
- Blue Jays
- Marlins
- Twins
- Pirates

# COMING EVENTS

Email to inquire  
[info@theecho.ca](mailto:info@theecho.ca)

## CORN BEEF & CABBAGE DINER

Friday, March 15; 5:30 p.m.

Royal Canadian Legion, 642 Dundas Street, Woodstock

## FROM RAGS TO WREATHS

Friday, March 15; 7 p.m.

Huron Park Baptist Church, 199 Berwick St, Woodstock

Join us for a crafty night of wreath-making.

RSVP by March 10 to [hpbc\\_ladies@gmail.com](mailto:hpbc_ladies@gmail.com) or contact the church office at 519 421 4722. Cost \$5

## MISSION SUNDAY

Sunday, March 17; 10:30 a.m.

Huron Park Baptist Church, 199 Berwick St, Woodstock

David Smith from ABWE will be the speaker

## HONOUR AND RE-MEMBER YOUR LOVED ONE

Tuesday, March 19th from 1 - 4 pm

Ingersoll Services for Seniors - 250 Ingersoll St S, Ingersoll

In this afternoon workshop, offered out of the Ingersoll Services for Seniors, you will tap into your innate creativity to honour your loss from a place of love and joy rather than suffering. You will be offered a mini-coaching session that follows the "re-remembering conversation" method. The guided creative activity that follows will help you process and celebrate what's revealed during the conversation. By embracing creativity, we learn to find more ease in our everyday living and to engage in life again after loss. Your personal expres-

sion is about the process, not the product – no artistic skills are needed. The workshop will be run by trained facilitators in a safe, confidential, small group environment. Cost is \$50 for members; \$55 for non-members. For more information and to register call 519-485-3869.

## YOUNG AT HEART LUNCH

Thursday, March 28; 12 p.m. Noon

Huron Park Baptist Church, 199 Berwick St, Woodstock

Young At Heart lunch with fun items as well as special music for Easter. Contact the church office at 519 421 4722. Cost \$15

## SACRED CHORAL MUSIC

Friday, March 29; 8 p.m.

Sacred Heart Church, Ingersoll

Join the Ingersoll Choral Society in an evening of sacred choral music, featuring "Behold the Lamb!" With orchestral accompaniment. (Doors open at 7 pm). Free will offering will be received. [www.ingersollchoralsociety.ca](http://www.ingersollchoralsociety.ca).

## MEAT DRAW

Saturday, March 30; 3 p.m.

Royal Canadian Legion, 642 Dundas Street, Woodstock

## SHUFFLEBOARD

Every Thursday; 1:30 p.m.

Royal Canadian Legion, 642 Dundas Street, Woodstock

## EVENING ENTERTAINMENT

Every Saturday; 7-11 p.m.

Royal Canadian Legion, 642 Dundas Street, Woodstock

March 2nd Dennis Burton, March 9th DJ Kelly, March 16th Jamie Morris, March 23rd Jeff Dawdy.

## OXFORD COUNTY BRANCH OF ONTARIO ANCESTORS – VIRTUAL MEETING

Monday, April 8; 7 p.m.

Once we know where our ancestors lived the next step in our research journey is to see if we can find the land records such as deeds and even wills. In this presentation we will be taking a look at the Ontario Land Property Records Portal, AKA OnLand, to help us locate the documents concerning the properties where our ancestors lived. Visit our website at <https://oxford.ogs.on.ca> to register for this free presentation on Zoom.

## FRIDAY NIGHT DANCE

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

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- 14
- The Missouri River
- Nitrogen
- René Descartes
- Kelly Clarkson
- Four
- Inland Taipan
- Leviathan (Vaughan, ON)
- 180
- The Dragon

## SUDOKU

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

## THANK YOU

*Wilker*

Well our kids (Jason, Todd, Heather and Families) pulled the wool over our eyes surprising us on our 50th wedding anniversary.

We wish to thank all our friends and families that came with their well wishes.

When we look back and go over this night we are so blessed to see all the people who have been on our crazy journey.

Thank you doesn't seem enough so keep well, laugh often and know that you are special to us.

Rich & Kathy Wilker

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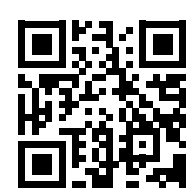


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