

# Woodstock Ingersoll Echo

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## Oxford MP less than thrilled with budget 2024

LEE GRIFFI

*Local Journalism Initiative Reporter*

The latest federal budget has been released and to no one's surprise, Oxford's Conservative Member of Parliament had some harsh words for it, and a local business owner was also critical.

The 2024 document goes after the country's highest earners with new taxes to help offset billions in new spending designed to enhance the country's housing supply and social supports. Deputy Prime Minister and Finance Minister Chrystia Freeland's budget outlines how the Liberals plan to allocate \$39.2 billion in net-new spending, while upholding what they call fiscal guardrails.

The Liberals are asking the country's wealthiest to pay more and Freeland said it would be wrong to pass on more debt to future generations. Public debt charges are on track to grow to \$64.3 billion by the 2028-29 fiscal year.

Oxford Conservative MP Arpan Khanna said it's the same old story being spewed by the Liberals. "After eight years of Justin Trudeau, this budget is exactly what got us into this mess in the first place. We have had record inflation over the last few years and the budget is doing absolutely nothing to stop that and nothing to bring down interest rates."

He added inflation rose to 2.9 per cent in March and by bringing in a budget with over \$50 million in new spending, it's a recipe to make things worse. "You're putting our essential services, our programs, at risk. This is their attempt to try and change the channel. Canadians are tired of paying extra for a bag of groceries and too much for housing."

CONTINUED TO PAGE 9



### WALK FOR MS

Large donations for the fundraiser were contributed by the Orange Shirts Team. More on Page 6.

(RON YUZARK PHOTO)

## A major step forward for Woodstock senior centre addition

LEE GRIFFI

*Local Journalism Initiative Reporter*

The fundraising campaign for the expansion of Woodstock's South Gate Centre has surpassed its goal of \$1.2 million.

Fundraising chair David Hilderly said as a result things are now happening quickly. "Tenders went out on April 4 and are due by May 2. We hope to take this forward to council on May 16 when a general contractor will be awarded the tender. The expectation is they will be able to have shovels in the ground by July 1 or thereabouts."

On April 11, twenty companies looking to submit a bid completed a mandatory walk-through of the facility. Two of the interested contractors are local.

The \$1.2 million was the campaign's obligation to the city and there is an estimate for another \$500,000 to pay for furnishings and other costs. Despite reaching the goal Hilderly and his team are pursuing additional donors. "What comes with this whole thing is our business model runs on our kitchen and catering facilities. If you or anyone you know want to do a wedding or celebration of life or any kind of banquet, that's how we generate our money to pay the bills. We need tables, chairs, and lounge furniture."

The new building is being billed as a win for members and non-members alike. "There will be three halls with collapsable walls and if they are all opened up it will hold 400 people for an event like a tradeshow, or anything else the community needs or wants."

CONTINUED TO PAGE 3

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# New physician practicing at medical clinic in Woodstock Walmart

LEE GRIFFI

Local Journalism Initiative Reporter

The Friendly City's newest doctor may not have taken a typical path to family medical practice in Woodstock but people without a family physician are glad he's here. Dr. Nonso Ani has joined the Jack Nathan Health team at its new Woodstock clinic, located at 499 Norwich Avenue.

Dr. Ani grew up in the coal mining city of Enugu in southeastern Nigeria where his father is a family physician. He attended the University of Nigeria for his medical degree and then wrote the necessary exams needed to practice in the United Kingdom. He became a Senior House Officer (resident) in 2017 and completed his family medicine specialty training in 2022. He has been working as a locum general practitioner in surgeries across Manchester, England until his relocation to Canada. "I've relocated to Canada because it offers cultural diversity, inclusivity, a better work-life balance, and diverse opportunities for family physi-

cians," he said.

He added he is committed to improving the health and well-being of individuals and families on his roster. "I learned from my online research that Woodstock is a welcoming, vibrant, and dynamic city with a strong sense of history, community, outdoor recreation, diverse population, healthcare, and new housing development."

Dr. Ani is the first physician at Jack Nathan Health's new Woodstock location. He will be accepting patients into his practice from a waiting list being generated at the clinic and also take walk-in patients.

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# Clinic owner would like changes made to international recruiting system

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 2

and then wrote the necessary exams needed to practice in the United Kingdom. He became a Senior House Officer (resident) in 2017 and completed his family medicine specialty training in 2022. He has been working as a locum general practitioner in surgeries across Manchester, England until his relocation to Canada. "I've relocated to Canada because it offers cultural diversity, inclusivity, a better work-life balance, and diverse opportunities for family physicians," he said.

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Dr. Ani is the first physician at Jack Nathan Health's new Woodstock location. He will be accepting patients into his practice from a waiting list being generated at the clinic and also take walk-in patients.

David Gravelle is the company's Director of Physician Recruitment and said the community has been extremely supportive. "Everyone has been so kind and welcoming. We know there are thousands of unattached patients in Woodstock, and more orphaned patients coming due to impending physician retirements in nearby towns. We plan to be part of the solution to health care challenges in Woodstock and Oxford County."

Gravelle explained the response to Dr. Ani's arrival has been overwhelming. Through word of mouth and our social media marketing, there have been almost 2,000 inquiries. "Our operations team is slowly methodically building Dr. Ani's practice as he learns the Canadian system and the lo-

cal referral patterns for specialist support. We ask the community to be patient as we grow." He added they are actively recruiting, with Dr. Ani's assistance, to bring one or two more doctors to Woodstock this year.

Many international medical graduates only know the major cities in Ontario like Toronto or Mississauga meaning Dr. Ani had to be sold on Woodstock and what it offers as both a place to practice medicine and a place to live. "Woodstock is a charming, medium-sized town, with access to London and USA to the west, and the KW region and Pearson Airport to the east. To achieve this, we sent him videos on the area and pictures of our new clinic." Gravelle also introduced the doctor to a local realtor who worked with him to find him a home in the community.

Recruiting international health professionals is an incredibly difficult task. It can cost thousands of dollars and take a long time and there is no guarantee of success. Gravelle said recruiting from the UK or other license-eligible jurisdictions has its own issues. "First, you have to advertise the position(s) for Canadians to apply. If no Canadians show interest, then you apply for a Labour Marketing Impact Assessment (LIMA). Once that is approved by the federal government, your candidate can apply for a work permit at a port of entry. All these steps cost money, money that is not always readily available in our cash-strapped health care system. This can make it exceedingly difficult for small clinics to recruit the physicians they need." He added Jack Nathan has the network and resources available to grow the number of doctors practicing in Ontario by shouldering the burden of cost to recruit.

The company does understand the regula-



(JACK NATHAN HEALTH PHOTO)

Dr. Nonso Ani, left, has joined the Jack Nathan Health team. Beside him is David Gravelle, the Director of Physician Recruitment at Jack Nathan Health

tory process is set up to protect patients, and they agree high standards are needed when recruiting from abroad. Gravelle does add that mandating physicians to source original documentation from 20-30 years ago just to apply to become licensed seems a little arduous. "Also, a recent change to the Temporary Foreign Workers Program, where you only have six months to recruit a doctor after a positive LIMA seems misguided as it relates to physician recruitment. Since phy-

sician recruitment can be a long-drawn-out process, the LIMA can expire before you have even had a chance to fill the positions paid for with it."

Jack Nathan Health describes itself as a leading omni-channel health care provider, providing high-quality medical services throughout Canada and Mexico. The company has a network of medical practitioners and provides medical services through clinics located inside Walmart Supercentres.

## A major step forward for Woodstock senior centre addition

CONTINUED FROM FRONT



In addition to that we have a very nice lounge area where the seniors will be able to socialize. Socialization is such an important part of what we do at South Gate Centre and how we keep members engaged," added Hilderly. "The senior population is growing and growing and we need to provide them with opportunities."

Once completed the new building will allow the centre to offer much more in the way of programming. "Right from fitness and yoga all the way up to Zumba classes and whatever else might fit into that hall. We will also have a wellness room which will be used for both physical and mental well-being," he explained.

The expansion will include a community kitchen that could be used by outside groups in need of space. "If an organization like the Caribbean Association would approach us and they want to have a hall but also want to prepare their own food they would have his lovely new

kitchen. There are a lot of chefs in the area who do catering but they don't have their own commercial kitchen. We will have an available spot for them to rent and prepare meals."

The dream of an expansion at South Gate was first introduced nearly ten years ago. Hilderly said it's an incredible feeling to see it so close to becoming a reality. "I'm so excited now that we are actually in the process. It's been nine years but I can see now things are moving forward. Our community has been waiting and I think this will be a good trigger for more donations."

The hall, workshop, and one of the boardrooms in the current space will stay intact and a small section will be repurposed during the construction.

South Gate Centre has over 800 members and engages the 50-plus community in an open, active, social environment driven by volunteers.

# Trillium grant results in new universal washroom for Navy Club



Back Row (Left to Right): Dick Henshall - OCNVA Colour Party, Oxford MPP Ernie Hardeman, Lyle Ball - OCNVA Treasurer, Mayor Jerry Accchione, Aaron Worthington - OCNVA Colour Party.

(CONTRIBUTED PHOTO)

## LEE GRIFFI

Local Journalism Initiative Reporter

The Oxford County Naval Veterans Association has been awarded a \$64,000 capital grant from the provincial government's Ontario Trillium Foundation. The money was used to design and construct a new universal washroom.

Oxford MPP Ernie Hardeman met with

the team at the Oxford County Naval Veterans Association on the weekend. The project will give people in the community improved accessibility to a washroom facility inside the existing Woodstock Navy Club.

"Our government believes organizations like the Oxford County Naval Veterans Association enrich the lives of people in our communities and play an important role in

building a strong and prosperous economy in Ontario. That's why I am proud that our government is providing capital funding through the Ontario Trillium Foundation to improve accessibility," said Hardeman, MPP for Oxford "Organizations such as OCNVA are the pillars of our community. This support will enable them to better serve the people of Oxford and continue to make a positive difference."

The addition of the washroom inside the existing building will allow people with accessibility issues or families a complete washroom for their use. It was designed and constructed in accordance with the rules set out by the Ontario Building Code.

"The impact of this Ontario government grant cannot be overstated," said Karen Sutherland, President of the Oxford County Naval Veterans Association. "This grant gives us a much-needed, properly sized universal washroom that will allow us to serve our members and guests better now and in the future. We can now accommodate anyone with mobility issues."

The OCNVA provides support to our veterans, their families, and the community at large through provision of social and physical activities, community engagement and public education in matters of naval affairs.

The membership of the OCNVA is growing and the majority of the members are seniors (over the age of 55) many of whom use walkers or utilize a cane. The larger, more spacious and accessible washroom will allow enhanced and safer accessibility to the washroom during their participation in sports and activities such as darts, shuffleboard, pool, euchre, and dances.

"Non-profit organizations across Ontario deliver programming that makes a difference," said Neil Lumsden, Minister of Tourism, Culture and Sport. "That's why funding that my ministry is providing through the OTF is so important. Our government wants to ensure that these programs and spaces remain the heart of communities across our province."

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**Woodstock Ingersoll Echo**

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**Woodstock Ingersoll Echo**

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# Oxford MS fundraiser makes its return

The Woodstock/Oxford Walk for Multiple Sclerosis was held at South Gate Centre on April 14. The event was the first held in four years. The walk brings the community together to fundraise and support those living with MS.

Participants were able to connect online with peers

nationwide, united in the quest to find a cure. The collective effort has seen the sharing of stories and encouragement to meet fundraising goals. Since its inception, the Woodstock/Oxford Walk has raised over \$1.6 million.

(RON YUZARK PHOTOS)



Participants in the event are ready to hit the streets.



Left to right: Cathy Pappas, Adam Dodds, Janette Wallace, and Pat Thompson coordinated the collection of funds for the MS Walk.

## Mother's Day treats and treasures

EMILY STEWART

Echo Correspondent

The Ingersoll Cheese and Agricultural Museum is hosting a market to help you find the perfect present for Mother's Day.

The museum will host the 'Treats and Treasures: Mother's Day Pop-Up Market' on May 11 from 11 a.m. to 4 p.m. Museum Curator Stephanie Conron said more than 10 vendors have already committed and that list grows every day. When visiting the market, located at 290 Harris Street in Ingersoll, attendees can expect to see macramé, woodworking, purses and bags, vinyl prints, candles, flowers, plants, and other handmade items.

"This Mother's Day market offers a unique opportunity to find the perfect gift for Mom and a little something for yourself as well," said Conron. "With local vendors showcasing their talents and products, attendees can support the community while finding something truly special and meaningful for their loved ones."

Kerry Chershire, a photographer at Heartwork Portrait Studio, will also have 'mom and me' photoshoots at the museum's barn. The pop-up market will also have treats and refreshments available.

Conron said that supporting artisans at events like this one helps support the local economy. "Local businesses often offer unique and handcrafted items that cannot be found elsewhere, adding a personal touch to gifts," she said. "Supporting local businesses helps sustain livelihoods and foster a sense of connection within the community. Shop local this Mother's Day."

In addition to stopping by the pop-up market at the Ingersoll Cheese and Agricultural Museum, Conron recommends celebrating Mother's Day by either visiting one of the stops on the Oxford County Cheese Trail for Big Cheese Days, enjoying a meal at the Elmhurst Inn, have a Mom and Me Tea for brunch at the Beachville District Museum, or pick up some goodies at Red Dragon Dairy.

**Woodstock Ingersoll Echo is a bi-weekly newspaper available both in print format and online (theecho.ca)**

**Published every other Friday, our next editions are:**  
**Friday, May 10, 2024**  
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# Woodstock summer camp promotes medical careers for kids

LEE GRIFFI

Local Journalism Initiative Reporter

Some area high school students will get a rarely seen look inside the Woodstock Hospital at the Discovery Healthcare summer camp in July.

The program is the brainchild of the Schulich School of Medicine and Dentistry at the University of Western Ontario in London. The program aims to inspire young people in Southern Ontario to pursue a career in healthcare.

Woodstock Hospital President and CEO Perry Lang said the facility has had a positive, 30-year relationship with the school and it was easy to say yes to the camp. "We were asked to be involved with the Discovery Healthcare summer camp program for high school kids. It's really about showcasing the opportunities they have in healthcare. These students are entertaining careers

in nursing, laboratory services, diagnostic imaging, there are lots of different career paths available."

There are a total of 30 students participating and they will be able to have hands-on experience while attending the camp. "They will have access to some of our training manikins and it's all under the leadership of the Schulich. They developed the program's criteria and I think it's a good opportunity for students to get a glimpse into what future careers might look like."

Participants will also learn about social determinants of health, study sample diagnostic cases, and participate in team building activities.

Woodstock Hospital has been more fortunate than other hospitals in Ontario in terms of staffing and not having to temporarily shut down its emergency department. "We don't have an abundance

of health professionals and we do have a number who are retiring. We do have a lot of young staff so it's all about retention and recruitment and showing students the opportunities that exist within the hospital and surrounding healthcare community," said Lang.

He added the hospital is one part of a larger community. "It's really about ensuring there is a pipeline of future healthcare workers and taking the time

to showcase what a career would be like."

The program runs from July 15 to 19 from 8:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. The cost is \$325 plus tax. To learn more go to [https://www.schulich.uwo.ca/distributededucation/discovery\\_healthcare\\_program/index.html](https://www.schulich.uwo.ca/distributededucation/discovery_healthcare_program/index.html). Other hospitals in the program include Stratford, Chatham, and St. Thomas. It is open to students entering grades 9 to 12 in September.

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# Singer plays two nights in her return to Woodstock



Hickey performed at Early Bird along with Greg Szabo.

Toronto-based singer-songwriter Rachel Hickey recently performed her eagerly awaited homecoming concerts at Early Bird Coffee in Downtown Woodstock on April 12 and 13. Originally from

Woodstock, this visit marked a return to her roots. The concert also featured local opening act, Greg Szabo.

Hickey is an independent artist whose music is rich with emotion, designed to



Among the attendees were relatives and friends Amber Hickey, Elizabeth Nichols, and Caitlin Haley.

envelop and soften the listener's defenses. Drawing from traditional folk storytelling and influenced by artists such as Joni Mitchell and Taylor Swift, Hickey's shows are dynamic and sincere, and often filled

with humor and the occasional tear. She is actively touring Ontario and beyond to promote her latest EP and is gearing up for the release of her debut full-length album, "The Eve of St. Agnes," expected in May.

(RON YUZARK PHOTOS)

## Woodstock restaurateur feels change is needed

CONTINUED FROM FRONT

It's empty promises, more photo ops, and no plan to get our country back on track."

Khanna said the budget will do nothing to make life more affordable for Canadians when it comes to housing and the cost of living. "We are in a housing crisis. Rent has doubled. Mortgage payments have doubled. Down payments have doubled. Canadians can't buy homes. We have two million Canadians going to a food bank every month and more are expected to join them this year." He added the working class are the ones pushing back against the Trudeau government. "This is the same prime minister who said budgets balance themselves and he doesn't think about monetary policy. Sadly, you can't run your household on a credit card, and you can't run the country that way."

The Liberals have talked recently about the country's AAA credit rating and a low debt-to-GDP ratio, but Khanna said that doesn't mean much when you talk to people struggling in Oxford. "Tell that to a single mother who is struggling to put food on the table for her kids. Tell that line to our seniors on a fixed income who

are calling me to say they are asking their children for handouts. Tell that to the average working-class family who have good jobs and dual incomes who are now saying we are working hard, trying to get by, but we are struggling."

Jennifer Pearce-Hall owns Woodstock's Finkle Street Tap and Grill. She appeared on CTV News Network before the budget hoping for something positive for small business owners. She said that didn't happen. "From my perspective, there's been so many decisions made by government that are crippling to my industry. Everything from alcohol taxes going up to payroll taxes, inflation, and the carbon tax. It's all part in parcel of what is really the struggle of small business right now."

Pearce-Hall explained the administrative burden on a small business has ballooned meaning more time spent in the office filling out paperwork. Between the administration and the increase in expenses, it's hard to make a profit. "The best way to describe is to say Jenny at Finkle had 12 eggs. With inflation, four of my eggs are gone. The debt due

to COVID takes two more of my eggs. The carbon tax takes one of my eggs. All these other things take up my resources. If I'm left at the end of the year with zero eggs or half an egg, how is it possible to do business?"

She explained that from a customer's perspective, they don't see how the little things keep adding up. "They do see them from their own standpoint but there are extra costs. Our insurance rates went up 40 per cent. Things just don't make sense and it's hard to make the numbers work. I feel bad for our customers who come in and say they paid less for something on the menu. Cooking oil that used to be 23 dollars for a 16-litre pail is now pushing 55 to 60 dollars."

The Echo asked Pearce-Hall if she had a message for the government, and she plainly said it's time for a policy change, just like a small business would do. "I think holistically they are trying to make things work but they're not addressing the root problem. I would think of it like this. If my business isn't working, what do I need to do? Do I need to cut some of my suppliers, look at some of my systems? It

doesn't feel like that's being done from a government perspective. It just feels like the people are being charged more."

Peace-Hall was reluctant to call out any federal party individually but she would say the troubles facing small businesses in the country need to be addressed. "Unless people are looking at the problems from a different vantage point, I don't think there going to be much change if they are still using the same solutions for their problems. Those solutions aren't supportive of people's needs." She added she's very hopeful for change. "But for change to happen, change needs to happen."

Despite her challenges as a small business owner, she explained how grateful she is to have an incredibly loyal customer base. "We are so grateful and so appreciative of our customers who have been dining with us for eight years. We thank the new people in the community who are coming out and trying what we have to offer which is an elevated dining experience. My staff and I are grateful for the support."

**SUBMIT YOUR LETTER TO THE EDITOR TO US!**

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# Thames River Melons wants you to Meet the Bees

EMILY STEWART

*Echo Correspondent*

Thames River Melon's latest on-the-farm educational opportunity, Meet the Bees, will teach visitors all about the role of bees in raising crops in the spring and summer.

The farm, on Township Road 5 near In-nerkip, will be offering a hands-on experience to learn all about beekeeping, bee biology, pollination, and honey collecting. Beekeeper Nathan TeBokkel will guide visitors through the process as all the participants wear beekeeping suits.

"It's start to finish about bees," said Alex Chesney, registered dietitian, and farmer with Thames River Melons. "It might vary a little depending on the date that people attend because the different practices we use vary from May to August, but that makes it kind of exciting. It'll be different every time."

Chesney said visitors are buzzing with curiosity about the bees on the farm. "Any time we have people visiting the farm they seem to be drawn to the hives and they're already asking questions. We just thought this was a great opportunity to expand that further and provide the education in a more formal setting."

Thames River Melons was one of three recipients of the Oxford County Tourism Innovation grant, presented by Rural Oxford Economic Development, Community Futures Oxford, and Tourism Oxford. The \$3000 grant allowed the farm to start the Meet the Bees program.



**Meet the Bees is a new workshop from Thames River Melons throughout the spring and summer. It will provide an opportunity to learn all about beekeeping, honey harvesting, bee biology, and pollination.**

(ALEX CHESNEY PHOTO)

"It's a big help for us to be able to launch this new experience," said Chesney.

Thames River Melons has bees living in 100 beehives spread around the farm. The bees help the growth of berries, melons, pumpkins, and squash. Chesney said most of the fruits and vegetables on the farm could not be grown without the bees' assistance.

"There are certainly lots of natural pollinators as well," she explained. "But for us, our bees and our hives just provide a consistent supply, and we can, rest assured, know that the crops will be pollinated well. We couldn't grow them without the pollination."

Along with attending workshops like Meet the Bees, Chesney said the best way to show appreciation for bees is to stay calm if seeing one nearby and admire their role in keeping crops growing.

"It's easier said than done," she said. "But staying calm, appreciating the role they're playing, and then just getting curious about

more details about 'Okay, how does this actually work?' Once you have a base understanding, you can go from there and ask more questions and learn more."

A 50 per cent or greater chance of rain three days before the workshop will result in a rescheduled event. While the bees are friendly, stings are possible and medical supplies will be available on-site. Participants are required to sign a waiver. Meet the Bees is not recommended for people with known allergies and other reactions to bee venom. Anyone interested can register online by visiting [www.thamesrivermelons.com/meet-the-bees](http://www.thamesrivermelons.com/meet-the-bees).

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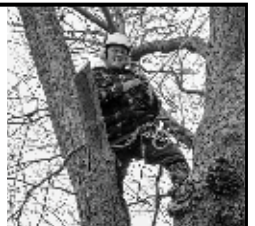
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## Ask the Arborist

By Joel Hackett | 519 272 5742 | [jtsquote@gmail.com](mailto:jtsquote@gmail.com)



*Dear Arborist,*

Due to the high wind this weekend, a tree on my front lawn fell over and hit the house. It's fairly close to the road, I am not sure it is my tree. What steps should I take regarding this?

*Sincerely*

*What To Do*

*Dear What To Do*

You are not alone, the wind brought down many trees this week. The first step is determining whether it is your tree. Normally, if it is within 32 ft of the centre line of the

road it belongs to the city or municipality. If the city or municipality denies it belongs to them, then the next step is to determine if it is covered by insurance.

Normally, if a tree hits the house the insurance will cover everything but removing the wood.

*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](mailto:jtsquote@gmail.com)**

# Oxford County celebrates Earth Day

LEE GRIFFI

Local Journalism Initiative Reporter

The Oxford County Waste Management team set up a display set up at the Woodstock Hospital Earth Day event. Oxford County is asking people to fill out the “Future of Curbside Collection” survey to give feedback on a potential green bin program. Removing organic materials like food scraps from our landfills helps to reduce methane gas

emissions. Learn more and take the survey at [www.speakup.oxfordcounty.ca](http://www.speakup.oxfordcounty.ca)

Oxford County’s 2023-2026 Strategic Plan identifies “Enhancing Environmental Sustainability” as one of three foundation pillars, with the specific goal of developing a Climate Action Plan. The County continues to make progress on achieving 100% renewable energy, managing energy use across its facilities, and transitioning to a green fleet for county vehicles.



Bernard Agyemang, Waste Management Technician at the county, was on hand to discuss a potential green bin program (OXFORD COUNTY PHOTO)

# Woodstock realtor wins national award for efforts against food Insecurity

LEE GRIFFI

Local Journalism Initiative Reporter

Kelly Byers, a realtor and salesperson from Woodstock has received national recognition for her charitable contributions. Those include a 14-year history of supporting those facing food insecurity across Oxford County and fundraising for and supporting the relocation of a family of Syrian refugees to the city.

Each year, the Canadian Real Estate Association (CREA) presents the Canadian Realtors Care Award in celebration and recognition of a realtor who creates a lasting impact on their community.

Byers said she was humbled and in complete shock when she found out she had won. “I didn’t believe it. There were 46 nominees and I feel like the other 45 probably in some ways were as or more deserving. At the same time, I really appreciate the award because it comes with a \$5000 donation to a charity of my choice.”

That choice was an obvious one for Byers. “Because of my cancer diagnosis and stem cell transplant, I actually went with the Stem Cell Transplant Patient Assistance Fund at the London Health Sciences Centre. It is a small branch of the overall Foundation. They provide direct financial support to people undergoing stem cell transplants who are facing financial stress.” She added she didn’t have to worry about the cost of her treatments or drugs, but that isn’t the case for everyone.

Byers has a very aggressive form of leukemia and has had several rounds of treatment but still manages to have a sense of humour. “I’m still doing chemotherapy and even when I do get a little bit of hair back the chemo just wipes it out again. To be honest, I don’t mind having a bald head. It’s easier to shower,” she joked.

In June 2023, after her life-changing leukemia diagnosis, her charity work was put on pause. Her community has since rallied around her and her family, knowing she would be the first in line to offer a helping hand if someone else was in her shoes. “If you’ve encountered Kelly, she’s learned everything about you. She’s probably gone out of her way to help you,” said close friend Kristy Hons. “No one wants



(SUPPLIED PHOTO)

Woodstock realtor Kelly Byers has won the prestigious Canadian Realtors Care Award for her extensive charitable work.

to see anything like this happen to anyone, but I think it’s especially awful when things like this happen to the best people.”

“We were thoroughly impressed by Kelly’s ability to rally her fellow realtors around countless charitable endeavours, but especially the Realtors Care Food Drive, which has collected more than 250,000 pounds of food since she first launched the initiative,” says Phil Moore, Chair of CREA’s Environmental, Social and Governance Committee. “The immense, positive impact that Kelly Byers has had on the lives of so many members of her community is truly inspiring.”

Kelly’s motivation to look for and help meet the needs of her community was inspired by her parents, who were both avid volunteers.

When Byers had a first-hand experience with the healthcare system’s dire need for blood, she put out a call for blood donations that friends, family and fellow realtors were ready to answer. Her children rallied their friends for the “Kids Against Leukemia Bale Sale” and raised close to \$20,000 for the Sunnybrook Hospital Foundation, where Byers was receiving care at the time. Looking for ways to continue to be involved during treatment,

Byers and her husband, Justin, made a \$40,000 donation to install a brand-new play structure at their children’s school.

During the Syrian war in 2015, the Canadian government allowed groups to privately sponsor Syrian families to come to Canada for humanitarian reasons. Byers said her coworker, Jessica Curtis-Blair, initiated an effort to help. “We had to have five committed people responsible for fundraising about \$35,000. Once they arrived we were responsible for finding them shelter, their day-to-day needs, and

helping them figure out how to live in Canada since there are so many differences both practically and culturally.”

She added it was a lot of work but one of the most rewarding things she has ever done. Byers said the family is doing well. “Their kids are thriving and are fluent in English. The mom raises the kids and the dad does tile work and he’s really good. We’re very proud of them. They are the most grateful Canadians you would ever meet.”

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# Route to the Past: Major Edward Norsworthy

SCOTT GILLIES

Contributor

In downtown Ingersoll there stands a building bearing the name NORSWORTHY and the date 1876. It was owned and operated by James C. Norsworthy, a private banker, investment broker, insurance agent and notary public. This structure and his family home still stand as testaments to his success. But, besides a small street bearing the family name, there is also one other monument, a memorial to bravery and duty – situated in the Ingersoll Rural Cemetery.

James and Mary Jane Norsworthy had four sons and one daughter. Each of them served in some capacity during the Great War. What follows is the story of their first-born, Edward Cuthbert Norsworthy who came into this world in May of 1879. He was educated at Ingersoll's Central School and in St. Thomas before heading off to Toronto's Upper Canada College and finally McGill University. It was there that he won the Governor-General's gold medal for mathematics.

Pursuing his father's line of business as a broker he first found employment in Toronto with the firm of G.A. Stimson & Company. George Stimson of Ingersoll had become one of the leading leaders of financial capital to various municipalities across Canada. Edward was later offered a position with Dominion Securities in Toronto and was soon promoted Head of their Montreal division.

Described as a self-made man, the architect of his own life, E.C. was highly regarded and admired by fierce friends, business colleagues and mere acquaintances. Standing 6 feet tall, clean shaven and strong jawed one could tell at a glance that he was a natural leader of men who had a zest for life and all that it had to offer.

When the First World War broke out in 1914, he was one of the first to enlist with the Canadian Army. His previous volunteer service and training with the 5th Royal Highlanders of Canada Regiment put him in good stead with the professional soldiers. During those first few weeks of the War Edward played an instrumental role in forming and shaping the 13th Battalion RHC — part of the famed Black Watch of Canada. Many of the other leading businessmen and members of high society were also prompt to do their duty. Edward was appointed to the rank of Major, and Second in Command of the Battalion.

They shipped out with the 3rd Brigade of the 1st Canadian Division, Canadian Expeditionary Force in September of 1914. Made up of volunteers from the 13th Battalion, the Royal Montreal Regiment, the 48th Highlanders and the Ca-



EDWARD NORSWORTHY

(CONTRIBUTED PHOTO)

nadian Scottish, this Division spent the first few months of war in basic training on England's Salisbury Plains. During that time, Edward honed his reputation as a leader – one who was respected by fellow officers and all other ranks.

In February of 1915 they were shipped to France to support the battered British troops. They saw limited action, mostly as reserve troops in and out of the front lines but by April 22nd they were in the thick of things.

April 22, 1915 was a bright sunny day, much like it was this year. The 13th Battalion was on the front line with French Colonial troops on their left near the Belgian town of St. Julien.

It had been a quiet day. Then, just before sunset, a German barrage began blasting the British and French trenches. The smoke and dust from these explosions blew directly into the

faces of the Allies thanks to the prevailing winds. Suddenly that brown and gray dust turned green! The Germans had unleashed the poisonous contents of 5,000 canisters of chlorine gas!

The French Colonials, the Turcos, suffered the most. The deadly gas choked and suffocated hundreds at a time. Fleeing for their lives from this new, unknown horror, they left a huge gap in the defensive line, a line which had to be filled as quickly as possible. But how?

Members of the 13th Battalion spread out along the trenches. First 5 paces apart, then another pace and then another. Eventually they were spread out nearly 20 paces from each other. Vastly outnumbered and outgunned, the brave Canadians somehow managed to stave the German assault.

On the point of the front lines was Edward Norsworthy and a small company of men who had taken offensive action in an effort to stem the tide of the assault. If the Germans were successful in getting through, they could effectively surround a large portion of the British and Allied troops, taking them prisoner or worse.

Digging into ditches along the side of a road, Edward rallied his handful of heroes, urging them to fight on, no matter the price, no matter the cost.

As they took up their positions, his aide, Captain Guy Drummond was struck by a bullet and killed instantly. Edward himself was shot through the neck but refused to be invalidated back to the Battalion. Instead, he bound his wound with his handkerchief and continued to inspire his men.

This was their first real encounter with the enemy. Canadians were still an unknown entity on the battlefield. Recognizing the seriousness of their position, and feeling the full weight of the situation, Edward spurred on his men with the words, "all of Canada is watching us".

It was during this attack, which has since become known as the Second Battle of Ypres, that Major Edward Cuthbert Norsworthy was struck by a second bullet and bayoneted before dying from his wounds. We know these details from the handful of survivors who were there with him.

The pain of this loss was felt across Canada and most notably at home here in Ingersoll. Memorial plaques were erected in both St. Paul's Presbyterian Church and St. James Anglican Church. Others were similarly erected at his alma mater in Toronto and in Montreal.

Three years to the day of his death, in 1918, a lifelike bronze bust of Edward was mounted on top of the prominent family gravestone. It can still be seen today gazing across the Ingersoll Rural Cemetery towards his boyhood home.

## Big Cheese Days are back in Oxford

LEE GRIFFI

Local Journalism Initiative Reporter

The month of May isn't only the arrival of spring, the planting season for farmers, and blooming flowers. It also means the return of Big Cheese Days.

The event runs every Saturday in May along the Oxford County Cheese Trail bringing special offers, exclusive tastes, cheese factory tours, hands-on experiences, and extra cheesy menus. The Cheese Trail is a self-guide travel itinerary where you pick the activities and stops you want to visit.

Meredith Maywood is a Tourism Specialist with Oxford County and said there are some new stops this year. "There has been plenty of action with new cheesemakers opening up in the county. For instance, New Galma Dairy (near Mount Elgin) is new, and if you haven't been by yet you can sample their delicious goudas on a baguette using an Arde-flame grill."

Another recently opened cheesemaker is Golspie Dairy located on the 45th Line just outside Woodstock who are offering a rare, hands-on experience. "You can actually go in and stretch and tie a ball of mozzarella. We just tested it the other day and it's so much fun."

Maywood added there are plenty of familiar activities that

have always been popular with cheese lovers. "You can get a taste of Welsh heritage with the Welsh Rarebit sandwich at the Red Dragon Dairy (near Salford). There are special menus at participating restaurants and activities happening throughout the county with over 32 stops on the Cheese Trail. A lot is going on."

Tourism Oxford believes the trail is a fun way to kick off what a lot of people consider the start of the tourism season. "What is unique about the trail is it's for everybody. I've seen groups of friends going around on motorcycles doing cheese country tours and hitting chocolate shops. I've seen multi-generational families go out on mystery tours so only one of them knows what the next stop is going to be. I've seen couples on romantic trips and groups of diehard foodie friends going out and having a good time together."

The cheese trail did take a one-year hiatus several years ago and the plan was to have it available every other year but the public's appetite meant having it offered yearly. "People look forward to this and interest in tourism is growing in Oxford County. Last year we had a 50 per cent increase in visitor inquiries and for 2024 we have already exceeded those numbers for January through April," said Maywood. She added the Terra Nova Nordic Spa in Hickson has helped as well as the availability of the Cheese Trail year-round.

The tourism explosion in the county hasn't gone unnoticed. Oxford is now gaining international attention, something that can only give local businesses a bigger boost. "We are on an international culinary trail for people coming to visit Canada. We are one of the stops in Ontario they suggest and we actually had people from the UK include us in their trip to the province for Big Cheese Days last year. We've had people from Belgium reach out and see what we are doing here."

Tourism Oxford is constantly looking at new ways to bring more people into Oxford County, and Maywood offered a bit of a tease on a new project that will be unveiled soon. "We are working on a new tourism product and doing the branding now. We had our first destination meeting recently and there will be some new itineraries to make travel through Oxford County easier for visitors." She added it will suggest stops that are in close proximity offering plenty of entertainment and high-impact travel. The new initiative will be launching in June.

For more information and a list of all the stops on the trail visit [https://www.tourismoxford.ca/Big\\_Cheese\\_Days.aspx/](https://www.tourismoxford.ca/Big_Cheese_Days.aspx/).

This story is being printed with permission from the Rural Oxford Economic Development Corporation.

# East Oxford Public School holds fundraiser

The school, located on Old Stage Road, hosted the annual fundraiser on April 13 at the Oxford Auditorium in Woodstock.

"A Knight Out in Oxford" featured live and a silent auction to raise funds for the school and library renovations.

(RON YUZARK PHOTOS)



Rick and Meg Skillings perusing items at the event's silent auction.



Organizers included, left to right, Tam Visser, Principal Christine Harrower, Esther Faris, Coby Jordan, Morgan Talbot, Chrissy Lee, Andrea Ormstan, and Kristy Hawkins.

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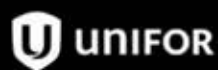
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## Ingersoll hosts Taekwondo tournament



Pictured is Master Sai Visouvath, the tournament's host

Hundreds of participants gathered at The Ingersoll District Memorial Arena on April 20 for the 14th annual Tri-Star Taekwondo Championship.

This was a fully sanctioned Taekwondo Ontario event where world rules were in effect for all black belt divisions and Taekwondo Ontario competition rules for the color levels.

Established as a not-for-profit association in 1982, Taekwondo Ontario is

the sole Provincial Sport Organization recognized by Taekwondo Canada, the National Sport Organization and the Province of Ontario.

The group, together with its partners, offers programming for coaches, athletes and officials at all levels and establishes baseline club standards for the membership to promote and develop the sport and martial art of Taekwondo in the province.

(RON YUZARK PHOTO)



Kyorugi is a free-form fight between two people subject to strict rules to avoid injuries and to ensure a fair competition

## Local hockey teams bring home hardware



The Woodstock Wildcats Senior BB team brought home gold in Mississauga at the provincial championships after a commanding win of 8-2 over 401 West rivals, the London Devilettes.

(WOODSTOCK WILDCATS PHOTO)



The U18 B Woodstock Wildcats were also in Mississauga last weekend and brought home a second gold medal for the association. They defeated Stittsville 2-1 in the championship game and were undefeated in six games.

(WOODSTOCK WILDCATS PHOTO)



The Woodstock Navy Vets U15 A team completed a successful season over the weekend winning a silver medal at the Ontario Hockey Federation Championships in Orillia. They dropped a 3-0 decision to Woolwich in the gold medal game. Two weeks ago the team finished on top of the A Division at the Alliance League Tournament in St. Thomas

(WOODSTOCK MINOR HOCKEY PHOTO)

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# Thamesford News



(DORIS WEIR PHOTO)

## Thamesford Lions tree planting

LEE GRIFFI

*Local Journalism Initiative Reporter*

Some lion-hearted volunteers rolled up their sleeves and got down to earth this month beside the Thamesford Community Centre.

They didn't just plant trees - they planted hope, sustainability, and a promise for the future. A total of 12 new trees found their roots in rich

soil today, adding to the park's vibrant ecosystem. Among them, three mighty oaks and nine majestic red maples stand tall, ready to provide shade, shelter, and beauty for generations to come.

It's moments like these that remind us of the power of community and the importance of preserving our natural world. Together, we can make a difference, one tree at a time.



Members of the Trojans salute their fans for the great support they were given all season.

(DORIS WEIR PHOTO)

## Trojans season ends after four-game sweep at the hands of Canadiens



Alex MacLeod finds the back of the net late in the fourth and final game of the series against Lakeshore.

(DORIS WEIR PHOTO)

LEE GRIFFI

*Local Journalism Initiative Reporter*

The Thamesford Trojans finished the 2023-24 season with 30 wins in 42 regular season games, good for the regular season title. They had a playoff record of 12 wins against 8 losses and won the Yeck Division title in five games over Mt. Brydges. But they were no match for Lakeshore.

The Canadiens steamrolled the Trojans in four games, outscoring Thamesford 22-5 in the process. General Manager Brad Underwood said simply put, they were defeated by a better team. "I've been in junior hockey for well over 20 years and that's the best junior hockey team I've ever seen. Congratulations to Lakeshore and their GM Mark Seguin. They're a class organization and they are one of the best teams in the PJHL year after year and there is a reason why." Seguin, a Windsor native and former goalie, has spent 14 seasons with the organization after his junior hockey career and three campaigns with the University of Windsor Lancers.

Despite not making the league semi-finals Underwood explained he couldn't be more pleased at how the season unfolded. "I'm ecstatic. We turned over almost two-thirds of our roster from last year so if you had asked me if I was happy if we would win the Yeck, I would say absolutely." He added the new kids brought in played exceptionally well. "I'm extremely proud of what we accomplished this year."

As for what the roster might look like on opening day this fall, Underwood said he plans to lose at least half of his team

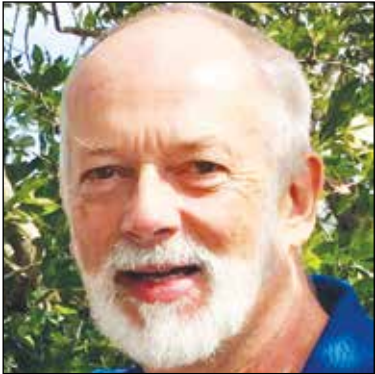
every year. "Kids graduating, kids going away to school, you plan on replacing 10 to 12 players every year. Not sure what that looks like for us yet as we are still trying to go through the process of having our banquet and having exit interviews. But half the team may not return. Unfortunately, that's the name of the game in junior hockey."

Anyone familiar with the PJHL knows Thamesford has a quality team year after year in a tough Yeck Division. Rarely does a team win back-to-back titles but Underwood said the group on the management and coaching side of things gives them a chance every year. "We've got a really good group of dedicated people who have been around for a long time. Knowing you have their support and them in your corner helping out helps a lot."

He added the Trojans are able to recruit players attending Western and Fanshawe because of their geographical location. "That does give us an advantage compared to other organizations that may not be close to a college or university. We are a little fortunate that way." Underwood is well aware that to ice a successful team it takes not only hockey expertise but countless hours and efforts by volunteers and sponsors. He said Thamesford is blessed to have an extraordinary off-ice team. "We have unwavering support and generosity. They play a significant role in our success. They provide us with the resources to compete at the highest levels. To have that from the community and the executive, the township, everybody from top to bottom, it doesn't go unnoticed," said Underwood. "It's a heartfelt thanks to everyone. We are blessed."



# Oh, the places we'll go! Not the usual rides, glitz and amusing animals of Orlando



PAUL KNOWLES

*Times Contributor*

We discovered this place with a collection of parks, just outside Orlando, Fla. It has great rides, a restaurant named for an animal mascot and amazing displays of over-the-top glitz.

Disney World? Well, we did also visit Disney – more of that in the coming weeks – but I am talking about an elegant, small city named Winter Park, a destination that is really the opposite of Disney, except both are great places to visit.

Winter Park had its beginnings as a winter getaway for well-to-do folks from the chilly north. It was originally named Lakeview – it adopted its current name in 1887. It has grown – the population is now something near 30,000 – but it hasn't moved far from those roots. Today, it is still known for its stately homes, beautiful natural settings, high-end shopping and dining, and focus on the arts. Winter Park is also home to the highly reputed Rollins College,



(PAUL KNOWLES PHOTOS)

**This Tiffany creation is a series of four doors created to give the homeowners a spectacular view of their garden.**

a liberal-arts college founded in 1885 by Congregationalists from New England.

All of that may explain why this certainly is not Disney.

Winter Park's parks are just that. The city is dotted with green spaces, often used for arts events and concerts. One highlight is the Winter Park Sidewalk Art Festival in mid-March. Held in Central Park and along adjoining streets, it attracts over 200,000 visitors each year.

Okay, I promised you rides and that doesn't seem likely in this setting, does it? But the thing is, Winter Park is situated on not one but three beautiful lakes. They're linked by quaint, narrow canals lined with wooden planks and a

venerable operation called Winter Park Scenic Tours has been conducting boat tours of the lakes and canals since 1938. That's 33 years before Disney World opened.

The tour suits the ambience of the town. It's leisurely and friendly. The guides are very well informed, excellent communicators and funny as heck. The company operates about 10 small boats; they leave the docks in a miniature flotilla.

The time on the lakes is interesting, and the dozen or so passengers on each small boat get to see Rollins College and the elegant homes – celebrity owners are specifically not identified out of respect for their privacy – but the highlights are the passages through the one-lane canals lined with trees and gardens and tiny boathouses, always including the possibility that somebody is going to have to back their way out of the canal to make room for an oncoming vessel. In our case, it was oncoming kayakers that did an about face to allow



**Quintessential Tiffany lamps.**

our passage.

These comfortable tours are a highlight for any visitor to Winter Park and they cost – wait for it – \$20 for an adult and half that for a child. Winter Park may have a justifiable reputation as a high-end community, but that price is totally low-end for anything Orlando and worth every penny. Yes, Americans do still use pennies.

There are plenty of places to eat and drink in Winter Park across the spectrum of price and cuisine, but we were quite taken with the gastropub with an animal mascot. Not a cute rodent, but a beast dubbed The Ravenous Pig, which is the name of the place. It could also describe some of the diners, I suppose, including yours truly.

The Ravenous Pig is owned by the head chef and the menu changes every day depending on what produce is best and freshest.

The food is great, the wine list very good, the products on the on-site brewery are excellent, but the best thing about it was the service – everyone from the guy doing the

free valet parking to the person at the welcome desk to the manager were over-the-top friendly and helpful.

The walls of the place are well decorated with unique art and sculpture, often featuring pigs, of course, but that is not the over-the-top glitz I referred to earlier.

Winter Park is home to a number of good museums and galleries, and chief among them, from my point of view, the Charles Hosmer Morse Museum of Great American Art.

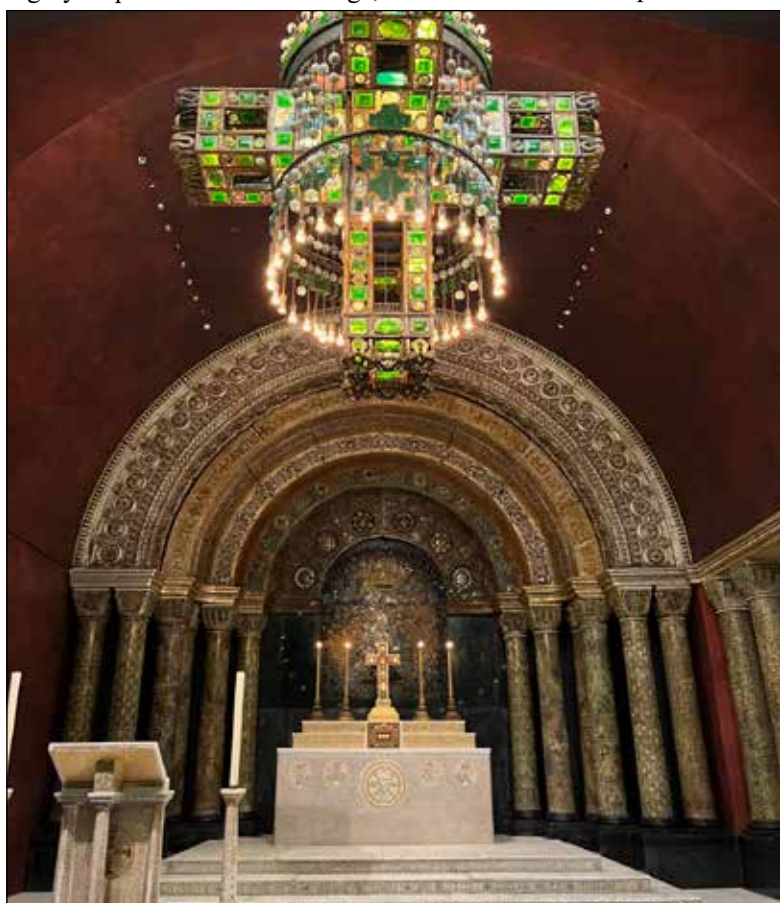
What makes the Morse special is this is the home of perhaps the most comprehensive collection of the spectacular work of glass-making genius Louis Comfort Tiffany anywhere in the world.

Most of us know about Tiffany lamps – and there are plenty of those here – but this museum houses dramatic Tiffany windows, miraculous mirrors, elaborate vases, amazing jewelry and, in fact, entire rooms including the gob-smacking Tiffany Chapel, a unique and lavishly decorated chapel which Tiffany created for the 1893 World's Columbian Exposition in Chicago.

I'm not sure this chapel inspires worship of anyone but Tiffany. It's that impressive!

We came away convinced that Winter Park is an ideal break for anyone on a theme park pilgrimage to Orlando. Those parks are definitely fun, but Winter Park's stylistic ambience coupled with the warm welcome we encountered everywhere makes for a delightful and relaxing day out.

*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).*



The astonishing Tiffany Chapel, now at the Morse Museum.



One of the quaint, wood-lined canals that are part of the Winter Park Scenic Cruise.

# City woman facing charges after drug seizure

LEE GRIFFI

Local Journalism Initiative Reporter

Woodstock Police seized nearly \$100,000 worth of drugs and cash in a recent traffic stop.

On Tuesday, April 9 just before midnight, an officer on general patrol conducted a traffic stop in the area of Dundas Street and Beards Lane. Police determined the passenger in the vehicle was wanted on an outstanding warrant.

Uniform patrol officers, with help from the Woodstock Police Service Drug Enforcement and Criminal Intel-

ligence Unit, found the suspect to have suspected fentanyl, cocaine, methamphetamine, and crack cocaine, \$3390 in Canadian currency, and two folding knives.

The 33-year-old woman was arrested and charged with two counts of possession for the purpose of trafficking, one count of possession of property obtained by crime under \$5000, two counts of possession of a schedule I substance, one count of possession of a weapon for a dangerous purpose, failure to comply with a probation order, and failure to comply with an undertaking.

**Right: Police took nearly \$100,000 worth of drugs off the street following a recent bust. A 33-year-old Woodstock woman faces a long list of charges.**

(WOODSTOCK POLICE PHOTO)



## Oxford Ontario Provincial Police Briefs

LEE GRIFFI

Local Journalism Initiative Reporter

### One golf cart stolen and one damaged

Police are seeking the public's assistance in the mischief and theft of golf carts from a business in Ingersoll.

On Wednesday, April 17 at 6:30 a.m., the police responded to a report of theft and damage to golf carts, at the Ingersoll Golf and Country Club on Holcroft Street in Ingersoll. The incident occurred sometime between 3:30 a.m. and 4:00 a.m.

One golf cart has been damaged, and the amount of damage is being assessed. The golf cart reported stolen is described as a two-seater, beige, with a black roof and a red Stanmore sticker. The approximate value of the cart is \$9000.

### Police investigating door-to-door sales incidents

Provincial Police are urging residents to be vigilant

as there has been an increase in high-pressure door-to-door sales in Oxford County.

On Thursday, April 18 police received several reports of a person going door to door trying to convince residents to change their medical alert system. Those people felt unsure about the situation and contacted their current provider and police. Police are continuing to investigate.

If you are unsure if a salesperson at your door is reputable, police are providing the following tips:

- Remember you don't have to open your door. If you ask a salesperson to leave, they must leave right away. If you feel unsafe, call police.
- Ask for identification - reputable companies and charitable organizations use photo identification. If they don't have identification with them or it feels suspicious, end the conversation and call police.
- Don't give in to the pressure - if you are pressured to

act quickly or enter into an agreement or contract, end the conversation, and take time to think about the deal proposed. If you are interested, research the information they provide you. Reputable sales representatives will have information packets available about their products or services.

• When it comes to providing personal information, be very careful about what you share. Reputable sales representatives will never ask for your Social Insurance Number, your banking information, or passwords.

The following link offers more tips: <https://www.ontario.ca/page/door-door-sales-and-home-service-contracts>. The OPP reminds all members of the public that if you suspect you have come across a scam, or have been a victim of fraud, please contact the OPP at 1-888-310-1122 or the Canadian Anti-Fraud Centre at 1-888-495-8501.

## Woman with ties to Woodstock wanted by police

LEE GRIFFI

Local Journalism Initiative Reporter

Waterloo Regional Police are asking for the public's help to locate a female in connection to a criminal investigation.

28-year-old Alexandra Krafchek Alfaro is known to frequent the cities of Waterloo and Woodstock. She is 5 feet 4 inches tall with black hair and is wanted on a total of 25 charges. Those include three counts of fraud under \$5000, two counts of possession of stolen goods over \$5000, four counts of identity fraud, conspiracy to commit an indictable offence, two counts of motor vehicle theft, failure to comply with an undertaking and a judicial release, as well as obstructing a police officer.

Police say Krafchek Alfaro's current whereabouts are unknown. Anyone with information is asked to call police at 519-570-9777. To provide anonymous information, contact Crime Stoppers at 1-800-222-8477 or submit a tip online at [www.waterloocrimestoppers.com](http://www.waterloocrimestoppers.com).

**Right: Waterloo Regional Police are looking for 28-year-old Alexandra Krafchek Alfaro is known to frequent Woodstock**

(WATERLOO REGION POLICE PHOTO)



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# Riddles

I am a kind of coat that can only be put on when wet. What am I?  
Paint

Which band never plays music?  
A rubber band

What time of day, when written in capital letters, is the same forward, backward, and upside down?  
NOON

Which two keys cannot open any doors?  
Monkeys and donkeys

What falls often but never gets hurt?  
Rain

What word is spelled wrong in every dictionary?  
Wrong

What room doesn't have any windows?  
A mushroom

What begins with an E but only has one letter in it?  
An envelope

If two snakes marry, what will their towels say?  
Hiss and hers

What building has the most stories?  
A library

What do you answer even though it never asks you questions?  
A phone

# Sudoku

Sudoku

by PeterS 2024

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

Solutions on page 27

Basic (15)

## Featured Pet



### ROSA

Hi my name is Rosa! I'm 6 years old - my favourite people are grandma & grandpa and my favourite place to visit is Aunt Melly's house. I love stealing food from my niece and nephews, leaving trails of fluff everywhere I go and going on adventures. My mum is so proud of me and loves me to the moon and back.

Nominate your pet to be a Featured Pet by emailing [info@theecho.ca](mailto:info@theecho.ca)

# Word Search

## EARTH DAY EVERY DAY

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

Climate

Habitat

Ocean

Environment

Pollution

Sustainable

Recycle

Forest

Green

Conservation

Ecology

Compost

Renewable

## Police issue plea for information on missing city man



Bill has been missing for over a year and police are hoping someone will provide them with information to locate him.

(WOODSTOCK POLICE PHOTO)

LEE GRIFFI

Local Journalism Initiative Reporter

Woodstock Police are still looking for a missing person, over one year after his disappearance.

Police started a missing person investigation for 46-year-old Bill (William) on March 26, 2023. He was last seen in the area of Ingersoll Road and Dundas Street. Bill is described as approximately five foot, eight inches with a thin build, light brown hair, balding on top with blue eyes. He also has various tattoos including a neck tattoo of a woman's profile with a flower in her hair.

Police and community members have spent hours searching, deploying various tools and resources, and appealing to the public for information that could help locate him.

"My dad has been missing for almost a year now. This is unlike him, and it is really hard not knowing. It's not only me

who is being impacted by this. He has an 11-year-old daughter who looks at her dad as her best friend. We are very concerned for his safety and well-being. As of right now, we have no idea what happened or where he is. We have searched tirelessly to find him. We ask that anyone who has information about where he was leading up to his disappearance, please share it with police if they haven't already, so police can follow any leads they haven't already looked into." The quote was provided by a member of Bill's family.

The Woodstock Police Service continues to investigate all information and leads provided. If anyone has information about this investigation, please contact Detective Constable Robb or Detective Constable Bryant at 519-537-2323 or provide an anonymous tip to Crime Stoppers of Oxford Inc. online at [www.oxfordcrimestoppers.com](http://www.oxfordcrimestoppers.com) or call 1-800-222-TIPS (8477).

## Woodstock Police take more drugs off the street



Woodstock Police arrested two city residents and confiscated over \$30,000 worth of fentanyl.

(WOODSTOCK POLICE PHOTO)

LEE GRIFFI

Local Journalism Initiative Reporter

Two city residents face drug trafficking charges.

In March 2024, the Woodstock Police Service Criminal Intelligence and Drug Enforcement Unit launched an investigation into drug trafficking in Woodstock.

At about 3:45 p.m. on April 17, police located and arrested suspects on Dundas Street between Riddell Street and Graham Street. Subsequently, a search warrant was executed at an address on

Delatre Street with the assistance of the Community Response Unit, Criminal Investigations Bureau and Uniform Patrol. As a result, police seized suspected fentanyl with an approximate street value of \$32,910, as well as \$575 in Canadian currency.

A 52-year-old woman and a 38-year-old man, both of Woodstock, are facing one count each of possession of a Schedule I substance for the purpose of trafficking.

The accused are in custody for a bail hearing.

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# Oxford Local History Day

The Oxford County Library was honored to host the fourth annual Oxford Local History Day on Saturday, April 20. This event serves as an opportunity to honor and explore the narratives and events that have shaped Oxford County. Celebrations at the

OCL branches in Ingersoll and Tillsonburg featured captivating talks by local historians and activities suitable for all age groups. Attendees had the chance to engage with collections, displays, and highlighted stories from archives, museums, and heritage

organizations throughout Oxford County. Notable presentations in Ingersoll included "Unlawful Behaviors: Female Deviants in the Oxford Jail" by Rebecca Beusaert, Adjunct History Professor at the University of Guelph, and "Potter's Field at Ingersoll

Rural Cemetery: Sharing Lost Stories" by Cody Groat, Associate History Professor at Western University, which paid tribute to the lives of those buried there, including formerly enslaved individuals and the unhouesed. (RON YUZARK PHOTOS)



Janice and Don Ferguson are local historians



The Chamber was filled to capacity for Rebecca Beusaert's presentation of "Unlawful Behaviors: Female Deviants in the Oxford Jail"

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# Beachville-area artist Mercedes Victoria's creative pathway displayed on 2024 Oxford Studio Tour

JEFF TRIBE

*Echo Contributor*

The progression through Beachville-area artist Mercedes Victoria's studio mirrors her creative journey, one of many unique and evolving visions highlighted on the 2024 Oxford Studio Tour.

Scheduled for Saturday, May 4 and Sunday, May 5 from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m., the curated tour is an annual celebration of the county's artistic community's creativity. Twenty-four artists are participating in this year's event in 12 locations throughout Oxford, including Woodstock, Beachville, Ingersoll, Salford, Tillsonburg and tour founder Sue Goossens's rural property just outside Otterville.

Descriptions of each artist, their chosen media - or the media which has chosen them - and a map to individual or shared display locations are included in full-colour brochures available at artistic or tourist facilities in Oxford or via the website [www.oxfordstudiotour.ca](http://www.oxfordstudiotour.ca). Locations will be identified with bright red signs on tour dates. Interested persons are also invited to call Tillsonburg's Creative Arts Centre at 519-842-6151 for more information.

Visitors to Victoria's studio will be greeted by distinctive and detailed black-and-white chalk pastel, charcoal and graphite pencil pieces on the wall directly to the right of its entrance. 'Watch Me How I Go' takes centre stage, a layered piece drawing the viewer visually along an icy trail through a foggy, eerie

landscape inspired by a wintry morning stop along Golf Links Road outside of Burford.

"I wanted to pull you in," Victoria smiled, noting its name and metaphorical interpretation were inspired by her determined and hard-working oma's (grandmother) familiar saying.

In part concession change and challenge lay ahead, her oma's words were also a declaration of intent. They have been generationally repeated in a change in Victoria's artistic path last summer, the results displayed deeper within her studio space: gravestone rubbings and epitaphs done in oil pastel on died and distressed muslin.

No names, nothing to identify specific individuals is included in the work, however, she finds a powerful connection to a retrospective combination beginning with artwork from the stones themselves.

"And so much emotion in the words, particularly those relating to children."

Victoria sources all components of her Redeemer University degree - honours psychology, visual arts and art history - in attempting to connect viewers to deeper meaning she considers more important than appearance.

"That's the goal of it, I want to get a message across with my pieces."

Smiling, Victoria says her latest work gets two majority reactions: people nod politely and keep walking, or really drill down on what she's trying to accomplish.

"I think it's a connection to the people who were here before us, remembering them and connecting to that basic truth - we all live and die. Our lives are different, but it's the same start and finish."

Victoria's chosen creative path is among 17 different media highlighted on the tour, including oil, acrylic and watercolour paintings, jewellery, weaving, fibre and gourd art, woodworking, photography, pottery and sculpture.

"I like being part of that community and meeting people and hopefully sharing a bit of what I've done," said Victoria. "Everyone is supportive of each other and interested in what each other is doing, in a good way."

"There is so much diversity in kinds of art and approaches, and I think it's growing too."

Fellow tour host Holly Jo's artistic foundations are sculpture and installation-based work around grief and lived experience.

"And finding wisdom in that experience, whatever trauma you've had or are currently going through."

Discovering, exploring and joining the county's artistic community has positively impacted their transition from Toronto to Woodstock, a pathway acceptance into a competition for a permanent, public art installation in the city, working on collaborations with lo-

cal art galleries and entrepreneurs, and realizing her dream of operating her own facility, The Kiln Room Ceramic & Art Studio on Light Street, just north of Dundas. After two years of touring as a visitor, Holly Jo is excited to join as a first-time exhibitor.

Admittedly, they have a professional affinity for ceramic artists including Woodstock's Ruth Hartley, pleased to 'meet, rub shoulders and find inspiration in her work.' Holly Jo has also been struck by Devorah Gardner's Killarney-inspired landscapes, based on positive personal memories of the area.

However, Holly Jo also enjoys the tour's variety, from a depth of painting talent to Robert Norrie's unique custom metal art sculptures, which touch on welding experience in her own background.

"There is a refreshing breadth of different artistic mediums."

Echoing Victoria's observation, the tour's timing provides a prime chance to combine appreciation for art with getting out and enjoying springtime in Oxford, Holly Jo also sees the event as a positive tourism opportunity, for both in-county residents and those from well beyond.

"You want people to know this is happening and there is a reason to come back."



Beachville area's Mercedes Victoria's artistic journey led to oil pastel gravestone rubbings, uniquely finished to share forgotten images and emotions from previous generations.

(JEFF TRIBE PHOTO)



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# Golspie Dairy offering cheesemaking workshops

EMILY STEWART

*Echo Correspondent*

Cheese enthusiasts will have a chance to make their own at Golspie Dairy. The dairy farm, located on the 45th Line near Woodstock, will be hosting “Stretching the Curd” cheesemaking workshops every Saturday in May.

Marja DeBoer-Marshall, cheesemaker, and operations manager at dairy, said the workshops are part of the Big Cheese Days run by Tourism Oxford. Stops on the Oxford County Cheese Trail usually offer tastings and tours, but Golspie Dairy wanted to do something different. “We thought it would be fun to do a class that focuses on the most fun parts of the cheesemaking process,” said DeBoer-Marshall.

The workshops will teach participants how to make a stretched curd cheese called pasta filata, where the curds are washed and spun in a process called filature. The cheese is kneaded into a dough and can be shaped into a large mozzarella ball, bocconcini, braids, or Oaxaca, a Latin-American style cheese that is first rolled into a long strand and then into a ball. The cheese can either be eaten on its own or used to top a pizza.

“It’s kind of fun, you get to play with it, make it into a fun shape and then you get to take it home with you and eat it,” DeBoer-Marshall said. She added while many people know that cheese is made from milk, they don’t know the physical and chemical reactions taking place during the in-between steps. The workshops provide an opportunity for food production education. “Everybody knows how to go to a grocery store or a restaurant and get the food or eat the food, but all of those steps to make the food,” she added. “There’s a lot of science and art behind everyday food that we eat, so it’s cool to be part of it.”

This will be the first educational event run by Golspie Dairy since starting their cheesemaking operations around a year and a half ago. “If it goes over well, we’re inter-



Laurence Marshall and Marja DeBoer-Marshall of Golspie Dairy will run cheesemaking workshops every Saturday in May, as part of Oxford County’s Big Cheese Days initiative

(PHOTO BY GABRIELLE BOSSY - CULINARY TOURISM ALLIANCE)

ested in doing more and maybe having farm tours in the future. We always have people wanting to know more about the cows and how we milk them and all that stuff,” DeBoer-Marshall said.

Classes are \$55 per person. DeBoer-Marshall recommends signing up for the chee-

semaking workshops as soon as possible as there are just eight spots for each class.

To register, visit [www.golspiedairy.ca/products/stretching-the-curd](http://www.golspiedairy.ca/products/stretching-the-curd). More Oxford County Cheese Trail stops can be found by visiting [www.tourismoxford.ca/things\\_to\\_do/culinary\\_and\\_farms/cheese\\_trail](http://www.tourismoxford.ca/things_to_do/culinary_and_farms/cheese_trail).

## Weekend Quiz

1. Who created the first gasoline powered car?
2. What was the supercontinent on Earth called?
3. What was the first space probe sent to space?
4. What does RRSP stand for?
5. When did Nixon resign?
6. What is the most dangerous chemical element?
7. Who voices Joy in Pixar’s Inside Out?
8. What follows Millions, Billions, and Trillions?
9. What is the capital of Australia?
10. How many colors are there on a rubix cube?

This week’s answers are found on pg. 27



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

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

# Worship With Us

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 Weekly Friday Congregational Prayer  
 For more information call 519-788-2282  
[info@muslimassociationwoodstock.com](mailto:info@muslimassociationwoodstock.com)

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 Sunday School 9:30 am  
 Sunday Worship Service 10:30 am  
 Pastor 519.521.3491



**St. David's United Church**  
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 519-539-3161  
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**Old St. Paul's Anglican Church**  
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*Join us for worship, music and fellowship*  
 With our new Interim Priest  
 Rev Mark Kinghan  
 Sundays at 11am  
 followed by coffee hour.  
**May 5: Congregational Meeting**  
 (Immediately following the service)  
 Historic Old St. Paul's: Celebrating 190 years

# COMING EVENTS

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

## INGERSOLL CHORAL SOCIETY EVENING OF SONG

Friday, May 3rd; 7:00 p.m.

Ingersoll Christian Reformed Church, 429 King St. W., Ingersoll

Ingersoll Choral Society presents an evening of song in support of IDCI's Music Department. This fun show will include special guest performers from IDCI's student body. Free will donation.

## HISTORIC SETTING FOR MOTHER'S DAY TEA Saturday, May 11th; Sitings at 11 a.m. and 2:30 p.m. Beachville District Museum: 584367 Beachville Rd, Beachville

Celebrate Mother's Day this spring with loved ones and friends at the Mother's Day Tea, hosted by the Zorra Heritage Committee at the historic Beachville District Museum. Each ticket includes a selection of sweet treats and three types of teas, along with a complimentary photo taken in the Museum's Parlour Room by Doris Weir Photography. Space is limited and tickets are by advance only for this fun fundraiser. They may be purchased in person at the Beachville District Museum or on line at [www.beachvilledistrict-museum.com](http://www.beachvilledistrict-museum.com) Adults are \$25, children 12 and under \$10.

## OXFORD BRANCH WEBINAR – SCOTTISH COLLECTION AT THE MCLAUGHLIN LI- BRARY U OF GUELPH

Monday, May 13th; 7 p.m. to 8 p.m.

Online meeting on Zoom

Oxford Branch of Ontario Ancestors would like to invite you to join us for our May meeting on Zoom. Kathryn Harvey, Archivist will take us on an exploration of the Scottish Collection at the McLaughlin Library, University of Guelph. Please visit our website at <https://oxford.ogs.on.ca> to register for this meeting. There is no cost and everyone is welcome.

## 24TH ANNUAL WIENERFEST

Saturday, June 22nd & Sunday, June 23rd;

9:30 a.m. - 4 p.m.

Woodstock Fairgrounds - 875 Nellis St., Woodstock

Voted by Expedia. ca as the top 6th festival in Canada to visit. Now a two day event! Also Canadian Dachshund Rusty Ru Ru will be there, as well as a Dog pool, sponsored by Doggo Den Training, for people who want to try out the sport!! On Saturday, we will be having a concert featuring Country Singer Shelly Rastin. On Saturday there will be a large outdoor/indoor shopping market. In between shopping, talk to health professionals about how to train your dog, get your dogs nails trimmed, learn about your dogs health, what type of food they should eat. Talk to the professionals at Pathways and Woof Pet Wellness about treating your dogs IVDD and what are the alternatives. Try out some fun stuff with your dog, lure course, agility course, dock diving, learn how to do tricks with your dogs. Getting to hot outside, go into the building and cool off. Later come out, grab some food, your dogs can cool off in the dog pool, meet professionals to talk about concerns with your dog at the IAMS care center. We will have a meet and greet with Canadian Hero, Rusty Ru Ru, the Canadian Dachshund. Also at the festival will be Canadian Food Network star, Tiffany Pratt, with her dachshund Poppy. Don't forget the fun games, costume contest, yogurt licking contest, bobbing for wieners games, and of course the WIENER RACES!!!! Don't leave yet!!! Join us for a fun music interlude with Shelly Rastin, at 4:30 p.m. Come back on Sunday for some

more fun, where we celebrate the Sumer Olympics, by having our own Paw Olympics. You can join the small country, medium country or Large Dog Country. There will be approximately 12 games for your dog to compete in and try to win the Bonze, Sliver, Gold medal for your Dog Country. Contact Linda Sonnenburg at [info@wienerfest.ca](mailto:info@wienerfest.ca) for info and volunteer opportunities.

## REPAIR CAFÉ

4th Saturday of each month; 10:00 a.m. - Noon

Hosted by East Oxford 403 Anglican Churches

St. John's Church, 685860 Oxford Rd. 2, Woodstock

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

## HURON PARK BAPTIST CHURCH EVENTS:

199 Berwick St, Woodstock

## PICKLEBALL

Second and fourth Saturday of each month; 9-11 a.m.

Playing equipment and instructions provided. Please wear non-marking indoor shoes. Call the church office to enrol. 519-421-4722

## MOTHER'S DAY

May 12th; 10:30 a.m.

Guest Speaker – John Stavroupoulos – with Ethnos Canada John and Alysse are on furlough from their ministry in Mexico.

## YOUNG AT HEART – SENIORS EVENT

May 23rd; Meet at church 11:00 a.m. for carpooling.

Lunch at the Mandarin (on Wellington in London). Call the church office for details. 519-421-4722

## AMAZING RACE – LADIES EVENT

May 25th; 9 a.m. to 3 p.m.

A fun opportunity to connect with each other, explore Oxford County and enjoy a great day away. Call the church office for details on how to sign up. 519-421-4722

## WOODSTOCK MOOSE LODGE EVENTS:

690 Sutherland Drive, Woodstock

## FRIDAY NIGHT DANCES

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

## KARAOKE

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

## ANNUAL CLASSIC CAR SHOW

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

Once a month car show

## MOTHER'S DAY BRUNCH

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

Bring Mom for a Mother's Day brunch at the Moose! \$7.50 per person.

## FATHER'S DAY JAMBOREE

Sunday, June 16th; 12:00 p.m. Noon to 4:00 p.m.

Father's Day Jamboree Fundraiser with Gerald Davidson & Country. \$12.00 @ the door. This will be a family event.

## TRIBUTE TO THE KING OF ROCK 'N' ROLL FEATURING BRANDON SAUNDERS

July 13th; Doors open at 7 pm

Show Starts at 8 pm to 10:30 pm

\$25.00 per couple in advance by calling 519-537-6010 at the door \$15.00 per person Limited Tickets available

## ROYAL CANADIAN LEGION EVENTS:

642 Dundas Street, Woodstock

SHUFFLEBOARD - Every Thursday afternoon

SUMMER DART LEAGUE - Starts April 25th

CADETS - Mondays

OUR ROAST BEEF DINNER - April 26th

with Mashed Potatoes & Carrots for \$18.00

MEAT DRAW - April 27th

EVENING ENTERTAINMENT SATURDAYS

April 27th Back to Back 7-11pm

## HAPPENING AT SOUTH GATE CENTRE:

191 Old Wellington St. S. Woodstock; 519-539-9817

NEW COUNTRY DANCE WITH NEON RAIN

May 3rd; 7 p.m. - 11 p.m.

with a light buffet at 9 pm. Draws and Prizes. \$25.

SOUTH GATE CRUISE-IN CLASSIC CAR SHOW

May 8th; 5 p.m.

Free Admission. Fun, Music and Prizes. Rib Dinner by Local Roots available for \$20

MOTHER'S DAY AFTERNOON TEA

May 9th; 2 p.m. - 4 p.m.

Elegant Tea Service with delightful English treats.

GARDEN EXTRAVAGANZA, BAKE SALE & MOTHER'S DAY BRUNCH

May 11th; 9 a.m. - 1 p.m.

Outdoor event. Plants, hanging baskets, birdhouses, perennials, one-of-a-kind accessories.

MURDER MYSTERY DINNER THEATRE

May 24th; 6 p.m.

The Great Gaspe. Flapper dresses & zoot suits welcome, or come as you are. \$40 for dinner and the show.

BUS TRIP TO WHISTLING GARDENS

June 3rd

Lunch included and a tour of Ramblin Road Brewery - \$99

FREE SENIORS BBQ

June 4th; Noon

Everyone over the age of 50 welcome.

BUS TRIP TO SEE THE CLAIRVOYANTS AT FALLSVIEW CASINO

June 25th

with \$35 in slot play - \$89.

**HAVE AN EVENT COMING UP? Let us know!**

**Contact: [info@theecho.ca](mailto:info@theecho.ca) or call 519-655-2341**

# BUSINESS DIRECTORY

## CONSULTING



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## QUIZ ANSWERS

1. Karl Benz
2. Pangea
3. Voyager 1
4. Registered Retirement Savings Plan
5. Aug. 8, 1974
6. Plutonium
7. Amy Poehler
8. Quadrillion
9. Canberra
10. Six

## SUDOKU

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

*Marion Buchanan-Carter*

1924 2018



*We would like to wish our mother a Happy Heavenly 100th Birthday on May 13, 2024. Miss you every day. Margaret and Russell.*

# CLASSIFIEDS

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

## TREES

Shade trees, Fruit trees, Apple, Pears, Peaches, Plums, Sweet and Sour Cherries, Apricot, Nectarines, Blueberry, Haskopp, Black Chokeberry, Grapes etc.  
Lots of Spruce, Pine, Cedars for wind-breaks and privacy hedges, Sizes 1 to 6+. Flowering shrubs and much more.  
Come check us out Mon-Sat  
7:00am - 6:00pm  
Martin's Nursery, 42661 Orangehill Road, Wroxeter (1 concession north of Wroxeter on Belmore Line)

## FOR SALE

John Deere 1020 Gas Loader Tractor, 1967 Waterloo Model, lots of new parts. \$9500 OBO  
Call Kris 519-463-5583

All kinds of used and washed golf balls. Bag in a bakers dozen (13) \$5 or \$10  
Call 519-462-2701

## SERVICES

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

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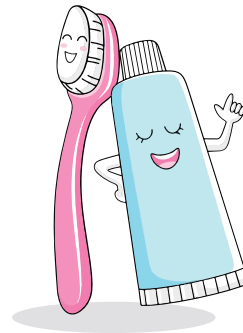
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# Healthy Smiles Ontario

A government-funded program designed for families in need of support.

**Q** Who can apply for non-emergency care?

**A** You can apply for your children if they are: 17 years of age and under, live in Ontario, come from a household with an income equal to or less than the levels in the table below.

## Before you start

Before you begin the online application, you'll need:

- 1 Your child(ren)'s date(s) of birth.
- 2 A valid Ontario address your Social Insurance Number (SIN) or Temporary Taxation Number (TTN).
- 3 To have filed your taxes in the previous year.

## Did you know?

Southwestern Public Health connects families to the Healthy Smiles Ontario program through school dental screenings.

## Income eligibility requirements

# of dependent children in your household

Family net income (as of July 1, 2023)

1 child	\$26,551 or lower
2 children	\$28,560 or lower
3 children	\$30,568 or lower
4 children	\$32,577 or lower
5 children	\$34,586 or lower
6 children	\$36,595 or lower
7 children	\$38,603 or lower
8 children	\$40,612 or lower
9 children	\$42,621 or lower
10 or more	\$44,630 or lower

Add \$2,009 for each additional dependent child to determine the income level at which your family would qualify for Healthy Smiles Ontario.

For more information: 1-800-922-0096 | [swpublichealth.ca/kidsdental](https://swpublichealth.ca/kidsdental)