

The Village Voice

SOUTH WEST OXFORD TOWNSHIP
Issue 137 Since 2014

VOICE

FEBRUARY 2026

INTER-CHURCH

Once again, we had a very successful Christmas Hamper delivery season. We would like to thank the Ingersoll & area communities for your loyal & generous support of the inter-Church. We would like to thank Cami, Unifor 88, Thamesford Lions, Kiwanis, Rotary & Ingersoll Lions, church communities, Tremblett's Independent for the food in the hampers and Giant Tiger for boxes, also all other businesses & groups in the area that made the work we do possible. We assisted 85 families with rent support, 54 families with utility support & 6 individuals with medical assistance. We also, delivered food & gifts to 412 families at Christmas, 1,145 people in total, 333 were under 14 years of age. If you are interested in donating you can e-transfer donations to interchurch2005@gmail.com, please include your name & email address if you would like a tax donation receipt. Cheques can be mailed to Ingersoll & District inter-Church 56 Thames St S, Ingersoll N5C 2S9.

COLDEST NIGHT OF THE YEAR WALK

The Coldest Night of the Year is a winterrific, family-friendly fund-raising walk in support of United Way Oxford's Tillsonburg Light House, a transition house that provides a stable home with on-site wraparound services from the Oxford County Community Health Centre, and United Way Oxford-funded Tillsonburg services. Join us Feb 28, 4-7pm at the Lion's Auditorium in Tillsonburg. All funds raised in Tillsonburg stay in Tillsonburg! Walk with us. Warm hearts. Change lives. Sign up here: <https://cnoy.org/location/tillsonburg>.

COME CELEBRATE YOUR CELTIC ROOTS

St. James' Church Ingersoll is celebrating Celtic culture in preparation for St. Patrick's Day! We are pleased to present the duo "The Paddy Stones" Sat, Mar 7 who will definitely entertain you with a vast selection of tunes. All the way from Tillsonburg deep down in County Oxford, The Paddy Stones are 2 acoustic guitar playing gents who have entertained crowds for years at highland games, pubs, restaurants & private parties. They play pub favourites from Ireland, Scotland, the East Coast & Sea Shanties with plenty of song variations. Rick & Dan love to get the audience involved and ensure that attendees have a great time. They will post the words of many songs so all can see & sing along. This special concert happens Sat, Mar 7, 2-4pm at St. James' Church, 130 Thames St. S, Ingersoll. There will be an intermission when yummy Irish treats will be made available! Tickets \$20 call the church office 519-485-0385 or call or text 519-878-4494, stjamesingersoll@gmail.com. Come & join us for a fun, musical afternoon!

INGERSOLL LIBRARY

Messy Monday Mon, Feb 2, 10-11am. Drop in, ages 5 & under with caregiver. Explore learning through play! Your little learners will enjoy sensory play & hands-on discovery.

Shake, Rattle, & Read Wed, 9:30-10am. Best suited for parents/caregivers with children age 2-6. Together we will boost our early literacy skills with songs, stories & movement!

Couples Scavenger Hunt Thur, Feb 12, 6-7:30pm. Registration required, adults 18+. A fun pre-Valentine's evening at the library where together you will follow clues, solve puzzles, & uncover a sweet surprise!

Art Rocks! Mini Art Show Exhibition Tues, Feb 17, 5-7pm. Drop in, open to the public of all ages. Admire the rock masterpieces created by our community!

Crafternoon Winter Olympics Scene Thur, Feb 19, 2:30-4:30pm. Drop in, ages 12 & under. Build a scene inspired by the winter Olympics!

Local History Talk: Researching your home's history. Mon, Feb 23, 6-7pm. Join Melanie for an informative Local History talk about researching your home's history. Learn about different resources, what information you need, and where to find it!

Film Club Discussion Wed, Feb 25, 5-7pm. Do you love watching & talking about films? If so, join our Film Club! Each month 4 themed films will be available for the club to borrow, watch & discuss. February's theme is "Movies starring Gene Wilder!"

Ditch the Devices Sat, Feb 28, 9:30-12:30pm. Drop in, all ages welcome. Ditch your devices & have fun offline! The library will provide board games, puzzles, offline technologies & more!

Teen Winter Reading Challenge Open to teens in grades 7-12. Join the Beanstack challenge & log minutes read to be entered into a draw for exciting prizes! Download the Beanstack app or pick up a paper reading log at your library branch. Challenge closes Mar 31.

INGERSOLL HORTICULTURAL SOCIETY

Feb 24, 7:30pm at Ingersoll Seniors Centre, 250 Ingersoll St S. Diane Wheeler will speak on hydrangeas. Visitors welcome. Membership encouraged - low annual fee \$10.

TOURISM OXFORD

Spend time together, close to home. Explore ready-to-go staycation itineraries from relaxing spa escapes to hands-on culinary experiences. Find easy ways to reconnect and start planning your together-time at TourismOxford.ca.

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LOVE IS IN THE AIR

Feb 7, 2pm, the Ingersoll Choral Society presents "Love Is In the Air: Selections of Love Songs featuring Solos & Duets by ICS Members & Friends", at the Ingersoll Christian Reformed Church, 429 King St. W. A fun show for the whole family. One performance only! Tickets \$25, \$15 for kids 12 & under, at Patina's, Ingersoll, Long & McQuade, Woodstock, any choir member or online: <https://ticketscene.ca/o/Ingersoll-choralsociety>.



CURLING DAY IN CANADA - OPEN HOUSE

Sat, Jan 31, 12:30pm at Ingersoll District Curling Club, 36 Chisholm Dr, Ingersoll, ingersollcurlingclub.com.

GALENTINES NIGHT WORKSHOP - FEB. 13TH!

The perfect girl's night put on by EZAS! Join us Fri, Feb 13, 7-9pm for a Galentines Night. We will be making our own bouquets, led by Maybells & Daisies (Erin Munro), as well as learning how to paint with watercolours, led by Rebecca MacLeod. At Knox United Church, 116 Kincardine St, Embro. Suitable for ages 10 & older (ages 10-16 must be accompanied by an adult). Bring a friend, bring your daughter, bring Mom! There will be treats & fancy drinks. All materials included. Tickets \$40, at www.embrofair.com.



PANCAKE SUPPER AT WESTMINSTER CHURCH

Westminster United Church invites the community to a Pancake Supper Tues, Feb 17, in the Westminster United Church Hall. Doors open at 5:15pm, with supper served 5:30-7pm. Guests will enjoy a hearty meal of pancakes & sausages with all the trimmings, prepared and served with warm hospitality. The evening is offered on a Pay What You Can basis, and all proceeds will support the Food Security Project, helping to address local needs.

Volunteers willing to help cook & serve are warmly appreciated—your time & talents will help make this community meal a success. Come for good food, good company & a good cause. Everyone is welcome.



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INGERSOLL DISTRICT NATURE CLUB

LIBRARY SERIES SWAN MIGRATION NORTH BY NORTHWEST Wed, Feb 11, 7pm at Ingersoll Public Library. You have probably visited the Aylmer Wildlife Management Area to marvel at the annual tundra swan migration so please join us at the Ingersoll Library to find out more about this amazing story. Pud Hunter is a long-time volunteer at the Aylmer Wildlife Area & an experienced wildlife professional. He will explain the fascinating background story to the swan migration along with information on fish, wildlife & ecosystems. Please join us for an interesting overview & entertaining conversation. For information contact Sheila 519-485-2645, www.ingersollnatureclub.com.



THANK YOU MT. ELGIN FIREFIGHTERS ASSOCIATION It couldn't have come at a better time! On Dec 11, Ian DeWit, Treasurer of the Mt Elgin Firefighters Association, presented to Jim Eager, Treasurer of the Ingersoll District Nature Club (IDNC), a generous donation of \$1,000 to go towards bird seed for the Lawson Nature Reserve. IDNC stewards the property on behalf of Ontario Nature & has been filling bird feeders every winter for the past 2 decades. If ever there was a year the Club needed help with seed, it was this winter! The donation was in the form of gift cards from Ingersoll Country Mills. Thanks to the firefighters for all they do to keep their community safe & for supporting our feathered friends! Submitted by IDNC Executive Members.

DON'T DREAD OLD BREAD

It's so old-fashioned that you'd think everyone knew about it, or, had forgotten it. It's stale bread rejuvenated by making bread pudding out of it. A bit like French toast which in France they call "lost bread" it involves soaking bread in a milk & egg mix then cooking it. French toast is so simple. Soak, then fry. A standard for Bryan Smith's Sundays. Bread puddings are similarly simple, soak, then bake. They can be savoury or sweet, main course or dessert. For a main course version think about adding some vegetables, bacon or ham to it. For a dessert version, add some cinnamon and/or vanilla, along with fruit. Make it with white bread, brioche or even stale donuts. How sweet it is. And by the way, with food prices the way they are today, they can save you money too, not just the price of bread but the other bits found in the fridge you rescue by adding them. Check out recipes for bread pudding on the web. You will find lots. Grandma would have known how, but you can make these warming dishes yourself.



EVENT SPACE FOR RENT

Salford Community Centre (capacity: 149). Call to book: 519-425-2657.



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LAWRENCE STATION:

The Flagship Erie's Final Flight returns as a music version. This local story, written by local playwright, Len Cuthbert was staged in 2023 by Fridge Door Live Theatre Company and will be presented on the 85th anniversary of the crash, Oct 29-30, 2026. Tickets & information available at www.OnStageLive.ca.

ONTARIO ANCESTORS

Oxford Branch of Ontario Ancestors invites you to a zoom presentation of The Carnegie Libraries of Oxford County Mon, Feb 9, 7pm, presented by Dr. Matthew Griffis, one of Oxford County Library's local history specialists. Dr. Griffis will discuss the origins of the Carnegie library building program, its progress in Canada, and details about the 5 Carnegie libraries that opened in Oxford County between 1909-1917. The presentation includes dozens of historical images from his own collection. To register, visit <https://oxford.ogs.on.ca> and click on the link. You will be sent a zoom link to join the meeting. This meeting is free & open to all.

AL-ANON

Friends, families & adult children suffering from the effects of a loved one's drinking find understanding, support & hope at Al-Anon meetings. There are no dues or fees. Call 24 hours 519-434-2613. al-anon.alateen.on.ca, al-anon.org

Tues 7pm St. Pauls Church, 56 Thames St. S, Ingersoll.



CUCKOO'S NEST CONCERTS

Langille & Sims "Blue Valentines #7" Sat, Feb 7

New Cumberland Sun, Feb 22

Portage "Canadian Fiddle Show" Sun, Mar 1

Steeafan Hannigan & Saskia Tomkins Sun, Mar 15

Pressgang Mutiny Sun, Mar 29

For Information call 519-319-5847 or email folk@iandavies.com.

Chaucer's is only open for Cuckoo's Nest concerts.

COMING TO THEATRE TILLSONBURG

Hilda's Yard by Norm Foster. A hilarious comedy set in the nostalgic 1950's. Hilda's Yard follows the story of Hilda (Judy Cormier) and Sam Fluck (Mark Smith), who are celebrating their recent shift to empty nesters. The Fluck's have a fairly relaxing day planned, with Hilda intending to hang some laundry & Sam wanting to buy a new console television. Chaos ensues when their children, Gary (Brent VanHooren) and Janey (Nikki Wiltac), return looking for some parental help with their problems. Things become even more chaotic when their son invites his girlfriend, Bobbi Jakes (Rachel Hanson), and the local thug, Beverly Woytowich (Brandon Buckle), then comes looking to collect a gambling debt from Gary. As with any Norm Foster comedy while the situation is side splitting fun, the connections we find ourselves making is where the real humour takes place. The show runs Feb 19-22 and Feb 26-Mar 1. First Sat and both Sun are matinees at 2pm and the other shows are evening at 7:30pm. Tickets \$28 each and can be purchased at <https://app.arts-people.com/index.php?ticketing=ttill>. Come dressed in your best 1950's attire, join us for our opening night Sock Hop Gala after the play Feb 19. It's worth the drive to Tillsonburg for a night of comedy & fun. You can also DINE like its 1959 show your ticket at our sponsor The Copper Mug Pub and get 50% off your meal show nights 5-8pm.

PROGRAMS AT INGERSOLL 50+ CENTRE

Hours: Mon 8:30-9pm, Wed 8:30-8pm Tues/Thur/Fri 8:30-4:30pm.

ALZHEIMERS EDUCATION SESSIONS Feb 26, Mar 19, Apr 23, May 28 & June 25, 2pm. No fee, register by 12pm the day before.

WEDNESDAY DINING & SOCIAL Join us the 2nd & 4th Wed (Feb 11 & 25), 5pm, \$13. Register by 12pm the day before.

WEDNESDAY BRUNCH Join us on the 1st & 3rd Wed (Feb 4 & 18), 9-11:30am, \$10. Register by 12pm the day before.

SKETCHY SENIORS Tues 1-3:30pm. A drop-in session for creative minds. Bring your project & learn from other like-minded individuals. Painting, sketching, storytelling, origami, there are no limits in this program. Some materials provided.

FARKLE & CRIBBAGE Wed 6pm. Who doesn't love a good board game session? Bring your own game or join in on one from our selection. Chess, checkers, trivia & many more are available.

TIMELINES & TALES (HISTORY) Tues 9:30-11:30am. Dave, Deward & Brian have an exciting session planned for the winter. Come join the group to learn about the Ancient World with a look at the Ancient Civilizations of the Nile, Tigris-Euphrates, Indus and Yangtze Rivers, Mesoamerica, and Andean America. Discuss the the "Greats of History" like Constantine, Alexander and Catherine. Delve into the origin and meaning of some of the most well-known myths, legends, and folklore.

CARD & TABLE GAMES See our newsletter for a more detailed schedule. Bridge (Wed, Fri), Bid Euchre (Mon), Pepper (Tues, Thur), Bingo (Wed), Mah Jongg (American on Mon, Chinese on Thur), Mexican Dominoes (Fri), Carpet Bowling (Tues), Billiards (all week) & Darts (Thur).

WOOD CARVING Mon 1pm. Carvers must provide their own supplies. Membership is required to use the woodshop.

WOODSHOP We have a well-equipped shop for you to create your projects from start to finish. A membership & orientation are required prior to using any of the equipment.

INGERSOLL CREATIVE ARTS CENTRE

Visit the Gallery and Artisan Market Open Mon-Fri 9-4pm & Sat 1-4pm. We are located at 125 Centennial Lane, Ingersoll, in the heart of Victoria Park. We offer membership, artists' studio times for various mediums, adult & youth classes, as well as handcrafted gifts in our Artisan Market. Check out our Facebook page to see what events are happening now!

Current Exhibition: Refurbished Art: Bringing New Life to Something Forgotten. Until Feb 21, featuring a selection of intricate metal sculptures by local artist, Robert Norrie.

Upcoming Exhibition: IDCI Student Art Exhibition Feb 28-Apr 2, with an opening on Fri, Feb 28, 7-8:30pm. This exhibition will showcase the talented IDCI student artists in a variety of mediums.

Gelli Plate Printing with Audrianna DeSouza, Wed, Feb 11, 7-9pm.

Acrylic Paint Night Northern Lights with Kathleen Jull. Tues, Feb 24, 6-8:30pm.

Intro to Modern Quilting with Gwen Tracey. Thur, Mar 5-Apr 16, 6:30-8:30pm.

BEER BREWING 101 - FEB 7TH!

Join EZAS for a workshop at Madmash Brewery in Tavistock Feb 7, 11-12pm to learn the basics of brewing beer. The masters at Madmash Brewery will demonstrate all the brewing basics & provide a tour of the brewing equipment. **BONUS:** Your ticket price includes a beer sample & full lunch! Address: 8 Hope St, W, Tavistock. Tickets \$25 per person, at www.embrofair.com.



COMMUNITY SUPPORT SERVICES

250 Ingersoll St. S. 519-485-3869 ~ css@ingersollseniors.com.

GROCERY BUDDY Our friendly volunteers will pick up groceries for you! Call us with your grocery list and we will arrange a day and time for us to do your shopping! Volunteers are needed as this program grows. Contact 519-485-2269 ext. 106 if interested.

FROSTY MEALS \$7.50 entrée \$2.75 soup or dessert. Free delivery available. These meals meet Canada's Food Guide recommendations and use only the best ingredients.

MEALS ON WHEELS \$7/day, are served Mon-Fri, within Ingersoll.

CURBSIDE MEALS Full meal & dessert Tues, \$10. Pick up 11:45-12:15pm. Free delivery to Ingersoll & Thamesford available.

Dine In Full meal & dessert Fri, \$10. Free delivery to Ingersoll & Thamesford available. Call to book by 12pm the day before!

HOME HELP & MAINTENANCE PROGRAM Small fee for service.

TRANSPORTATION for older adults & those with disabilities in Ingersoll & surrounding areas. Rides to & from appointments, errands, etc. Reasonable rates & reliable, friendly volunteer drivers. 3-day notice preferred. We are looking for people to drive, call us to fill out an application today. Drivers are reimbursed for their mileage.

ASSISTIVE DEVICE LOAN PROGRAM This FREE program has a wide range of equipment from crutches, canes, commodes, rollators, knee slider boards to wheelchairs. We also take donations! Drop off & pick up Mon-Fri 9-12pm.

HELP WITH FORMS Free, by appointment. This program can help people fill out forms. Examples include CPP, OAS, and GIS. and passport forms, etc.

TELEPHONE REASSURANCE Security checks can make all the difference to an individual alone at home. Call if you or a loved one would like to talk with a friendly volunteer once a day / week.

FOOT CARE CLINIC \$31. Call for an appointment.

VOLUNTEERS Needed to assist with Meals on Wheels delivery Wed & Thur 11:30-1pm in Ingersoll.

THE GREATS OF ZORRA

The Beachville District Historical Society's Zorra Heritage Committee is currently compiling the stories of historic individuals, connected to Zorra, who gained recognition for their contributions beyond the Township's borders. To date, 78 individuals have been identified as part of the committee's Greats of Zorra project, and additional suggestions are always welcome. The Zorra Heritage Committee's next meeting is Wed, Feb 4, 7pm at the Beachville District Museum, 584367 Beachville Rd, Beachville. Zorra residents & non-residents alike are welcome to attend. As part of the Greats of Zorra project, the Zorra Heritage Committee has prepared the following overview of Jacob D. Allen of Thamesford.

JACOB DAVID ALLEN was a notable early settler & poet in the Thamesford area of Zorra Township. Originally from Quebec, he moved to Thamesford after meeting his wife, Maria Congdon, while travelling through Upper Canada. The couple married in 1838, and that same year Allen purchased land on Lot 1, Concession 9 in East Nissouri Township. Throughout his life, Allen held a variety of occupations, including schoolteacher, shop owner, mercantile operator in Thamesford, and poet. In 1866, he published *The Musings of Uncle Jake*, a 208-page collection of poems reflecting his experiences & observations, much of it written during periods of travel. Jacob D. Allen died in 1874 while living in St. Marys. His legacy remains visible in Thamesford through Allen Street, which was renamed from St. Patrick's Street following his purchase of land & construction of a general store on the west bank of the Thames River, north of Dundas Street. In recognition of his positive impact on the community, Allen's name was added onto the Thamesford Wall of Recognition in 2011.

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FEBRUARY MADE ME SHIVER...

Not with the cold as Don McLean sang to us, but with the delightful idea of a summer exchange to any of ISE Ontario's wonderful European destinations. Actually, the only way to see Ireland on an ISE exchange is in the summer. Don't miss this opportunity. Students will find information on their schools' website, or when Bryan Smith comes to visit in Feb. For those thinking yet further ahead, there are 9-week school-year exchanges to apply to via www.ise-ontario.on.ca. Contact bryasmitt@oxford.net for more information.

PROSTATE CANCER SUPPORT GROUP

We meet in person & via Zoom 7-8:30pm on the 1st Wed of the month except July & Aug at 140 Pine Valley Blvd, London. Everyone is welcome! Contact: Carl 519-852-4277, carlkelly39@gmail.com; John 519-365-1599, johnolivei@gmail.com. Visit our Facebook page at: London Prostate Support Group and www.pcsupportgroup.ca.

THE MIGHTY MEN OF ZORRA

On Tues, Feb 10, 7pm the Beachville District Historical Society welcomes William Butt with the story of his play "The Mighty Men of Zorra" the 1893 Tug of War Champions and how this came about. Join us at the Beachville District Museum for his presentation with discussion and light lunch to follow. All are welcome.

EMBRO POND ASSOC. AGM

The Embro Pond Association will be holding its Annual General Meeting Mon, Feb 9, 7pm at the Embro Town Hall, Library Green Room (main floor entrance up outdoor stairs beside the Fire Hall bays), 135 Huron St, Embro. Anyone interested in learning more about the Embro Pond Association is welcome to attend. Please email lanacoghill@gmail.com or post a private message on the Embro Pond Facebook page if you would like more information.

GRIEF SUPPORT FOR MAID RELATED LOSS

A monthly in-person adult grief support group for loss related to Medical Assistance in Dying (MAiD) is being offered at Tillsonburg Library, 2 Library Lane. The group offers a compassionate, safe space to explore this unique loss with other individuals who have had a similar experience. The group will meet the 4th Wed of the month 6-7pm, is free of charge & pre-registration is requested. The next group meeting will be Wed, Feb 25. To register contact Faye Brekelmans 519-866-3016 or faye@compassionategriefsupport.ca.

TRACTOR SKILL CHARITY DONATES \$32,000

On Dec 19, 2025, the Oxford Tractor Skill Games Charity (TSG) proudly donated \$32,000 to the Children's Health Foundation! OTSGC Board members President Dirk Boogerd, Vice President Peter Roos, Treasurer Krista Coleman & Secretary Nicole Barnett excitedly brought the donation for the presentation. We would like to thank the Children's Health Foundation members who met with our presenting TSG Directors & supported us through the year: Jennifer Baxter (Director of Community Relations & Events), Scott Fortnum (President & CEO), and Dr. Kevin Coughlan (Chair of Division of Neonatal & Perinatal Medicine). To every family who attended the Tractor Skill Games event in August (south of Ingersoll), to every business who sponsored, every vendor who supported us, and every volunteer who gave their time: thank you. Because of your generosity, this donation is going directly toward life-saving hospital equipment that is unfortunately not funded by the province, including:

1 Kangaroo Sleeping Chair - \$2,326 1 Infant Crib - \$9,507
 1 Blanketrol Hypo-Hyperthermia Blanket Device - \$19,742

These vital pieces of equipment will be used by over 1,000 infants every year, helping to save the lives of children who may not otherwise make it through. Equipment like this is funded solely through donations, and your support truly changes outcomes for families in their most critical moments. With this latest contribution, the Oxford Tractor Skill Games Charity has now donated \$69,500 over the past 4 years. From the bottom of our hearts, thank you for helping us support children & families when they need it most. We look forward to hosting the 5th Annual Tractor Skill Games event Sat, Sept 5, 2026 and the contribution we can make to help those in need. For more information about our event, ways to participate, volunteer & sponsorship donation opportunities - please check www.tractorskillgames.ca or follow us on Facebook and Instagram, email tractorskillgames@hotmail.com.

CAREGIVER CORNER

A safe space to share your caregiving journey. Connect with others who understand the challenges & rewards of caregiving. Share experiences, find support, and take time for yourself in a compassionate, judgment-free environment. Jan-Mar (3 month trial) First Wed of the month, 1:30-2:30pm. Zoom hosted by Nicole Bruder. To register: call or text 519-536-3370, email info@caringheartssupportnetwork.com.

DEREHAM VENDOR SHOW

Dereham District Lions Club Vendor Show at Mt Elgin Community Center Mar 29, 10-3pm. \$2 admission.



A Message from Mayor David Mayberry

On behalf of the council and staff of the Township of Southwest Oxford I wish everyone a peaceful & prosperous new year. 2026 will be another year of the continuing evolution of life with transitions & changes that seem to be the norm. Two changes have already begun, one being the appointment of Julie Middleton as the Township CAO. Julie is well prepared for the role and will serve the community with the same intelligence & integrity that Mary Ellen Greb demonstrated during her career. The second transition is that of the new provincially mandated recycling system. With producers now responsible for the recycling of residential waste, the township will not be collecting recyclable materials as the producers have contracted this to Emterra. The expanded list of materials that are now eligible for recycling can be found at <https://www.circularmaterials.ca/resident-provinces/ontario/>. For any concerns about recycling you should contact Emterra at customerareont@emterra.ca or phone 1 888 597 1541. As in any major change we expect there will be a few hiccups, but we are sure these will be addressed properly. With the new year comes an increase in the cost of garbage bag tags to \$3. With increased recycling abilities and the removal of organics, most residents should see a decline in the number of bag tags required. Since the provincial recycling system does not include non-residential, institutional or commercial sources the county has contracted with Emterra to pick these up IF the property registers with the county. There is no fee for this service as it is covered by the tax levy. For those interested, contact Oxford County at 519 539 9800 x.3145.

Another transition that will happen in 2026 is the municipal election. On October 26, you will have the opportunity & responsibility to elect a new council. The nomination process opens on May 1, 2026 and closes August 21, 2026. Several members of council, including the mayor, have indicated they will not be seeking reelection, and so there will be a number of new faces on the next council. I strongly encourage anyone interested to consider running for office. Through the democratic process we get the government we deserve and the people of SWOX deserve the very best. SWOX Council and the County will be offering opportunities for anyone interested to learn more about the roles and responsibilities, the time commitments & the challenges at public information sessions. Please stay tuned for these information sessions. Members of council will also be actively encouraging citizens to consider running for council.

This last year of this term promises to be busy with the current council wanting to complete a number of projects currently underway. As always, if you have questions or concerns, please feel free to contact any member of council at any time.

Wishing you the best in 2026!

Let's Get Through the Last Stretch of Winter Safely

February is a time to stay safe & connected as winter continues in South-West Oxford. Residents are reminded to use caution on winter roads and to observe parking regulations during snow events. Visit the Township website and official channels for updates, notices, and Council information as we look ahead to the months ahead.

Get Involved! 2026 is a Municipal Election Year!

Association of Municipalities of Ontario (AMO) is offering a Healthy Democracy Leadership Series. This online program is designed to equip you with the tools, resilience, and confidence to meet today's political challenges head-on. The series is offered at no charge in two dedicated streams: one for first-time candidates and one for those considering re-election in 2026.

For more information, visit: <https://www.amo.on.ca/amos-healthy-democracy-leaders-series-stronger-leaders-stronger-communities>

SWOX Fire and Emergency Services Emergency Preparedness Tips!

Ice Safety: No ice is safe ice. Always check ice thickness before venturing out. Avoid travelling on ice at night. If you must venture onto the ice, wear a thermal protection buoyant suit to increase your chance of survival if you fall through. If you do not have one, wear a lifejacket/PFD over your snowmobile suit or layered winter clothing.

Winter Storms: Storms can cause power outages which are often accompanied by extreme cold, which can cause dangerous conditions. Stock an emergency kit for your home, and one for each vehicle. Avoid all unnecessary travel. If you need to leave, before venturing out, visit Environment Canada's website (www.ec.gc.ca) to learn about weather alerts/warnings. Check 511 Ontario (www.on511.ca) for road conditions.

Coffee and Connect

Join us the first Thursday of every month for coffee and connect at the Brownsville Library, 292240 Culloden Line.

February 2026 South-West Oxford Council & Committee Meetings

All meetings are anticipated to take place at the Township of South-West Oxford municipal office.

Meeting Type	Date & Time
Council Meeting	February 3rd, 9:00am
Engage & Inform	
Committee Meeting	February 4th, 1:00pm
Environment & Energy	
Innovation Committee Meeting	February 4th, 4:30pm
Council Meeting	February 17th, 6:30pm

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EZAS COMEDY SHOW

It's back! Feb 28, the Embro Comedy Show will be a night of laughter, drinks & good times! The night will feature 2 comedy performances including, Arthur Simeon & Casey Corbin - hosted once again by Dylan Gott. This year there will be a nacho bar, 'dirty sodas' and of course, the cash bar. Grab your tickets before they are gone (last year this event SOLD OUT!). Doors open 7:30pm, show starts 8:30pm. General admission tickets. Age of majority event (18 yrs +). Embro & Zorra Community Centre Main Hall, 355644 35th Line, Embro. Single tickets \$30/ticket; or "Bundle for Two for \$100" which includes 2 show tickets & 8 drink tickets. Tickets can be purchased at www.embrofair.com. As always, email embroag-society@gmail.com for any questions!

4-H MEMBERS 'LEARN TO DO BY DOING'

Through virtual or in-person projects available across the province, 4-H members learn by doing! In Oxford County, the Square Dance 4-H project finished in January. The Mt Elgin 4-H Club is starting a Maple Syrup 4-H project, contact mtelgin4h@gmail.com. The Oxford Cloverbud 4-H Club-1 had their first meeting Jan 25 at Dance in Style and the Oxford Cloverbud 4-H Club-2 had their first meeting at Ingersoll Creative Arts Centre doing scrapbooking with alcohol ink in January then to Dance in Style Feb 1. The Oxford Quilting 4-H Club is starting a Hoodie 4-H project Feb 9, contact Linda.oxfordquilting.4hclub@gmail.com to learn more or register for the project. The Oxford Beef 4-H Club will be starting in March to explore different topics relevant to the beef industry in Ontario, contact oxford4hbeef@gmail.com. The Hickson 4-H Club is doing a Horse 4-H project learning about horses (not riding) in March, contact wardshonna@hotmail.com. NEW, Oxford Fishing 4-H project will start in April, contact oxford4hfishing@gmail.com. Some Oxford 4-H youth are participating in virtual projects doing painting & cooking. There are lots of opportunities for youth ages 6-21 to become involved with 4-H to 'learn to do by doing' at home & in-person. Are you beyond the age to be involved as a member—become a 4-H volunteer! Volunteers also 'learn to do by doing' by being involved in the 4-H program. Contact oxford-county4h@gmail.com to find out more & how you can become involved with a great youth development program in your community. Check out the Oxford 4-H website <https://4-hontario.ca/association/oxford-4-h-association>. The 4-H program is a leadership development program for youth ages 6-21 from urban & rural areas learning about health, environment, technology, agriculture, science, food, community & communication in a hands-on learning atmosphere.

UNESCO RECOGNIZES ITALIAN CUISINE

The Colombo Club of Oxford proudly joins Italian communities around the world in celebrating UNESCO's recognition of Italian cuisine as an Intangible Cultural Heritage of Humanity. This historic declaration acknowledges Italian cuisine not simply as food, but as a living cultural tradition rooted in family, community, craftsmanship, and the passing down of knowledge across generations. UNESCO's recognition highlights the social & cultural significance of Italian cuisine, including its regional diversity, traditional preparation methods, and the central role shared meals play in strengthening family & community bonds. The designation affirms what Italian families have long known: Italian cuisine is a daily expression of identity, history & belonging. "For Italian-Canadians, this recognition is a powerful affirmation of our heritage," said Rick Eus, President of the Colombo Club of Oxford. "Our parents & grandparents brought these traditions with them to Canada. They gathered families, built communities & passed on values through food. UNESCO's declaration honours those traditions & the people who kept them alive." For decades, the Colombo Club of Oxford has served as a cultural & social hub dedicated to preserving & celebrating Italian heritage. Through cultural events, social gatherings, charitable initiatives & shared meals, the Club continues to promote the same values now recognized by UNESCO: community, tradition & cultural continuity. "This recognition reinforces the importance of organizations like the Colombo Club," added Eus. "We are not only preserving history—we are living it, sharing it, and passing it on to future generations." The Colombo Club of Oxford invites members of the community—those of Italian heritage & those who appreciate Italian culture—to join the Club and take part in celebrating this internationally recognized tradition. Membership offers an opportunity to connect with heritage, support a long-standing local organization, and ensure that Italian culture remains vibrant & visible within the community. The Colombo Club of Oxford is a community-based organization committed to celebrating Italian culture, heritage & traditions while fostering fellowship, cultural education, and community involvement. The Club welcomes members & supporters from across Oxford County and beyond. Colombo Club of Oxford, 519-423-6532, info@colombo-club.ca. For membership information or upcoming events, please contact the Colombo Club of Oxford.

LIVING WITH LOSS

Grief Support Group Our next 6 week session begins Tues, Jan 27 in Woodstock, 2-3:30pm. To register or more information call 519-536-3370.

Colouring Through Grief Wed, Feb 18. To register or more information call 519-536-3370.

FOOD ADDICTS ANONYMOUS

The only requirement to membership in FA is a desire to stop eating addictively. No dues, no fees, no weigh-ins. No in person meetings, visit <http://www.foodaddicts.org> for zoom. For information, call Gayle 226-927-4025.

SALFORD HALL AGM

Hey Salford, it's time for a meeting at the town hall. Come on over, grab a drink & have a say! New members welcome to join us & keep the community centre a great place! Together let's host attractive events all year long! We can't do it without your help! Welcome to the Annual General Meeting Tues, Feb 4, starting at 7.30pm. Refreshments provided.

CLASSIFIED ADS



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BEACHVILLE DISTRICT MUSEUM

The year is off to a wonderful start at the Beachville District Museum! We enjoyed seeing so many of you at our Speaker Series, Hands-on Heritage Victorian Quilting Program, Ice Age PA Day Camp, and Ox on the Run Craft Night last month. January also brought joyful news as Curator Stephanie welcomed a new baby into her family. Museum staff & volunteers send her their warmest congratulations & are pleased to welcome Sidney Williams as Interim Curator during her leave. As the 2026 season continues, we invite you to participate in our upcoming programs, events, and activities: February Speaker Series – Tues, Feb 10, 7pm. Hosted by the Beachville District Historical Society, Bill Butt will speak about his play *The Mighty Men of Zorra*, running Mar 20-29 at Thistle Theatre in Embro. Sweetheart Online 50/50 Draw: tickets are available on our website until Feb 13. Support the museum & plan a fun date night with a loved one! Hands-on Heritage Baseball Workshop – Sat, Feb 14, 10-12pm. Enjoy a guided tour of our baseball exhibit & craft your very own replica baseball in Beachville, home of North America's first recorded baseball game. Space is limited, book on our website or call us 519-423-6497. We also encourage all museum supporters, users, and followers to take part in our community survey, which will help shape our new Strategic Plan. The survey includes 3 quick questions and takes about 3 minutes to complete. Access the survey here: <https://forms.gle/Wxqde1AbxLMTfB6c8> or stop by the museum to complete it.



OCF AWARDS OVER \$240,000 IN GRANTS

Oxford Community Foundation (OCF) is proud to announce the awarding of more than \$240,000 in community grants in 2025, supporting local organizations that are turning vision into meaningful, on-the-ground impact across Oxford County. These grants reflect OCF's commitment to Making Oxford Better For All by addressing both urgent needs & long-term community priorities. From food security & housing supports to youth development, seniors' well-being, and environmental protection, the funded projects demonstrate the power of local generosity invested locally. 2025 grant highlights include:

Addressing Food Insecurity The William & Mary Mackesy Fund and the Cheryle & Peter Evans Fund are supporting The F.O.O.D. Project. A collaboration of community partners is developing a shared warehouse & distribution hub to strengthen food access across the county. Funding for fridges, freezers, shelving & a cargo van will significantly expand capacity, improve efficiency & increase access to fresh food for hundreds of residents.

Supporting Life Skills & Housing Stability The Maple Leaf Community Fund in honour of Harvey & Erma Beaty is supporting Indwell's supportive-housing communities at Harvey Woods Lofts & Blossom Park. Funding is being used for commercial-grade kitchen equipment which will enhance gardening programs, cooking classes, communal meals, and Gather—a tenant-led social enterprise—helping residents build food skills & budgeting abilities.

Connecting Seniors & Reducing Isolation The Oxford Rural Fund is supporting The Oxford Historical Society's "Gather & Remember..." program which brings themed presentations into assisted-living homes, sparking memories, conversation, and social connection. The program provides seniors with meaningful opportunities to share stories, strengthen well-being & reduce isolation.

Empowering Youth for the Future The Woodstock Chamber of Commerce Community Fund and the William & Mary Mackesy Fund are supporting Junior Achievement South Western Ontario, equipping 125 youth with essential financial literacy, work readiness & entrepreneurship skills through volunteer-led programming.

Developmental Education Work Experience Catering Crew at Woodstock Collegiate Institute received funding to replace worn kitchen equipment, supporting students with developmental disabilities as they build independence, communication skills, and employability through hands-on, student-led entrepreneurship.

Protecting Nature & Expanding Public Access The Thames Talbot Land Trust is securing Camp Shegardaynou, a 20-hectare property featuring mature forests, wetlands & rare species. Funding will support conservation efforts, public access & community programming that connects people to nature while protecting vital habitats for future generations. Funding for this grant came from the Stevens Fund, the Bill & Wilma Farr Fund, the Oxford Environmental Fund, the Ken & Lynda Whiteford Fund and the William & Mary Mackesy Fund.

Since its founding, Oxford Community Foundation has helped individuals & families leave legacies that grant with impact. OCF has granted more than \$2.2 million to 115 local charities, ensuring that generosity stays local & continues to benefit Oxford County today & well into the future. "These grants are possible because of the generosity of our fundholders, donors, volunteers & community partners," "Together, we are building a stronger, more resilient Oxford County," says Louise Wardrop. For information about 2025 grants, 2026 grant programs or how you can start your own legacy fund or community fund, please visit www.oxfordcommunityfoundation.org or contact us at lwardrop@oxfordcommunityfoundation.org.



REUSEAPALOOZAH IN APRIL

April is the coolest month when vintage clothing, antiques toys & tools, sealer jars & samovars are given away at Reuseapaloozaha in Brownsville on the 25th. Don't miss this morning of great finds & treasures. Bring things you will never use again to benefit others. Enjoy chatting with friends over a treat or a hot cuppa. For more information on participating in the event even volunteering see www.reuseapaloozaha.ca.



WHICH OF THESE STATEMENTS ARE TRUE?

Sybil Chandler was born in England in 1928. Sybil Chandler was married at Westminster Church 75 years ago. Sybil Chandler died with MAiD in 2025. Sybil Chandler loved trivia. All of the above... To honour Sybil's love of trivia we would like to invite you to join us for the Sybil Chandler Memorial Trivia Night Sat, Mar 7, 7pm. \$20 per person. Predetermined teams of eight (8) are preferred but not necessary, preregistration is required. You can register by emailing: info@makingconnexions.com or calling 519-285-3212. Get your friends together & come out for an evening of fun at Westminster United Church Hall, 115 George St, Thamesford.

SCRAPBOOK FUNDRAISER 2026

Hi-Way Pentecostal Church Ingersoll's 15th "Crop for a Cause" is Fri, Mar 6, 5pm to midnight - \$30, Sat, Mar 7, 8-8pm - \$65. To attend both days \$85. Vendors on site, Silent Auction, Swap & Sale Table. Door prizes, snacks on Fri, lunch & supper on Sat & more! To register, please visit www.hiwaypentecostal.ca or call 519-485-0961 for more information. Looking forward to seeing old friends & making new ones!

SWEABURG LIONS EUCBRE

Sweaburg & District Lions Euchre Sat, Feb 21, at Sweaburg United Church. Doors open 6:30pm, \$10 per person, light refreshments served. Everyone welcome.

GREAT CYCLE CHALLENGE 2026

For the 10th year now, I have once again signed up to ride & fundraise to help kids fighting cancer! Better & more treatment options, as well as a cure, is what we all hope for! The way to do this, is to raise a lot of money because all of this is very expensive! To that end, the first fundraiser has been rolled out! This is the former HI STEP fundraiser, but that acronym no longer works, so the fundraiser is unnamed right now, but it works the same as in other years... \$25 gets your name on the spinner wheel, for your chance to win the \$1,318.00 prize package. The prize package includes product and/or gift certificates from many of the same businesses as in previous years & a couple of new ones included! The prize package has something that is bound to appeal to you, so get your name on the wheel, to win the package! Send your EMT of \$25 per spot requested, to omulder@rogers.com or send an email to the same email address, to make other arrangements for payment options! Please note, a spot on the wheel does not qualify for a tax receipt, but if you wish to have a tax receipt, make your donation directly to my GCC website at: <https://greatcyclechallenge.ca/Riders/HenriettaOlthoffMulder> and you will receive a tax receipt from Sick Kids Foundation. Let's all help to make a difference in the lives of kids who should be living their lives, not fighting for them!



Agricultural Stewardship Funding Available

Upper Thames River CA is offering funding to support landowners in many projects categories including:

- Cover Crops \$30/acre
- Reduced Tillage \$30/acre
- Crop Fertility Planning \$10/acre
- Forestry and Tree Planting up to 80%



program contact:
519-451-2800 extension 272

forestry and tree contact:
519-451-2800 extension 243

EZAS 5K-10K FARM RUN

EZAS is excited to announce the return of our 5K-10K Farm Run, happening this May at Darcroft Farms in Embro for its 2nd annual year! Exact date to be announced soon! Last year's inaugural event was a huge success & featured:

- A warm-up stretch led by Madison VanEgdom
- Participants walking or running a 5K or 10K
- A full lunch & refreshments
- Grab bags for participants & T-shirts
- A fun photo booth area
- And a dairy farm tour of Darcroft Farms

We are looking forward to building on that success & making this year's event even better. Registration will be opening soon through our website through Race Roster, so be sure to keep an eye on our website and social media channels for updates, announcements, and registration details. We welcome volunteers to help make the day run smoothly (great for high school hours!), and donations to support the event & our ongoing initiatives. Thank you for your continued support. We can't wait to see you on the farm this May! Feel free to contact us at embroagsociety@gmail.com for more information.



THAMES CENTRE COMMUNITY CHOIR

Singing warms the heart on these chilly days. If you like to sing, come on out to choir on Tues 7pm in Thorndale. Our members have a good time at rehearsals & enjoy singing in the community. Get in touch by contacting c_baskerville@hotmail.com.

HARRINGTON GRAVEL PIT UPDATE

Just last month our committee, Protect Harrington, informed you that for 14 months we'd had virtually no response to the objection letters submitted by area residents to the MNR. We poured out our complaints & concerns to the MNR back in Nov 2024 – the expected noise, the dust, the traffic, the damage to our groundwater, the impact on our property values & to our overall quality of life. It was a long time to sit here waiting for a response, but the new year finally delivered at least 10 letters of response, including a major response to our committee, from the consultants engaged in getting a gravel pit up & running in Harrington. And guess what, they say, the noise, dust, traffic, etc. won't be so bad. Impact on your groundwater? Not at all. And impact on your property values? That's not even worth looking at, because they have a study that says property values aren't affected, and even if they are, the Province says they're allowed to impact your property values without providing compensation. Meanwhile, MPAC accepts proximity to a gravel pit as justification for appealing an assessed property value. Says the Province, if your property is worth less because it's beside a gravel pit, well, we can't deny it, but tough. One of the most egregious determinations by the Province is that our groundwater won't be affected in Harrington. There was a hydrogeological study submitted by the gravel pit applicant which claims that, not to worry, your water will be fine. Perhaps they didn't know that a renowned hydrogeologist, Dr. Larry Jensen, grew up here in Harrington & lives across from the pit site. We submitted what's known as a "hydrogeological peer review", where Larry countered the consultant's report with the actual facts of our "significant water recharge area", as UTRCA describes us. The Province has essentially repudiated our local expert's vast knowledge & experience and accepted wholesale the opinion of someone else. This is typical of Provincial procedure – find someone with credentials who'll write a report that supports a gravel pit, and dismiss anyone else who disagrees. Gravel is king. Protect Harrington, and the many individuals willing to fight to preserve our community, will continue to use all rational argument & legitimate resistance to save our community. Strangely, the consultants' response to our objection letters all ended with this, "If we have satisfied your concerns, we would appreciate receiving a brief letter stating that you no longer object to the application." Fat chance!!

BEACHVILLE LEGION 434852 Zorra Line, Beachville

We welcome back our Friday Night Suppers after a well deserved break for our volunteers. 100 Anniversary baseball caps & commemorative pins are available to purchase at the bar during regular business hours.

Mon branch open 7-10pm Dart League

Wed Chair Yoga in upstairs hall 7-8pm

Thur branch open 7-10pm, Euchre 7pm, Line Dancing 7-8pm, Intro to Ballroom Dancing 8:15-9:15pm. No partner required.

Fri Darts Blind Draw Doubles. Play begins 8pm.

Sat 1-4pm Bluegrass & Old Time Country Jam every Sat in Feb. Play in open mic jam (acoustic only) or come to enjoy the music.

Feb 14 Bluegrass. Wear red for Valentines Day!

Wed, Feb 4 Ox on the Run Mobile Library 4:30-6pm

Fri, Feb 13 Lasagna dinner 5:30pm, \$15. Pre-order 519-423-6363

Fri, Feb 13 Woodstock Kitten Nursery & Rescue Bingo. Doors open 6pm. Bingo starts 7pm.

Feb 18 Ox on the Run Mobile Library 4:30-6pm

Fri, Feb 27 Chicken Parmesan dinner 5:30pm, please pre-order 519-423-6363

Free Pool! Hall rental for meetings, parties, receptions. Follow us on Facebook or visit our website for additional events.

THORNDALE LIONS ACTIVE LIVING CENTRE

The Active Living Centre has many great programs, meals, bus trips, etc. planned. Visit www.thamescentre.on.ca/seniorcentre, call 519-268-7334 ext 730 or dbarons@thamescentre.on.ca.

MON Strength & tone 8:45am, chair yoga 9am, gentle yoga 10 am, pickleball 1pm.

TUES pole walking 9am, shuffleboard & floor curling 12pm, euchre 1pm.

WED strength & tone 8:45am, men's/women's coffee hour 10am, pickleball 1pm.

THUR stitch & chatter 1pm.

FRI chair yoga 9am, gentle yoga 10am, tai chi 10:30am, pickleball 1pm, poker running 1pm. All programs except pickleball are offered for members & non-members. If you are interested in playing pickleball during Active Living Centre times, please contact Karen to get a Senior Centre membership.

Movie afternoon at Lions Community Centre Feb 25, 2pm. "Julie & Julia" is about "a New Yorker embarking on a daring project, she vows to prepare the 524 recipes in Julia Childs' landmark cookbook. Intertwined with Julie's story is a true tale of how Julia Child herself conquered French cuisine with passion, fearlessness & plenty of butter." Contact Dayna dbarons@thamescentre.on.ca to register.

"Smitten Mittens" painting Wed, Feb 18, 12pm. Register by Feb 10 with Dayna 519-268-7334 ext 730.

Thorndale Book Club meets Feb 10, 1pm to discuss "An American Marriage". The next book will be "The Break".

Thames Centre Community Choir welcomes singers from teens to seniors to sing on Tues at 7pm at the Thorndale Lions Community Centre. To join the choir, there are no auditions, just a love of singing in the community, contact Cathy 519-461-1679.

If you have suggestions on different programs we can offer in Thorndale, call Dayna 519-268-7334 ext. 730 or email dbarons@thamescentre.on.ca. If you have any questions about any of the programs listed above, contact Karen kgress@thamescentre.on.ca, or Kayla ksmall@thamescentre.on.ca or call the Senior Centre at 519-268-7334 ext 708 or 728.

CORN HOLE TOURNAMENT

The Mount Elgin Community Centre will be holding a Fun Corn Hole tournament Fri, Feb 20. Doors open 7pm with games to start 7:30pm. \$40 per team of two. A light snack will be provided. Cash bar. Contact: Keith Prouse 519-808-6500 or Trevor Martin 519-926-0039 to reserve your spot.



ALZHEIMER SOCIETY SOUTHWEST PARTNERS

Are you concerned about changes in memory? We're here to help. The Alzheimer Society Southwest Partners is the local community agency dedicated to supporting individuals living with dementia and their care partners. We provide a circle of care through our programs and services which include dementia education, counselling and support and therapeutic recreation. With offices in London, St. Thomas and Woodstock, we are truly your partner in dementia care. For more information visit alzswp.ca or call 1-888-495-5855.

INGERSOLL 50+ BUS TRIPS

Irish Kitchen Party Mon, Mar 17, 11am. Join us for a show of Irish singers, dancers, fiddlers & story-tellers.

Women's Professional Hockey League Sat, Apr 11, 11am.

Blue Jays Game Wed, May 27, 10am.

THE WELL

You are welcome to come & join a time of Praise & Worship at "The Well" on Sat, Feb 21! We meet at 235 Thames St S, 7-9pm in the downstairs hall. Please enter through doors near back parking lot. Refreshments-served! "My heart explodes with praise to you! Now & forever my heart bows in worship to you, my King & my God! Every day I will lift up my praise to your name with praises that will last throughout eternity." Psalm 145:1&2 TPT.

"LIFE WORTH LIVING"

This powerful, new documentary, which exposes the euthanasia crisis in Canada, has just been named a finalist at the Cannes World Film Festival and is being considered by multiple film festivals. The 1 hour film was produced by Woodstock native, Alex Schadenberg, Executive Director of Euthanasia Prevention Coalition, and will be shown Tues, Mar 24 at the Woodstock Polish Hall, 878 Dufferin St, Woodstock. The film starts at 7pm and will be followed by a Q & A session with Alex. Admission is FREE, courtesy of Oxford County Right to Life.

LADIES AFTERNOON BOWLING LEAGUE

Weekly games over 200. Week 13: Betty Colbourne 210, Kim Overton 202, Toni Scaiff 202. Week 14: Michelle Kirwin 325, Kim Overton 206. Week 15: Janice Harry 251, Janet Scott 239, Henrietta Mulder 210 & 215, Cheryl Jeffery 204. Week 16: Kim Overton 298, Toni Scaiff 208 & 263, Michelle Kirwin 208, Trudy Gee 206. Congratulations to our Strike Thirteen Fun Day: Game 1 Toni Scaiff 207, Game 2 Janet Scott 232, Game 3 Kim Overton 277.

KC & THE SUNSHINE GIRLS

Coming to Mt Elgin Community Centre Sun, May 3, 2-4pm. Put on your boogie shoes for an afternoon of dance hits of the 70's & 80's. This Tribute Show is being hosted by Mt Elgin United Church. Tickets \$30 and are available by calling Joanne 519-425-1988 or Dawne 519-421-6836.



THAMESFORD FRIENDSHIP CLUB

February is heart month. Happy Valentines Day! Friendship Club meets Wed, Feb 25. We meet at 12 noon in the Beaty Room at the library. Lunch is pizza provided by local Thamesford Pizza. Please let us know you are coming by Wed, Feb 18. Call Helen 519-285-2024 or Shirley 519-285-2938. We will have entertainment after the lunch - Jessica Ducharme comes to us from London. She is a one woman variety show. Come join us & enjoy! Your contribution remains at \$20. Friendship Club invites seniors 55 plus - new or old - from the village & surrounding area.



FREE YOUTH PROGRAM

Free youth program for ages 12-18. 201 Royal Canadian Air Cadet Squadron: * Participate in survival training exercises * Fly simulators * Learn leadership skills & make lifelong friendships * Join the squadron pipe & drum band. * Earn community service hours * All training & uniforms are free of charge. The squadron meets weekly on Wednesday at the Dorchester Optimist Club, 6:30-9pm. For info: captain.higgins@outlook.com, <http://www.aircadets.ca/201/>.

FITNESS AT INGERSOLL 50+ CENTRE

250 Ingersoll St. S. 519-485-3869 ~ info@ingersollseniors.com
Centre Closed Feb 16 for Family Day

FITNESS ROOM Equipped with treadmill, elliptical, recumbent bike, spin bike, weights & more. A fitness orientation is needed before the first use. \$1/use.

Registered Programs: FUNCTIONAL MOVEMENT Tues 11am. Addresses the serious issues of aging independently & well. Following closely to the guidelines of the "longevity scale", the class will address the pillars that help to ensure healthy aging such as grip strength, sit to stand ability, balance, posture, range of movement. Each class will include movements to increase performance and will build on abilities from the previous week. This class is low to no impact and should be done within your own personal fitness level.

PILATES Thur 11am. A fantastic form of low-impact exercise, focusing on the core & extending from there to work every part of your body. Simultaneously stretching & strengthening. All levels welcome & modifications always offered.

STROKE RECOVERY, COPD, PARKINSON'S DISEASE FITNESS Tues/Thur 10:30am. Light to moderate intensity exercise with a focus on functional movement.

DROP-IN FITNESS CLASSES: PICKLEBALL Mon 9:30am, Trinity United Church. Drop-in rate \$5.

TAI CHI Mon 12:30pm. Graceful, slow movements to help restore balance, both body & mind. Can be done standing or seated.

VON SMART Exercise Class Mon & Thur 1:30pm. A safe & effective exercise & fall prevention program. This is a free class.

CIRCUIT TRAINING Mon 4:30pm. 30 minutes of exercises that target different muscle groups with rest in between.

LINE DANCING Beginner Mon 6pm - Improver Mon 7:15pm - Absolute Beginner Wed 10:30am. Contemporary line dances in a fun-filled class. No dance partner is needed.

TOTAL BODY WORKOUT Mon 9am / Tues 9am. Cardio, balance, resistance and flexibility training.

CHAIR YOGA Tues 10am, Thur 10am. A mostly seated class, gentle yoga poses are used to strengthen and stretch the body.

WALKING CLUB Wed 9am. A very popular group at the Centre, enjoy a morning walk at various trails/locations.

CHAIR FITNESS Wed 9am. A seated class for those that may have mobility or balance issues.

TOTAL TONING TIME Wed 5:30pm. Get ready to sculpt, sweat & shine! This full-body workout blends strength moves with a cardio boost to leave you feeling powerful & energized.

YOGA FOR A HEALTHY BACK Wed 6:45pm. Focuses on balancing strength & flexibility in the back & hips to create greater balance & ease in the body.

GENTLE YOGA Thur 9am. Gentle poses standing & on the floor.

STRENGTH & STRETCH Fri 9am. Increasing your strength helps with activities of daily living. Come have fun pumping some weights, followed by flexibility training and relaxation.

OSTEOFIT Fri 10:30am. A gentler total body workout designed for those who are concerned or have been diagnosed with osteoporosis. Also suitable for those with osteoarthritis.



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Email: shane@greatfloors.ca

THANKS FOR PROTECTING (Y)OUR HEALTH

The Oxford Coalition for Social Justice stands in for the Ontario Health Coalition and stands up for public health. We have collected lots & lots of your signatures on our petitions urging the province to fully fund our hospitals, and urging the federal government to enforce the Canada Health Act to guarantee full, free, accessible and universal health care in any & all places on Canada. Sadly there are some intent on destroying it by costly Americanization. Thanks for pushing back on that and offering viable alternatives. As of mid-February, the federal petition is closed and will be presented in Ottawa to Parliament. Provincial petitions have been read into the record at the Legislative by France Gelinat of Sudbury-Nickel Belt. You have been heard, though politicians may need to hear from you again. For more on health care, consult the Ontario Health Coalition online or visit Bryan at the Oxford Coalition's table at the Woodstock Farmers' Market.

THISTLE THEATRE – DRAMARAMA 2026

Thistle Theatre is proud to present the 30th season of DRAMARAMA! Our summer day camp for ages 6-13 (grades 1-8). 1st session runs July 6-17, 2nd session runs July 20-31. A 2-week session at Dramarama is all about developing creativity, self-expression & self-confidence. Workshops in drama, music, dance, arts & crafts, and theatre production take place each morning, with the afternoon spent working together to collectively create one play. The 45-minute play is then performed for family, friends & community members on the final day of camp. Join us for one, or both sessions! Camps run daily 9-3pm out of the historic Embro Town Hall at 135 Huron St. For all the information, including payment options, please head to www.thistle-theatre.com and click on the Dramarama page. Registration opens online Feb 1, first come, first served. The Early Bird rate of \$300 per camper per session ends May 1. After the Early Bird Deadline, the registration fee is \$375. Get registered early and take advantage of the early bird rate! We're looking for volunteers who want the ability to obtain community service hours while also participating in our programming! Apply to be a Leader-in-Training at Dramarama if you're transitioning to high school this fall or currently in grade 9-12. Email our Artistic Director dramarama.thistletheatre@gmail.com. These are volunteer, unpaid positions with the ability to obtain community service hours, as well as learn valuable leadership skills along the way. Should you have any used, in good condition costumes or props that you'd like to donate, email dramarama.thistletheatre@gmail.com.



MANDATORY VOLUNTEERISM

Ok, so it's a contradiction in terms, but to graduate, high school students need to do 40 hours of work for free. But what if instead of considering this an imposition, you considered it an opportunity. For example, a begrudging apprentice welder was dragged by his mother to a Reuseapalooza where he noticed two welders' masks for free. Take both, said Bryan Smith, one for yourself and the other for a buddy in the course who needs it or the \$200 to buy one. While you're at it, take the barbell set you've been eyeing too. Or, having done some summertime landscaping or lawn-mowing with a neighbour, set up a small business offering for payment services that you now know well from watching & listening to someone with gardening experience. As the snow continues to fall, take a shovel over to a neighbour's door, knock and ask if you can clear the steps & sidewalk. Some old bones might be glad to sign off on your hours rather than fall on the slippery surfaces. Is it possible that the person next door might have some interesting things to say or stories to tell that will make your life better. Remember The New Radicals sang "You get what you give". Give it a try.

DROP-IN SHUFFLEBOARD

Drop-In shuffleboard at the Auditorium - Ingersoll Memorial Arena Tues & Thur at 12:30pm. New evening program - Thur at 6:30pm. Register online using the Pickup Hub app "pickup hub.net". Equipment (cues) is provided. A great way to have fun & meet new people. Contact: Trevor Martin 519-926-0039.

AFFECTED BY SOMEONE'S ADDICTION?

Nar-Anon groups are a worldwide fellowship for those affected by someone else's addiction. We offer our help by sharing our experience, strength & hope. Helpline 1-800-477-6291. Please contact your local area or region for specific information regarding group changes. Some group, area, and regional website information can be found at <https://www.nar-anon.org/other-sites>.



INGERSOLL MEDITATION

\$10 donation, Wed 6:30-8pm. No experience necessary. Just come, get comfortable & listen as the meditation guides you into relaxation & ease. Join "Ingersoll Meditation Group" on Facebook to get all the info & address or call 519-485-0629.

IN 2026 IT'S YOUR FIX!

Ingersoll Country Music Jamboree meets every other Fri 1-4pm at Masonic Hall, 190 Thames St S, Ingersoll. Join us, walk ins welcome. Qualifications: love 1950-70's country music, perform, listen, dance, enjoy! Feb 13, 27, Mar 6, 20, Apr 10 & 17, May 1 & 15 & 29, June 5 & 19.

ST MARYS FRIENDSHIP CENTER

Hearing Health Education Wed, Feb 4, 10:15am. Join Ears to you Hearing Health Team to learn about all things hearing! Free.

Nourish Market Wed, Feb 11, 10:15am. Julie Johnson from the Nourish Market will be here to educate us! Free.

Valentine's Day FUN Bingo Fri, Feb 13, 1pm. Trivia, prizes, snacks & fun! \$6 members, \$8 non members.

Chinese New Years Lunch Tues, Feb 17, 12pm. Enjoy lunch from 4 Happy & learn about the Chinese New Year with friends. \$15.

For more information, please check www.townofstmarys.com to view our Prime Time newsletter or stop by at 317 James St S, St. Marys or call 519-284-3272, friends@town.stmarys.on.ca.

MORE EXCITING EZAS WORKSHOPS IN 2026!

Thank you to all those who helped to facilitate & support our 2026 Workshops this year so far. "Knitting Circle", and "Learn to Hand Sew" were well-attended & full of great takeaways for our attendees! What a great couple days of community connection, learning, & togetherness! Don't miss our other upcoming workshops, register at www.embrofair.com or email embroagsociety@gmail.com.

Feb 7 Beer Brewing 101 - includes a beer sample & lunch!
Feb 13 Galentines Night - Bouquet Bldg & Watercolour Painting
Mar 28 Build with Clay
Apr 25 Learn to Grow Herbs & Vegetables
May 2 Craft & Tea Embroidery Class
June 6 BBQ Tips & Tricks by Chris of Lancaster Smokehouse
June 13 Cupcake Decorating
July 11 Wine Glass Painting
Aug 15 Canning Pickled Beets
Oct 3 Pie Crust & Filling Class
Nov 7 DIY Holiday Day, 5-6 Stations Learning
How to Make Handmade Gifts

MOM'S STOP & SWAP

Sat, Mar 28, 9-12pm at Hi-Way Pentecostal Church, 584118 Beachville Rd, Ingersoll. If you have new or gently used clothes, shoes, jewellery and/or handbags that you are not wearing and have no use for anymore and you would like to swap clothing with other Moms OR if you have any new or gently used baby or children's clothes, coats, shoes, boots and/or accessories to swap, here's your chance to have some fun! Grab a friend or two & come on out! Also, hygiene products or baby products will be accepted provided they have been sampled only once or twice. Please make sure all clothing & footwear is sized. For more information, please call 519-485-0961 or office@hiwaypentecostal.ca.





OXFORD MANOR
RETIREMENT RESIDENCE
276 Oxford Street • Ingersoll, ON N5C 2W1

\$95/Day*
FOR MORE INFORMATION
519-485-0350

Short Term Stay Availability

- Up to 30 days in length
- Just for vacation
- Recovery from illness
- Variety of accommodations

*Rates subject to change without notice. Based on single occupancy.

Our Short Term Stays Include:

- Three meals daily
- Furnished suites
- Housekeeping
- 24/7 Response system
- Healthcare monitoring
- Social calender

MADHURA UTSAV AT NAMADWAAR, ONTARIO

Namadwaar, Ontario celebrated Madhura Utsav from Dec 23-Jan 3, bringing together the local community for a vibrant cultural & devotional festival centered on music, tradition & collective participation. Key events included Guru Paadhuka Aradhana, Yugala Sarkar Procession on Vaikunta Ekadasi, Deepotsavam, Divya Namam, and Theppotsavam, all accompanied by traditional music & kirtans with children playing a central role throughout the celebrations. A highlight of the Utsav was the Radha Kalyana Mahotsavam, which concluded with the singing of the Ashtapadi by Sri Jayadevar. Children also presented daily Katha, reflecting their engagement with their spiritual & cultural heritage. The Utsav concluded with a Global Nama Relay and Anjaneyar Utsav. Despite winter snowstorms, more than 40 participants gathered daily, celebrating tradition, community & shared cultural values.



THISTLE THEATRE - MIGHTY MEN OF ZORRA

Tickets are now on sale at Thistle-Theatre.com or by calling 226-785-3353 for the play called "The Mighty Men of Zorra" to be held Mar 20-29 at the historic Embro Town Hall. This is the 3rd of a series of unique Zorra based plays focusing on the how & why a local historic event occurred. The production written by William Butt, leads towards the story of The Mighty Men of Zorra and their 1893 Tug-O-War victory in Chicago. Many contributing events are uniquely dramatized along the way. Fifteen local actors are diligently practicing for this upcoming play which includes music sung and conducted by Daniel VanWinden.

SACRED HEART PARISH EUCHRE

We invite everyone to join us for a Euchre afternoon. It will be held in Henderson Hall, 133 John St, Ingersoll Tues, Feb 3 & 17 start at 1pm. Refreshments provided.

Worship With Us

Mt. Elgin United Church 519-425-2091
Pastor Lori Minler. 324105 Mt Elgin Rd W, Mt Elgin

Burgessville United Church Church St W, Norwich 10:30am

Reynolds Creek United Church Putnam Services 10am

The Ark New Beginnings Assembly TheArknba.com
Salford Commty Center, 383908 Salford Rd SUN 10:30am

Beachville Baptist Church

Pastor Ellie Muir 519-533-3694
SUN 10:30am

Livingway Church 519-423-9191

434809 Zorra Line, Beachville, Home Bible studies offered
SUN 3pm Worship Service WED 7pm Bible Study

Oxford Church 184 Oxford St - www.oxfordchurch.ca
Pastor Meine Veldman 519-602-7386 meine73@yahoo.com

Free Reformed Church of Oxford County
284793 Pleasant Valley Rd, Pastor D. Kranendonk, oxfordfrc.com

Crossroads Bible Church 519-900-6281
184 Oxford St Ingersoll, crossroadsingersoll.ca
FB: [crossroadsingersoll](https://www.facebook.com/crossroadsingersoll) & IG: [ingersollcrossroadschurch](https://www.instagram.com/ingersollcrossroadschurch)
Services at 8:45am & 11:15am

Hi-Way Pentecostal Church 519-485-0961
584118 Beachville Rd, Ingersoll hiwaypentecostal.ca
SUN 10am Livestream www.facebook.com/hiwayingersoll

Sacred Heart Roman Catholic Church

519-485-1802 131 Thames St. N, Ingersoll N5C 3C9
Website - nocfop.dol.ca or email shingersoll@dol.ca
Weekday Masses – Tues & Thur 11:30am
Sunday Masses – 10:15am and 6pm

Southwest Oxford United Churches

Emergency Contact: Rev. David Van Patter 519-773-5715
vanpatter007@gmail.com
West Oxford 354395 Church Line. Closed Feb.
Sweaburg 474425 Dodge Line 9:30am
Foldens 374097 Folden's Line 11am

Huron Park Baptist Church 199 Berwick St, Wdstck
519-421-4722, office@huronparkchurch.org
10:30am Sunday Service Mid-week programs Tues & Thur
Feb 21 Men's Breakfast 9am
Feb 26 Young at Heart Luncheon 12pm

Free Reformed Church of Oxford County
284793 Pleasant Valley Rd, Pastor D. Kranendonk, oxfordfrc.com

GOD – Namadwaar Ontario

Global Organization for Divinity, 239 Ossian Terrace, Ingersoll
www.godivinity.ca, canada.godivinity@gmail.com, 548-328-1043
Mon-Fri 9:30-11am, 5:30-7pm
Sat 9:30-8pm
Sun 9:30-7pm

Banner United Church www.bannerunitedchurch.com
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FEBRUARY

february

SUN	MON	TUES	WED	THUR	FRI	SAT
1	2 • Messy Mon, library 	3 • Al-Anon 7pm • Thames Centre Choir • Council meeting	4 • Shake, Rattle, Read, library • Prostate Cancer Support Group • Salford Hall AGM • Zorra Heritage meet. • Air Cadets	5 • Coffee & Connect, Brownsville • Intro to Ballroom Dancing, Beachville Legion • Darts, Ing 50+	6	7 • Love is in the Air Choral Soc. concert • Beer Brewing 101 • Cuckoo's Nest concert • Bluegrass Jam, Beachville Legion
8	9 • Ontario Ancestors • Embro Pond AGM • Darts, Beach Legion • Bid Euchre, Ing 50+ • Tai Chi, Ing 50+	10 • Mighty Men of Zorra talk Beach. Museum • Shuffleboard, arena • Sketchy Srs, Ing 50+ • Functional Movement, Ing 50+	11 • Swan Migration, library • Meditation 6:30pm • Gelli Plate Printing, ICAC • Farkle & Cribbage Ingersoll 50+	12 • Couples Scavenger Hunt, library • Line Dancing, Beachville Legion • Pilates, Ing 50+	13 • Galentine's Wkshp • Lasagne Dinner, Beachville Legion • Country Jamboree	14 • Bluegrass Jam, Beachville Legion • Heritage Baseball, Beach. Museum <i>Happy Valentine's Day</i>
15	16 <i>Family Day</i>	17 • Art Rocks, library • Pancake Supper, Thamesford • Euchre, Sacred Heart Church • Council meeting	18 • Shake, Rattle, Read, library • Colouring thru Grief • Srs Painting Class, Thorndale • Air Cadets • Srs Brunch, Ing 50+	19 • Crafternoon, library • Eco-Market, 2-4pm Thamesford • Evening Shuffleboard, arena • Hilda's Yard Opening Night, Tillsonburg	20 • Corn Hole Tourney VILLAGE VOICE DEADLINE	21 • Bluegrass Jam, Beachville Legion • Hilda's Yard, Tillsonburg Theatre • Sweaburg Euchre
22 • Cuckoo's Nest concert	23 • Local History, library • Wood Carving, Ingersoll 50+	24 • Horticulture Society • Al-Anon 7pm • Shuffleboard, arena • Acrylic Paint Night, ICAC • Pepper, Ing 50+	25 • Film Club, library • MAiD Grief Support • Chair Yoga, Beachville Legion • Thamesford Friendship Club • Meditation 6:30pm	26 • Euchre, Beachville Legion • Shuffleboard, arena • Hilda's Yard, Tillsonburg Theatre	27 • Chicken Parmesan, Beachville Legion • Country Jamboree	28 • Coldest Night Walk • Ditch Devices, library • Comedy Show • Bluegrass Jam, Beachville Legion • IDCi Student Art Exhibit opens, ICAC
1 • Hilda's Yard, Tillsonburg Theatre	2 • Circuit Training, Ingersoll 50+	3 • Timeline & Tales, Ing 50+	4 • Walking Club, Ingersoll 50+	5	6 • Osteofit, Ing 50+	7

Community Contacts

Telehealth Ontario 866-797-0000
Poison Info Centre..... 800-268-9017
Women's Emerg. Centre 519-539-4811
Kids Help Phone..... 800-668-6868
Information Oxford211
 Arena 519-485-5023
 Big Brothers Big Sisters..... 519-485-1801
 Creative Arts Centre 519-485-4691

Crime Stoppers..... 800-222-8477
 Fusion Youth Centre 519-485-4386
 Girl Guides.....877-323-4545 Ext 6401
 Health Care Connect.....888-579-6707
 Hockey, Minor..... 519-485-5858
 Horticultural Society..... 519-485-3649
 Ingersoll & District Inter-Church..... 519-933-7730
 Kiwanis Club..... 519-319-3937
 Library..... 519-485-2505
 Lions Club..... 519-536-3528

Museum, Cheese & Agri..... 519-485-5510
 Performing Arts (ITOPA)..... 519-485-3070
 Rotary Club..... 519-485-0750
 Seniors Services..... 519-485-3869
 Skating Club 519-485-1039
 Social Assistance Support Line 888-999-1142
 Trillium Drug Program..... 800-575-5386
 Victoria Park Comm Centre 519-425-1181
 Village Voice 519-285-3249
 VON..... 519-539-1231

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