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December 11, 2024

# Port Dover Maple Leaf



## FRIDAY THE 13TH

### Chris Simons talks about past, present & future of Friday the 13th

Mary Kushneryk and Chris Simons, the founder of Friday the 13th in Port Dover, with their motorcycles. Photos & interview by Earl Hartlen

BEFORE Port Dover celebrates the 75th Friday the 13th this week, the Maple Leaf spoke to Chris Simons, who started the tradition in 1981, and his wife, Mary Kushneryk. They talked about the past, present, and future of PD13.

"It's come a long way," Mary said with laughter. "And I love that it just happens, like Christmas. It just happens. And everybody looks forward to it, everybody's excited, there's such a buzz for weeks prior to it, and then just miraculously it's gone, it's done. The next day, there's nothing. Newcomers [will say], 'Well, what happened? Where'd they all go?'"

I love that part of it. There's the mystique of the Friday the 13th I guess."

"I'm glad it's lasted this long," Chris said. "Lots of people said it couldn't go on. Everybody told me that it wouldn't last after the first few because somebody would shut it down, and I pointed out that it's pretty hard to shut something down when it's not organized, it just happens. So yeah, this 75th event's pretty good."

He commented on how the event has grown over time and why he thinks that growth is important.

"Well, it had to grow. Originally it was too small, it was just annoying to local businesses and stuff because parking spots were taken up but there wasn't any money coming in. Now that it's grown to what it is, it's a big deal for the county now. So, as much as I enjoyed the smaller gatherings, we need the bigger crowd for the economics of it."

Mary echoed her husband's appreciation for "the fact that [PD13 has] grown so much and the economic impact that it has made on Norfolk County." She mentioned that the event's economic benefits help offset its costs and praised Norfolk County's efforts to keep it

safe for everyone to enjoy.

"The groups and organizations that benefit from the money brought in is incredible. I know how much we spend in a couple days and we live here. So you can't deny the fact that it brings in a lot of money, and that's wonderful. There are so many benefits to it," she said.

"Plus, the cost—even though it's not organized—the cost of the event, the policing. And we all realize that, so Norfolk County does a great job and yes, there's always been a little bit of controversy over the bikes parking on Main Street—it is better than it was; we

would love to see them take over the whole Main Street—however, it is what it is. In this day and age, perhaps it should just stay the way it is. And I'm good with that."

Chris shared that as PD13 has grown, the people celebrating it have changed. He also pointed to ways it has changed that he doesn't personally prefer.

"I miss a lot of the original people, a lot of my friends, a lot of them have passed on. I used to know almost everybody who came to the event and talked to everybody on the street, and now I can walk down the street and I don't > See CHRIS SIMONS on page 9

## Traffic concerns discussed

Residents say speeding is bad and stop signs ignored

By David Judd

THERE'S a form you can fill out to complain about drivers speeding and jumping stop signs.

Port Dover Coun. Adam Veri brought 40 copies of the form to a community traffic meeting last Tuesday at the Erie Beach Hotel.

The forms were snapped up by the three dozen people who came to find out what can be done to slow drivers down and persuade them to stop at stop signs.

Coun. Veri called the informal two-hour meeting to hear residents' concerns and inform them about what can—and cannot—be

done to improve safety on county roads and crosswalks.

The general view was speeding is bad in Port Dover, especially on main streets, and that many drivers treat stop signs—including four-way stops—as little more than suggestions.

> See TRAFFIC on page 3



Director of engineering Darnell Lambert (centre) speaks at a traffic meeting last Tuesday. With him are Port Dover Coun. Adam Veri (left) and Charlotteville Coun. Chris Van Paassen.

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These are a few of our last pictures for 2024 and we look forward to capturing even more moments in 2025!



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# Traffic concerns over speeding, stop signs, crosswalk

> From page one



Lewis McColl lives near Lakewood School and a year and a half ago asked Norfolk County for a red flashing light at Greenock and St. George streets.

Lewis McColl has lived at the corner of Greenock and St. George streets near Lakewood School for 51 years.

The intersection is a four-way stop in a school zone.

But drivers don't stop and "police are almost invisible," Mr. McColl told the meeting.

A year and a half ago, Mr. McColl wrote to Norfolk's road safety committee asking for a red flashing light at Greenock and St. George.

Mr. McColl said he got a reply — a 14-page email explaining why a red flashing light couldn't be done.

Dave Thompson, the current crossing guard at Greenock and St. George, said he has been nearly hit by vehicles three times in the four years he has been a crossing guard.

The pedestrian crosswalk at Main and Greenock streets came under fire as it seems many drivers ignore the yellow flashing lights.

But half a dozen residents wanted to know how to remove the stop signs on Nelson Street West at Maple Boulevard.

In 2021 county council installed the signs after residents petitioned for the signs as a way to slow traffic on Nelson Street.



Crossing guard Dave Thompson said he has been nearly hit by vehicles three times in the four years.

At the time, Nelson Street was being rebuilt and residents feared drivers would be tempted to speed on the smooth new pavement.

Residents at last Tuesday's meeting said they're bothered by noise from trucks and motorcycles stopping and starting at the signs.

Coun. Veri advised the Nelson Street residents to petition council to remove the signs.

They would need signatures from 75 per cent of the households within 200 metres of the location.

As for enforcement, Coun. Veri advised residents to call the OPP with descriptions of speeding vehicles.

If there's a cruiser nearby, the OPP might try to catch the speeder.

County council has a contract with the OPP for policing but cannot tell the OPP what to do.

Speeding is a problem in every neighbourhood in Norfolk, CAO Al Meneses said.

If the OPP designated one officer to enforce speeding, they might get to Port Dover one day a month, he said.

The county's road safety committee receives the complaint forms mentioned at the start of this story and determines if action is needed.

(Complaints can be filed on paper, online or through Service Norfolk.)

Solutions can be as easy as putting up a sign to warn about a hidden intersection or they can be more complicated and expensive, such as when a road needs a speed assessment.

Until this year, dealing with complaints was hit or miss, director of engineering Darnell Lambert said.

In January county councillors will consider hiring a "traffic development specialist" at a cost of \$150,000 a year to Norfolk taxpayers.

The specialist would bring expertise to responding to traffic issues and would help plan the location of roads and comment on building developments and traffic studies.

If residents want council to add the specialist to staff, Coun. Veri advised them to email councillors and attend and speak at the budget meeting in mid-January.

Norfolk gets many requests for traffic calming, Mr. Lambert said.

Options include signs, line painting, installing humps or bumps, centre signs and photo radar.

Humps and bumps can be noisy as trucks and trailers bounce over them and they can pose problems for snowplows.

Although centre signs work in some municipalities, it appears motorists in Norfolk deliberately knocked them down this summer.

Council early in 2025 will consider renting portable photo radar units.

Photo radar makes lots of money for municipalities but contested tickets soon overwhelm the courts, Mr. Lambert said.

As an alternative to the court system, municipalities can hire staff to administer penalties.

Vandals have targeted photo radar cameras across Ontario, leaving municipalities liable for costs to repair them.

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New Port Dover Lion Brigit Campbell-Nash and sponsor Tony Colucci.



New Port Dover Lion Murray Gow and sponsor Nigel Kean at the Dec. 3 Lions meeting.

## Lions induct members; plan community events

AT the regular Lions dinner meeting Dec. 3, Brigit Campbell-Nash and Murray Gow were inducted as new members of Port Dover Lions Club. Region 4 chair Lion Blair Oatman and Past District Governor Lion Jim Lomas lead the induction ceremony. Brigit's sponsor, Lion Tony Colucci, and Murray's sponsor, Lion Nigel Kean, pinned the new members.

### Upcoming Lions events

Once again this year, Port Dover Lions are sponsoring all Parent & Tots and Public Skating sessions during the Christmas holiday at Port Dover Arena. From Saturday, Dec. 21, to Saturday, Dec. 28, these public events are free for everyone to attend.

"This is our gift to the Port

Dover community. The Lions have sponsored these free skating sessions for a number of years now and the turnout is always great," said Rick Weatherill, current Lions Club president.

The full schedule can be found at [www.norfolkcounty.ca/wp-content/uploads/2024/11/schedules-2024-holiday.pdf](http://www.norfolkcounty.ca/wp-content/uploads/2024/11/schedules-2024-holiday.pdf).

The local Lions are also holding their annual New Year's Eve party at Port Dover Community Centre with doors opening at 8:30 p.m. and the dance getting underway at 9:00 p.m. There will be music by Black Creek Music, door prizes, a buffet, and champagne at midnight. Tickets are available for \$30 from Scotiabank, Port Dover Jewellery, and at Silver Lake Market.

## Nominations open for Sports Hall inductees

DO you know an outstanding athlete from Norfolk County who deserves to be inducted into the Norfolk County Sports Hall of Recognition? For the "Class of 2024," the deadline for induction nominations is December 31.

Anyone who knows of a Norfolk County athlete who has consistently excelled at the highest levels of sport, a coach or builder who has left a lasting stamp on Norfolk's sporting landscape, or a sports ambassador whose enthusiasm and commitment stands out above all others is welcome to submit a nomination package.

Those selected by the nomination committee will be honoured at the Sports Hall's next Induction Dinner, tentatively scheduled for 2026.

Nomination forms are available on the Sports Hall's website at [www.norfolksports.ca/](http://www.norfolksports.ca/). Completed nomination forms, along with supporting material, can be dropped off at the Simcoe Recreation Centre to the attention of the Sports Hall, or mailed to arrive by the deadline if postal service resumes.

The Norfolk County Sports Hall of Recognition is celebrating its 30th anniversary. Since its startup, the Norfolk County Sports Hall of Recognition has inducted over 90 individuals from throughout the county, including hockey greats Leonard (Red) Kelly and Ron (Chico) Maki as well as numerous builders and coaches without whose efforts the Norfolk sports landscape would look very different.

To learn more about the Norfolk County Sports Hall of Recognition, check out the Sports Hall displays in the pool viewing area of the Simcoe Recreation Centre. The Hall includes a permanent plaque wall as well as rotating displays featuring the most recent inductees.

## NORFOLK MUSICAL ARTS FESTIVAL REGISTRATION OPEN



Registration for the 2025 Norfolk Musical Arts Festival is open online until January 13 at [www.nmaf.ca](http://www.nmaf.ca). The annual festival runs February 24 to 28 at various locations in Simcoe.

Port Dover raised and a Simcoe Composite School student, Maggie-Dylan Norton-Shebib is entering the 2025 Norfolk Musical Arts Festival. Maggie is shown preparing for the festival as she will be entering the vocal categories of musical theatre, Disney, contemporary, and French art song as well as the drama categories of English and French speech arts.



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PORT DOVER LIONS CLUB

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In 3 of the 4 meetings investigated Ontario's Ombudsman Paul Dubé says...

**Norfolk's council not always following the rules**

# County council violated open meeting rules

By David Judd

ONTARIO'S Ombudsman has delivered a slap on the wrist to Norfolk officials for not always following the rules when holding closed-door discussions.

Paul Dubé in a report last month found county councillors violated open meeting rules under the Municipal Act on one occasion in November 2023 and two occasions in January 2024.

Councillors are allowed to go behind closed doors to discuss sensitive matters such as sale or purchase of property, security of assets, litigation and matters that concern identifiable individuals.

But Mr. Dubé found on Nov. 15, 2023, a council committee improperly went behind closed doors to discuss payments that developers make to Norfolk to help offset costs of parks and other amenities.

The agenda cited "potential litigation" as the reason for discussing the item in closed session.

Mr. Dubé found the fear of litigation from developers was speculative at best and not sufficient to close the discussion.

Similarly, the Jan. 9 agenda cited potential litigation as the reason for going behind closed doors to discuss an unspecified topic, which later was disclosed as the purchase of a portable, illuminated NORFOLK sign.

On Jan. 16, councillors went behind closed doors to discuss a workforce development update on county staff's working conditions and ways to attract and retain staff.

The agenda cited the risk of identifying individual staff members.

But Mr. Dubé found no individuals were identified so the discussion should have been in open session.

The Ombudsman investigated a fourth occasion on Feb. 14, 2023, and found councillors acted properly when they went behind closed doors to receive an update on Norfolk's insurance coverage for cyber security.

The Ombudsman's Nov. 22

report is posted online.

Norfolk will do a better job of showing it is not trying to hide things, CAO Al Meneses said in an interview.

On Tuesday of this week, councillors were scheduled to vote on three recommendations in line with the Ombudsman's recommendations:

- That all members of council will be committed to adhering to their obligation to ensure compliance with their responsibilities under the Municipal Act;

- That council will strive not to go into a closed session unless it comes within one of the statutory exceptions to the open meeting requirements;

- That council will endeavour to make resolutions to proceed (to closed sessions) provide a general description of all issues to be discussed in a way that provides sufficient information to the public, while not undermining the reason for closing the meeting to the public.

## The Ombudsman investigated complaints filed by Norfolk's former solicitor, Paula Boutis.

A friend asked Ms. Boutis what reason councillors had for going behind closed doors to discuss potential litigation on Jan. 9.

Ms. Boutis didn't know so she complained to the Ombudsman.

After studying agendas, Ms. Boutis also complained about closed-door meetings on Feb. 14, 2023, Nov. 15, 2023, and Jan. 16, 2024, she said in an interview.

The Ombudsman upheld complaints for Nov. 15, Jan. 9 and Jan. 16.

Ms. Boutis said the complaints were unrelated to her nearly \$1.5-million lawsuit against the county and two former officials.

Ms. Boutis was fired as



Ontario Ombudsman Paul Dubé found Norfolk County Council violated open meeting rules on three occasions.

Photo: Ontario Ombudsman website

Norfolk's solicitor in November 2021.

She is seeking \$500,000 each from Norfolk County and its Board of Health for wrongful dismissal, plus \$71,000 for failing to give her six months' notice of termination.

She also seeks \$200,000 each from former mayor Kristal Chopp and former CAO Jason Burgess for "infliction of mental suffering."

Ms. Boutis' claims have not been tested in court.

In October an adjudicator for Ontario's Information and Privacy Commissioner ordered Norfolk County to disclose to Ms. Boutis 634 pages of casualty insurance coverage for 2019, 2020, 2021 and 2022.

The county had refused to disclose its coverage for fear it might significantly impair its negotiating ability in settling any insurance claims and could reasonably be expected to increase litigation settlement amounts.

The county also argued making its insurance coverage public might pose a significant risk to its financial interests.

Adjudicator Cathy Hamilton rejected the county's arguments and ordered the insurance coverage disclosed to Ms. Boutis.

Norfolk CAO Meneses declined to comment on litigation with Ms. Boutis.



The NORFOLK sign in Powell Park along St. Andrew Street during last September's Friday the 13th. Photo: Earl Hartlen

# The illuminated Norfolk sign and why councillors discussed it during a closed meeting

By David Judd

ONTARIO'S Ombudsman says county councillors should not have gone behind closed doors early this year to discuss the controversial purchase of a portable, illuminated NORFOLK sign.

County officials cited "potential litigation" to justify closing the doors on discussion on Jan. 9.

But in a recent decision, Ombudsman Paul Dubé says speculating about litigation is not a good enough reason to bar the public from council's discussion.

The Ombudsman also found council didn't give enough detail about why it planned to go behind closed doors to talk about the sign.

The sign became a topic of controversy last December after it was unveiled at Simcoe's Panorama of Lights.

County councillors and the public were surprised to learn Norfolk staff had bought the \$35,000 sign without council's approval.

Councillors discussed the sign at a closed-door meeting on Jan. 9.

Three days later, the county issued a media release explaining why staff thought the sign was a good deal, noted council had not been aware of the purchase and said Norfolk was taking action "to help improve operational efficiencies and communications."

But why was council discussion behind closed doors?

A friend asked Norfolk's former solicitor, Paula Boutis, if she had an idea.

Ms. Boutis couldn't see a good reason so she complained to the Ombudsman.

Ombudsman Dubé upheld her complaint in a report posted online last month.

He found council went behind closed doors Jan. 9 at 3:53 p.m. to discuss "CAO Preliminary Verbal Update — Potential Litigation" and returned to public session at 5:14 p.m.

According to the Ombudsman's report:

"In closed session, council discussed a sign the county had recently purchased, including related comments on social media and feedback that members of council had received.

"During the closed session, the Chief Administrative Officer (Al Meneses) stated that potential litigation against the county could arise in relation to the sign purchase.

"When asked about the possibility of litigation, the CAO clarified he was unaware of any but feared discussing the subject in open session could lead to lawsuits."

The Ombudsman found council should not have relied on "potential litigation" as a reason to go behind closed doors when the possibility is merely speculative.

"Council must believe that litigation is a reasonable prospect . . .

"As shown in the closed session recording, the CAO believed litigation could arise by discussing the sign purchase in open session.

"The recording also demon-

> See NORFOLK SIGN on page 7

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Friday the 13th a decade ago when bikes were parked on both sides of the street with a third row of parking down the centre line. Photo by Earl Hartlen

## Since its origin in 1981, this Friday marks the 75th Friday the 13th in Port Dover

THE people of Port Dover take pride in many parts of their town, from its rich history of commercial fishing to its celebration of the arts. But if you talk to someone not from the area who's heard of or visited Port Dover, it's likely they'll know our town best for one thing: Friday the 13th motorcycle rallies, also known as PD13.

The first Friday the 13th event in Port Dover was held on Friday, November 13, 1981, after Chris Simons invited some friends who shared his passion for motorcycles for an evening of revelry at the former Commercial Hotel on Main Street. They enjoyed the gathering so much that they decided to hold it again on subsequent Fridays the 13th.

Over time, the event grew beyond Mr. Simon's group, eventually becoming a town-wide motorcycle rally and celebration of riders' culture. Now PD13 events attract hun-

dreds of thousands of people when the weather is right for bikes.

That's a shortened version of how the peaceful harbour town of Port Dover became famous for hosting one of North America's largest motorcycle rallies. But perhaps just as interesting to consider is the impact the past 74 events have had on the town. PD13 has brought untold revenues for local service organizations and countless visitors who made a connection to the area. It's also created millions of memories for attendees. In this way, the tradition is part of life for innumerable people, not just Port Dover locals.

As we celebrate the 75th PD13 this Friday, there's more to look back on than one can remember. Nonetheless, it seems likely this tradition is one our town will never forget, and we will continue to enjoy hosting thousands of visitors for years to come.



Motorcyclists riding into Port Dover at the lift bridge for the Friday the 13th in September of this year. Photo by Earl Hartlen



### SAND ON THE MOVE

High winds last week saw a large amount of sand blowing off the beach and all along Walker Street. Shown at left is the intersection at St. George Street and Walker Street with a thick layer of sand.

Photo by Earl Hartlen

## POA fines = opportunity for Ontario municipalities

### AMY MARTIN



Mayor, Norfolk County

AS we approach the holiday season, it's a time when many of us are acutely aware of rising costs. From grocery bills to heating expenses, the strain on household budgets is evident. For Norfolk County, the challenge of balancing expenses is mirrored in our municipal budget process. The 2025 budget is well underway, and with it comes tough decisions about tax levies, debt, and reserve contributions. One area of opportunity that could provide relief lies in the millions of dollars in outstanding Provincial Offences Act (POA) fines owed to Norfolk County.

These unpaid fines represent a significant financial challenge, not just for Norfolk but for municipalities across Ontario. While collecting these fines wouldn't provide a consistent, ongoing source of revenue for budget planning, the funds could offer valuable one-time benefits. By collecting on these fines, Norfolk County could reduce the amount of debt we need to take on, make contributions to reserves, or even fund a specific construction project. Any of these options would ultimately help ease the burden on taxpayers.

When I began my term in 2018, Norfolk County had approximately \$6-million in outstanding POA fines. During the COVID-19 pandemic, however, many fines went uncollected as enforcement slowed and resources were stretched. That figure has now grown to just under \$9-million.

To put that in perspective, \$1.28-million equates to 1 per cent on the tax levy. While we can't plan our budget around uncertain one-time revenues, these funds could help offset some of the increases residents are seeing, providing relief in a time when every dollar counts. Despite our best efforts, collection has proven to be a slow and resource-intensive process. Council has



Provincial Offences Act (POA) fines include Highway Traffic Act charges such as speeding; municipal by-law charges such as excessive noise, animal control; and charges laid under provincial legislation such as the Environmental Protection Act, Occupational Health and Safety Act, Dog Owners' Liability Act, or the Trespass to Property Act. In Ontario, municipalities administer courts where most provincial offence cases are heard. Stock photo

even allocated a dedicated staff resource to work exclusively on collecting these fines, yet the financial return on investment has been challenging—we're essentially breaking even and not making meaningful progress.

Recognizing the limitations of our current collection tools, I've been actively lobbying the provincial government to explore new ways to help municipalities collect outstanding POA fines. During this year's Association of Municipalities of Ontario (AMO) conference in Ottawa, I had the opportunity to sit down with the Minister of Municipal Affairs and Housing, Paul Calandra, to discuss this issue in detail. One of the key suggestions we put forward is a revision to section 441.1 of the Municipal Act. This change would allow municipalities to transfer outstanding POA fines onto property tax bills, enabling collection at some point. This method would simplify the process, significantly improve collection rates, and provide municipalities with a much-needed financial boost.

I'm encouraged to share that Minister Calandra has followed up on this suggestion and is exploring the possibility of such a revision. While there's still work to be done, I'm optimistic about the potential for change and the positive impact it could have on Norfolk County's finances. Norfolk County isn't alone in facing these challenges. Municipalities across Ontario are grappling with

millions of dollars in uncollected fines, highlighting the need for a province-wide solution. However, the growing collections backlog in Norfolk makes it particularly pressing for us to find innovative ways to tackle the issue.

As the holidays approach and budgets tighten, it's worth remembering that every dollar we recover from outstanding POA fines could help ease the financial burden on Norfolk residents. Whether it's reducing debt, contributing to reserves, prioritizing a council and community priority, or funding a key project, these funds represent an opportunity to strengthen our financial position and better serve our community.

I want to assure Norfolk residents that we are actively working to resolve this challenge and review the best use of every dollar collected. From allocating staff resources to lobbying the province, council is leaving no stone unturned to bring in more revenue to offset potential tax increases. With the possibility of legislative amendments on the horizon, I'm hopeful that we'll soon have better tools to collect on these fines and put those dollars to work for our community. As we move into 2025, we remain committed to finding innovative solutions to balance our budget, minimize tax increases, reduce debt, and ensure long-term financial sustainability. Your tax dollars matter, and we're doing everything we can to make them go further.



# Norfolk sign discussion was closed to the public for litigation concern

> From page 5

strated that council's belief that the municipality might face litigation was based primarily on social media comments and second-hand information."

Despite the Ombudsman's finding, council continued to tell his office that at the time of the meeting the risk of litigation was real and not speculative.

CAO Meneses stood by that opinion in an interview last week.

He said discussing the sign's purchase in open session might have been dangerous territory,

inviting lawsuits.

Council's decisions to go behind closed doors are vetted by lawyers, Mr. Meneses said.

CAO Meneses said council will do a better job of telling the public why council goes behind closed doors.

The Ombudsman found council did not provide enough information about the topic to be discussed in closed session on Jan. 9.

The council resolution authorizing the closed session did not mention the portable sign, only that the topic involved potential

litigation.

The Ombudsman did not delve into the merits of buying the portable sign.

The Jan. 12 media release gave this summary:

- Council approved buying a stationary sign (in Simcoe) for \$46,000;

- Staff determined a new mobile sign would offer significant advantages (on price, revenue from rentals and ability to move around the county);

- A provincial grant lowered the mobile sign's cost to \$23,000.

## Local Liberals looking for candidate for Ontario election

IN a press release last week, the Haldimand-Norfolk Provincial Liberal Association said it "is conducting a democratic candidate search process. We are looking for a representative who has a vision for Haldimand-Norfolk and Ontario while joining a Bonnie Crombie Liberal government."

The Haldimand-Norfolk Provincial Liberal Association recently elected a new executive with Allan Wilson as president from Haldimand County and Peter Black as vice-president from Norfolk County.

Those interested in becoming the Haldimand-Norfolk Liberal candidate can contact Peter

Black, search committee chair, confidentially at [peterblack4277@gmail.com](mailto:peterblack4277@gmail.com) for more information. The Liberal association says full details of their nomination process can be found online at [ontarioliberal.ca/nominations/](http://ontarioliberal.ca/nominations/).

Ontario Liberal Party leader Bonnie Crombie visited the riding during her leadership campaign and attended the Caledonia Fair with local Liberals. Ms. Crombie is described as a "successful business leader and entrepreneur. She is also a proud mother of three." She served as a councillor and federal Member of Parliament. As mayor of Mississauga, she helped guide the municipality's development and was elected three times.

# Ontario's Auditor General report hits home... (think MZOs)

### BOBBI ANN BRADY



#### Queen's Park Report

ONTARIO'S Auditor General recently released her annual report, which contained some red flags that hit close to home regarding Minister's Zoning Orders (MZOs)—specifically, the Nanticoke Industrial Park.

From 2019 to 2023, the Ford government implemented MZOs 114 times, 17-fold more in comparison to the previous 20 years. The report also found that while the government was busy blasting out this extraordinary volume of municipality-overriding zoning orders, the PC Government often ignored critical information and ranked requests "with no protocol and no apparent rationale."

By way of background: MZOs are a tool used to give a green light to the Minister of Municipal Affairs and Housing (MMAH) to make amendments to land zoning rules, override municipal decisions, and, in most cases with this government, fast-track housing projects. MZOs regulate the use of land, buildings and structures anywhere in Ontario. In cases of disagreement between

an MZO and a municipal zoning by-law, the MZO wins.

In the not-too-distant past, MZOs were reserved for zoning concerns in undeveloped areas or to protect agricultural and natural lands. Instead, the audit found, under the current administration, more than 50 per cent of recent MZOs were about residential development.

The Auditor General uncovered some orders issued by former MMAH Steve Clark gave "the appearance of preferential treatment" for particular developers. Clark's team often invoked an MZO seemingly sans consideration of local and environmental realities, which on occasion rocketed the values of properties before projects were possible. Re-zoned agricultural land rises in value an average of 46 per cent when granted an MZO.

The report noted that MMAH didn't thoroughly assess "whether the sites for re-zoning had access to servicing." Obviously, infrastructure, including water and wastewater systems, is essential for building and a "key consideration for any development" going through the municipal approvals process, as the report put it. The Auditor General said that "as of April 2024, 18 per cent of projects relating to MZOs were still facing significant delays related to servicing." Further, it continued, "These delays beg the question why an MZO was used instead of

the municipal planning process."

Why indeed.

Back to Haldimand-Norfolk, where an application for an MZO for Empire Homes is imminent. Empire Homes will be asking for an MZO to green light the development of a city of 15,000 homes and 40,000 people on the Nanticoke Industrial Lands. These lands are a source of needed employment now and for the future, not for homes. An industrial park is for industry. As I've said many times, the jobs at Stelco and Imperial Oil must be protected.

And then there's the infrastructure issue. Infrastructure goes far beyond water and wastewater. Consider hospitals/healthcare, schools/education, and safe and efficient roadways. Yeah, the roadways—you've likely heard me all the way from Queen's Park telling the House that Highway 6 is a mess as it is. Imagine the literal and figurative carnage with thousands of commuters travelling back and forth to the GTA and GHA.

To read the full report: <https://www.auditor.on.ca/en/content/annualreports/arby-year/ar2024.html>.

In my opinion, after reading the Auditor General's report, I see no good reason for the Ford Government to approve yet another controversial MZO. Putting 40,000 people in an industrial park could translate into big headlines for this government.

### SOMETHIN'S FISHY BY PETER PERCH



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# Local health unit to merge with Brant's, become Grand Erie Public Health

ON December 2, the Haldimand-Norfolk Health Unit (HNHU) announced that it and the Brant County Health Unit (BCHU) received approval from the Ministry of Health to merge. The new entity will be known as Grand Erie Public Health, and it will serve residents in Norfolk County, Haldimand County, Brant County, and the City of Brantford.

"This approval by the Ministry of Health follows the review of a jointly prepared business proposal, submitted by BCHU and the HNHU," the local health unit said in a statement.

"The new, merged health unit will replace the two organizations under the Health Promotion and Protection legislation effective January 1, 2025."

In its statement, HNHU said residents should not expect immediate changes to local health programs and services.

"The full integration of the two health units into a single new entity is expected to take place gradually throughout 2025. On January 1, 2025, the delivery of programs and services for the public, in both communities, will remain the same. Programs and services will remain available across all of Brantford-Brant and Haldimand-Norfolk regions at current operating locations."

The health units' merger has been in development for over a year. In August 2023, Ontario's Ministry of Health announced "unprecedented one-time funding, resources, and support for local public health agency mergers, prompting BCHU and HNHU to explore potential alignments and options."

Before committing to merging with each other, HNHU and BCHU explored potential mergers with other health units, such as South-west Public Health, which represents Oxford County, Elgin County, and St. Thomas.

"Throughout this process, BCHU and HNHU have identified several key benefits of merging, including enhanced public health capacity, improved service delivery, and a unified network of community partners such as school boards and children's services providers. Both organizations already collaborate closely, with overlapping programs and shared geographic and demographic characteristics," HNHU said.

"The merger's focus remains on ensuring business continuity, retaining front-line expertise, maintaining a strong local public health presence, delivering high-quality services, and addressing health disparities."

Norfolk County Mayor Amy Martin, HNHU board of health chair, expressed optimism about the merger on behalf of the organization.

"Our strong partnership with the Brant County Health Unit has allowed us to effectively collaborate with a wide network of community providers, allied agencies, and healthcare pathways across our regions. Looking to the future, we are excited about our two health units becoming one and firmly believe that this merger will greatly enhance public health capacity, services, and overall impact. We are grateful to the Ministry of Health for this opportunity."

Brant County Health Unit board of health chair Susan Brown said, "We'd like to extend our gratitude to the Ministry of Health for their approval of this merger and their commitment to investing in a stronger public health sector. The decision to merge with the Haldimand-Norfolk Health Unit underscores our collective dedication to enhancing public health services and advancing community well-being. This merger represents not just the coming together of two organizations, but a partnership of like-minded health units, dedicated to building a healthier future for all."

# St. Cecilia School Christmas activities



By Jacob Fehr

ST. Cecilia School in Port Dover has a slate of Christmas activities lined up to help students and staff celebrate the season this year. School principal Sue Defreyne shared their plans with the Maple Leaf.

As has been the case in previous years, giving to others in need is part of the school's Christmas programming.

"Right now, we're doing a food collection through our colour houses for the Port Dover & Area Lifeline Foodbank," Ms. Defreyne said. The collection ends on December 13.

"We're also doing a food drive donation for St. Vincent de Paul. We sponsor a family of five through a gift basket," she said. From October to April, the St. Vincent de Paul Society's Simcoe chapter operates a soup kitchen to help people in need.

St. Cecilia's also has plans to share some festive fun with friends, family, and community members in town.

On Thursday, December 12, students will travel to Dover Cliffs Long-Term Care Home to sing Christmas carols to residents around 1:40 p.m.

On Monday, December 16, the school is hosting its Christmas concert at St. Cecilia's Church. "Each class will be performing a little skit or musical number to get into the Christmas spirit," Ms. Defreyne said.

Then, on Wednesday, December 18, "Our parent group is hosting a Christmas luncheon where all our classes eat together," she added.

Ms. Defreyne said events such as these help the school's community enjoy the holidays. She also shared the school's yearly theme.

"Our theme this year is 'Pilgrims of Hope,' and through our activities and events we want to give hope to everyone this Christmas season."



## Three tips to avoid blowing your travel budget

According to Statistics Canada, international travel by Canadians was down nearly 37% in the first three quarters of 2021 compared to the same period before the COVID-19 pandemic. But with the post-pandemic world opening up for travel, you may be ready to plan your next adventure.

Whether you've been dreaming of hiking in the mountains, seeing the sights in a new city or simply relaxing on a beach, you don't have to overspend to have a great time. Following these tips can help you keep your budget on track.

### Shop around.

Unless you're picking an exclusive, ultra-luxurious location, in the age of online, do-it-yourself travel planning, there's no reason to overpay for your trip. Sign up for daily or weekly travel deal emails from companies like Expedia, Redtag or Kayak. They aggregate specials from a variety of tour operators and airlines, offering you an easy way to keep a pulse on the best deals.

### Be flexible.

Rather than picking a destination and then trying to find a deal, why not pick your trip based on what's on sale? You

may discover a location you might have otherwise overlooked. This doesn't necessarily mean traveling during off-season. You could just as easily snatch up a discount for an up-and-coming destination, and even better, you'll get to say you went there first!

### Set a budget.

Before you can stay on budget, you need to have a budget. Decide the maximum amount you want to spend and stick to it. This may mean being more selective when choosing souvenirs or skipping them altogether. (Do you really need another T-shirt or novelty shot glass?) While it may seem counterintuitive, tracking your purchases on a debit or credit card may be easier, and safer, than using cash. At the end of each day, check your account to make sure you've stayed within your daily budget. All-inclusive vacations are another great way to keep costs down. Lock up your wallet in the room safe and don't pull it back out until you leave to avoid tempting impulse buys.

If traveling is one of your goals, your financial professional can help you review your current situation, refine your goals and create a strategy to keep you on track.



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## ASK THE EXPERT: ARE WINTER TIRES WORTH IT? ABSOLUTELY!

As a personal injury lawyer with 30 years of experience in Ontario, I've seen firsthand how winter tires can make all the difference—not just in safety but also in liability. Here's why investing in winter tires is a smart, practical, and potentially life-saving decision.

### 1. Winter Tires Are Designed for Canadian Conditions.

Ontario winters bring snow, ice, and slush—realities that demand better grip than all-season tires can provide. Lake effect snow in Southern Ontario or deep freezes in the north make winter tires a necessity, not a luxury.

### 2. Four-Wheel Drive Is Not Enough.

While four-wheel drive helps with traction when accelerating, it doesn't improve braking or cornering. Dedicated winter tires provide the grip needed to stop on icy roads, reducing the chance of an accident—and protecting you from being partially blamed in a collision.

### 3. The Misleading "All-Season" Label.

All-season tires lose their effectiveness below 7°C, becoming too hard to grip icy surfaces. Winter tires, engineered for cold weather, are essential as soon as temperatures drop—well before snow even falls.

### 4. You Can't Predict Black Ice.

Black ice is invisible and unavoidable. Winter tires provide the peace of mind that your vehicle can handle these

sudden hazards, potentially preventing accidents.

### 5. Financial Savings Add Up.

Sliding into another car or object can mean costly insurance claims and deductibles. Winter tires may prevent these mishaps and extend the life of your summer tires, effectively offsetting their upfront cost.

### 6. Quebec Got It Right.

Winter tires are mandatory in Quebec—a clear indication of their effectiveness.

### 7. Ontario Offers Discounts.

Since January 1, 2016, Ontario drivers can enjoy auto insurance discounts (2%-5%) for using winter tires. Over time, these savings can make the investment virtually self-financing.

Winter tires aren't just a safety feature; they're an investment in peace of mind. Drive smarter, drive safer—switch to winter tires.

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# FRIDAY THE 13TH

Friday, December 13, 2024

## Chris Simons tells how first event came about

> From page one

know most of the people. So that's one of the changes."

"Not fond of seeing the vendors on Main Street, on the street itself. I'm quite happy to see them in the park, in the parking lot, or on private properties, but I think Main Street itself should be reserved for the motorcycles, which is what the event is about.

"And the other thing is the traffic control tends to bring people in one end of town, run them around a circle in town, and then send them out the door again, whereas they should be able to come into town and go directly to a parking spot. If you come over the lift bridge, they won't let you turn left to park along the pier, it's all motorcycle parking, but you can go down there during the day and there are hardly any bikes down there because they couldn't get there or they didn't know it was there by the time they were run up Main Street the other way. Same with Market Street beside the theatre, it was zoned for vendor parking but there weren't any vendors parking, it was just a blocked off street and it would have been better served having motorcycles on it. So there are little things that need tweaking."

A few years after creating the event, they foresaw that it would need more co-ordination and started a committee to help manage it. "The Kinsmen joined in and helped a lot with organizing things after the first few years," Chris said.

### Why has it lasted?

Asked why PD13 has lasted so long, Mary said, "I think that it has become a family event. Husbands and wives come together, they bring their kids, you see the family walking down Main Street amongst the bikes pushing the baby carriage. I like that aspect of it."

One of her favourite memories from celebrating the event involves a tradition she shares with friends.

"I'm a member of a dance team, and we always dress up every year for Friday the 13th. I remember the first time dressed up, we dressed up as zombie bikers, so we had our faces painted, and one of our friends, a good friend of ours who is a cinematographer, Dan Bailey, took our picture, and I thought that's a pretty prestigious position to be in, to have someone of [his] stature taking our picture. So I thought that was



Mary Kushneryk and Chris Simons at home in Port Dover with their motorcycles. Photo by Earl Hartlen

so exciting—I still have some of those pictures, they're wonderful."

Chris reflected fondly on some of the time he has spent in front of cameras and with interesting people because of PD13.

"Over the years I've done a lot of filming, a lot of interviews. I particularly liked spending the day with Rick Mercer when he did a segment on the event," he said.

"I spent a day with the late Don Francks when we were filming a pilot for a motorcycle TV show. I especially liked being with him because I never realized what an actor was until I was with a real actor. He had the ability to turn on and turn off—it was incredible watching how he worked. I mean it was easy for me just to be interviewed but to try to act was a totally different thing.

"I did lots of phone interviews with newspapers across the country, and TVO did a really good video of it the one year, they were very good at it."

With the 75th event this week being the next milestone chapter in PD13's storied 47-year history, Chris doesn't see it slowing down anytime soon.

"I can't see any reason for it to

shut down in the near future," he said, though he added he doesn't know what the future will bring.

"I can't say one hundred years from now, are there going to be motorcycles? I'm not sure what future generations are going to be interested in. Are people going to be able to have private cars and private vehicles in the future? It's hard to say."

### The origin story

Chris also retold the story of how the event started.

"The beginning's real simple. We used to meet with a group—just our friends—we'd meet every week or two throughout the summer, go to the bar, and have a pub night. By the end of the summer and into November, we hadn't got together for a while, so I figured it was time we had a pub night.

"I was in my motorcycle shop, Biker's Delight, and I hadn't had any customers come through or anything, so I started phoning people and saying, 'Meet me down at The Zoo—the Commercial Tavern—on Friday night and we'll have some beers,' and that's what we did.

"It was a small group of almost all local people. There were people from a few miles away, but

people who say they came from Brampton or Toronto are full of it because they weren't here, I didn't know them, [and] we didn't invite them. There were maybe... we're not sure how many people. You weren't allowed to have a camera in the hotel back then.

"We weren't planning on turning it into a reoccurring event, we just had regular pub nights throughout the summer. We'd be carrying on and the waitress would ask us what we were celebrating, was it somebody's birthday, and we'd make up an excuse, 'Well, it's garbage night,' or whatever we could do.

"We pulled together about four small tables they had in The Zoo, and we were lined up watching the band. Maybe 16 people sort of sticks in my head, but it could have been as many as 20-25, it [may] have been a few less, we really don't know. There are people who were in the bar that night who claim they were at the first one, but they weren't really at it because they weren't at our table.

"It was a good night, we had fun, and somebody suggested that we do it again the next Friday the 13th and we said okay, so we did. And it just got bigger and bigger, we invited more people, and..."

### Cold weather events

Since this week's milestone event is happening in December, the Maple Leaf asked Chris about his most memorable winter PD13 experience.

"There was one Friday the 13th that was in January, and we were afraid that if people showed up, there wouldn't be enough room for them to get into the bars and restaurants, so we rented the Masonic Hall and we had coffee, pop, and motorcycle movies. And that was just so that people could get in out of the cold.

"Well, it turned out that it was 60°F and sunny that day. The part

that I liked best was the bikes were lined up well past where the Esso station is now and all the way down Main Street, and a local cop came along and just looked at me and shook his head and said, 'How did you do this?'" Chris and Mary cracked up with laughter at the story.

Mary shared her advice on preparing for PD13 in December.

"Dress warm in case it's chilly. If you're on a bike, please be careful. We've had winter Friday the 13ths where they were crashing drifts on the highway just to get into town and we'd have 12 bikes and I thought, 'Oh, you crazy fools.' But the diehards, they'll be there. There will be bikes in December, I can guarantee you that.

"As far as recommendations, patronize our local restaurants. Go into some of the stores. Buy something. You're a tourist, you're in town for Friday the 13th, so support the cause."

Chris echoed her sentiments.

"Enjoy your day in town," he said. "I don't have to tell you to behave because you know you have to behave."

"We don't have the bars we used to have so it's going to be a little crowded in some of the restaurants that we have. I know the Legion's got food and bands in there but it will probably be full to the rafters. Just do what the event was originally meant for, to get everybody together and for the camaraderie, and have a good time."

### Predictions for June

Asked if they had any predictions for the 76th PD13 in June 2025, Chris offered an estimate of the crowd he expects.

"I'm guessing we'll probably push 180,000-200,000 people for that one. The biggest one I think we ever had was one in July and we were told there were 220,000 or something."



This large sign carved out of wood hangs in Chris and Mary's home in Port Dover, a gift from Mary's brother who lives out west.



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# FRIDAY THE 13TH

Friday, December 13, 2024

Tim Mark of Port Dover, Redjo Husin and Tim Quinlan of Burlington

## Three friends toured Florida by bike, visited many sites



Tim Mark of Port Dover and two friends from Burlington, Redjo Husin and Tim Quinlan, travelled to Florida where they rented motorcycles, visited Key West, and Daytona Beach Bike Week, and toured across the state.

By Jacob Fehr

IN February, Tim Mark of Port Dover and two friends from Burlington, Redjo Husin and Tim Quinlan, travelled to Florida to see the Sunshine State by motorbike and experience Daytona Beach Bike Week, one of the world's largest motorcycle rallies.

The friends are no strangers to riding together and with others; they belong to a group of motorcycle enthusiasts called the Southern Cruisers Riding Club. "They're in the Burlington chapter, I'm in the Nor-

folk chapter," Mr. Mark said.

"We went down to Buffalo and then to Orlando. We arranged with an organization called Riders Share, and basically what that is is an organization where private people rent their bikes out, and the insurance is covered and you're good to ride."

The group picked up their rental rides at the airport. The bike Mr. Mark borrowed was a 2022 Harley-Davidson Street Glide.

"A white one, very nice, well maintained," he said.

With wheels underneath and plenty to see ahead, they travelled south toward Miami to stay at a friend's winter home for a night. "It was cool. Saved us some money," he said.

The next day they visited Marathon, a city dispersed across 13 islands in the southern Florida Keys, on their way to Key West, the contiguous United States' southernmost city. He said the time they spent in that area was one of the standouts from the trip.

"It's a great ride down there, you know? You go through all the Keys. It's a nice ride," he said. Locals recommended a hotel for them to stay at while in Key West.

"Really enjoyed the Keys. People are friendly—it was great."

Another noteworthy outing on their trip saw them riding and gliding by alligators near the Everglades. However, instead of driving down Florida's famous

Interstate 75, also known as Alligator Alley, the group chose an alternative path along Route 41.

"Route 41 is a lot less traffic and you're able to see some of the sights, like alligators," Mr. Mark explained. "Two of us went on an airboat ride, which was cool. The alligators didn't move as the boat went by. I guess they were used to the boats."

The trio trekked northeast toward Largo, seeing a "beautiful beach" in Siesta Key, Bradenton, Sun City, and more on the way. Unfortunately, bad traffic ultimately prevented them from reaching their destination.

> See FLORIDA on page 11

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Riding into Daytona Beach, Florida. While there, Tim Mark visited the world's second-largest Harley-Davidson dealership and the largest Indian Motorcycle dealership.

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# 75<sup>+</sup> RIDE FRIDAY THE 13TH

Friday, December 13, 2024

## Florida trip on a bike was on the bucket list; turned out so well there's talk of going again

> From page 10

"Traffic was stop and go, stop and go—it was really quite extraordinary," he said. Even in Florida, the cool temperatures made using his bike's clutch hard on his hands.

Instead, they stayed in Sanford en route to Daytona Beach Bike Week. He said seeing one of the world's largest



"It was a bit of a whirlwind tour, but I really enjoyed riding in the sun down there. Especially the Keys were really nice," said Tim Mark.



Tim Mark of Port Dover, and Redjo Husin and Tim Quinlan of Burlington toured Florida on rented motorcycles.

motorcycle rallies firsthand was another highlight of the trip.

"You hear different things about Daytona Beach Bike Week. We saw lots of sights and sounds, that's for sure," he said.

While there, he visited the world's second-largest Harley-Davidson dealership and the largest Indian Motorcycle dealership. At the latter, he tried riding an Indian Challenger Dark Horse, something he said he hadn't been able to do in Canada.

"They treated me well there. It was good," he said.

"They really celebrate it when someone buys a bike. Bells and whistles go off and an AC/DC song plays, they brought this girl to the front... it was cool."

Attending the event was a bit of a bucket list item for the three travellers.

"We all wanted to do Daytona Beach Bike Week at least once in our lives. It was sort of like a trip of a lifetime because it wasn't cheap," he said.

Despite the expense, he said it was a great experience, and he and Mr. Husin have discussed doing it again. "Maybe we'll remember where to go this time," he joked.

Their trip was nine days in total, with eight spent in Florida.

"It was a bit of a whirlwind tour, but I really enjoyed riding in the sun down there. Especially the Keys were really nice. The views are incredible on both sides of you, especially on a bike."

Asked about his plans for the upcoming Friday the 13th in Port Dover, Mr. Mark said, "In December, there's a few of us getting together. We'll probably go down to the Legion."

"The Legion puts on a good spread, brings in a band. Something to enjoy when you've got the winter blues and can't ride your bike."



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### FRIENDS COME TO MEET AT FRIDAY THE 13TH



This photograph was taken on Main Street in downtown Port Dover at the 35th Friday the 13th on July 13, 2001. By this time, the event had been growing for 20 years and crowds were getting larger every year. Four-wheeled vehicles were kept off Main Street for the good weather events but motorcycles roared along the street in both directions while pedestrians strolled the street.

## Sometimes, it's not about the money...



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# FRIDAY THE 13TH

Friday, December 13, 2024



Brooklyn Waldschmidt gets a ride to the Port Dover pier on her father's motorcycle. With the weather forecast calling for a chance of flurries, Tyler Waldschmidt doubted they'd be riding a motorcycle this Friday to celebrate Brooklyn's thirteenth birthday.

## Local girl turns 13 on PD13

*Brooklyn Waldschmidt hoping to make some memories on her birthday*

BROOKLYN Waldschmidt of Port Dover is celebrating her 13th birthday this Friday, December 13. Since her birthday overlaps with Friday the 13th in Port Dover (PD13) this month and her parents, Shannon Wynne and Tyler Waldschmidt, are fans of the event and of motorcycles, the family has lots to celebrate with Brooklyn's birthday and PD13.

Brooklyn said she plans to attend PD13 for her birthday. Asked if she'll ride a motorcycle in the future, she answered, "Yeah, probably."

She thinks becoming a teenager will be "pretty good," but she hasn't decided exactly how she's celebrating yet.

"I don't really know what I'm wishing for for my birthday yet. I guess just to hangout with my friends and have a good time on my birthday, make some memories I'd say."

Ms. Wynne said her daughter is growing up quickly.

"Right now [Brooklyn's] 12 going on 18," she said.

She and Mr. Waldschmidt also

plan to attend PD13 this week, though they doubted they'd be riding a motorcycle due to the possibility of snow.

Mr. Waldschmidt said he always attends PD13. He owns two bikes and occasionally repairs them. "Mostly just for myself but sometimes I flip 'em too," he said.

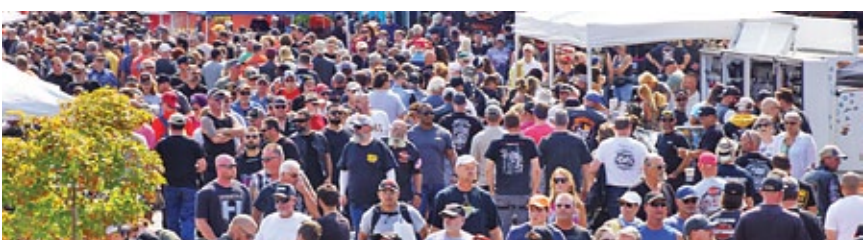
The parents shared their enthusiasm for their daughter's big day. Ms. Wynne said, "I know our best friend [Brandon from Hamilton] thinks it's pretty cool because he turned 13 on Friday the 13th, so he is just thrilled that she's turning 13 on Friday the 13th."

Mr. Waldschmidt said "that it's super cool" Brooklyn's 13th birthday overlaps with PD13. "A Friday the 13th birthday's pretty neat, especially when you're turning 13, right?"



Brooklyn Waldschmidt turns 13 on Friday the 13th. She is shown above with her grandfather Bill Waldschmidt, her mother Shannon Wynne, and her father Tyler Waldschmidt.

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# FRIDAY THE 13TH

Friday, December 13, 2024

## FRIDAY THE 13th

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### Upcoming 13ths

- #75 – Friday, December 13, 2024
- #76 – Friday, June 13, 2025
- #77 – Friday, February 13, 2026
- #78 – Friday, March 13, 2026
- #79 – Friday, November 13, 2026
- #80 – Friday, August 13, 2027
- #81 – Friday, October 13, 2028
- #82 – Friday, April 13, 2029
- #83 – Friday, July 13, 2029
- #84 – Friday, September 12, 2030
- #85 – Friday, December 13, 2030
- #86 – Friday, June 13, 2031



Santa Claus came for the ride to the December 2002 Friday the 13th.

# First PD13 experience was great

ANGELA and Ben Alexander of Brantford attended their first Friday the 13th motorcycle rally in Port Dover (PD13) in September. Earl Hartlen, who took their picture that day, caught up with them last week to hear how their first event went and if they'd be back.

Both said their first PD13 experience was great.

"I had a blast. It was kind of neat to see all the different types of bikes and people," Ben said.

"Yeah, yeah. It was really interesting to see. We got there really early—we got there right as the sun rose—and so we were one of the first motorcycles, if not the first one, who wasn't staying over night," Angela said. "And we got to see all of Port Dover fill up with motorcycles as the day went on. It was just fascinating to see everyone roll in and to see the variety of different bikes, the art on the bikes, the different personalities people injected into their bikes, and also just to hangout. It felt safe and wonderful."

Driving from Brantford in the early morning, they encountered fog on the way down, which they said was particularly thick near the bridge on Cockshutt Road. Angela mentioned thick fog can be "kind of scary when you're on a motorcycle" but said they only encountered it because they came early.

They stayed in Port Dover until mid-afternoon and bought shirts from On the Fringe to commemorate the occasion.

When asked if they'd return this week,



Angela and Ben Alexander of Brantford attended their first Friday the 13th event in September this year, riding their 2002 Honda Goldwing. Photo by Earl Hartlen

both said yes, "because as luck should have it, we're not working that day." Angela said she plans to go to Trish's Gluten Free Bakery.

"But other than that we will be seeing how many people are actually—I was going to say crazy enough but maybe we should use the word fanatic enough—to get on their bikes and go down in the cold and

weather," Angela said.

The couple encouraged others to check out PD13, especially those who live nearby.

"I think everyone should try to come at least once. And if you live fairly locally like we do, then there's no excuse not to go all the time, even when there's a little snow on the ground and you're going to take your loser cruiser of a minivan," she joked.

## MOTORCYCLISTS ARRIVE IN ALL SEASONS



If the weather and roads are clear, motorcyclists come to Port Dover's Friday the 13th event in all seasons. In 2002, event #37 was held in December. With little snow, there were some motorcyclists who were seen downtown.

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# FRIDAY THE 13TH

Friday, December 13, 2024

## ALL AGES ATTEND FRIDAY THE 13TH



This photograph is from September 2002 which, like this year, had events in September and December. At every Friday the 13th, all ages of people can be seen looking at the motorcycles and talking to the riders. As the event has grown, there has been a large police presence, but no serious incident has occurred since the original gathering in 1981.

## Furday The Thirteenth successful PD13 debut

ON July 13, Phil Gillies of Port Dover launched a line of Friday the 13th-themed pet wear and accessories called Furday The Thirteenth. His merchandise made its PD13 debut on September 13 at a booth he operated on Walker Street. The Maple Leaf contacted Mr. Gillies to learn more about how the event went for his business.

“Furday The Thirteenth was a great success in September. After a slow start in the morning, people started coming to the booth on Walker Street in great numbers. We were run off our feet from noon till 8 p.m.! As a new business, I was delighted to recoup 40 per cent of my total investment on this one day. Next June’s [PD13] should be huge for us,” he said.

“The most popular item is the t-shirts. Both the dog logo and cat logo shirts for humans sold in all sizes—from children’s up to 3XL. The bandanas and tote bags were surprisingly popular too.”

Although he doesn’t plan to have a booth for PD13 in December, his business will still



Phil Gillies’ line of Furday The Thirteenth pet wear and accessories includes t-shirts, tote bags, dog and cat jerseys, bandanas, water bowls, and dog tags.

celebrate its namesake occasion with a sale. Mr. Gillies said Furday The Thirteenth pet jerseys are 25 per cent off until Christmas.

“We want all our dogs and cats to be warm when they go out! This discount will be available in our retail partners and online,” he added.

Customers can purchase products online at [furdaythethirteenth.ca](http://furdaythethirteenth.ca), in Port Dover and Delhi at A Pets Delight, in Simcoe at Live Right Pet Supplies, and in Jarvis, Brantford, Port Rowan, and Hagersville at other stores.

Looking ahead, he shared his excitement for PD13 in June 2025.

“Yes we are so looking forward to next June! The feeling locally is this will be bigger than last September. We will be back at our booth at Walker and Main with the full line of Furday merchandise—and probably a couple of new items,” he said.

Customers should know some proceeds from Furday merchandise sales are reinvested in the community to help animals and pets.

“We were happy to be able to donate around \$700 to area pet rescues and SPCAs. We’re excited about the plans for new SPCA facilities in both Brantford and Simcoe.”

Overall, Mr. Gillies is pleased with his experience running the business.

“I’m just so happy at how Furday The Thirteenth has been received in the community. People seem to get a kick out of it. I’m a happy guy.”



Furday The Thirteenth pet wear and accessories was developed through the past winter and launched this year.

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# 75th RIDE FRIDAY THE 13TH

Friday, December 13, 2024

## Winter weather forecast for 75th Friday the 13th

By Jacob Fehr

THIS Friday, December 13, marks the 75th Friday the 13th in Port Dover (PD13) since Chris Simons started the tradition in 1981. Although past PD13s, such as the one held in September, have been massive events in the community, residents expect winter weather to ward away celebrants and subdue the occasion for those who come.

Ontario Provincial Police (OPP) Const. Andrew Gamble, Norfolk OPP's media relations and community safety officer, said the local police are expecting and preparing for PD13 visitors. He encouraged motorcycle-riding travellers to be careful on the roads.

"While this is an off-season event, we anticipate that motorcyclists and motorcycle enthusiasts will still be coming to Port Dover. We strongly encourage anyone attending the event on a motorcycle to exercise extra caution, as road and weather conditions can be challenging this time of year. With increased pedestrian and vehicle traffic expected in the downtown Port Dover area, there will be a heightened police presence to help ensure everyone's safety," Const. Gamble said.

No road closures are planned for PD13, and Port Dover Board of Trade is not organizing any vendors for the event either.

Kinsmen Club of Port Dover representative Amie Ferris said the group will sell t-shirts and sweatshirts at Elmer Lewis Parking Lot from "8:30 a.m. 'til

sell out."

Local businesspeople, including Erie Beach Hotel owner Andrew Schneider, said they expect a bump in customers for PD13.

"Our rooms will be full and our restaurants should be busier than usual throughout the day," Mr. Schneider said. "It should be a great day if Mother Nature co-operates."

Aaron Musselman and Jesse Hurst of The Neighbourhood Food Emporium said they also anticipate increased business for PD13 but "haven't felt the need to do anything over or above usual." Mr. Musselman said they might serve chili that day.

"Just going to treat it as a busy Friday rather than a Friday the 13th," Ms. Hurst said.

Dave and Kathy Mercey, owners of The Coffee Shop of Port Dover, said they don't have any plans for the occasion but also presumed they'll be busier than normal.

"All depends on the weather," Mr. Mercey said.

"I suspect it'll be a good day for us," Mrs. Mercey said. "A busy day in December is always welcome. Even in a cruddy [PD13], there's going to be people around town, and they need a warm drink somewhere."

"Thong Man'll be here," Mr. Mercey added, referring to Paul Nurmi of Hamilton, a man famous for attending PD13 events at any time of the year wearing one of his themed thongs.

"I've seen him in the winter. He doesn't miss 'em."



Shown above is the crowd walking along Main Street at this year's September Friday the 13th.

Some local motorcycle enthusiasts plan to celebrate the day at Port Dover Legion, which will have events on Thursday and Friday. Mrs. Mercey said she thinks "the Legion will be very busy." For their part, the Legion isn't sure what to expect but will be ready.

"A December Friday the 13th is a real unknown. We are prepared for most eventualities," said a Legion representative. "Unfortunately, I'm almost certain it won't be a patio kind of day. It could be quite a day, what with the Norfolk closed and no beer tents."

On Thursday, the Legion's Ladies Auxiliary will serve roast beef on a bun, and Route 6 will perform at 7 p.m.

"Friday at 9 a.m. we kickoff with peameal [bacon] on a bun provided by our Legion volunteers with [the band] Albatross beginning at noon. Legion volunteers will be serving a fish dinner in the afternoon. Beginning at 6 p.m. PipeDown wraps up our December Friday the 13th," the rep said.

"We are all hands on deck, staff, volunteers and executive members."

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Kinsmen Club of Port Dover's artwork on their merchandise for this 75th ride. T-shirts (\$30) and hoodies (\$55) will be available until they're sold out.

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# FRIDAY THE 13TH

Friday, December 13, 2024

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# Rev. Charmain Sebestyen new minister at Jarvis Community Church

JARVIS Community Church celebrated the first Sunday of Advent with its new minister, Rev. Charmain Sebestyen, leading worship. Advent in the Christian church is a time of waiting, but for Jarvis Community Church their wait for the arrival of their new minister ended on November 25 when the Rev. Sebestyen began her call in Jarvis.

The search team began their work seven months earlier, shortly after Rev. Kim Shantz announced

her retirement. The team considered dozens of prospective United and Presbyterian church ministers and in October issued a call to Rev. Sebestyen. Rev. Gary Patterson served the congregation in the interim.

Rev. Sebestyen served several Presbyterian Church congregations in Hamilton, and following her move to Port Dover in 2020 she also served Knox Presbyterian Church in Port Dover and St. Andrew's Presbyterian Church in

Hagersville. She has many friends in both communities and is excited to begin her new full-time call in the Jarvis community.

Rev. Sebestyen grew up in the United Church and attended Knox College for her Master of Divinity training and was ordained in the Presbyterian Church in Canada.

Jarvis Community Church is an ecumenical shared ministry by Wesley United Church and Knox Presbyterian operating at 19 Church Street in Jarvis.



Rev. Charmain Sebestyen began her ministry at Jarvis Community Church on Nov 25. Shown above with Rev. Sebestyen (centre) are Doug McBride and Cori Moss, representing the church's search team.

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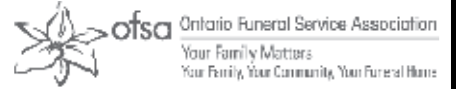


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## OBITUARIES

### Patricia Ann Courtnage



COURTNAGE, Patricia Ann  
*nee: Schneider*  
March 3, 1939 – November 30, 2024

At Norfolk General Hospital, Simcoe, on Saturday, November 30, 2024, at the age of 85 years. Wife of the late William Courtnage. Loving mother of Bruce & Tammie. Dear grandmother of Skylar, Ashley, and Brooke. Daughter of the late Harold & Marjorie Schneider. Sister of Tony (deceased) & Betty Schneider, Bruce Schneider, and Gay Brzozowski & Sandy Smith. Also will be remembered by nephews Andrew, Tony Jr., Louie and their families.

Funeral Service was held at Hyde & Mott Chapel of R.H.B. Anderson Funeral Homes Ltd., 60 Main St. S., Hagersville, on Thursday, December 5, 2024, at 11 a.m. (visitation prior to service). Interment Hagersville Cemetery.

The family extends a sincere thank you to the staff at Parkview Meadows and Norfolk General Hospital. As an expression of sympathy donations may be made to the West Haldimand General Hospital Foundation or the S.P.C.A.  
[www.rhbanderson.com](http://www.rhbanderson.com)

### Lanny Horne



HORNE, Lanny – Passed away at home on Saturday, December 7, 2024. Mr. Lanny Horne of Simcoe in his 81st year. Loving father of Jamie (Nicole), Melynda (Offer) and Taylor (Michele). Cherished Grandpa and Bappa to Keelan, Chloe, Noi, Koren, Ofek, and Isabelle. Dear brother of Rick, late Jim and late Terry. Lanny will be sadly missed by his lifelong friend and mother of their children, Lynda, as well as many other relatives and friends.

Lanny was an accomplished artist with paintings in many private galleries and collections throughout the world. Friends are invited to visit on Thursday, December 12, 2024, from 9:30 a.m. to 11:00 a.m. at the FERRIS FUNERAL HOME, 214 Norfolk St. S., Simcoe (519-426-1314) where Lanny's service will follow at 11:00 a.m. A private family interment will take place at White Chapel Memorial Gardens. Online condolences may be made at [www.ferrisfuneral.com](http://www.ferrisfuneral.com).

### Karen Smith



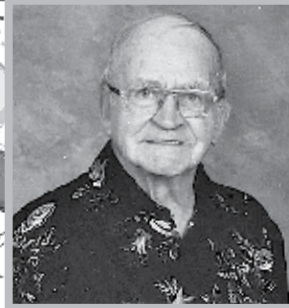
SMITH, Karen Ann (nee Evans) of Port Dover passed away peacefully at her home surrounded by the love of her family on November 16, 2024, in her 82nd year. Predeceased by her beloved husband Colin. Cherished mother of Charlene Smith (Ronald Haantjes) of Carlisle, Carl Smith of Simcoe, and Colleen Smith of New Brunswick. Loving grandmother of Geoff Pleli (Jordan) and their children Keith and Blake. Dear sister of Diane Telfer, Jane Kapel, Miriam MacKenzie and Wendy Evans all of Port Dover. She will be fondly remembered by many cousins, nieces, nephews, Colin's family and all other extended family. Karen was predeceased by her parents Kenneth and Reta Evans, granddaughter Brooke Smith, and siblings Dale Evans and Cindy Gaston. Karen was a longtime employee of Simcoe Leaf Tobacco and a former member of the Kinette Club of Simcoe. She was an avid genealogist and spent many hours researching family connections.

In keeping with Karen's wishes, cremation has taken place and a Celebration of Life gathering will be held on Saturday, December 14, 2024, from 1 p.m. to 4 p.m. at the Erie Beach Hotel, Harbour Hideaway, Walker St., Port Dover. Arrangements have been entrusted to THOMPSON WATERS FUNERAL HOME, 519-583-1530 Port Dover. For those wishing donations to Grace United Church would be greatly appreciated. Online donations and/or condolences can be made at [www.thompsonwatersfuneralhome.ca](http://www.thompsonwatersfuneralhome.ca).

## FAMILY NOTICES

### HAPPY 90TH

Look who's 90!



Best Wishes from wife Pat, and all our families

### HAPPY 100TH

It's a Surprise Celebration!!!

100 Years Young



Happy Birthday Joyce Walker

Family and Friends come celebrate

Open House - Erie Beach Hotel Sunday, December 22 1:30 - 3:00 pm

Wayne, Wendy, Dwight, Kevin See you there!

### SPORTS NEWS

The Maple Leaf welcomes your sports reports from local teams and events.

Please send to news@

PortDoverMapleLeaf.com

### IN MEMORY



In Memory of Sharon Decker

November 25, 1953 - December 11, 2019

There are no tomorrows for us to share, But yesterday's memories are always there. Now in God's care you rest above, And in our hearts you rest with love.

All our love forever

Tom, Brian, Brad, Cam and Courtney Siblings Marsha, Annette, Kathy, Marshall and families

## CHURCH NOTES

### Port Dover & Area Church Services

#### Grace & Woodhouse United Churches

Office: 519-583-0342  
SUNDAY SERVICES  
9:30 a.m. - Woodhouse,  
11:00 a.m. - Grace United & Online  
Everyone is welcome.

Streaming online Sunday at [www.youtube.com/@gracewoodhousechurch/live](http://www.youtube.com/@gracewoodhousechurch/live)  
Rev. Lynn Hamilton avail. for pastoral care, Office 519-829-9024

#### St. Cecilia Catholic Church

17 Lynn Park Avenue, Port Dover  
Office Phone: 519-426-0887

Mass Sunday at 9 a.m.

[www.CatholicFamilyParishesNorfolk.dol.ca/](http://www.CatholicFamilyParishesNorfolk.dol.ca/)

This Church Notice sponsored in part by

### Thompson Waters Funeral Home

102 First Ave., Port Dover  
Phone 519-583-1530  
[www.thompsonwatersfuneralhome.ca](http://www.thompsonwatersfuneralhome.ca)

#### St. Paul's Anglican

302 St. George St., Port Dover 519-583-1330  
The Rt. Rev Barry B. Clarke, Bishop in Charge

Worship Sundays at 10 a.m.

Also on Facebook and YouTube  
Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/StPaulsDover>  
YouTube: <https://youtube.com/channel/UClyZdpzg5h1rtIDVYyGlmjNw>

#### St. John's Anglican Church (Woodhouse)

883 Norfolk St. S, Simcoe - 519-426-4766

Join us for Sunday Worship 11 a.m.

Interim minister Archdeacon Rick Jones

### Port Dover Maple Leaf

#### HOW TO REACH US

For more information about placing any ad in the newspaper or for help writing an ad for this page, call or email us at any time.

Telephone 519-583-0112

[ads@PortDoverMapleLeaf.com](mailto:ads@PortDoverMapleLeaf.com)

Text message 519-583-3200

In Person or by mail  
351 Main Street, Port Dover N0A 1N0

You can also reach us through  
[Facebook.com/PortDoverMapleLeaf](https://Facebook.com/PortDoverMapleLeaf)

### FOUND

TWO LETTERS found near LCBO in Port Dover on November 11. Letters dated 1951 and 1952 from Bill to Darlene. Would like to return them to owners. Call Gord at 519-583-1481.





# NOTICE BOARD

e-mail [ads@PortDoverMapleLeaf.com](mailto:ads@PortDoverMapleLeaf.com) Phone 519-583-0112 In Person or by mail 351 Main Street, Port Dover NOA 1N0

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WANTED TO BUY: Good used bedroom set. Call 226-931-4984.

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## SERVICES OFFERED

JANICE'S SEWING STUDIO: Custom fashion and indoor/outdoor home decor designs, mending and alterations. My home studio is located near Len's Mill Store. Please call for appointment Mon.-Fri: cell 647-473-6345, studio 519-583-2193, or email [janice-faithj@icloud.com](mailto:janice-faithj@icloud.com).

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## PERSONAL

DRINKING PROBLEM? Alcoholics Anonymous has a solution. 24 Hour Helpline - 519-752-5981. Website - [www.branterie-aa.org](http://www.branterie-aa.org); Email - [portdovergroup@gmail.com](mailto:portdovergroup@gmail.com).

## SUPPORT GROUP

BREAST CANCER SUPPORT Group in Port Dover. For information, phone Susan at 289-456-7754 or email [smbond44@gmail.com](mailto:smbond44@gmail.com).

## DRAW WINNERS

COMMUNITY LIVING Access congratulates week #49 winner Lisa Varey of Simcoe, drawn Dec. 6, 2024 - Cash Calendar winner of \$100. Complete winners at [www.communitylivingaccess.ca](http://www.communitylivingaccess.ca). Community Living Access provides quality support to people with disabilities to live ordinary & extraordinary lives.

SILVER LAKE MARKET weekly basket winner for December 7 was Bob Ryerse. The Market is Saturdays from 8 a.m. to 1 p.m.

## EVENTS

### WEDNESDAY

FUN EUCHRE - Port Dover Ladies Auxiliary Branch 158 are holding Fun Euchre every Wednesday at 1 p.m. \$3 to play. All welcome.

### THURSDAY

COFFEE BREAK each Thursday from 9:30 to 11:30 a.m. hosted by St. John's Anglican Church (corner of St. John's Road & Hwy. 24 S., Simcoe). Join us for coffee/tea and goodies. Donation towards church's Wheelchair Accessibility Fundraiser. All welcome.

PORT DOVER LEGION LADIES will be serving Beef on a Bun and fries on Thursday, December 12 at Locals Night with Route 6 ahead of Friday the 13th.

FUN DARTS Thursday nights at 7:00 p.m. Port Dover Legion, Market St. East. All welcome.

### FRIDAY

FUN EUCHRE at St. John's. Come and join us for a fun night of Progressive Euchre every Friday night at 7 p.m. At St. John's Parish Hall, 879 Norfolk St. S., Simcoe. \$5 admission includes 10 games, prizes, plus a light lunch.

## EVENTS

### SATURDAY

SILVER LAKE MARKET every Saturday from 8 a.m. to 1 p.m. at St. Patrick St., Port Dover. Seasonal fruits and vegetables, honey, nuts, meats, fish, baked goods, cheese, preserves, kettle corn, craft beer, micro greens, prepared meals etc. "Meet you at the Market."

MEAT ROLLS every Saturday afternoon from 3:00 to 5:30 p.m. All welcome. Port Dover Legion, 212 Market Street East.

### SUNDAY

SUNDAY AFTERNOON MUSIC FUN DAY matinee on Sunday, December 15, from 2 to 6 p.m. with music by Tim Hiebert and Borderline at Port Dover Canadian Legion, Market St. E. All welcome.

### UPCOMING EVENTS

CONCERT - WOODHOUSE UNITED CHURCH (Hwy. 6 & 24) presents the Tia and Tommy Annual Christmas Concert. Saturday, December 14, at 2 p.m. This year the theme will be JOY. Tickets are \$25 each available by calling Lisa Jo at 519-428-2827.

## EVENTS

NORFOLK/HALDIMAND HOSPICE Christmas Concert Fundraiser for the new Jarvis location. "A Christmas of a Different Kind" on Wed., December 18, at 7 p.m. Held at Faith Centennial United Church, 27 Main St., Selkirk. Wheelchair accessible. Soloists, skits, carols and much more! Tax receipt donation envelopes available.



### Candlelight Service

10 lessons and 10 carols  
Sunday, December 22  
7 pm to 8 pm  
2164 Hwy 24, Simcoe  
(South of Hwy 6 & 24 intersection)

ARCADY: Handel's Messiah. Friday, December 20, at 7:30 p.m., Old Town Hall, Waterford. Featuring Arcady's acclaimed chorus and string ensemble. Tickets \$49. Reserve in advance: [arcady.ca](http://arcady.ca).

## EVENTS

HAPPY NEW YEAR!! Tickets for the Lions' New Year's Eve Party at Port Dover Community Centre on sale now at Scotiabank on Main St., Port Dover Jewellery and Gifts, and Lions' Silver Lake Market. \$30 each (same price as last year). Last year tickets sold out 3 weeks early... don't wait! Music by Black Creek, late cold buffet, door prizes, champagne at midnight. Cash bar—an over-19 event. Free shuttle bus home (within Port Dover urban area).

## NOTICES

### Port Dover Legion Dart League action

PORT Dover Dart League Week 9 results: P.R. Bombers 7, Rebels 6; Smokers 9, Dart Side 4; Doom 3, Tytans 10; HammerHeads 11, Double Knots 2; Shooters 10, Easy Riders 4.

Marilyn Grice of the Double Knots team was the women's high scorer with 114.

Ross Carson of Easy Riders earned the men's high score of 136 and Chuck Honsberger of Shooters with 86 for the men's high out.

**Port Dover Legion**  
**Annual Ham & Turkey Roll**  
Saturday, December 14 • 2 pm  
**100 Draws 50 Turkeys, 50 Hams**  
**Tickets \$10 each**  
Every ticket is entered into all 100 draws  
\*You don't have to be present to win\*  
Everyone welcome! Thank you for your support. Good Luck & Merry Christmas!

**Port Dover Legion**  
**POP UP CREPE HOUSE**  
Sunday, January 26, 2025  
at Port Dover Legion  
CREPES are to be pre-ordered, with 3 seatings beginning at 9 am.  
There are 5 crepes to choose from, \$25 each.  
The bar will be open with Caesars and Mimosas.  
What a great Christmas gift to a crepe lover.  
Make your choice and get your ticket from the Legion Bar Steward.  
Prepaid take-out is also available.

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## PUZZLES • Answers on page 20

### Sudoku

|   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
|   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |
|   | 8 |   | 3 | 9 |   |   |   |   |
|   |   | 3 | 8 | 7 |   | 1 | 9 |   |
|   | 6 |   | 4 |   |   |   |   | 5 |
|   |   | 9 | 7 | 5 |   |   |   | 4 |
|   |   |   |   |   |   |   | 3 |   |
|   | 1 |   |   |   |   | 4 | 8 | 6 |
| 6 |   |   |   |   |   |   | 1 |   |
| 4 | 9 |   |   |   | 5 |   |   | 7 |

## A Mess of Metrics

### ACROSS

- 1 Unit of resistance
- 4 Related
- 8 Apothecaries' unit
- 12 Meadow
- 13 Nag
- 14 Republic of Ireland
- 15 Play part
- 16 Slaughtered
- 17 Lure
- 18 Prohibitions
- 20 Greasy spoon
- 21 Getting lost, in a way
- 22 Pot
- 23 Tar's tot
- 24 Deluges
- 26 HRH word
- 27 Comeback
- 28 Top
- 31 Pace
- 32 Art
- 33 Quarts successor
- 36 Roughed up
- 38 Elude
- 39 Hate
- 40 Shade
- 41 Car
- 42 Atom
- 44 Beano
- 45 Seed
- 46 One, in Matane
- 47 Early garden
- 48 Brews
- 49 One of a starter's instructions

### DOWN

- 1 Talipot palm
- 2 Acre successor

|    |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |
|----|----|----|----|----|----|----|----|----|----|----|
| 1  | 2  | 3  | 4  | 5  | 6  | 7  | 8  | 9  | 10 | 11 |
| 12 |    |    | 13 |    |    |    |    | 14 |    |    |
| 15 |    |    | 16 |    |    |    |    | 17 |    |    |
|    | 18 |    | 19 |    |    |    | 20 |    |    |    |
| 21 |    |    |    |    |    | 22 |    |    |    |    |
| 23 |    |    |    | 24 | 25 |    |    |    |    |    |
| 26 |    |    |    | 27 |    |    |    | 28 | 29 | 30 |
|    |    |    | 31 |    |    |    |    | 32 |    |    |
| 33 | 34 | 35 |    |    |    |    | 36 | 37 |    |    |
| 38 |    |    |    |    |    | 39 |    |    |    |    |
| 40 |    |    |    |    | 41 |    |    |    | 42 | 43 |
| 44 |    |    |    |    | 45 |    |    |    | 46 |    |
| 47 |    |    |    |    | 48 |    |    |    | 49 |    |

- 3 Bullfighter
- 4 Firebug's offence
- 5 Pounds successor
- 6 Roman holiday?
- 7 Avant garde
- 8 Takeaways
- 9 Mirthful
- 10 Shakespearian sprite
- 11 Yard successor
- 19 Large
- 20 Refuse
- 21 Alphabet run
- 22 Mile's successor
- 25 Matterhorn, for one

- 27 Marsh plant
- 28 Fahrenheit successor
- 29 Solvent
- 30 Pea plant part
- 31 Newt
- 32 Owed
- 33 Potato pancake
- 34 Creeper covered
- 35 Ton successor
- 37 Materials
- 39 Affaire d' honneur
- 41 Turkish title
- 43 After expenses







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Sound Off



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or email  
[news@portdovermapleleaf.com](mailto:news@portdovermapleleaf.com)

A number of beautiful coniferous trees in the back section of Hay Creek Conservation Area have been marked. I hope this is not for lumbering purposes. Several years ago, when trees were marked, the result was devastation to a beautiful walking area with so many trees being taken out. This is a Conservation Area and habitat for many species of animals and birds. Let's keep it that way so we can also enjoy walking the trails there.

Ignace, a town in Northwestern Ontario, has been selected as the site by the Nuclear Waste Management Organization as a deep geological repository for the estimated \$26-billion project to bury millions of used fuel bundles. I'm no longer worried about the recycling of windmills when one considers this potential safety hazard.

I was so saddened to read that people in our area are abandoning kittens and cats by the hundreds but I was so moved to also read the good work being done by Purrfect Companions of Norfolk. They are unsung heroes. I can only afford a small amount but as soon as the post office is working and mail is moving again, I will be sending a donation to help these wonderful people.

Well it is really no surprise to me that Amy Martin is going to run as the provincial PC candidate. She has been campaigning in her weekly columns for some time now. It sure explains her frosty relationship with Bobbi Ann Brady, and explains why all these provincial ministers have been coming around lately. Photo ops for Amy's campaign. She has been hand picked by Doug Ford—skipping over the riding association's selection process (again)—because he really wants someone to beat Bobbi Ann. The part that made me go "What?" was that she will take a six week leave of absence while she campaigns. I guess Mr. Ford didn't promise her a cushy job like the

last candidate got if she loses. Imagine going to your employer and asking for six weeks leave while you look for a better job. But if it doesn't work out, I will come back. Only in politics.

My friend told me he has bought his wife a beautiful diamond ring for Christmas. After hearing about this extravagant gift, I said, "I thought she wanted one of those sporty four-wheel-drive vehicles." "She did," my friend replied. "But where was I going to find a fake Jeep?"

Our Norfolk mayor, Ms. Martin, is making what can only be described as a meteoric rise in the political world. As a first-time candidate who ran for councillor just over six years ago on a platform to build a recreation hub, she beat out the incumbent councillor and a fairly long list of others. Then, just over two years ago, she expanded her horizons and ran for the mayor's chair and, again, beat out the incumbent. Now taking the next step, she is again expanding her horizons and running to represent the people of Haldimand and Norfolk at Queen's Park in Toronto for the PC Party and will need to beat the incumbent again to do it. All I can say now is, it's going to be an interesting race.

My wife and I disagree on this but I would like to see a nuclear power plant built at that Nanticoke property owned by Ontario Hydro. The land is there and, I assume from its past use, properly zoned, the transmission lines are ready, the need for electricity will only grow in the future. Nuclear has been around a long time and safeguards are in place for running these plants. There will be a lot of good construction jobs and then operations jobs that will help the whole next generation of local young people. Oh, by the way, my better half would like a windmill and solar panels in every back yard.

In the past week, I have been stopped twice by the OPP in their Festive RIDE checks. In my situation, there were no flashing lights or flares you can see for miles ahead. It was a cruiser parked on the side of the road that turned its emergency lights on just as I approached. I thought that was very clever of them. I hope no one still thinks it's ok to drink and drive but I'm sure there'll be drivers charged again this year. Pity.

I don't think a lot of Americans voted for Mr. Trump because they particularly like the man or some of his personal life choices. I think many voted for him because they are tired of government waste and inefficiency and ever increasing taxes. He was their best hope to see a change in government growth and its appetite for taxing people. I think that will spread and even be a factor in Norfolk County's next election. When councillors set this year's tax rate, it will be a signal of whether they get the message.

My observation from years of living is that spring is now more like early summer, fall is like late summer and now we see signs that winter is not like winter anymore. When did we ever see this much rain in December? It's a slow change but I'm afraid it's real and we're all going to be affected.

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Job Posting:  
**Administrative Assistant**

Norfolk Haldimand Community Hospice

The **Norfolk Haldimand Community Hospice (NHCH)** is seeking a compassionate **Administrative Assistant** to support our Psychosocial Bereavement Consultant, Executive Director and Board of Directors. This role involves a variety of administrative tasks to support our growing organization's hospice palliative care services in the Haldimand and Norfolk communities.

**Location:** Port Dover, ON

**Status:** Temporary Part-Time (20 hours/week)

**Contract Duration:** 6 months (Maternity Leave Coverage)

**Compensation:** \$17.20 – \$20.00/hour

**Qualifications:** Diploma in Business or Medical Office Administration (Preferred).

**Schedule:** 20 hours per week, Monday to Friday, in the NHCH office (Port Dover).

How to Apply:

Please send your resume and cover letter to [info@norfolkaldimandhospice.ca](mailto:info@norfolkaldimandhospice.ca) by **December 31st 2024**. Only selected candidates will be contacted.

Norfolk Haldimand Community Hospice is an equal opportunity employer.

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|   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| 3 | 7 | 2 | 9 | 9 | 1 | 8 | 6 | 4 |
| 6 | 3 | 7 | 2 | 4 | 8 | 5 | 1 | 9 |
| 2 | 1 | 5 | 9 | 3 | 7 | 4 | 8 | 6 |
| 8 | 5 | 4 | 6 | 2 | 9 | 7 | 3 | 1 |
| 3 | 2 | 9 | 7 | 5 | 1 | 8 | 6 | 4 |
| 7 | 6 | 1 | 4 | 8 | 3 | 9 | 2 | 5 |
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| 1 | 8 | 2 | 3 | 9 | 4 | 6 | 5 | 7 |
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| D | R | A | M | N | A | K | I | A | H | O |

Sudoku

A Mess of Metrics



**FOOD.**



Buttery, crispy, melt-in-your-mouth shortbread is a Christmas and New Year's tradition for many families.

# Three ingredients in traditional Scottish shortbread

ORIGINATING in Scotland, shortbread is traditionally served on the winter solstice, Christmas, New Year's Eve, and New Year's Day, making it the perfect treat to bake ahead for sharing during the holiday season. Requiring only three ingredients, (flour, butter and sugar—ingredients you likely already have), this buttery, crispy, melt-in-your-mouth shortbread may appear to be a lot of work but it is amazingly easy to make (and take it from me, I love easy).

Back in 2008, my Scottish friend Bill gave me a recipe for his "perfect" traditional Scottish shortbread – along with precise instructions – and I've been using his recipe ever since. Every Christmas I bake shortbread and freeze them or box them up as gifts for friends and family. Everyone loves shortbread at the holidays! I guess you could say I'm baking spirits bright, one cookie at a time!

**BILL'S TRADITIONAL SCOTTISH SHORTBREAD**

Prep time: 15 minutes  
 Makes: a 9x13 or 12x12 pan  
 Preheat newer ovens 300°F or older types 325°F  
**DO NOT GREASE TIN**  
*Ingredients*  
 3 cups flour, lightly spooned\*  
 1/2 cup white sugar  
 1 1/2 cups (3/4 lb) salted butter, soft \*\*  
 Sugar for sprinkling on top

*Directions*  
 In a large bowl, combine flour, sugar and butter using a pastry blender or fork, until the mixture resembles crumbs.  
 Using your hands, knead ingredients to form a dough, picking up the flour from the bottom of the bowl as you go. Bowl will be clean when dough is formed. Don't overmix (gluten develops and shortbread will become tough).

Pat dough into pan until even, then fork prick or "dock" the dough all over. This allows the heat to penetrate the cookie for a more even baking and prevents air bubbles by allowing steam to escape from the crust. (I prick in lines for easier cutting.)

Bake shortbread for one hour (on middle rack), turning pan every 15 minutes.

Once cooked, remove shortbread from oven and carefully cut as desired, into fingers or squares. This **MUST** be done while hot! Then shake a sprinkle of sugar over the cooked shortbread. Return shortbread to the oven, which has been **TURNED OFF**, and leave until cold. (I often make shortbread at night and the shortbread is ready to tin in the morning.)

Shortbread keeps well for up to a month and needs to "age" to develop flavour, so tuck into a wax paper lined cookie tin. They freeze well but are delicate so store them in a rigid airtight container for up to three months.

**NOTES**  
 \* Too much flour can cause your shortbread to be dry, dense, and crumbly. Use the spoon and level method. Lightly fluff the flour. Spoon flour into measuring cup – do not pack it down! Use the back of a knife to level off the top of the measuring cup.  
 \*\* Leave butter to soften on counter. Make sure butter is **SOFT** before starting.

To make a cookie version: Drop dough by teaspoonfuls onto a parchment-lined baking sheet. Flatten each ball to about 3/8-inch thick using the bottom of a drinking glass or tines of a fork. Bake cookies 20–25 minutes at 300°F until set but not really beginning to brown. Remove from oven, sprinkle with sugar and cool on the pans or on a rack.

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|  |   |
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# Dazzling displays at Jarvis Light-Up this Christmas

By Jacob Fehr

THE Christmas season is set to shine in Jarvis and area during December as the community prepares for Jarvis Light-Up: Ultimate Edition.

Organized by local volunteers Lisa and Howie Nigh, Ernie and Cathy Bigelow, Len and Debbie Bigelow, and Nick Peaire, Jarvis Light-Up is a community-wide holiday celebration involving a variety of free activities. 2024 is the event's fourth year.

A prominent part of Jarvis Light-Up is the Tour of Homes, which invites residents around Townsend and Jarvis to decorate their houses for others to enjoy. Organizers divide the registered homes into eight zones and map out a tour route showcasing all the dazzling displays to help the public take in the sparkling spectacle.

This year's Tour of Homes is on from December 9-January 1. Those interested in the tour can find the map of registered homes and relevant streets at jarvislightup.ca.

Ernie Bigelow, also known as Elf Ernie, said they had over 550 homes registered for



A display featuring Mickey Mouse and Pluto done up in Christmas lights at the Jarvis Light-Up. Photos screengrabs from Facebook video

the tour last week. Participating homeowners are eligible for first-, second-, and third-place prizes for the best-decorated home in their zone. Past and present winners from each zone will compete against each other to determine who will receive the "Ultimate Champion prestige" and a \$2,500 prize. Other prizes are also available.

"Some of the prizes that stick out to me are a barbecue, winter tires, freezer full of steaks, [and] about \$10,000 in gift cards," he said. "We have about \$40,000 in giveaways." Moreover, many local businesses

participate in the fun by putting up large decorations. Elf Ernie said several are already up this year.

"There are huge displays around town. Every year we add onto the displays... That's done by the local businesses," he said. The organizers are grateful for the support.

"Our businesses in our community and beyond now are overwhelmingly generous. And the thing about our event that stands out from other events is when you come... [it's] all free for everybody thanks to our

sponsors. You don't have to bring your wallet."

Another major part of Jarvis Light-Up is Jarvis Rumble 3.0, a Christmas carnival chock-full of festive activities for families from 2-9 p.m. on December 14 at Jarvis Lions Park. Attendees can expect midway rides, food and beverages, live performances by illusionist Lucas Wilson and Dragon Breath Entertainment, a chance to see the Grinch, giveaways, and more. The event will climax at 7:30 p.m. with what

> See JARVIS LIGHT-UP on next page

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Huge displays of colourful Christmas lights are a delight to view throughout Jarvis this month.

# Jarvis Light-Up fun for all

> From previous page organizers called “the biggest, best, hugest fireworks display ever presented in Haldimand or Norfolk.”

“The whole day is fun-filled stuff and it’s entirely free,” Elf Ernie said.

As they have previously, organizers are collecting donations for local causes at Jarvis Rumble 3.0. “This year we’re doing it for Jarvis Lions Club and the food bank,” he said.

Donors of non-perishable food items can enter a draw at Doughty & Williamson’s booth for a chance to win a Kubota Z252KH 54” zero-turn mower

valued at around \$10,000.

“We’re hoping people bring lots of food in,” he said.

Organizers expect a crowd of approximately 5,000 people at Jarvis Rumble 3.0. Last year the festival attracted over 4,000 people. As of 2021, Jarvis’s population was 1,214.

“The weather’s looking great,” he said. “Fingers crossed!”

Other activities part of Jarvis Light-Up this year include the kids’ scavenger hunt for Jarvis the Elf, Michaud’s Light-Up Lane event held on December 7, and Jolly Trolley rides that explore the event’s tour route. All tickets for trolley rides were claimed



A giant Tim Hortons coffee cup is lit up at the Jarvis location.

quickly.

Elf Ernie said Jarvis Light-Up is only possible thanks to all its local supporters, including the sponsors who help finance the fun and residents who decorate.

“The community is next level. Without the community, we’d have nothing. They’re so great,” he said. “The light up is about community coming together, and when community comes together, we can do amazing things, like help out the food bank and the Lions.”

“It’s a lot of work but we’re really excited about it, and we have a good group of people willing to invest time and money into it. So, it’s all good, good things are happening.”



Over 550 Jarvis and Townsend homes are on the tour of lights.

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# Sailors' annual food bank donation drive and turkey raffles Sailors beat Mudcats 6-3

*Sunday's game is second annual Luke Johnson Teddy Bears for Hope Game at Port Dover Arena*

By Jan Dean

CLOSE to 200 watched the Sailors Junior C hockey team take on the Dunnville Mudcats on Sunday.

This was Port Dover Sailors' annual drive for Port Dover and Area Lifeline Foodbank. Anyone who brought a food bank donation was entered into turkey raffles. People showed up with bags of donations and an appetite for hockey.

The first period started with pressure from the Mudcats—testing the new Sailors goalie Noah Cavallaro—and at 13:06 Dunnville's Riley Smyth scored. Dunnville added to their lead at 19:17 when Silas Crawford scored.

The second period saw an energized and motivated Sailors team hit the ice like gangbusters.

Results came quickly. Sailor Myles Stolk scored unassisted at 2:43 to put the team on the scoreboard. At 12:40, Sailor Lucas Husted tied the score 2-2 with an assist from Myles Stolk.

At 15:49, Sailor Dylan Courier made himself heard loud and clear with a goal assisted by Cameron Hattie and Trevor Nunn and about two minutes later, Dylan scored again with an assist from Trevor Nunn to put the Sailors up 4-2.

In the third period, Sailors captain Tyler Matthews scored with assists from Trevor Nunn and Dylan Courier to put them up 5-2.

At 12:40, Sailor Tyler Demeyere scored their sixth goal assisted by Myles Stolk.

Dunnville did everything they could and finally scored at 14:47 with a shot from Silas Crawford.

The game ended Sailors 6, Mudcats 3.

Players were chippy but there weren't many penalties. Dunnville had five infractions for 18 minutes and the Sailors committed six infractions for 12 penalty minutes.

Throughout the game, a whole lot of turkeys were won, although it never seemed to distract players.

Sailors lost Saturday's game against Glanbrook Rangers 4-6 but it seemed to set them up for their Sunday home game win.

The Sailors travel to Niagara on Thursday, Dec. 12, to take on the Peach Kings at 7:30 p.m.

Then they're back in Port Dover on Sunday, Dec. 15, to take on the Glanbrook Rangers at 2 p.m.

Dec. 15 is also when Port Dover Sailors partner with the Port Dover Minor Hockey Association to host the second annual Luke Johnson Teddy Bears for Hope Game.

It began last year when 8-year-old Luke was diagnosed with cancer for the second time. Luke signed a one-day contract with the Sailors and scored the opening goal of the game against a very gracious Dunnville goalie.

Luke lost his battle with cancer but made a remarkable impact on his community. This year Luke's #2 banner from Port Dover Minor Hockey will be retired before the Sailors game on Dec. 15.

Teddy bears tossed will go to Caring for Cancer in Simcoe.

Any child wearing a Minor

Hockey jersey with a teddy bear in hand gets free admission.

Half the 50/50 and chuck-a-puck proceeds will go to Norfolk Haldimand Community Hospice.

The concession booth will be open, cash only, thanks to volunteers from Scotlynn. Proceeds will go to the Norfolk Haldimand Community Hospice and the PDMHA.



Sailors forwards Carter Tomlinson (left) and Dylan Courier (right) with lucky siblings Kendra O'Brien and her brother Dustin who both won turkeys at the annual Sailors' raffles on Sunday organized by Ron Chambers from the Blue Line Club.



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