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Port Dover Maple Leaf

Wednesday,
 December 18, 2024



75th Friday the 13th Cold but sunny with more motorcycles than expected

One man who wouldn't miss Friday the 13th was Danny Dejoka of Kitchener, who arrived on his bike dressed as Santa Claus. After he parked near the beach, other motorcyclists quickly gathered for photos. "Since 1989, I've missed only one [PD13] when I was in Europe," Mr. Dejoka said, adding it was, "a little cold today." *Photo by Celina Morris*

LAST Friday, Port Dover celebrated the 75th Friday the 13th event (PD13) since the tradition began in 1981. Although frosty temperatures cooled the excitement found at summertime events, an estimated hundred motorcyclists rode their bikes to town for the occasion. Sunny skies helped bring out several hundreds more people to check out the scenes in Port Dover.

Motorcyclists parked their rides along Main Street and by the beach and set out for a day packed with camaraderie. Many stopped by shops and restaurants in town.

One man who wouldn't miss PD13 was Danny Dejoka of Kitchener, who arrived on his bike in a Santa Claus costume, complete with hat, hair, and beard.

"Since 1989, I've missed only one [PD13] when I was in Europe," Mr. Dejoka said. "A little cold today."

He jokingly chastised his riding peers who opted to stay home on Friday.

"Not too many people... but everyone knows it's the 75th anniversary. Come on

guys, don't be chicken!"

He also heaped praise on Port Dover, saying that he loves the community, the

people, and all it has to offer.

"It's a beautiful, beautiful town. I think it's one of the best towns in Ontario. And



All parked at Tim Hortons last Friday were, left to right, Grant Gibson of Welland, Chris Purcell of Ingersoll, Robert Letourneau of Wainfleet, and Neil Smith of South Eto-bicoke. They were joined by what was estimated to be about 100 bikes that visited Port Dover on a sunny but cold Friday the 13th last week. *Photo by Earl Hartlen*

I've been everywhere."

He said he brings his boat to the area "all the time in the summer" and loves visiting Knechtel's, which he said has been his "favourite restaurant for years and years."

While posing for a video, he proudly declared, "Welcome to Port Dover Friday the 13th!"

During the Maple Leaf's interview with Mr. Dejoka, a small crowd of friends, acquaintances, and strangers gathered around to take pictures with him. A pair who posed with Mr. Dejoka and shared their "biker names" were Hollywood and Biker Grandma of Bolton. Both are big fans of PD13 who weren't afraid of the cold.

Hollywood said he rode his motorcycle down for PD13 in December 2019. "There were only a few of us then," he said.

They shared their excitement for spending the day in Port Dover. Shortly after, they joined the dozens of people streaming into The Beach House between 11:30 a.m.

> See FRIDAY 13TH on page 3

Early deadline for next week's Maple Leaf; no paper on New Year's Day

NEXT Wednesday is Christmas Day and so next week's Maple Leaf will be published and distributed on Monday. That issue will have a special Christmas theme with holiday features and Christmas messages from local businesses.

The deadline for submissions for next week's edition is this Friday at noon.

Canada Post letter carriers are delivering mail and subscribers will receive their copy in their mailbox next week. The paper will be available at the Maple

Leaf office and in local stores on Monday morning.

There will be no paper published on New Year's Day. Following our long tradition there is no issue of the paper published the week after Christmas. This

year there will be no issue on Wednesday, January 1, to allow the Maple Leaf staff time to relax over the holidays.

The first issue of 2025 will be distributed to subscribers and available at local newsstands on January 7.

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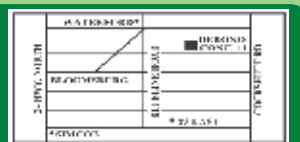
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Thanks to the generosity of the community, Christmas will be brighter for many more.

In 2012 we started our annual Toy Drive here at Port Dover Kia, appropriately named, "Give to your Soul Help a Child Smile."

It was our hope to be able to fill one of our Kia Souls with toys to help within our community where there was a need. We really had no idea how big this would grow.

Over the past several years we have partnered with Mike's No Frills, and together, with the generosity of the people within our community we have continually filled many Kia Souls full of new unwrapped presents that are donated and distributed locally to families in need throughout Haldimand & Norfolk via the Salvation Army.

I sincerely appreciate the support so many of you in Port Dover and surrounding areas have shown.

We are pleased to offer our businesses as a place to collect these needed toys but the true success of this annual event is solely because of the generosity of you.

On behalf of the entire staff at Mike's No Frills and Port Dover Kia, we want to say thank you.

Even more importantly we say thank you on behalf of the many children locally that will indeed have a gift to open on Christmas morning.

Your donated gift has made a positive impact for their Christmas and it's truly appreciated.



We wish each of you a very Merry Christmas.

Kelly Fulson
Port Dover Kia

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The Friday the 13th holiday bunnies were all over town on Friday adding joy to the event. Shown here with Friday the 13th founder Chris Simons are the bunnies Lena Kovacs of Tillsonburg, Laurie Vanlaecke of Tillsonburg, Stacey Leighfield of Tillsonburg, Ellen Johnson of Mount Elgin, Mary Kushneryk of Port Dover, Kathy Pasztor of Langton, Michelle Matheson of Tillsonburg, and Daniela Boughner of Courtland. Photo by Earl Hartlen

Friday the 13th busy



> From page one and noon.

Another PD13 attendee in costume was Rob Berg of Vittoria, who dressed as Santa Claus and The Grinch. He mentioned he's been to more PD13s than he can remember but has come regularly since 2005.

"I started out dressing as the Grinch last year. But this is the first time riding to Dover on a bike in a Grinch costume," Mr. Berg said.

He also shared his enthusiasm for the community and the benefits PD13 provides.

"Oh, it's a beautiful town. Love this town. Friday the 13th brings lots of people around, it's great for the economy, great for the people, the businesses."

Marshall Dickson of Clarkson travelled to Port Dover for PD13 in his 2012 Scion iQ, which sported the decal of his Vulcan Drifter motorcycle. Mr. Dickson said he rode his bike for previous PD13s, "but now because it's a little chilly, I brought the iQ."

"The business I was in, transportation, led me to look for my decal people who used to decal our tractor trailers, and I asked the girls there and they said, 'We like a challenge. We'll do that,' and they did, so Twin City Graphics put this on in Kitchener," he said.

"I'm having a great day, the weather's perfect, except for the temperature, but at least it's warming up, nice and clear. I'll be here for the 13th any time it happens."

Karen Marriott of Orillia belongs to a group of friends who have attended PD13 since 1986. She commented on how pleasant the event experience was for her > See FRIDAY 13TH on page 4

Doug Blundell of Lowbanks rode his bike to Port Dover on Friday, saying he always has a good time in Port Dover. He described the ride as "Cool but alright. Been in worse. Not too bad. It's cold but it's alright. If you dress for it, you're good." Asked how many times he's been to Friday the 13th, he laughed, "Oh I don't know, quite a bit. A couple, I've been to a couple. February, January... 68 years old and still doin' er."

Bill Craig of Cambridge also rode his bike to town on Friday. "It was good. A little chilly but you dress for it. I love Dover. Always a good time here." He said this is his third PD13 but will be back in June "most definitely" for the only event in 2025. Photo by Earl Hartlen



Enjoying Port Dover on Friday the 13th were Ryan and Larcia Fernandes of Brampton, Ziegler and Deial Coelho from Brampton, and Philip Fernandes from Lisle. Mr. Fernandes said of his 200 km drive to Port Dover on Friday that "it's long when you drive, not when you ride." Photo by Earl Hartlen

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Friday the 13th drew crowds

AT EVERY FRIDAY THE 13TH SINCE 1989



Long-time participants at Friday the 13th, several members from this group have been staying at the Erie Beach Hotel every Friday the 13th for the last 35 years. Shown above at the Dover Dairy Bar on Friday are clockwise from back right: Karen Marriott (Orillia), Tim Marriott (Orillia), Kathleen Kavanaugh (Orillia), Juanita Martin (Muskoka), Dianne Andrews (Barrie), Alexis Schell (Orillia), Hanna Brisebois (Orillia), Brenda McCormick (Newmarket), Marg Hammond (Muskoka), and Jim Kavanaugh (Orillia).

The group now has third-generation grandchildren attending the event. Rain, shine, snow, or sun this group says they always come to Friday the 13th. This year, some of the group drove through a blizzard in northern Ontario to get to Port Dover.

Marg Hammond said, "Myself and Juanita Martin have been coming, I believe, since 1989. Our husbands have both passed. Juanita and I both rode our own Harleys. But at 79 for her and 78 for me, we gave it up a few years ago. But not our love of motorcycles and coming to Port Dover. We'll come as long as our health allows us to."

Karen Marriott of Orillia said, "It's really nice, it's a nice crowd. It's nice to shop and support the small town. Everybody's friendly and it's just a really nice outing." *Photo by Earl Hartlen*



Brian Smith of St. Thomas and Indie, his dog. "This is a Ural 750 Patrol. It's got a sidecar and two-wheel drive. It's a replica of a 1942 Russian vehicle from the war effort." Asked about the day, he said, "Well, because of the weather, I didn't expect to be seeing too many people. The dog in the sidecar here, he enjoys a ride." Asked about Port Dover, he said, "It's changing. I've noticed a change since two years ago. Keep it up. It seems to be expanding. It's a place to head for, it's a nice ride. It's got a Timmies, that's the main thing." *Photo by Earl Hartlen*

> From page 3

group.

"It's really nice, it's a nice crowd. It's nice to shop and support the small town. Everybody's friendly and it's just a really nice outing," Ms. Marriott said.

Brian Smith of St. Thomas brought his dog, Indie, for a ride to Port Dover in his Ural Patrol 750. He talked a bit about his bike and time in town.

"It's got a sidecar and two-wheel drive. It's a replica of a 1942 Russian vehicle from the war effort," Mr. Smith said.

"Well, because of the weather, I didn't expect to be seeing too many people. The dog in the sidecar here, he enjoys a ride."

He said he's noticed change and expansion in Port Dover over the last of couple years and thinks the town should "keep it up."

"It's a place to head for, it's a nice ride," he said, then joked, "It's got a Timmies, that's the main thing."

The Maple Leaf also asked how business went on PD13 for some local restaurants.

Kylie Schneider, manager of the Terrace Room at the Erie Beach Hotel, said they had a busy morning on Friday.

"It was a good start to the day. We had lots of people right off the hop. It's slowed down a little after lunch time, but hopefully it picks back up for dinner time," Ms. Schneider said.

Knechtel's on the Beach owner David Knechtel said his family's indoor restaurants, The Beach House, the Dover Dairy Bar, and the Fisherman's Catch, were busy.

"It's been okay, better than any other Friday in December. It's been going over quite well. The indoor restaurants are of course busy, so it's going alright."

> More pictures on page 16



A motorcycle rides into town on Friday. *Photo by Earl Hartlen*



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Integrity commissioner rejected resident's complaints at a cost to county of \$2,502

No mechanism to recover costs of frivolous complaints

By David Judd

NORFOLK County is stuck with a bill for \$2,500 after the county's integrity commissioner rejected complaints by Waterford paralegal Warren Cummings.

David Boghosian, a Toronto lawyer who acts as Norfolk's integrity commissioner, billed the county \$2,502, including HST, for investigating and quickly rejecting five complaints filed by Mr. Cummings in September.

There's no mechanism for council to recover its costs of dealing with frivolous complaints, CAO Al Meneses told councillors last Tuesday.

On top of the \$2,500 bill for Mr. Boghosian's services, five or 10 county staff spent hours responding to Mr. Cummings' complaints.

"It's very costly to taxpayers for sure," Mr. Meneses said.

Mr. Cummings' frivolous complaints were dismissed and Norfolk County was left with the bill, Mayor Amy Martin said.

"It appears as though members of the public can make up whatever they like and contact the integrity commissioner for things the integrity commissioner doesn't have jurisdiction over, for statements that



David Boghosian is a Toronto lawyer who acts as Norfolk County's integrity commissioner.

aren't actually based in reality or accurate and for other perceived slights that aren't applicable to what the integrity commissioner actually does," Mayor Martin said.

At Mayor Martin's suggestion, Norfolk at a rural municipal conference in January will lobby the provincial government to allow municipalities to claw back money spent on frivolous complaints.

Costs for frivolous complaints would be added to complainants' property taxes.

In a report to council, CAO Meneses noted three of Mr. Cummings' five complaints weren't in the integrity commissioner's jurisdiction.

The two remaining complaints were dismissed for lack of merit.

Mr. Cummings has objected to council's May 10 decision to expand Norfolk towns' boundaries by 1,354 acres to allow construction of 30,000 homes over 25 years.

In addition to his failed complaints to the integrity commissioner, the Waterford paralegal has asked Ontario's Superior Court of Justice to compel Norfolk County to release decades of traffic, water and sewage studies connected to development applications in Waterford.

In July, he also asked the court to review council's deliberations and correspondence with Queen's Park regarding the proposed boundary adjustments.

Mr. Cummings was on the agenda to speak at last Tuesday's council committee meeting.

However, he did not appear.

Mr. Meneses declined to say why Mr. Cummings did not appear at the meeting.

Wrestlefest plans supported by \$20,000 Amplify Norfolk grant

Long Point Country Chamber of Commerce received \$40,000 for Sandpines Campfire Concerts. Long Point Country Bayfest received \$40,000 to create a concert for Bayfest

WRESTLEFEST will come to Port Dover next fall, thanks in part to a \$20,000 county grant from Amplify Norfolk.

County councillors are scheduled to confirm this week a grant for the event at the Port Dover Community Centre.

The event, a collaboration of the Port Dover Board of Trade and Norfolk County Championship Wrestling, will feature two live professional wrestling performances: a family-friendly matinee and an evening show for older teens and adults.

No date was mentioned for the Wrestlefest show during last Tuesday's discussion of awarding \$100,000 in Amplify Norfolk grants for 2025.

Next year will be Amplify Norfolk's second — and final — year offering matching grants to not-for-profit organizations to produce new live entertainment events any time of the year, except the prime months of July and August.

The idea has been to cut risk for groups seeking to create permanent events that will boost tourism in Norfolk.

The Long Point area will be the big winner for Amplify Norfolk grants next year.

Councillors last Tuesday voted to give Long Point Country Chamber of Commerce \$40,000 to continue Sandpines Campfire Concert Series on June 28.

And Long Point Country Bayfest will get \$40,000 to create an annual community concert in celebration of Bayfest.

The first concert will be on Sept. 27.

Amplify Norfolk has had a roller coaster ride over the years.

In 2021, in what was then known as Project Microphone, council set aside \$375,000 for grants in 2021, 2022 and 2023.

No grants were awarded in the first two years because of COVID.

In 2023, under the new name of Project Amplify, the county granted \$50,000 to the Norfolk Agricultural Society to start a Fairgrounds Festival in June and \$30,000 to Waterford's Old Town Hall and Waterford Lions to help with a Pumpkinfest concert in October.

In June 2024 councillors voted to discontinue the program.

In July they had second thoughts and, by a 5-4 vote, authorized a final year of grants for 2025.

Seven groups applied.

Last Tuesday councillors disqualified four of them for not meeting criteria: Lighthouse Festival Theatre, Norfolk Arts Council, Norfolk Malayali Association, and Royal Canadian Legion, Branch 125, Delhi.

That left three groups eligible for the three grants up for grabs: Long Point Country Chamber of Commerce, Long Point Country Bayfest and Port Dover Board of Trade.

Norfolk County Championship Wrestling has previously hosted events in Port Dover and Simcoe.

Amplify Norfolk funding will help expand next fall's event in Port Dover to two shows and include appearances by retired wrestlers to attract larger audiences.

The grant will cover performer fees, while production costs will be shared by Championship Wrestling and the Board of Trade, reducing financial risks.

Port Rowan Coun. Tom Masschaele defended the two top grants going to groups in the same corner of Norfolk.

He said discussion shouldn't be ward versus ward. Either grants are worthwhile or they're not.

Delhi Coun. Mike Columbus was glad to see an end to Amplify Norfolk grants.

Council and staff have struggled with the program, finding it complicated and painful, he said.

"I hope it's buried," Coun. Columbus said.

Ironically, last Tuesday's committee meeting opened with celebration of Norfolk winning national marketing and provincial tourism awards.

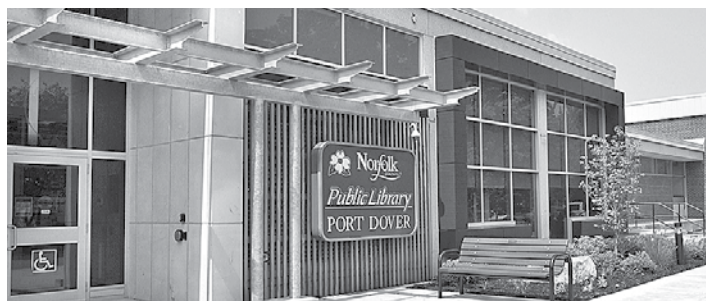
One award from the Economic Developers Association of Canada honoured Amplify Norfolk.

Fine Free Week until Saturday at local libraries with donation

IT'S the most wonderful time of the year and the Norfolk County Public Library (NCPL) wants to help make that possible for everyone in our community with Fine Free Week.

Until Saturday, December 21, library users can clear overdue fines by donating non-perishable food items or toiletries, which will be distributed to local food banks and the Little Free Pantry initiative.

Simply bring your library card and donations to the circulation desk at any NCPL Branch during library hours. Staff will waive overdue fines in exchange for your contributions. (However, fees for



Port Dover branch of Norfolk County Public Library is holding Fine Free Week until Saturday.

damaged or lost items are not eligible.)

The library says that all donations stay within the community, helping ensure everyone in Norfolk County has a brighter holiday season.

"Our Fine Free Week is about more than waiving fines. It's a way for the community to come together, support one another, and share in the generosity of the season," said Julie Kent, NCPL CEO.

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VIEWPOINT

Port Dover Maple Leaf

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Last call to shop local for Christmas

WITH Christmas Day only one week away, time is running out to pack Santa's sleigh. The rush to prepare for the holiday is almost certainly now underway.

It's the time of year when big box stores are stuffed with folks finishing their Christmas preparations. Lines may be long, and inventories may be low. You never quite know what you're

going to get in terms of product and experience.

Fortunately, there's another option for those who prefer the convenience of staying close to home. You can shop locally.

When you support local businesses, you're benefitting neighbours and investing in our area, keeping your money in our community rather than a CEO's

holiday bonus. Bypassing the big box shop is like the cherry on top.

Local business owners invest a lot of time and money into trying to make their store the best for the community. If you haven't already, we urge you to go into the local shops and be reminded of all the good things that are available right here at home.

LOCAL HISTORY.



A laundromat and real estate office stood where Scotiabank is located today.

Port Dover busy with events 25 years ago

25 Years Ago
Memories from
November & December 1999

Port Dover Board of Trade volunteers George Burcham, John Kilpatrick, Greg Cable, Doug Monroe, and Fred Pankhurst strung garlands of evergreen along most storefronts on Main Street with project organizer Ann L'Ecuyer-Musselman.

The final ChristmasFest of the last cen-

tury had an extended program of events. Co-chairs were Christine Agnew and Carol Taylor. ChristmasFest prince and princess were Zachary Swarts, age 6, and Georgia Schuyler, age 4. Keith Swarts volunteered to wear the red and white outfit.

Over 300 Girl Guide leaders from all over the area came to Port Dover to take part in a full day of training sessions. The guiders were treated to a fashion show of

uniforms worn by members over the past 90 years. Sarah Cable modelled a Guide uniform from 1910. Others Guides taking part included Katy Wilkinson, Jessica Cosby, Brooke Morris, Rebecca Cosby, and Raleigh Anstee.

The Halloween skating party hosted by Port Dover Lions Club attracted about 60 skaters. Prize winners in each category received \$20. Kady Thibeault, age 10, girls comical costume; boys comical, Brian Lichach, 7; girls most original costume, Jacqui Plonka, 10; most original, Danny Plonka, 9; Korissa Hammond, 5, girls spookiest costume; boys spookiest, Tim Salvatore, 8. Best dressed couple A.J. Cosley and Curtis Spain, both age 10. Youngest child in costume was seven-month-old Emily Hunter, wearing an angel costume (carried by her mother Sarah in a bridal costume).

A call for transparency in Norfolk County's financial past

Building accountability for a stronger future

AMY MARTIN



Mayor, Norfolk County

AS the holiday season approaches, it's a time for reflection and gratitude. However, for many Norfolk County residents, this season also comes with financial stress. Rising costs, tight budgets, and property tax pressures are on everyone's minds. Recognizing these challenges, Norfolk County Council is taking steps to promote financial transparency and accountability, ensuring residents understand the decisions that have shaped our current fiscal position.

At a recent council meeting, I introduced a motion to direct staff to prepare a comprehensive report on Norfolk County's financial history and trends. This isn't about assigning blame or revisiting past decisions with a critical lens. Instead, it's about fostering understanding and building trust with the community. Norfolk residents deserve to know how we arrived at this point—and how we plan to move forward.

Over the past few months, I've spoken with many residents who are feeling the financial pinch. They've shared their concerns about rising costs and are seeking answers about why municipal finances are the way they are. This is not an isolated issue; it's a widespread sentiment that demands transparency and clear communication from local government.

Norfolk County has seen significant financial shifts in recent years, including a 33.9 per cent property tax increase since 2019 and a 60.6 per cent increase in the rate levy. Understandably, taxpayers are asking

How did we get here? The proposed report will provide a clear and concise overview of Norfolk's financial landscape, helping to answer this question.

The report will consolidate financial data starting from 2015, the earliest year for which our finance department has online records. By examining this period, we can identify trends, decisions, and external pressures that have contributed to our current financial challenges. If council wishes to extend the analysis further back, staff can accommodate that request.

The goal is to create a single, accessible resource for residents who want to understand Norfolk's financial history. Currently, accessing this information requires piecing together old budgets, audited statements, and various online resources—a daunting task for the average person.

A former councillor recently noted that Norfolk's large geographical area and modest population make it difficult to generate sufficient revenue to maintain services and infrastructure. I wholeheartedly agree. Norfolk's unique characteristics pose challenges, but they also highlight the need for strategic planning and sustainable growth, much like the work we just completed in the Urban Boundary expansion.

Over the years, Norfolk's reserves were often used to offset tax increases instead of being responsibly replenished. This short-term solution has contributed to our current financial gap, leaving us with limited flexibility to address pressing infrastructure needs. By understanding these past practices, we can ensure that future decisions prioritize long-term stability over immediate relief.

The motion directs staff to include the following in the report:

1. The status of reserves over time, including growth, depletion, and current levels.
2. The county's investments, how they've been allocated, and their returns

or losses.

3. Investments spent within the community and their impact.
4. Spending trends and habits over the years.
5. Policy improvements made in response to financial challenges.
6. Norfolk's current financial position, including debt levels, revenue sources, and expenditures.

Additionally, the report will explain how these factors have contributed to Norfolk's infrastructure gap and financial challenges, providing a roadmap for addressing them. Did you know that Norfolk County is not able to self-fund \$78-million per year to keep our existing assets in good repair? Meaning we are putting away \$78-million less than we should be annually. While we work to close this gap, we also will be reviewing our services and amenities to ensure we have what we can afford to keep.

This initiative is about more than just numbers—it's about accountability. Norfolk residents have a right to understand the financial pressures on the municipal tax levy and to hold current and future councils accountable for responsible decision-making.

By shedding light on Norfolk's financial past, we can ensure transparency, rebuild trust, and create a stronger foundation for future planning. This report respects Norfolk's history while focusing on solutions that benefit everyone in our community.

As we approach the holidays, I want to extend warm wishes to all residents on behalf of Norfolk County Council. May this season bring health, happiness, and cherished moments with your loved ones. Let's take this time to reflect on our community's resilience and look forward to a brighter future together.

From all of us at Norfolk County Council, happy holidays and best wishes for the New Year!

80 Years Ago
Memories from
November & December 1944

The community learned that Private Lloyd W. Marr, Port Dover, was killed overseas by enemy action. He was 26 years of age. He was a member of the Lincoln and Welland Regiment, sailing overseas in January of that year. He was married to the former Dorothy Bush and they resided on First Avenue.

Poppy day taggers collected a record \$178.10 for the local Legion. They were: Eleanor Misner, Carolyn Lowe, Catherine Stark, Rosemary Morris, Betty Tees, Nancy Leitch, Rosemary Howell, Marjorie Long, Eva Ottley, Theresa Hagen, Phyllis Bush, Jean Reid, Bridget Blackhurst, Audrey Powell, Betty Quanbury and Barbara Bayes.

Port Dover held its third blood donor's clinic sponsored by the Red Cross. Doctors in charge were Dr. J. D. Struthers, Dr. A. E. Williamson and Dr. Helen Nixon. It attracted 109 donors, the largest number to date. Donors giving their sixth blood donations were George Chanda and Harold Miller.

Ninety students and guests of Port Dover High School attended a school party and dance held in the IOOF hall. The student committee consisted of Ruth Hind, Drusilla Ryerse, Alva Greenslade and Shirley Cleary. For a singsong, Joyce Long played the piano.

Lance-Corp. Edwin G. Soles, Port Dover, was seriously wounded by enemy action while serving with Canada's army overseas.

Port Dover soldier Sapper Murray Williams had both feet amputated overseas. He went to France on D-Day with the Canadian troops.



A Christmas plea for Ontario's most vulnerable

BOBBI ANN BRADY



Queen's Park Report

CHRISTMAS is supposed to be a season of hope and good cheer. For many it is, but this year, for far too many, life is challenging. My office continues to receive phone calls and emails from people who, despite working hard—many working more than one job—cannot keep pace. Some tell me they are very worried about choosing between heating and eating if winter hits hard in the new year.

Sadly, in Ontario, we have what my colleague Mike Schreiner has dubbed “a crisis in caring.”

As the House broke for Christmas, I reminded the government that now is not the time to continue to turn its back on some of Ontario's most vulnerable. I spent time with families on a recent Sunday evening during the Community Living Access annual Christmas party. These are wonderful, gracious families who devote themselves to ensuring their loved ones are looked after; however, they are also exhausted and sometimes nearly hobbled by efforts to get

this government's attention. They have repeatedly called on this government to address the waitlist of 52,000 adults waiting to access services—the list has grown 105 per cent in five years.

I've recently met with families with loved ones living with developmental disabilities and these folks, and the agencies that support them, are being strangled. They can no longer find savings. They are struggling to meet the basic needs of these families because complexities continue to exacerbate the older the clients get. Once someone is involved in a developmental services agency, they never emerge from it in the sense that they are a lifelong commitment.

I've met with Chris Beesley, CEO of Community Living Ontario, and I agree with him when he says: “it should not be at the whim of any government to determine who gets, who does not, and when. The province's books should not be balanced on the backs of its most vulnerable citizens. We must do better.”

I am continually meeting with agencies in Haldimand-Norfolk, and they are suffering from chronic underfunding, leaving them struggling to provide the critical services on which individuals and their families depend to meet basic needs. These services are not luxuries, they are lifelines.

Our local child and family services are also at the breaking

point, and they have done everything to save money and raise money. The complexity of cases the agency is grappling with continues to mount while this government refuses to expand beds and treatment at Syl Apps, Youthdale, and Robert Smart. Many young people experiencing these complex issues are not making it into foster homes but rather being housed in hotel rooms. This is unconscionable to me.

Helping the vulnerable took centre stage last week because, the day before, I questioned the government on what safeguards are in place to ensure vulnerable but not terminally ill Ontarians aren't misdirected toward Medical Assistance in Dying (MAID). Last year, a quarter of all MAID providers heard from the Coroner's Office about possible violations of criminal law yet not a single instance was referred to police, and only one was sent to the regulatory college. As I told my colleagues in the legislature, government should not be normalizing homicide as a medical treatment or allowing it to become an industry.

As I departed for the winter break, set to last until March 3, I tabled a motion calling on the government to help the province's home builders by increasing the Ontario HST New Home Rebate to reflect 75 per cent of the HST based on the first \$1-million of a new build, rather than the current \$400,000 threshold. I also tabled petitions with respect to the reconstruction of the Argyle Street Bridge in Caledonia and “Say No to the MZO.”

My recent actions at Queen's Park stem from my interactions with you, the people of Haldimand-Norfolk. I thank you for all your insight, opinions, and advice over the past year.

Merry Christmas to you and all your loved ones.

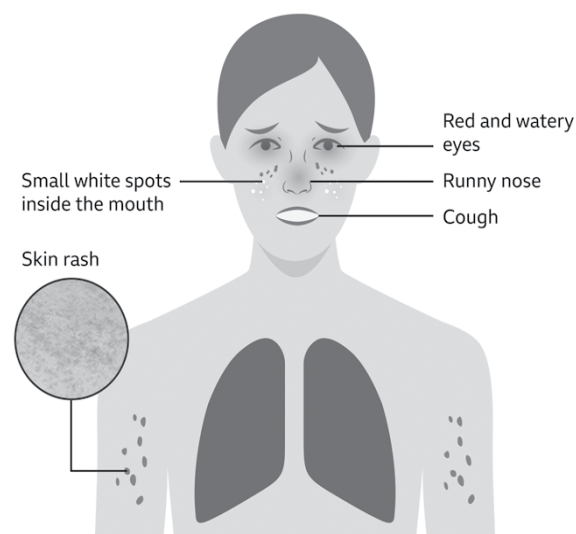


MPP Bobbi Ann Brady speaking at Question Period last week.

Health Unit issues reminder as measles circulates this winter

Symptoms of measles.

Highly contagious disease spread when an infected person breathes, coughs or sneezes.



Note: Measles can lead to serious and potentially life-threatening complications in some people, including infections of the lungs and brain.

Source: World Health Organization, BBC

WITH measles circulating, the Haldimand-Norfolk Health Unit reminds residents to be aware of symptoms and to follow precautions.

Stay home if feeling unwell. Measles is highly contagious and may cause symptoms such as high fever, red or watery eyes, runny nose, sore throat, small white spots inside the mouth, and blotchy red rash on the face that can spread across the body.

In rare cases, measles can lead to severe complications, including brain infections and death. Unvaccinated young children and pregnant individuals are at the highest risk of severe complications.

If measles is suspected, notify a health care provider in advance so staff can take necessary precautions. Avoid work, school, public places, and social activities during this time.

Stay up to date with vaccinations. Children routinely receive the first dose of the measles vaccine (MMR) at one year of age and a second dose at four to six years. Adults who have received two doses of the MMR vaccine are considered up to date. Consult a health care provider to confirm vaccination status.

For more information about measles, visit hnhu.org/measles.

SOMETHIN'S FISHY BY PETER PERCH

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Long Point Biosphere Region held 2024 research conference in Port Dover

Mottled duskywing butterfly reintroduction into Norfolk County

By Sue Graci

LONG Point Biosphere Region's 12th annual Research & Conservation Conference was held Nov. 1 at Port Dover Community Centre. The conference brings together researchers, stakeholders, volunteers, and the public for a day filled with information on research conducted within the Long Point Biosphere.

The conference was organized by Cynthia Brink, Priority Place project manager at the Long Point Biosphere Region.

She explained, "The Long Point Research & Conservation Conference is more than an annual event; it's a unique space for connecting across ecology, conservation, Indigenous knowledge, and policy. This year, Elder Carolyn King performed a meaningful opening ceremony to start the day in a good way, followed by a warm welcome from Britney MacLeod [of Environment and Climate Change Canada (ECCC)]."

Every year, researchers present new findings. The Maple Leaf spoke with Linda Dalrymple, a Port Dover resident who attended the conference.

"It is nice to know that the public, local residents, and interested people are welcomed. I learned a lot more about what is happening in our local environment with regards to conservation, land management, at-risk species monitoring, survival, habitat recovery and invasive species control," said Ms. Dalrymple.

She added, "I think the conference set a very positive light on how organizations and groups can work together to promote positive change."



Elder Carolyn King of the Mississaugas of the Credit First Nation welcomed attendees and provided a land acknowledgement.



Jessica Linton, keynote speaker, talking about mottled duskywing butterfly reintroduction in Norfolk County

All of Norfolk County part of Long Point Biosphere area

All of Norfolk County, including the Long Point Biosphere area, is part of the Long Point Walsingham Forest Priority Place. It was designated as a Priority Place by the federal government in 2018. The designation means that the Long Point Biosphere Reserve is recognized by ECCC as an area of high biodiversity, with many species at risk (SAR) and a network of organizations and individuals committed to its conservation, preservation, and rehabilitation.

Stakeholders including government organizations such as Ontario Parks, ECCC, Canadian Wildlife Services, Long Point Conservation Authority, and the Ministry of Natural Resources and Forests, working with not-for-profit organizations such as Long Point Basin Land Trust, St. Wil-

liams Conservation Reserve, and Long Point Biosphere Region, as well as individuals and communities recognize the value of the area's unique characteristics.

Priority Place designation means that rather than a focus on only one SAR, the entire ecosystem is considered and protected.

Reintroduction of mottled duskywing butterfly to area

Norfolk is located in Canada's only Carolinian life zone and has many SAR.

Current research includes the reintroduction of the mottled duskywing, a butterfly species that existed in Norfolk County but has been extirpated (made locally extinct) through habitat loss, as it lives its entire life cycle on New Jersey tea, a plant found primarily in tall-grass prairie and oak savanna habitats.

These habitats have been lost, in part due to factors such as agriculture, over-browsing by white-tailed deer, and fire suppression.

The last item might surprise people, as most view fire negatively. However, in the natural world, fire is often necessary to promote the growth of certain plants, control invasive species, and open forest canopies to allow sunlight to reach the ground. In the case of the mottled duskywing, New Jersey tea requires fire to keep competing vegetation from taking over. When tall-grass prairies and oak savannas are protected and restored, New Jersey tea can flourish.

Working with local organizations, Jessica Linton, a biologist with Natural Resource Solutions Inc. and the conference's keynote speaker, explained that her team has been reintroducing these butterflies and found that they are thriving.

Before this could happen, however, the local habitat had to be restored to support New Jersey tea and remove invasive species. This program has been so successful that other native butterflies, also extirpated, will be reintroduced in the coming years.

Laurene Via, a Port Dover resident and volunteer with the Long Point Biosphere Region, said she enjoyed the event.

"I view this conference as a way for a lay person to learn about the dynamics of this unique ecosystem through the relaying of information that post



The mottled duskywing is a medium-sized butterfly in the skipper family with a wingspan of 25–42 mm. It is dark grey with yellow-brown spots on its hind wings that give the species its mottled appearance and its name. The wings of freshly emerged adults have a purplish iridescence that fades with age. Source: ontario.ca



New Jersey tea is a low-growing, deciduous shrub that can reach 2–3 feet in height and 2–5 feet in spread. It has broad, dark green leaves with toothed margins and hairy undersides. In early summer, it produces small, white, fragrant flowers that bloom in clusters on flowering stalks. Source: Google

graduate students conduct in the Long Point watershed.

"Frankly, I tell every person who stands still long enough to listen to me about this conference, and I encourage them to attend it. The level of passion shown and commitment to the biosphere from these young people is amazing."

Local gardeners can help by planting native plants

Ms. Via is also a member of Port Dover & Woodhouse Horticultural Society. She said, "[An action] gardeners can take is to plant native plants. Removing invasive plants creates more space for the plants that our native insects and birds need to survive. As well, two species of butterflies that in the recent past have completely disappeared from our area are slowly being reintroduced to Southern Ontario. The plants those butterflies need to survive are wild lupine and New Jersey tea. If and when those butterfly populations start to expand, having at least those two native plants here in Port Dover will create a habitat in which they can begin to thrive."

You do not have to live on

Long Point to make an impact.

Ms. Brink says, "Advocacy, awareness, and donations are invaluable in supporting the biosphere, which spans 160,755 hectares across Norfolk County. Donations especially help fund our conservation efforts, support our outreach and education programs, and ensure this rich landscape is protected for future generations."

Ms. Via added, "Port Dover residents should be proud that our town is a gateway to the Long Point Biosphere Region where many rare and endangered species that are solely indigenous to this area live."

The conference was sold-out and had 103 virtual attendees.

In his closing remarks, Tom Via, chair of the Long Point Biosphere Region, said, "The poster presentation summaries, given in a rapid-fire format, were fantastic. Some of the words I have heard over and over again today were 'inspired,' 'encouraged,' 'enthusiastic,' and 'hopeful.' We all share a passion for this area and every year this conference gets stronger and stronger. The spirit of collaboration is shown here and if you are here, you care."



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Port Dover Maple Leaf 

Province gives Norfolk \$2.1-million to help offset \$3.1-million increase in OPP's 2025 contract cost

NORFOLK taxpayers will get a break on higher costs for OPP service.

Ontario is giving Norfolk and other small, rural municipalities financial relief from unexpectedly high prices to contract OPP policing in 2025.

The province will give Norfolk \$2.1 million to help offset a \$3.1-million increase in the county's contract with the OPP next year.

In October, county officials were shocked when Norfolk OPP said its 2025 contract would total \$15.5 million, up 25 per cent from \$12.4 million in 2024.

The extra \$3.1 million for policing would have raised property taxes by 2.4 per cent.

But the \$2.1 million in provincial funding means Norfolk's 2025 OPP contract instead will total \$13.3 million, up \$1 million

or about seven per cent from this year.

The 2025 contract will increase property taxes by less than one per cent.

The provincial government is giving \$77 million to help dozens of smaller municipalities cushion the cost of OPP policing.

"I think probably this is the great news story of the day," Mayor Amy Martin told councillors last Tuesday.

County officials are pursuing two questions:

- Why did OPP costs increase so much after years of decline?
- Will the province continue to help with OPP costs in future years or was this one-time relief?

Councillors will set 2025 property taxes at budget sessions on Jan. 15 and 16.



In November, Norfolk County OPP Detachment Commander Inspector Andy Tait, at front centre, leads a group of OPP officers, co-op students, and members of the local media to a Festive RIDE check taking place on Highway 3 in front of the OPP detachment in Simcoe. Photo by Earl Hartlen

OPP REPORTS

Suspicious fire

A structure fire north of Simcoe is being investigated by local police.

At about 4:10 a.m. on Dec. 11, Norfolk County OPP and Norfolk County Fire Services responded to the fire in an unoccupied outbuilding on Highway 24, north of Simcoe.

No injuries were reported.

The fire is being regarded as suspicious and investigators are requesting nearby residents to review surveillance systems to determine if anything was captured that could assist with the investigation.

Anyone with information is asked to contact the OPP at 1-888-310-1122 or Crime Stoppers at 1-800-222-8477.

Motorcycle stolen

A black, purple, and gold 2006 Harley Davidson TRI was taken during a break-and-enter on Lynnwood Avenue in Simcoe.

Between Friday, Sept. 13, and Friday, Dec. 6, unidentified individuals unlawfully entered a garage on the property and stole the motorcycle.

Norfolk County OPP is investigating and asking anyone with information to contact the police at 1-888-310-1122.

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Keep being you **Love your ears**

Salvation Army Christmas Kettle Campaign underway

ON November 15, The Salvation Army launched its annual Christmas Kettle Campaign, which raises funds to provide food and toys for families in need during the holiday season. Simcoe's branch celebrated with a kickoff event at Real Canadian Superstore.

Doug Montgomery, kettle co-ordinator for The Salvation Army's Simcoe branch, told the Maple Leaf about the organization's launch event and campaign.

"The kickoff involved a few words from Major Ken Ritson [of] Salvation Army Simcoe [and] myself, thanking volunteers and sponsors, and Christ-

mas music from the S.A. Band," he shared.

The Kettle Campaign is The Salvation Army's largest fundraiser. Donations help fund the organization's Christmas hamper program, which provides goods to assist families at Christmas, and the Simcoe Food Bank, an emergency food resource for local families in need.

"Residents should consider supporting the campaign as every dollar raised in Norfolk stays in Norfolk," Mr. Montgomery said.

Community members can support the campaign by donating at The Salvation Army's kettles around Norfolk County, at

the organization's local branch, 184 Colborne Street North, Simcoe, or via phone at (519) 426-5420. Kettle locations are:

- Port Dover—No Frills, LCBO, and Silver Lake Market (Saturdays only).
- Waterford—Foodland and LCBO.
- Delhi—Independent Grocers.
- Simcoe—Canadian Tire, Giant Tiger, LCBO, Real Canadian Superstore, Sobeys, and Walmart.

The organization's local fundraising goal is \$312,000, up \$2,000 from 2023.

"Last year we reached \$310,000 with about 47 per cent directly in the kettles and the balance from our Letter Appeal," Mr. Montgomery said. The Salvation Army typically solicits support for its campaign through a letter appeal mailed to homes.

"To date we are well off our target. We did not put our letter appeal into the mail due to the postal situation. We encourage donors to stop at the Salvation Army Church... or put their cheque into any kettle. Charitable receipts will be sent out in the new year."

The group is also seeking volunteer support.

"Volunteers are needed to stand with the kettles. We have 1,190 shifts of two hours each to fill. There are also some ongoing needs at Family Services (519-426-3640).

"We have just passed 1,000 shifts filled but there are still some vacancies. This surpasses the 970 shifts filled in [2023]. We could not do what we do without the support of the amazing Norfolk volunteers."



A Salvation Army Christmas Kettle Campaign volunteer. The Salvation Army typically solicits support through a letter appeal mailed to homes but that could not happen this year and donations are down.

Winter driving: hope for the best and prepare for the worst

Tips to ensure your safety this winter

OUR community has only seen a few days of winter weather so far this season but we can expect more snowy days ahead. If you haven't already, now is the time to prepare for a situation of being on the roads in snowy conditions. With a little road-trip planning, you can ensure your family's safety when the snow starts to fly.

Safe winter driving means

motorists should expect the unexpected and prepare for it.

Here are a few recommended tips:

- Consider delaying your trip until the weather improves. Snowplow operators need time to clear the roads.
- If you must travel, be sure to check the current and forecast weather conditions and monitor the media and websites for weather and road conditions.
- Plan your trip before starting out. Visit the Ministry of Transportation (MTO)

website for road conditions at: www.511on.ca or Municipal 511 at www.municipal511.ca.

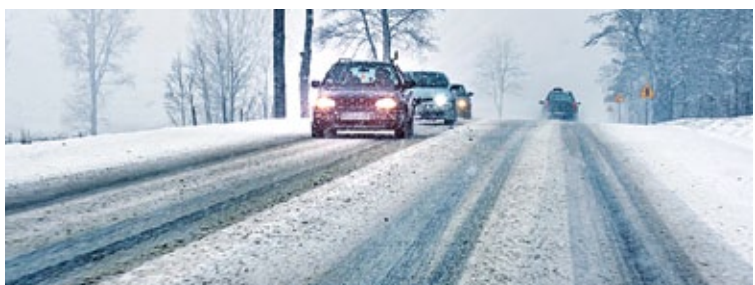
□ Ensure your fuel tank is full before hitting the road. If you encounter a lengthy traffic delay, you'll need your vehicle's heater to stay warm.

□ Be sure to dress for winter even though you'll be in your car. You'll be protected if you become stranded.

□ Carry a winter driving survival kit in your vehicle. Recommended items include a shovel, blanket, warm clothes, food, booster cables, flashlight, high energy foods, matches and a candle.

For winter driving safety tips, check out the Ontario Ministry of Transportation website at www.ontario.ca/page/winter-driving.

Slow down, stay alert, stay in control and stay safe.





Shown above are a group of helpers for the annual effort to send shoeboxes filled with Christmas treats to Canadian soldiers stationed overseas. Shown are, front row, Donna, Barb, Linda, Carrie, and Wendy and back row, Darlene, Buffy, Laurie, and Tammy.

Linda Butler thanks the community

Christmas shoeboxes for Canadian soldiers overseas great success again this year

Linda Butler of Port Dover annually organizes an initiative to pack shoeboxes with presents and send them to Canadian soldiers overseas. She submitted the following letter to Port Dover Maple Leaf to thank those who supported the project this year:

EVERY year we send Christmas shoeboxes overseas to our Canadian soldiers who cannot be home for Christmas. This is our seventh year, and we are sending 203 shoe boxes. Last year we sent 160.

As I was collecting addresses from families of soldiers overseas, I had a few wives and moms ask if we could send their son/spouse a box because two years ago their siblings were over and received our boxes, and it made their days. It warms your heart hearing this.

This year, we tried to per-

sonalize the boxes, so I had the family members send a surprise note to me, and my husband typed it up and made it Christ-massy to sneak in the boxes. I also had them send me their son or daughter's favourite treat to add to their box. I now know next year to buy 200 packs of jerky and peanut butter cups, which were top of their lists.

Thanks to the principal at St. Cecilia's School. Sue Defreyne and her students festively wrapped our boxes, collected donations and drew pictures. Embers from the Girl Guides decorated boxes for us, too.

Thanks to Jason Dale at Simcoe Composite School and his students, they collected boxes of donations for us and wrote postcards to send. Their Students' Council even gave up their Halloween dance to have a haunted house activity day, and

the admission raised for it was so generously donated to our boxes.

So many other schools donated artwork and letters from all over, including St. Michael's Catholic High School in Niagara, Hagersville Elementary, Lakewood Elementary, and Rainham Central School.

I want to thank our many crocheters who made cute Christmas decorations and warm knitted hats: Marilyn, Carrie, Wendy, Marg, Kimberly and her knitting group.

I also want to thank our local businesses and organizations and our whole community for all their kindness and donations for our Christmas boxes:

Port Dover Legion, Port Dover Legion Ladies Auxiliary, Delhi Legion, Delhi Legion Ladies Auxiliary, Port Dover Service Centre, Hauser's Dover Apothecary, Roulston's Pharmacy of Port Dover, Tim Hortons of Port Dover, On The Fringe, Picard's Peanuts in Simcoe, Picard's Foods in Waterford, Malo Family Dentistry, Dentistry on Norfolk South, Port Dover Masonic Hall for the use of their hall on Donation Drop-Off Day, Military Family Resource Centre in Hamilton and Port Dover Maple Leaf.

Finally, I want to thank all my friends and family who spent countless hours helping wrap the little gifts, removing tags, writing out never-ending Christmas cards and being such a big support to me.

If I've forgotten anyone, I'm truly sorry, I didn't mean to.

If it weren't for our wonderful community and all the kindness and generosity of everyone, our boxes wouldn't be what they are. It takes a community of friends and family to make this a success, and I'm grateful to everyone.

Thank you from the bottom of my heart.

Linda Butler
Port Dover



Linda Butler in front of a table piled high with the gift boxes.



Shoeboxes packed and ready for shipment overseas.

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Simcoe Panorama's spectacular River of Lights

By Donna McMillan

IF you haven't visited the Simcoe Christmas Panorama River of Lights for a few years, you are in for a surprise, Simcoe Christmas Panorama committee member Lucas Wilson told the Maple Leaf. Many displays that were retired have been restored and are shining brightly at the Panorama in Grant Anderson Park in downtown Simcoe.

The Simcoe Christmas Panorama is over 60 years old and boasts over 60 displays, 200,000 lights and hundreds of decorated trees. Mr. Wilson estimated that 30,000-40,000 people visit the park annually. He pointed out that snow motivates people to come.

"We are so lucky to have such a festive festival in our area," he said. He remembers attending the Panorama as a child and the joy the displays brought.

Mr. Wilson volunteered to join the Panorama's barn committee, which works on displays all year round. Besides regular maintenance of the displays, he was



interested in working on the animatronics, especially the penguins display, Santa's workshop, and, new this year, Mrs. Claus' kitchen.

He said the tractor pulling a toy box and driven by the Grinch has not been seen since 2018. Fellow committee member Scott Smith fixed the tractor and got the display going, he said. In all, during the past four years, Panorama volunteers have restored, rebuilt and refurbished 10 of their iconic displays.

Mascots including Frosty and Rudolf wander through the magical scenes at various times. Santa and Mrs. Claus visit on the weekends. Larry Dickey, a past president of the Panorama, co-ordinates mascots and brings Rudolph to life while Daryl Granger enjoys living the life of Santa. Santa's last visit to the Panorama will be Saturday, Dec. 21, from 6 to 8 p.m.

The Simcoe Christmas Panorama runs until New Year's Day with the lights on from 6 to 10 p.m. daily.

Visitors are invited to enjoy the Christmas Market at the Panorama. Hot apple cider and apple cider donuts are available at the Tumaini Hut, with part of the proceeds supporting the Tumaini Children's Foundation. At the log cabin, Panorama volunteers sell hot chocolate and cookies to help fund new lights and displays. Dolly's Sandwiches Food Truck serves poutines and sandwiches.

Trolley rides by the Sowden family of Evergreen Hill Farm are available from 6:30-9:30 p.m. on December 20 and 21 for \$4 per person.

Admission to the Panorama is free with funding from sponsors and donations which can be made on the Panorama website, www.simcoepanorama.ca.



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The light displays at Jarvis Light-Up include these larger-than-life snowman, teddy bear and elf.

Jarvis Rumble 3.0 vibrant Christmas festival

LAST Saturday, December 14, the organizers of this year's Jarvis Light-Up: Ultimate Edition held Jarvis Rumble 3.0, a vibrant Christmas festival



One of the many light displays at Jarvis Light-Up.



Thousands of people visited Jarvis Rumble 3.0 on Saturday night. This is the downtown intersection.

replete with free activities.

Thousands of people from neighbouring communities, nearby cities and beyond braved the brisk winter weather to pack the community. Jarvis was the place to be all afternoon and evening for cheerful fun.

Eventgoers enjoyed free food and drinks, light-up sticks, and midway rides in addition to a bevy of giveaways, live entertainment, music, and many large light displays, which illuminated surrounding streets. The festival had its grand finale after 7:30 p.m. with a giant fireworks extravaganza themed around *How the Grinch Stole Christmas!*

Organizers collected donations for Jarvis Lions Club and the Jarvis Caring Cupboard. They anticipated there were 5,000 attendees, about 1,000 more than last year.

Jarvis Light-Up continues all through the holiday season with over 500 homes in Jarvis and Townsend decorated with colourful lights for everyone to tour around the community.



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Wishing everyone a **Wonderful Holiday Season!**

Blair, Mark, Steve, Kareena and Peter




Sailors' Teddy Bear Toss

> Story starts on back page

All the teddy bears collected will be donated to the Caring for Cancer community.

Tomlinson scored on a power play assisted by Dylan Courrier and Matt McRuer to tie the game at 6-all and force an overtime period.

The Sailors and Rangers played three-on-three for the fourth period until 2:39 when Glanbrook's Jack Ormond scored unassisted to end the game 6-7.

Glanbrook goalie Jason Sviergula got the win for stopping 28 of 34 shots while Kiefer MacNeil stopped 38 of 45 shots impressively for the loss.

It was disappointing to lose, but it was a great game.

"We've found our groove," said Sailors Captain Tyler Matthews. "We're still battling but we have systems we trust and we're getting better as a team."

He said it was fun triggering the Teddy toss with his goal but admitted there was extra pressure to score.

"Really it was an honour for the Sailors to be part of an event honouring Luke," said Tyler. "We all feel for the family."

All the teddy bears collected will be donated to the Caring for Cancer community.

The PDMHA sold Pirates' "jib-bitz" – those little medals people put on their Crocs.

The 50/50 and Chuck-a-puck raised funds, as did the raffle of five Brantford Bulldogs tickets.

As a special treat, volunteers Connor Wingrove and Roxanne Poort and Scotlynn ran the concession stand for the event. Scotlynn and volunteers will run the concession again for the Brooks Lowe Hockey Jamboree for U7 and U8 players on Dec. 28.

The proceeds from the draws and concession stand will go to construction of the Norfolk Halimand Community Hospice.

Patrick Kelly, president of the



On the left is Glanbrook Ranger Nathan Nella, in the middle the Johnson family hold a stick for Luke, from left is Jill, Pearce, Hosanna and Daniel, and on the right is Sailors captain Tyler Matthews.

PDMHA, was delighted with all the support for the Teddy Bear Toss from the community and the money raised at the event that

would go to building a hospice.

The next Sailors game is in Port Dover on Sunday, Jan. 5, at 2 p.m. against the Dundas Blues.



Sailors Forward #11 Trevor Nunn (left) and goalie Kiefer MacNeil help out with getting stuffed toys off the ice.



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Join Project FeederWatch and track bird populations you see this winter

AS winter settles in, thousands of Canadians are once again taking part in Project FeederWatch, a citizen science initiative that helps scientists track bird populations across North America. Running until April 30, 2025, Project FeederWatch invites people of all ages and skill levels to contribute valuable data on winter bird abundance, a crucial tool for understanding how bird populations are faring during the colder months.

For the past 38 years, Project FeederWatch has provided essential insights into bird distribution and abundance during winter—a critical time when many species face tough survival challenges.

The data gathered by participants helps scientists across Canada monitor long-term trends in bird populations, allowing them to identify shifts in species' numbers and movements, and assess how climate change is impacting bird survival.

“Winter is a vulnerable time for birds, and the data collected through Project FeederWatch is vital for understanding their survival strategies and the overall health of bird populations,” says Olivia Carvalho, Birds Canada’s program lead.

“Every bird count helps



A Blue jay with a seed. Photo: Gord Belyea, Birds Canada

us gain a clearer picture of how different species are coping with environmental changes. This program is an incredible way for Canadians to learn backyard bird ID and make a direct impact on bird conservation efforts.”

Project FeederWatch is an easy and engaging way to participate in science from home. Whether you have a bird feeder or simply enjoy watching birds in your yard or local park, you can join the effort.

Participants count birds in their backyards for as little as 15 minutes a week, recording their observations online or through the FeederWatch app.

Not only does FeederWatch help scientists track

bird populations, but it also plays a role in broader conservation research. This year, participants are also encouraged to report observations of mammals, sick birds, and any mental health benefits they experience from birdwatching as part of an ongoing study by Virginia Tech University.

Project FeederWatch is a joint program between Birds Canada—which has its national headquarters here in Norfolk County in Port Rowan—and the Cornell Lab of Ornithology, made possible with support from Armstrong Bird Food and Wild Birds Unlimited.

Organizers say that it is through the dedication of thousands of volunteers across Canada and the United States and generous donations from supporters that Project FeederWatch is now in its 38th season. To help ensure the continued success of this project, everyone is invited to join by making a donation of any amount through Birds Canada.

“Every contribution, no matter how big or small, supports our work to protect birds and their habitats,” says Ms.

Carvalho.

To register, visit Birds Canada’s FeederWatch page at www.birdscanada.org.

In past years, more than 25,000 people across North America watched the birds in their neighbourhoods and turned their observations into scientific discoveries.

Black-capped Chickadees have claimed one of the top spots since FeederWatch began in 1988. The top 10 lists have comprised virtually the same species each year – which goes to show that you don’t need to know hundreds of birds to participate. Knowing how to identify 10 to 20 species will cover most of your visitors.

However, some things have changed over the years. One of the biggest adjustments to the top 10 list is the appearance of Northern Cardinals. While absent from the list in 1988, they are now near the top of the list. Conversely, House Sparrows were in the number four spot in 1988 and have dropped from the list since 2007.



Red-breasted Nuthatch in winter. Photo: Gord Belyea

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More photos from Friday the 13th in Port Dover



Paul Nurmi of Hamilton, better known as Thong Man, is at every Friday the 13th with his custom-themed thongs. He is shown above with his partner and best friend Linda Winters who says, "I make all his costumes." *Photo by Earl Hartlen*



Gary Freeman of Hamilton stopped at Tim Hortons to warm up on Friday. He said he rode, "All the way up. Little cold, little cold this morning but it's starting to get nice now." Asked about his bike, he said, "That's a '99 Valkyrie Honda, 367,000 km on her now. It's in good shape." Was this his first Friday the 13th? "Oh hell no. Had to come today just because I wanted that December t-shirt. It's a souvenir," he said with laughter. "Goes with all the rest." "I'm going to have a coffee, get a little bit warm, and then head out. I've got everything I need, got my patches, got my t-shirt, I'm good to go." *Photo by Earl Hartlen*



Frosty the Snowman, Mrs. Claus and Rudolph met up at one point during the day. They each added fun to Friday the 13th greeting motorcyclists.



David Martin of RBC Royal Bank in Port Dover posed for a photo on Main Street with Paul Nurmi and Linda Winters.



Port Dover Legion was a busy spot all day on Friday the 13th with food, live music and the bar open. Shown above are Charlie Blake, Joe Demizio, and Shane Pinchen of the band Albatross which entertained the crowds.

Photo by Earl Hartlen



Mark Fitzgerald of Port Dover and Noel Elliott of Waterford with their motorcycles at Port Dover Legion last Friday. *Photo by Earl Hartlen*



From left is Tim Flood, Jeff Fleming, and Miles Fleming of Stratford who "come to Dover every 13th and love the event" *Photo by Earl Hartlen*



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Earl Hartlen's
2025 Calendar

A Port Dover calendar featuring local photography by Earl Hartlen

Plus, many popular Port Dover events are included on the calendar!

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Arcady performs Handel's Messiah Dec. 20 at Waterford's Old Town Hall

ARCADY will be at Waterford's Old Town Hall to perform its unique version of Handel's *Messiah* this holiday season on Friday, Dec. 20, at 7:30 p.m.

Audiences will have the chance to see Arcady's professional chorus of soloists and chamber ensemble bring to life this holiday tradition.

Known for his dynamic, energetic interpretation of this triumphant work, Ronald Beckett will direct his ensemble in a uniquely jubilant Baroque-style performance. Tickets at \$49 are available online at arcady.ca, through email at info@arcady.ca.

or by calling 519-428-3185. For more information, visit arcady.ca.

Artistic director and conductor Ronald Beckett is the founding director of Arcady, an organization established in order to encourage outstanding young musicians by providing them a bridge between their student and professional performing careers. Most of Arcady's work is in two areas: period performances of early music repertoire and the works of Ronald Beckett. The ensemble offers 20 to 30 programs ranging from small ensemble to full choral-orchestral performances in Ontario each year.



Arcady has had several holiday performances of its energetic interpretation of Handel's *Messiah* and will be on the stage at Waterford's Old Town Hall this Friday, Dec. 20, at 7:30 p.m. At right, artist Marcel van Helden, a tenor from Acton, Ontario, with a Master's degree from Western University will be one of the performers.



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OBITUARIES

FAMILY NOTICES

Barbara Anne Huffman



Margaret Szucs



HUFFMAN, Barbara Anne (nee Elliott) — Passed away peacefully on Sunday, December 8, 2024, in her 78th year, of Port Dover, surrounded by the love of her family. She leaves behind her best friend and devoted husband of 58 years, David. Loving mother to Michelle & David Henwood, and Kimberley Huffman. Cherished Nana of Bailey Henwood & Liam Easton, Jessie Henwood & Bre Perrin, and Hannah Henwood as well as holding a special place in the hearts of nieces Brooke and Celina Morris. Loving daughter of Jean Elliott, predeceased by her father Harold Elliott, mother and father-in-law Mary & Clare Huffman. Dearest sister of Jamie & Paul Morris; sister-in-law of Helen Tisdale & Lucio, Kathy & Larry Jull, Bill & Elizabeth Huffman. Fondly remembered by her many cousins, nieces, nephews, and extended family. Sadly missed by Rose Young (Gulewitsch), their lifelong friendship spanning 65 years.

SZUCS, Margaret (nee Majorcsak) – God called Margaret peacefully on December 12th, 2024, in her 95th year. Devoted wife of the late Steve Szucs (1976). Cherished by her dear children Margaret Anne & Carman Palombella of Hamilton and Steve Szucs (late Cherie) of Simcoe. Proud and loving Nagymama of Leighanne, Demetrios, Giada & Charles Iliou, Tyler, Ayshé, Sonny & Jude Palombella; Andrew Palombella & Alannah Grady; Amanda, Noah & Matthew Galloway; Stephen Szucs and Kelvin Minja. Predeceased by her brother Steve Mayorcsak. Our hearts are broken as our circle of life has changed. We are eternally grateful for the blessings and traditions that we shared as a family through each generation. Nagymama inspired, encouraged and supported each of us, never judging but celebrating the true essence of love, kindness, loyalty and the knowledge that all things can be enjoyed, endured, mourned, forgiven and overcome only with the grace of God and a loyal, loving family at your side. Margaret enjoyed being a resident at Wentworth Heights Retirement Home in Hamilton for the past six years. The family is grateful for the care and support she received from the wonderful staff.

Barb, with her sparkling blue eyes, was happiest when surrounded by her family and friends. Nothing brought her more joy than a gathering of loved ones, good food and shared laughter, or riding shotgun on one of their many road-trip adventures, with the love of her life, David. With a quick wit and a generous spirit, she was never short of a kind ear and always ready to lend a hand. As an avid backyard birder, Barb was always first to call family announcing her “hummers” had arrived. Her children and grandkids were her greatest joy and Nana “Butski” was extremely proud of all their accomplishments. Her legacy of love and dedication to her family will continue to inspire and guide those she leaves behind. Cremation has taken place. A private family interment will be held. Arrangements have been entrusted to SERENITY BURIAL & CREMATION SERVICES INC., 391 Main Street, Port Dover, (226) 290-9093. In memory of Barb, please consider a charity of your choice. Online condolences can be made at www.serenityburialand-cremation.com. Although Barb may be gone from this world, she lives on in the hearts of all who knew her and through the memories and shared stories. She will be dearly missed.

Family and friends are invited to share their memories of Margaret with her family at the JASON SMITH FUNERAL CHAPEL, 689 Norfolk St. North, Simcoe, for visitation on Wednesday, December 18th, 2024, from 4:00 – 8:00 p.m. and Thursday, December 19th, 2024, from 9:30 – 11:00 a.m. preceeding a memorial service that will be held in the chapel at 11:00 a.m. with Deacon John Doomernik officiating. Spring interment of ashes: Oakwood Cemetery, Simcoe. Those wishing to donate in memory of Margaret are asked to consider the Tumaini Children's Foundation. The kids at Tumaini always held a special place in her heart. Cheques to Tumaini Children's Foundation or e-transfers to donate@tumainimeanshope.org would be gratefully received. Personal online condolences at www.smithfuneralchapel.com (519) 426-0199.

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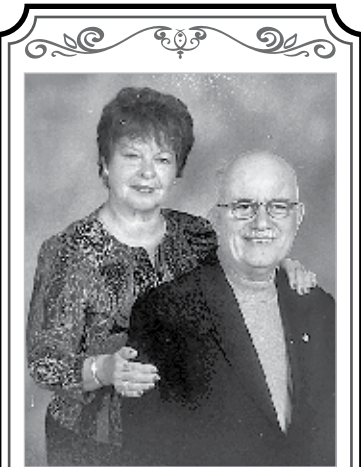
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HAPPY ANNIVERSARY



Sam & Marie Magro will be celebrating their 60th Wedding Anniversary on January 3rd, 2025.

There will be an Open House on Sunday, January 5th, 2025 at the Frisky Beaver Winery from 1pm - 5pm. All friends are welcome. Best Wishes Only.

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Job Posting: Administrative Assistant
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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.

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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.

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.

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 FISH DINNER on Thursday, Dec. 19, from 4:30 p.m. Serving haddock. \$17.00 per plate. Eat-in or take-out available.

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.

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.

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

Woodhouse United Church
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)

SUNDAY AFTERNOON MUSIC FUN DAY matinee on Sunday, December 22, from 2 to 6 p.m. with music by Ron Robertson at Port Dover Canadian Legion, Market St. E. All welcome.

UPCOMING 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).

EVENTS

EVENTS

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 for a crepe lover. Make your choice and get your ticket from the Legion Bar Steward. Prepaid take-out is also available.

NOTICES

HAPPY ADS
A GREAT WAY TO SHARE A SPECIAL DAY

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Port Dover Legion Dart League action

IN another exciting week of dart league action, week 10 team results were: Easy Riders 5, P.R. Bombers 8; Rebels 7, Dart Side 6; Tytans 9, HammerHeads 4; Double Knots 6, Doom 7; Shooters 4, Smokers 9.

Gina Bertrand of team Doom and Sharon Telfer of Easy Riders each achieved the women's high score of 140; and Shirley Goff of Rebels with 180.

Men's high scorer was Gary Cryer of Easy Riders with 137; John Harris of Dart Side, men's high out 98; and men's 180 by Dale Driver of Tytans and Nelson Wetherup of Rebels.

THE MAPLE LEAF WELCOMES LETTERS
Send them to
news@PortDoverMapleLeaf.com
or 351 Main St., Port Dover

PUZZLES • Answers on page 20

Sudoku

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

Glad Tidings

- ACROSS**
1 Canner's container
4 Sib
7 Undresses
12 Salute to a matador
13 Tolkien creature
14 Muse
15 Silent movie star Gish to friends
16 Part 4 of our Christmas carol
18 Roman 56
19 Contaminate
20 Expression of distaste
22 Household god (Roman)
23 Opposed
27 Be indebted
29 Part 5 of our Christmas carol
31 Dipper
34 Saffron
35 Personas non grata
37 ____ gratias
38 Repudiate
39 Average
41 Part 7 of our carol
45 Part 1 of our Christmas carol
47 Annoy
48 Conclusion of our Christmas carol
52 Palm leaf paper
53 Axes
54 Rural address
55 ____ room
56 Decorates (as a Christmas tree)
57 ____ Barrett of Pink Floyd
58 Thus far

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	50	51						52	
53					54				55	
56					57				58	

- 2 Animated
3 Antiquity
4 Dissenting clique
5 Respire
6 Groove
7 Part 6 of our Christmas Carol
8 Creation
9 Thrust
10 Greek ietter
11 Distress sig.
17 Crucifix inscription
21 Part 2 of our Christmas carol
23 Cravat
24 Last or greatest
25 One and only
26 Hair or perk add on
28 Small
30 Foot part
31 Guided
32 Can
33 Uproar
36 Alter
37 Cheerless
40 Says
42 Dentine
43 Disturbance
44 Precise
45 War criminal Rudolph
46 Dry
48 Poet's word for frequently
49 Conifer
50 Prefix for partite
51 Skirt part

Good read. Every week.



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SUPPORT GROUP

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

DRAW WINNERS

COMMUNITY LIVING Access congratulates week #50 winner Philip Powell of Cambridge, drawn Friday the 13th, Dec. 13, 2024 - Cash Calendar winner of \$1,300. Complete winners at www.community-livingaccess.ca. Community Living Access provides quality support to people with disabilities to live ordinary & extraordinary lives.

SILVER LAKE MARKET weekly basket winner for December 14 was Deb Green. The Market is Saturdays from 8 a.m. to 1 p.m.



NOTES.

Send your letters or notes to news@PortDoverMapleLeaf.com or mail to 351 Main St., Port Dover N0A 1N0

To those who have chosen public service: talk about positive ideas

An open letter to municipal, provincial and federal Canadian politicians,

IN Canada, we put effort into teaching our children to be kind to others, to tell the truth, to control their behaviour and to recognize the good in others. We have strong rules against bullying in schools and online. Respecting others is a cherished Canadian trait.

As an employer, when I am interviewing, I would dismiss a candidate very quickly if what they had to say was unkind or demeaning of others.

I'm confident no one would be hired for a job if they came into an interview and insinuated negativity about the others vying for that position... except, of course, your job. A very sad reality that you can change.

Don't allow your campaigns to be negative and hateful. Don't insinuate things that aren't true. Please don't try to teach our children that being a bully is the way to success!

You have chosen public service, you have positive change in mind. Let's hear what you have to say about that. Please recognize that your opponent also wants to serve and has done good things too.

Please, show our children, show all of us that respect for others, kindness, truthfulness and self control win!

Joy Allgood
Norfolk, Ontario

Sound Off



Call 519-583-0112
evenings 6 pm - 6 am
news@portdovermapleleaf.com

I did not vote Conservative in the last provincial election and I admire how hard Bobbi Ann Brady has worked for her constituents. However, it is blatantly obvious that H-N is not receiving the generous funding that has gone to Conservative ridings because Doug Ford has not wanted to support her and was not happy with her independent candidacy. In my opinion, Amy Martin has been forced to go it alone to get some of the funding that has come our way for this reason. Without knowing her personally, I suspect she realizes the only way she can get serious dollars for infrastructure is to run for the PCs. Still don't think I will be voting for Ford, who has wasted billions of taxpayer dollars that at some point will catch up with us, but I do understand why we are not on his gravy train currently.

Friday the 13th is always a great day no matter what month it happens. I could not believe how many bikes were in town. It was also a great story about Chris Simons in the paper. He has done more to put this town on the map than many people realize. I hope Friday the 13th lives on forever because the spirit of the day is always one of friendship and getting along and understanding. Go Dover.

Wanted—Adult skaters during ice times on Mondays 9-10 a.m., Wednesdays 1:30-3:30 p.m.; Thursdays 9-11 a.m. at Port Dover arena. All for only a toonie. If more don't use it, we might lose it. Come out and enjoy some social time and some exercise.

So it appears that our mayor has her sights set on provincial politics. I find it interesting that someone who, from what I see, has not made much of a difference in

municipal politics believes they can abandon their position and make a difference at the provincial level. We have a budget that hasn't been resolved, significant debt, and excessive tax increases. We have contractors who can't complete contracts on time with no penalties. The three dressing rooms being built at the Port Dover arena for \$3.3-million were supposed to be completed by Labour Day and they're not done yet. The water treatment system upgrade costs have ballooned. What happened to a signed contract is a signed contract?

Did you all know that under Canada's access to information act, members of the public have the right to certain information? "Subject to this Part, but notwithstanding any other Act of Parliament, every person who is (a) a Canadian citizen, or (b) a permanent resident... has a right to and shall, on request, be given access to any record under the control of a government institution." And yet I have been denied access to records by the Norfolk County OPP. Makes you wonder what they are hiding.

Some people complain that politics is dirty but are happy to sling mud at others. It doesn't have to be this way. Respect starts with all of us. It's easy to be mad at a smeared strawman, but it's more productive to engage with others' ideas. Next time you hear something that riles you up, ask yourself who wants you to be upset and how it benefits them.

Had a crisis on Friday the 13th. Nine people coming to dinner at 5. Everything's backed-up. Called Corey's Plumbing. He arrived in 30 minutes and solved the problem. Crisis averted at 4:30. Thanks Corey.

I'm glad to read that speeding is being looked at in our town. It's dangerous how some people drive. I hope things improve, though I'm old enough to have some doubts things will change.

Just wanted to say what an awesome display of Christmas lights in Jarvis and Townsend. Everyone should take a drive one evening and check them out. As well, the fireworks on Saturday were phenomenal.

I greatly enjoyed Riley Keen's art exhibition at Mass Market Gallery. It's wonderful that our town has a place for aspiring artists to share their work with the public. Thank you to Robyn & Anthony at Beach Reads Bookshop for providing the space and making the community a better place. Thanks also to Riley and all local artists who have opened their creations to others.

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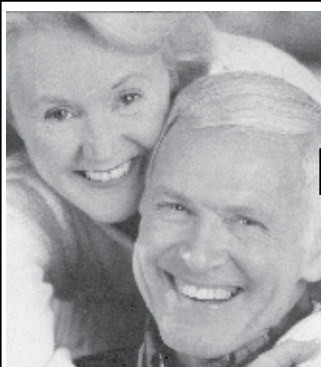
The Maple Leaf will be published early next week ahead of Christmas. The deadline for submissions for next week's edition is this Friday, Dec. 20 at noon.

There will be no paper published on New Year's Day. Our first issue of 2025 will be published on January 7.

Port Dover Maple Leaf

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NEW PATIENTS WELCOME



PUZZLE ANSWERS.

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

T	E	A	D	S	S	M	I	R	T
C	R	I	R	R	S	E	R	I	F
A	L	O	R	A	V	E	H	T	O
X	V	A	V	A	H				
E	I	M	T	A	R	P	A	N	E
			O	E	D	S	E	L	X
R	H	C	O				L	A	D
E	H	T	S	T	I	E	W	O	
I	N	T	A	R	L	A	H	C	E
			T	N	I	T	A	L	V
S	A	M	T	S	I	R	H	C	L
O	A	T	E	R	A	T	E	N	L
S	A	R	E	S	S	I	S	A	R

Sudoku

Glad Tidings



Port Dover Harbour Marina is now closed for the winter. The local marina has 458 slips for seasonal dockage with 373 fully serviced docks and 74 non-serviced plus 11 transient slips for visitors. Rates are expected to go up about 25% next summer. Photo by Earl Hartlen & Brent Smith

Municipal marinas in Port Dover and Port Rowan raising fees 25% next year

FEEES at the two county-owned marinas in Port Dover and Port Rowan will increase by about 25 per cent in 2025 as part of the effort to make the two facilities self-sustaining financially.

In October, county council decided to keep owning the Port Dover Harbour Marina and Port Rowan Harbour Marina on the understanding the marinas would support themselves financially and not be subsidized by county taxpayers.

A report giving options for the marinas' long-term futures is expected next year, with implementation possible in 2026.

In the meantime, council this Tuesday was expected to increase the marinas' 2025 fees by about 25 per cent to increase revenue.

The higher fees are forecast to boost Port Dover marina's revenue by \$195,800 next year and Port Rowan marina's by \$23,800.

Further increases of 25 per cent are forecast each year until 2028 to help pay for \$8-million in improvement projects scheduled in 2029.

For years, Norfolk's two marinas have charged lower fees than private marinas.

But next year's fees will be fairly close to the low end of the range of fees at private marinas, senior financial analyst Ryan Fess told councillors last Tuesday.

Increased fees alone won't be enough to pay for the \$14.7 million in projects forecast for the Port Dover and Port Rowan marinas over the next 10 years.

Council will look for more revenue sources, such as renting space for food trucks and charging for parking.

Port Dover marina for the last few years has made an annual surplus of roughly \$500,000

while Port Rowan marina has lost about \$105,000.

Council each year has taken about \$350,000 from Port Dover's surplus to lower property taxes.

This practice could end soon.

In January, council will decide if Port Dover's surplus will continue to help lower taxes or be used for marina purposes.

Fees at county marinas should not be lower than at private marinas, Port Dover Coun. Adam Veri said.

Next year will be a transition period for county marina users, Port Rowan Coun. Tom Masschaele said.

Wendy Cridland new Long Point Basin Land Trust executive director

LONG Point Basin Land Trust (LPBLT) named Wendy Cridland its new executive director.

LPBLT extended its gratitude to Rick Levick, the outgoing executive director who recently retired.

Ms. Cridland has over 30 years of conservation expertise, including nearly two decades with the Nature Conservancy of Canada.

She envisions strengthening partnerships with local communities, enhancing outreach to inspire the next generation of conservation leaders, and advancing strategic land protection to address biodiversity loss and climate change.

"Together, we can amplify our efforts and ensure that treasured natural areas continue to thrive for the species who depend on them," she said.



Wendy Cridland.

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Wayne Walker's memoir of living in Port Dover became a fictional mystery

LAST Saturday at the Port Dover Harbour Museum, Jimmy 'Boomer' Benjamin made an appearance at the book launch of W.J. Walker's recently released fiction novel entitled *Follow the Silence*.

The author, better known as former resident Wayne Walker, presented the story of Jimmy's journey through the cozy, gothic landscape of Port Dover. It's a story that begins and ends at the lighthouse pier and travels its way through three murders, the trauma of lost love and the healing powers of living on the shores of Lake Erie.

It does all this immersed in the cultures of commercial fishing, tourism and the traditions of dance halls, coffee shops, and waterways. And, of course, the silence that characterizes all small towns across Canada.

A lot of Jimmy's story is about his determination to break the long-held silence that has buried the truth of two murders, one rumoured to have been committed by his father, the other a part of his own nightmarish past. The result is a disturbing portrait of racism and homophobia in small-town Ontario, a stirring investigation into collective memory and a deeply felt examination of Jimmy's reckoning with his past.

Follow the Silence is a bucket list item for Mr. Walker. But what started out as a memoir quickly became a literary fiction, because, Mr. Walker says, the actual writing of the novel made him realize, he wasn't writing his story, but the story of Port Dover.

"Small-town life leaves an indelible mark on you. Your writer's voice begins to create a portrait of its own rather than the one you remember.



Wayne Walker autographs a copy of his new book *Follow the Silence*. It is a fictional account of life in Port Dover with three murders, the trauma of lost love, and the healing powers of living on the shores of Lake Erie.

The story grew in front of me. It was challenging and exhilarating. To watch your memories on life in Port Dover come to life on the page and take on a life of their own was amazing."

"There's much to love about growing up in a small town but I began to realize its complexity and darker sides

were the ideal setting for a whodunnit. Local details began to resonate with me as I wrote (I'm sure they will with readers). But as I began to recognize locations, people, and events, I began to see the charm and closeness of small-town life being balanced by its secrets and undercurrents—the perfect backdrop for a cozy mystery," said Mr. Walker.

Follow the Silence was printed by Friesen Press and is available online at Amazon, Kindle and most other e-sources. It is also available at Barnes and Noble, Indigo and local bookstores in the area.

Wayne Walker grew up in Port Dover and has lived in various locations in Southern and Northern Ontario. He is retired from a 30-year career as a high school English teacher. A stroke survivor, sommelier, speaker, and proponent of truth and reconciliation, he holds an M.A. in Modern Critical Theory.

He lives in Huntsville, Ontario, with his wife Lorraine.



Wayne Walker launched his new book *Follow the Silence* at an event at Port Dover Harbour Museum on Saturday afternoon. Photos: Karen Matthews

GRAPHICS TURN SCION iQ INTO VULCAN DRIFTER

MARSHALL Dickson of Clarkson drove a "2012 Scion iQ. And the motorcycle is a 1999 Vulcan Drifter."

"The business I was in, transportation, led me to look to my decal people who used to decal our tractor trailers. I asked the girls there and they said, 'We like a challenge. We'll do that,' and they did, so Twin City Graphics put this on in Kitchener."

"And I'm down for Friday the 13th. In the past, I'd come here on the Vulcan Drifter, but now because it's a little chilly, I brought the iQ."

"I'm having a great day, the weather's perfect, except for the temperature, but at least it's warming up, nice and clear."

"I'll be here for the 13th any time it happens."



Photo: Earl Hartlen

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FOOD.



A cheesecake to add to holiday Christmas traditions.

Cranberry Cheesecake Royale

Reprinted from December 2022.

HOLIDAY traditions. Every family has them. Maybe doing special holiday baking is yours. Possibly it's decorating your tree or your home. Setting out milk and cookies for Santa. Opening one special gift on Christmas Eve. Kissing under the mistletoe!

Traditions are handed down by one generation to the next, adapted to suit the needs of the day, and slowly, over time, change from one generation to the next.

I've heard it said many times, "It's just not Christmas until..." certain treats are baked or certain treasured ornaments are carefully unpacked and displayed for the season.

For me, a movie buff, it's just not Christmas until I watch a classic Christmas movie. *Miracle on 34th St.*, *A Christmas Carol*, *It's a Wonderful Life*, are amongst my favourites along with *A Charlie Brown Christmas*, *Elf*, *Christmas Vacation* and the cult classic, *A Christmas Story*. The nostalgic tale of 9-year-old Ralphie Parker who tries to convince his parents, his teacher, and even Santa, that an "official Red Ryder, carbine action, 200-shot, range model air rifle with a compass in the stock and this thing that tells time"—really is the perfect Christmas gift. I'm sure you're all familiar with Santa's line "you'll shoot your eye out kid!" and, of course, Mr. Parker's indescribably beautiful leg lamp award, shipped to the house in a large box marked "Fra-gee-lee" (fragile), and, obviously, not from Amazon!

For me, Christmas movies are sort of a sentimental trip down memory lane. They take me back to childhood memories when life wasn't so complicated. It was a time to relax with family amongst the hustle and bustle of the Christmas rush. It also made me realize that it truly is a wonderful life, and when the spirit of Christmas reaches your heart, even a Scrooge

can be changed. The magic of Christmas is everywhere, all year 'round. Somehow, we seem to forget that.

Since cranberries are traditionally used at Christmas to string on garlands and to brighten up a centrepiece, here's a Cranberry Cheesecake Royale that has been a baking tradition in our family for as long as I remember.

CRANBERRY CHEESECAKE ROYALE

Makes one 9" spring form pan cheesecake

Ingredients:

- 1/4 cup butter, melted
- 1 cup graham cracker crumbs
- 1/4 cup white sugar
- 1 tablespoon water
- 1 tablespoon cornstarch
- 1 can (398ml) or 1 3/4 cups whole berry cranberry sauce
- 2 (250g) pkgs cream cheese softened
- 1 can sweetened condensed milk
- 3 eggs
- 1/4 teaspoon salt
- 1/4 cup orange juice
- 1 cup sour cream

Combine sugar with melted butter, add graham crumbs, mixing well. Press into buttered spring form pan. Do not bake.

In a small saucepan, combine water and cornstarch, stir in cranberry sauce. Over medium heat, cook and stir until sauce is thick and clear. Set aside.

In a large bowl beat cream cheese until fluffy. Beat in condensed milk, eggs, one at a time, and salt until smooth. Stir in orange juice. It will be a bit runny. Pour 1/3 cheese mixture into prepared pan.

Reserve 1 cup of cranberry sauce, and spoon the remainder onto cheese mixture. Pour remaining cheese mixture into pan. Bake 60-70 minutes or until cake springs back when lightly touched near the centre. Chill. Spread sour cream on cheesecake, top with reserved cranberry sauce.

Refrigerate leftovers.

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Sailors and Minor Hockey honour Luke Johnson

By Jan Dean

ON Sunday, Dec. 15, the Sailors Junior C hockey organization joined with the Port Dover Minor Hockey Association for the second annual Luke Johnson Teddy Bears for Hope event.

The Johnson family took to centre ice where Dan Johnson, his wife Jill, and children Pearce and Hosanna took part in the unveiling of Luke's #2 banner.

It was just over a year ago that the Sailors signed Luke Johnson to a one-day contract with the Sailors. He scored the first goal for the Sailors and a cloud of teddy bears was tossed to the ice.

It had been a fundraiser for Luke and his family as he battled cancer for the second time in his short life. The hockey community stepped up, along with friends, classmates and so many others.

After Luke lost his battle with cancer in July at age 8, the PD-MHA announced it would honour Luke's memory by retiring his Pirates #2 jersey.

On Sunday, Luke's family unveiled his #2 Pirates banner to an arena packed with those who knew Luke and those inspired by him. Attendance was pegged at 565 and most of them seemed to be carrying at least one teddy

bear.

Port Dover Sailors and the visiting Glanbrook Rangers lined one side of the rink and stood to attention.

Dan spoke movingly about Luke. The family skated around the rink once in silence before the banner was displayed. Pearce, wearing his brother's #2, shot the puck into an empty net.

Then 12-year-old Chloe Truong sang O Canada, demonstrating talent and poise beyond her years.

The Teddy Bear Toss was set to happen at the first Sailors goal of the game. It was on everybody's minds as the game began.

It was a fierce back and forth from the first puck drop. The first goal was on a power play scored by Glanbrook's Gavyn Buch at 11:56 of the first period.

It wasn't until 16:32 that Sailors Captain Tyler Matthews put the puck in the net with assists from Dylan Courrier and Kiefer MacNeil. The captain celebrated on the ice and teddy bears rained down.

It took some time to gather them up but nobody minded. The whole thing was awesome.

When the stuffed toys were cleared, the game continued.

The last goal of the period was



Not easy to stick handle teddy bears but all the Sailors pitched in to gather up the donations.

scored alone and short-handed by Glanbrook's Max Schaubel and the period ended with Glanbrook up 2-1.

Second period was even faster than the first.

At 1:07 Sailor Aiden Cloet scored with assists from Dylan Courrier and Trevor Nunn to even the score 2-1.

At 3:33 Glanbrook's Max Schaubel scored his second goal of the game.

Again Sailor Aiden Cloet evened the score, this time at 6:37. At 12:17, Sailor Dylan Courrier scored on a power play with assists from Max Jolley and Trevor Nunn to put the Sailors up 4-3.

However two Glanbrook goals, the first at 15:00 in the second

period scored by Evan Grigor and the second 33 seconds later scored by Gabe Huigenbos, put the Rangers up 4-5.

As is traditional, there was a Chuck-a-puck between the second and third periods, but this time 150 pucks were chucked.

And when they called the 50/50 draw later in the third period the payout was \$450.

Third period was a nail-biter. At 4:44 Glanbrook's Max Schaubel scored to put them up 4-6.

It wasn't until 15:17 that Sailor Aiden Cloet scored his third goal of the game for a hat trick, assisted by Dylan Courrier and Trevor Nunn on a power play. That made the game a one-point game.

Until 18:59 when Sailor Carter > See SAILORS on page 14



Sailors Captain #91 Tyler Matthews



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