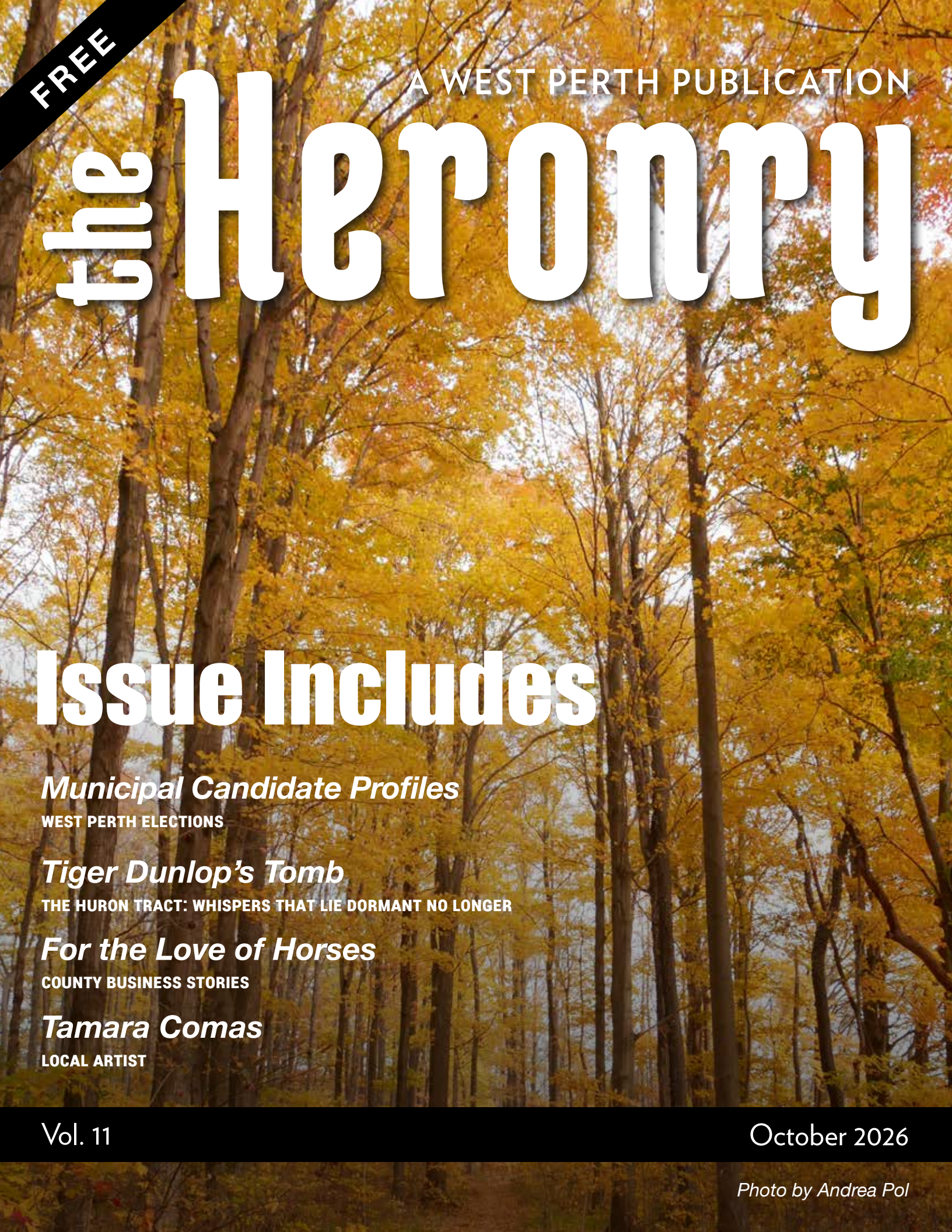
FREE

A WEST PERTH PUBLICATION

the Heronry



Issue Includes

Municipal Candidate Profiles
WEST PERTH ELECTIONS

Tiger Dunlop's Tomb
THE HURON TRACT: WHISPERS THAT LIE DORMANT NO LONGER

For the Love of Horses
COUNTY BUSINESS STORIES

Tamara Comas
LOCAL ARTIST

Vol. 11 October 2026

Photo by Andrea Pol

Your local one-stop shop for all your Clothing and Promotional needs!

51 Ontario St, Mitchell ON
519-348-4023
st2pro@bvei.ca
www.bbpetsupplies.ca

STITCH 2 PROMOTIONS

A Better Way to Stand Out

In-House Clothing
Direct-To-Film
Full Front & Back
Sleeve
Front Pocket
Full Leg & Pocket



In-House Hats
Direct-To-Film
Leather Patches
PVC Patches
Embroidered
Patches
Full Front
One side.



In-House Promo
Direct-To-Film
Tote Bags
Backpacks
Socks
Aprons
Camp Chairs
& More



WE DELIVER TO MITCHELL & AREA

Our Brands

carhartt
THE NORTH FACE
DRYVENT
THERMOBALL
WINDWALL
COAL HARBOUR

RED KAP 1923
DRYFRAME CONTROL YOUR CLIMATE
EDDIE BAUER
Callaway APPAREL

NEW ERA
GILDAN
Penguin
OGIO
KOI
allmade

ATC THE AUTHENTIC T-SHIRT COMPANY
esactive
EVERYDAY COLLECTION
FLEXFIT
REALTREE
eurospun
WeRK

Divisions of:

B&V ENTERPRISES INC

ups
FedEx Ship Center
Confidential Shredding

Certain brands must be sold with decoration

51 Ontario Rd, Mitchell, ON, N0K1N0
519-348-4023 - www.bvei.ca

TABLE OF CONTENTS

4 A POLITICAL UNDERTAKING
6 DOUG EIDT MAYORAL CANDIDATE
7 W. DEAN TRENTOWSKY MAYORAL CANDIDATE
8 ANDREW FOURNIER DEPUTY MAYOR CANDIDATE
9 NICHOLAS VINK DEPUTY MAYOR CANDIDATE
10 CHERI BELL HIBBERT WARD CANDIDATE
11 WALTER MCKENZIE HIBBERT WARD CANDIDATE
12 LANDON SMITH HIBBERT WARD CANDIDATE
13 RYAN DUCK LOGAN WARD CANDIDATE
14 LISA RAPIEN LOGAN WARD CANDIDATE
15 STEPHANIE SIEMON LOGAN WARD CANDIDATE
16 BEN DAVEY MITCHELL WARD CANDIDATE
17 MICHELLE DENNIS MITCHELL WARD CANDIDATE
18 JIM GAFFNEY MITCHELL WARD CANDIDATE
19 PHILLIP O'DONNELL MITCHELL WARD CANDIDATE
20 MURRAY ROSE MITCHELL WARD CANDIDATE
22 ALEX FOSTER FULLARTON COUNCILOR
23 STEVE HEROLD FULLARTON COUNCILOR
24 OCTOBER 2026: COMMUNITY EVENTS
28 OCTOBER HOROSCOPES
29 ALL ABOUT CATS
30 AUTUMN'S ARRIVAL
31 TIGER DUNLOP'S TOMB
32 THE SIXTH FURROW
34 LIBRARY MONTH
35 CRYPTNICS ROUND 2 : REVERSALS
36 COMMUNITY RESOURCES
39 WHY X-RAYS ARE IMPORTANT
40 ENDRA THE EKANS: CHAPTER 4
41 FOR THE LOVE OF HORSES
44 SUMMER AT THE BARN
45 LOCAL POETS
46 TAMARA COMAS

the H

wpheronry.substack.com
wp.heronry@gmail.com
theheronry.ca
519-994-1431

Special thanks to:

Visnja Cuturic, Angie Moore, Cathy Hutson, David Doyle, Maggie Turner, David Kemp, Nick Hotz, Norm Leslie Bradshaw, Amy Hetherington, Grace Reidy, Kit Hotz, Laura Bere, Andrew Fournier, Ophelia Blackwell, Taryn Zinger, Lindsay Wagg, Kim Faust, Bonnie Linton, Tamara Comas, Doug Eidt, W Dean Trentowsky, Andrew Fournier, Nicholas Vink, Cheri Bell, Walter McKenzie, Landon Smith, Ryan Duck, Lisa Rapien, Stephanie Siemon, Ben Davey, Michelle Dennis, Jim Gaffney, Phillip O'Donnell, Murray Rose, Alex Foster, Steve Herold, Bob French, Lori Campbell, Elysha Vorstenbosch, Regan Middegaal, and Rebecca Finch Gracey=

A Political Undertaking

Christina tB Hotz
the Heronry Editor



A couple months ago, before the closing of the municipal candidate application process, I was trying to figure out a way to increase the general engagement in the election process. While there is a lot of talk that happens around federal and provincial elections, and a LOT of money that is spent telling us who to vote for, by and large the turnout of actual voters has been pretty dismal.m For municipal elections, the turnout is often even worse.

If the turnout for the bigger elections has been so poor, then what hope do we have increasing engagement at the municipal level? So many people view the local government as handling "the boring stuff," and don't think it's worth bothering about. "There are so many concerns we have already, can't we just let the people who care about politics weigh in?" I would argue that municipal politics is more interesting than people realize, and also that we each have a responsibility to educate ourselves and to exercise our civic duty by voting!

As some of our readers know, I grew up living in various towns and cities across Canada. With that variety also comes experiences living under municipal governments with very different priorities. I have lived and worked in cities where council seemed more interested in keeping wealthy business owners happy then they were in facilitating an environment that was good for the average citizen. I've watched small cities, which fought desperately to keep mega corporations out, be betrayed and lose their commitment to supporting small businesses. I've also seen towns where each member of council is obviously working hard for the betterment of the community and observed what a difference that makes to the residents who live there.

I have to admit, I don't remember who I voted for four years ago. I've always been pretty engaged politically speaking and read up on the candidates prior to voting, but I suppose the information I did end up finding wasn't solid enough to really stick in my brain long term. It's also possible that I neglected to actually do any research and instead relied on the few conversations I had with friends in the area to guide my view. I do remember asking on facebook if there was a place where I could get more information on candidates and I also remember not having much luck. We didn't get the paper and at the time I wasn't aware that the Advocate had an online presence so if the information was located there I never found it. It was frustrating.

It's now another election season and somehow I've found myself in the role of editor/writer/designer of a local magazine that's flying off the shelves. Since *the Heronry* is focused on educating and celebrating West Perth, it only made sense to use its popularity as a way to inform the local populace about the candidates. Thus I decided to at least *attempt* to interview each and every candidate, and to write up a profile that could be featured in the October issue. I had no idea just what it was I had decided to do.

To begin with, had I done my research a bit earlier, I would have realized that, at a minimum I now had eleven articles to write. For someone who often struggles to actually do the one or two writing parts of her self-inflicted job, that was quite the choice on my part. Additionally, I was not anticipating that our small municipality would suddenly experience a rush of citizens who found that they wanted to stand up to represent their community! Next thing I knew I had seventeen interviews lined up, seventeen questionnaires filled out, and seventeen profiles to write.

Another thing I hadn't anticipated is just how difficult it is to write profiles that captured each person's individuality. I have tried to share my unbiased perception of each candidate and to focus on the things that make them special. As part of the process, each candidate has had the opportunity to pre-read their profiles in order to ensure they were comfortable with what I had written - and that

I didn't accidentally misrepresent their viewpoints or personalities.

Some people are super easy going when it comes to someone writing about them. Others shy away from the vulnerability which is an inherent part of talking to someone whose entire focus is getting to know who you are. Some people were incredibly apologetic about the changes they were requesting, others grateful. A rare few didn't need changes at all and were thrilled with how I wrote about them. For what it's worth, I don't begrudge the process of emails and phone calls at all; the satisfaction that comes from this kind of collaboration is tremendous.

The biggest thing I've learned through this entire process is that we really do have a town full of phenomenal people. It's been an absolute joy to sit down with the various candidates. I get to hear about their family backgrounds, their love of our community, their joy in volunteering, and all the various ways they help make West Perth a better place.

I thought I would come out of this process with a clear list of "winners" - at least for myself - but what I've discovered is that all of our candidates have incredible gifts and experience that they bring to the table. There are various opinions about topics like the closure of Poppy Lane, whether the arena should have been expanded, and whether we're paying too much in property taxes etc, but by-and-large all the candidates agree on things I consider important. Every candidate is outspoken about the ways they love West Perth, the need for us to work together, and the importance of keeping things civil when we disagree. These are the things that I value as well, and as such, I will have some tough choices to make on election day.

I hope these profiles help you get a bit of a deeper look into who our candidates are. Whether you vote for one person or support another, our intention is that you remember that we're all neighbours here. We shop at the same stores, drive the same roads, and love the same place. We're all in this together; let's make every effort to celebrate and build this incredible place we get to live.

VOTE 2026
West Perth
Your Vote. Your Voice.

Municipal & School Board Election
Monday, October 26th, 2026

Voting Timeframe

Opens at 8:00 am on Monday, October 19th, and
closes at 8:00 pm on Monday, October 26th.

Voting is available 24 hours a day during this timeframe.

How Can I Vote?

You can vote by Internet or Phone.
Voting information, including your **PIN**, will be provided on your **Voter Information Letter**, which you will receive in the **mail**.

Voter Assistance Centre- Phone & Internet Assistance

West Perth Municipal Office-160 Wellington St., Mitchell

October 19, 2026 -8:30 am to 6:00 pm
October 20, 2026 -8:30 am to 6:00 pm
October 21, 2026 -8:30 am to 8:00 pm
October 22, 2026- 8:30 am to 6:00 pm
October 23, 2026 -8:30 am to 6:00 pm
October 26, 2026- 8:30 am to 8:00 pm

Telephone: 519-348-8429

Municipality of West Perth

Doug Eidt

Mayoral Candidate

For a relative new-comer to Mitchell, (we moved here ten years ago), it was extremely confusing talking to local people about our mayoral race. People kept referring to some guy called "Melon" and while I didn't know what the "W" in W. Dean Trentowsky's name stood for, I was pretty sure it wasn't that. Turns out that once upon a time, a friend's father called then ten-year-old Doug Eidt "Watermelon." As nicknames tend to do, it morphed into "Melon" and has stuck to him since. (I have it on good authority that it has nothing to do with the size of his head.)



Doug "Melon" Eidt: Mayoral Candidate for West Perth

Doug Eidt is quite the talker, knows more people in Mitchell than I can wrap my head around, and has their phone numbers as well. He seems to build relationships as easily as breathing. Part of that may be because he lives by the idea that "most people just want their concerns listened to and addressed honestly." His belief is that the most stubborn problems can be solved if everyone comes to the table and lays down all the facts – and he has a lot of personal examples to back up that mindset. He knows he's stepped on some toes over the years with his blunt speaking, but he also has many stories of building relationship bridges that no one else thought could be built.

Doug is a planner as well as a talker. He didn't win his race against Walter McKenzie four years ago, but he's been attending council meetings all the same – investing his time with the goal of helping steer our community in the future.

He puts that "plan for the future" mindset into practice in his own life as well. Even though he's not planning on retiring any time soon, he has a succession plan in place for his farm and his businesses, and that plan has recently been modified to account for the future of his infant grandson. For Doug, making sure the future is taken care of gives him the freedom to focus on the now.

Extensive knowledge of council procedures, candidate roles, and what kind of power municipalities actually have, is what Doug hopes to put to good use. He wants to see more businesses move to West Perth, and as a business owner himself, thinks he has a good idea of what businesses are looking for when they're searching for locations to invest in.

Doug has over a decade of experience in politics, first as a councilor, and then as deputy mayor of West Perth. He's built businesses, a family, and is ready to get back to work serving the community. He's looking forward to working with the rest of council to build West Perth the way he builds everything else, a lot of listening, a lot of talking, and a lot of heart.

Contact Information

Doug Edit

Phone: 519-301-0794

Email: eidtdoug10@gmail.com

W. Dean Trentowsky – *Mayoral Candidate*

I'll admit, I was pretty nervous about my interview with W. Dean Trentowsky (who goes by Dean). We'd had a brief conversation at the Ag Society's "It's Ok not to be Ok" event back in June, but that wasn't enough to really get a feel for who he was. I had the impression of a very tall and somewhat stoic human, and that impression, combined with his P. Eng. status, was intimidating!



W. Dean Trentowsky: Mayoral Candidate for West Perth

Turns out, Dean likes Paul Newman movies, almost all types of potato chips, and he's actually pretty easy to talk to. He's a deep thinker and will take his time mulling over a question rather than just blurting out the first thought that pops into his brain. He's more than willing to discuss difficult issues and has no problems explaining why he supports one decision over another.

Like I expected, his engineering background impacts his approach to politics. Like most engineers, Dean really values efficiency and is constantly striving to ensure that whatever project he's got a role in will be planned out from beginning to end in order to ensure that all contingencies are accounted for. Dean is not a "fly by the seat of your pants" guy and is more apt to point out potential challenges than he is to "bubble over with enthusiasm" for a new plan. This isn't an attempt to be discouraging, but rather stems from a desire to preempt problems and thus help to ensure success.

Dean has a vision for West Perth that mainly involves attracting businesses that generate "value-added products" – along with providing good jobs to the growing population. He says there is tremendous opportunity in West Perth for agriculture and non-agricultural enterprises. He, like pretty much every other candidate I talked to, doesn't want our community to become just another bedroom community. Based on his understanding of the current economic environment, he thinks the best ways municipalities can help prevent stagnation is by providing a friendly and co-operative environment for businesses that are interested in being actively involved in the community.

Dean believes that his role as Perth County Warden has prepared him for the position of Mayor of West Perth. He seems to know policies and procedures inside and out, and has the institutional knowledge that's required to serve a growing community. He's proud of the things that West Perth Council has accomplished since 2014, and believes that the best way forward involves maintaining the current approach of investing in the future of our community.

Dean lives by the principle of "Exercising the Good Neighbour Policy" which he says is the legacy of growing up in our rural community. His ultimate goal for the Council and the entire community of West Perth is for them to continue working together through all situations, either good or bad, while retaining respect and appreciation for each other.

Contact Information
W. Dean Trentowsky
Phone: 519-274-3933
Email: wdt16@hotmail.com
Website: wdeantrentowsky2026.ca

Andrew Fournier —

Deputy Mayor Candidate

Andrew Fournier is about as blue collar as they come. He's not the kind of guy who dresses up in a full suit on the regular, but he sports a fedora (a real one – not a trilby) when attending church or other dressy occasions. Finding him hatless is actually a challenge; whether it's a fedora, toque, or kerchief, he's usually got his long hair covered. But don't let his casual attire make you think he's casual about municipal affairs but he's as serious as they come.



Andrew Fournier: Deputy Mayor Candidate for West Perth

Readers of our June issue might remember Andrew's piece on his struggle with a brain injury, substance abuse, and mental health challenges, and how his journey has inspired him to advocate for other people who are struggling. His focus these past four years of serving on council has been much more hands-on than just a "save tax dollars" mindset, and he sits on numerous committees where he's providing insight to local authorities and organizations on ways to help people with substance abuse challenges, brain damage, and mental health concerns. He is also working alongside the United Way to push for living-wages and to direct research into solving local challenges.

Never one to sit still, Andrew has also thrown himself headlong into tackling food insecurity by starting the West Perth Community Gardens. He started with a few garden boxes and some supplies funded by his employer, and several public garden spaces are now thriving in West Perth. They operate along the lines of "Pick what you need. Weed when you can," and he's hoping to further expand on the idea by planting a food forest on empty land that is slated to remain free of development.

He says he'll have to step back from a few extracurricular activities and committees if he is elected Deputy Mayor, but he's excited about future ways this role will help him focus on building a community where everyone can access the resources they need to have a safe and healthy life.

Contact Information

Andrew Fournier

Phone: 519-691-5645

Email: fournier.andrew@gmail.com

Website: Andrew4deputymayor.ca

Nicholas Vink

Deputy Mayor Candidate

Nicholas Vink has been serving our community for roughly fifteen years and isn't planning on stepping back from public office any time soon. His role on the ERTH Board of Directors, experience as the chair of various committees, and extensive time on West Perth council have given him the skills he believes are necessary to be a solid deputy mayor.



Nicholas Vink: Deputy Mayor Candidate for West Perth

One of the subjects Nicholas is passionate about is ensuring reserves aren't left piling up. He says that throughout his entire time on council, more and more money has been sitting in reserves rather than being spent. While it's good practice to have a certain amount of money kept in reserve for capital projects, he thinks the rest of the non-invested taxpayer dollars should be actively put to use for the good of the community. While the reserves do generate a certain rate of interest, they're not keeping up with the rate of inflation in terms of buying power and Nicholas thinks that's a mistake.

West Perth does have an asset management plan, but Nicholas believes that more needs to be done to ensure that we're not bitten by inflation-driven costs in the future. He wants to keep property taxes as low as possible to help ease the burden on residents, but while balancing the need to invest in the community's future.

For the most part, Nicholas thinks the municipality has been doing a great job. He says it's not always easy to please everyone, but that there does come a point where the councilors have to make the best decision they can and hope for the best. While it can be challenging to convince people that something controversial is the best path forward, time and time again, whether it's projects centralizing the public works departments or building the Henry Street Bridge, postmortem presentations show savings and other benefits to the community.

Nicholas is eager to keep working with the rest of council to ensure that West Perth continues to thrive.

Contact Information

Nicholas Vink

Phone: 519-949-3475

Email: vink4deputymayor@gmail.com

Cheri Bell

Hibbert Ward Candidate

Cheri Bell says she's a "straight shooter" kind of person; she doesn't like political buzzwords or political grandstanding, and would rather have a direct conversation than dance around difficult issues. An "Air Force Kid", she moved around Canada as a child and then to West Perth when she was twelve; she has been in love with our community ever since.



Cheri Bell, Candidate for West Perth Councilor: Hibbert Ward

She first got into politics when her political mentor, Barb McLean, was unable to finish her term in 2016. Out of the four applying candidates, her application was the one voted in by council. Cheri served another four years after that, then pursued the deputy mayor position, and has since been following along with council meetings; she's still invested in the success of our community. Cheri is currently an active member of the Economic Development Committee and is passionate about keeping our rural character while we grow as a community.

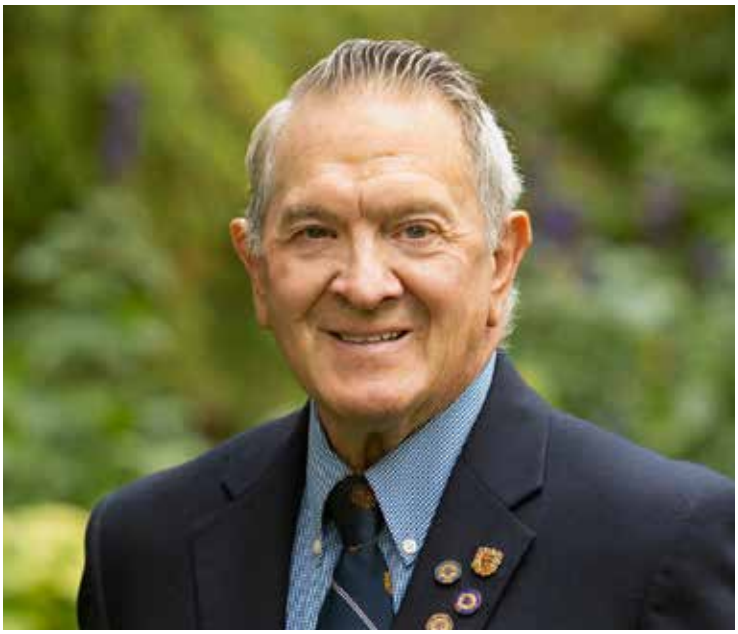
Cheri wants the municipality to focus on building and investing for the sake of our children and grandchildren. Asset management is a big focus of hers and she thinks we need to be planning for the future and to be "proactive not reactive". In her view, saving for things like a future library and bigger sports complex is crucial. She would also like to see continued development of the youth centre, more focus on promoting the wetlands, and for traffic studies to be conducted in our small towns and villages. She believes that the way to prevent West Perth from becoming a bedroom community is by making sure we have high-quality facilities that will keep people in town for their extra-curricular activities.

Cheri has been through various challenges and changes in her life, and believes that her unique experiences have made her especially qualified for the role of councilor. She thinks her willingness to ask the tough questions and to have the difficult conversations is her super power. She also knows that being a councilor means listening, being fair and understanding and keeping in mind that there are always multiple sides to every issue. As a woman who is a mother, a grandmother, a business owner, a farming wife, ***and*** a previous councilor, she believes she's perfectly set to be an informed advocate for the people of West Perth.

Contact Information
Cheri Bell
Phone: 519-200-2356
Email: cheribell2356@gmail.com

Walter McKenzie — *Hibbert Ward Candidate*

Walter McKenzie and I have been chatting over the pew at Knox Presbyterian for the past couple years. Those chats are typically less than five minutes long, so it was great to get a chance to get to know our current mayor over breakfast.



Walter McKenzie, Candidate for West Perth Councilor: Hibbert Ward

Turns out that the "early morning Rotary meeting" that left me yawning is not that early for our out-going mayor and councilor candidate. As a farmer, Walter is typically up by 6am and is often already fielding texts and calls from constituents and councilors alike by the time he's in the barn. Whether it's people asking for information about who bought the Cooper Building (a numbered corp), or weighing in about recent developments in our downtown, Walter is always juggling his responsibilities of being both farmer and mayor.

Although he's enjoyed his time being mayor, Walter is wanting to be able to watch his grandkids play sports, and even perhaps, to go on a vacation?! Stepping back from mayoral duties will give him the ability to relax a bit more and he's looking forward to the extra flexibility that comes with being a councilor.

If he wants to relax more, why then is our incumbent mayor running for a councilor seat? The way Walter explains it, he has a lot of institutional knowledge that he still wants to pass on. Answers to questions like "why does this road have a speed limit that's different then the adjacent roads" are written down somewhere, but it's much faster to access them from the vault of Walter's brain. On top of that, there's the 40+ years of political experience, bylaw knowledge, and procedural practice that has become second nature to him. With the potential of a large cohort of new brand new candidates being elected, he thinks it's important to be on hand to pass on that information.

Walter wants to continue on council, helping to guide our incoming and current councilors as they work together to build a strong West Perth. With council, he's spent the last twelve or so years working on the Heron Business Park and he wants still be an active member when the project comes to fruition. He wants to keep the focus on improving municipal roads and infrastructure, including installing rumble strips on the intersections of the King's Highway and county roads. Municipal politics are a huge part of his life, and mayor or not, he will continue to rise early in the morning, do the barn chores, answer questions, and invest in the community he's served for so long.

Contact Information
Walter McKenzie
Phone: 519-348-4236
Email: mckenzie@quadro.net

Landon Smith

Hibbert Ward Candidate

Landon Smith is a young father who loves rural life and wants to make sure West Perth continues to be a community that's a great place to raise a family.

He comes from a family that's been engaged in municipal politics and volunteering for a long time. His dad has been a councilor in Milverton for 25 years and this year is making a bid for the mayoral position. Landon served as a volunteer firefighter for 5 years when he lived in Milverton, (also following in his dad's footsteps) and has been active in the Milverton Ag Society and Minor Sports leagues. Although he's since switched his involvement from Milverton to West Perth, the experience carries over and is part of what inspired Landon to become a candidate.



Landon (& family), Candidate for West Perth Councilor: Hibbert Ward

One of the things Landon would like to see more focus on is providing summer jobs for teenagers and getting young people involved in community projects. While he values things like sports and other ways kids fill their time these days, he wants to see them more invested in being a part of the broader community. He admires the work that the YFC Youth Centre is doing but thinks that teenagers need to have something to do that makes them feel pride in giving back to their community.

Some ideas he has include: cutting local ball diamond grass, doing the soccer lines, or watering downtown plants. He wants the municipality to be paying teenagers for part-time labour rather than just full-time staff because he sees it as a way to invest in the future of our county. When he was young, Landon used to help maintain the diamonds in Milverton and he remembers the sense of pride he'd get when someone commented on how pristine the lines were, or how upset he'd be when someone dropped garbage on the newly cleaned outfield. Being compensated a nominal amount for his work was part of the appeal, but the feeling of being appreciated is what kept him doing it even after he'd stopped playing baseball himself. It could be another way of involving the youth who often feel like they're stuck with "nothing to do" in our rural community.

Landon knows he's got a lot to learn, and he's not embarrassed to say that he's pretty intimidated to be running against such well-known political figures as Walter Mackenzie and Cheri Bell. That being said, he thinks his youth makes him a good candidate for residents to "invest their votes in" as he foresees a long life of living in the area and working for the good of the entire community.

Contact Information

Landon Smith
Phone: 519-993-7084
Email: smitland@outlook.com

Ryan Duck

Logan Ward Candidate

Ryan Duck is an active guy who isn't afraid to try to get involved in new things. His first role on council was an appointed position in the Mitchell Ward when Jeff Marshall stepped down in 2021. He was acclaimed in the 2022 Municipal Election as the Logan Ward councilor and has served the community since. He's enjoyed his time on council and hopes to be able to continue learning and contributing to the success of West Perth.



Ryan Duck (& family), Candidate for West Perth Councilor: Logan Ward

As a father of two young boys, he is a big supporter of recreation and physical activity. He started the West Perth Athlete of the Year Awards (now in their third year), and is invested in making sure there are "things to do" in West Perth. You can often find him volunteering with the Mitchell Hawks and helping out with events like the Mitchell Lion's Wing Nights; he also recently joined the Brodhagen Chamber of Commerce.

After five years on council, it's pretty obvious that Ryan has been absorbing the rules and regulations. I asked several procedural questions and Ryan was easily able to explain the rules around council responsibilities, and where municipal authority stops and the province's authority begins. He says he also enjoys the infrastructure and financial side of councilor duties. One of the things he's been working on with council is prioritizing our spending; he was a staunch advocate of updating the current arena rather than spending 40 million dollars for a fancy new facility.

He recently presented a bill meant to encourage civility in local political discourse. While some might criticize the motion as unenforceable, it shows a desire to foster a collaborative environment at a time when controversy gets most of the attention. By and large, our current council does an excellent job at staying civil at meetings – even when they disagree, but the online conflicts our community has recently been engaged in inspired Ryan to introduce the bill. He hopes that whichever candidates win, they'll all commit to working through disagreements respectfully so that the council can present a solid stance to the community as they help shape West Perth for the next four years.

Ryan also thinks the municipality needs to take advantage of the ability to join with the county and surrounding municipalities to pressure the provincial and federal governments when our towns don't have the power to initiate change. He recently brought forward two notices of motion focused on improving cell phone service across Perth County, and specifically here in West Perth and Monkton; motions like these can be endorsed by other councils, which in turn increases pressure on the provincial and federal governments to step in when gaps in infrastructure aren't being filled.

Ryan brings five years of councilor experience and a deep connection with the community to council. He's looking forward to hitting the ground running as he represents his ward in the upcoming term.

Contact Information
Ryan Duck
Phone: 519-703-6135
Email: Duck4WestPerth@gmail.com
Website: www.ryanduck.ca

Lisa Rapien

Logan Ward Candidate

Lisa Rapien would rather let her actions speak louder than words; she doesn't like being in the spotlight. Why then would she be running for a public position, you ask? Well, Lisa is the kind of person who steps up to do the job in front of her, not expecting any praise, just wanting to get things done. She says she finds municipal politics interesting, often spending time watching the council meetings when she can. She loves helping out, so stepping forward made sense.



Lisa Rapien, Candidate for West Perth Councilor: Logan Ward

For Lisa, West Perth is a pretty great place to live and she'd love to see it stay that way. She's proud of our community mindset and the way we come together to help people in need. She doesn't want to make any big campaign promises in part because she's quite happy with the direction council has taken us, but also because she's aware that many of our choices are mandated either federally and provincially; we have to work within those bounds as best we can. Her role as a member of the Brodhagen Chamber of Commerce, the Mitchell Agricultural Society, and the Pioneer Club give her a direct line of communication with many of the people she hopes to represent.

Volunteering is one of Lisa's main priorities and one she wishes more young people would start to invest in. Having served on many committees and helped with umpteen projects, Lisa likes to speak about the value that comes from being part of something for the betterment of all. For her, volunteering has been one of the key connection points with the community. Whether it's the way the Optimists fundraised for the accessible park, the joy that comes via the Lion's Animal Park, or the Rotary's Kayak project, she's proud of the way our local service clubs enhance the town. She doesn't like to draw attention to herself, but it's clear that her experience serving and collaborating with all kinds of people would be a valuable addition to West Perth Council.

As far as our municipality goes, she can't say specifically what she'd like to change. Lisa says she wants to watch our spending, but thinks council has already been doing a good job in this area. She is grateful that our service clubs are so supported by the municipality and the way they work hand-in-hand to accomplish things that better our community.

In general, Lisa has a pragmatic view of a councilor's role in their first term – she knows that a lot of issues that seem simple on the outside are actually very complex and she isn't going to storm into office demanding changes that can't be made. Above all, Lisa wants people to know that she doesn't consider herself to be someone extra special. She says she's just one of many people who give back to the community; her motivation is a desire to perform her civic duty on behalf of our community, and regardless of the outcome of this election, she's never going to stop lending a helping hand.

Contact Information

Lisa Rapien

Phone: 519-504-8062

Email: lisarapien@gmail.com

Stephanie Siemon – *Logan Ward Candidate*

Stephanie Siemon was born and raised on the East Coast in New Brunswick, moved to Georgetown ON, and while there, met her now-husband Curtis. They met, were smitten, and her life hasn't been the same since.



Stephanie Siemon, Candidate for West Perth Councilor: Logan Ward

Stephanie has really enjoyed living in this small community the past six years, and loves the "everyone knows everyone" aspect of things, even though it can sometimes make errands take twice as long. She loves being in the midst of a crowd, talking and listening to all sorts of people and can normally be found in a service role rather than front and centre. She's not super into sports but will often be there anyway, helping out behind the scenes at events like Hawks games and Tailgate. She says she's enjoyed the flexibility that comes with volunteering on her own terms rather than committing to a specific service club or committee as that allows her to help with a lot of different events, groups and organizations.

Stephanie says she's ready to put the work and time in that comes with serving as a councilor. As a local business owner and also a young mom, she brings a unique perspective that could be useful on council. Starting Farm to Family has helped her learn to juggle and weigh various priorities and how to focus on what matters. Those roles have also taught her how to coordinate with both businesses and people and she's ready to put those skills to work for the betterment of the community.

Stephanie says she wants to see West Perth maintain its "small-town feel" while still having healthy growth. For that, the infrastructure needs to be maintained, and amenities need to be offered, all while ensuring that we don't cause more problems in the future and that we're not saddling our children with debt. Her priorities are: responsible spending, supporting agriculture and small businesses, and sensible growth – all while making sure rural residents and young families are represented.

Stephanie is a woman who speaks up when she feels strongly about an issue and thinks that character trait would be a strength in a councilor role. She is passionate about standing up for people who feel unheard, and says she values hearing people's opinions and speaking up on their behalf. Collaboration and flexibility are key aspects of both running a business and volunteering, and as such, Stephanie is looking forward to putting her experience to work as part of municipal council.

Contact Information
Stephanie Siemon
Phone: 519-301-6451
Email: stephaniesiemon@hotmail.com

Ben Davey

Mitchell Ward Candidate

Ben Davey is an engineer and it's obvious that he's got thoroughness and efficiency in his soul. Born and raised in Mitchell, he's played on local ball teams, gone to grade school here, and now wants to represent the local people on council. He's one of the younger candidates putting their names forward, but he believes that makes him the perfect representative for the young families in the area. His own young family is putting down roots here and he wants the town to focus on making sure that it remains a wonderful place for people to live and raise their kids.



Ben Davey, Candidate for West Perth Councilor: Mitchell Ward

Ben has deep roots in West Perth which reach back to when his ancestors had farms in Logan and Fullarton townships. His family has a long history of community involvement, serving on school boards, town councils, and as part of local service clubs for generations. Growing up with this legacy of service has made quite an impact and is a key part of why he wants to have a seat on council.

Ben and his wife are fully aware of the challenges that young people are facing these days and that's another reason Ben put his name forward. They themselves have only recently been able to break into the housing market – just moving into their new-build this past February – and even that was in part thanks to the reasonable rent they were paying prior. The reality is that people just starting out face even bigger challenges than they did; Ben wants to help change that.

He dreams of introducing some kind of legislation that would ensure that the majority of local housing – even if funded by outside developers, is built by local tradespeople. Though he admits that the idea may not be immediately viable, the reasoning behind it is solid. He's passionate about keeping the jobs and the money in our own community – rather than it all going to benefit big city contractors who swoop in to make a buck and then pull out when the going gets tough.

Ben says if elected, his initial focus will be to improve communication between council and the people of West Perth. He has had the personal experience of feeling like his opinions about various issues aren't considered worthwhile and doesn't think any community member should feel that way. Even if council doesn't make the decision someone wants, Ben plans to make sure that the people he represents know that their thoughts and opinions matter and that he's going to do his best to help build a community their children can be proud of.

Ben is looking forward to applying his engineering skill sets of organization and problem solving to work for West Perth. Whether it's by helping community members feel heard, initiating money-generating projects like a small camping area at Keterson Park, or increasing community safety by extending sidewalks, he's full of ideas about ways that he can help make West Perth a better place for everyone.

Contact Information

Ben Davey

Phone: 519-272-6883

Email: ben@benformitchell.ca

Website: benformitchell.ca

Michelle Dennis

Mitchell Ward Candidate

Having moved here in 2020, Michelle Dennis is relatively new to Mitchell, but growing up in Milverton and being related to the Mohr family means she's pretty well connected already. She's lived in the area her whole life, having moved to Stratford when she was eighteen and spending twenty-five years there raising her family.



Michelle Dennis, Candidate for West Perth Councilor: Mitchell Ward

My number one impression of Michelle is ENERGY. Whether it's channeled towards the beautiful veggie gardens and flower gardens on their property, showering her dogs with love, sharing an anecdote about being attacked by wasps, or talking about the importance of local green space, she doesn't do anything by halves.

If you want to see how hard she works in her free time, ask her to give you a tour of her gardens sometime. They are extensive. From veggie gardens to coneflowers and many varieties of hosta, it's clear that she pours time and attention into anything she sets her hands to.

Michelle's enthusiasm for rural life, individual freedoms, and the right of the community to have a voice, are all aspects of what inspired her to run for council. She and her husband have raised five kids to adulthood, and she's used to working long hours - whether it's as the general manager of a health store with a large staff, or in her most recent career pivot where she now works as an accountant. She wants to bring her love of math and balanced books to our municipal council, ensuring the financial decisions as sensible as possible.

Ever active but short on projects, she decided it was time to direct her energies towards something more focused on the community. She's very passionate about making sure people are educated about what's going on at the municipal level and wants to help make sure that more communication happens - especially for those community members who aren't on Facebook. She sees opportunities for additional transparency and wants to introduce more occasions for the public to weigh in on council decisions.

Michelle is excited to bring her zest for life and all things green to our rural community politics.

Contact Information

Michelle Dennis

Phone: 519-949-7276

Email: mmohr1976@gmail.com

Jim Gaffney

Mitchell Ward Candidate

As the Gen Z kids might say: Jim Gaffney has serious "Dad Energy." This vibe makes sense considering that he enjoys dad jokes, and has four adult children who are now making their own way in the world. He's built a small group of companies, and says he's ready to bring this ability to successfully juggle various priorities to municipal politics.



Jim Gaffney, Candidate for West Perth Councilor: Mitchell Ward

Jim is known for ruffling feathers on various facebook groups with his satirical writings about local issues, and he's got a wicked sense of humour, but it's obvious that he cares deeply about our community. He's willing to listen and learn from just about anyone – even if you interrupt him mid-lunch at one of our local restaurants.

Jim is passionate about energy (electricity may or may not be a personal obsession). When it comes to something like solar panels on our municipal buildings (which were built to be able to support the weight of this green technology), Jim is for anything eco-friendly. At the same time he says anything we do needs to be sustainable and to be able to pay for itself. He wants our town to be as recycling-friendly and low-waste as possible. He also likes the idea of bringing back the leaf truck that was retired a few years ago, and wants a proper cost/benefit analysis comparison to be performed that weighs the cost of getting a new leaf vacuum, verses the cost of paying numerous staff to pick up bags of leaves every fall. It may turn out that the town made the correct decision when they retired the truck, but he'd like to explore bringing the service back.

Jim has built and acquired several businesses, raised children and, as he steps back a bit from being so hands-on at his own companies, he wants to bring his business experience to West Perth.

For the most part, he's very supportive of the actions of council over the last four years. He doesn't plan on shaking things up, but rather wants to build on the strong foundation that's already been established. He's not running in an attempt to make major changes and says he is more interested in contributing to building on the solid foundation that council has established. Ultimately, he's stepped forward as a candidate because he thinks it's time to give back to the local populace by getting involved in a more hands-on capacity.

Contact Information

Jim Gaffney

Phone: 519-949-0146

Email: yourvoice@jimforwestperth.ca

Website: jimforwestperth.ca

Phillip O'Donnell —

Mitchell Ward Candidate

Phillip O'Donnell seems like a pretty regular guy other than his fashion choice of sporting a mustache (which looked great when I met him, but apparently has since been shaved). He works for Hydro One in "Project Support, Access & Permits" but often opts to work overtime doing line-work when he gets the chance; he says it's a nice change from his usual desk job. Outside of work (which he loves) he enjoys snowmobiling in the winter, golf in the summer, and spending time keeping up with news and sports.



Phillip O'Donnell Candidate for West Perth Councilor: Mitchell Ward

Phillip got into municipal politics four years ago. He says his initial motivation was a desire to reign in spending that was causing hikes to property taxes without tangible benefit to the residents. Rather than just being outspoken about something that he thought was extraneous, he figured he had an obligation to get informed and then involved in making things better; so far he's proud of what he, as part of the rest of council has helped accomplish. The work on the Heron Business Park, specifically the purchase of more industrial land, something he sees as an important step for future growth and one that will bring more opportunities into West Perth

Phillip values being involved in the community both within and outside of council. He enjoys being part of local groups like the Mitchell Hawks Executive and helping out with and talking to people at events like the Fall Fair. He says he's always willing to chat with community members who have questions or comments about council decisions. At the same time he tries not to get involved via social media, he would rather have face-to-face conversations, as those tend to be more productive.

Phillip's main concern these days is the way inflation is driving up the prices of everything, both for the taxpayers and the municipality. Even straightforward infrastructure projects are getting more expensive and unpredictable. He wants to be sure that future budgets account for the rising costs and that we are prioritizing affordability across the board.

Phillip believes that council needs to be fiscally responsible, maintain the communitie's infrastructure and services that residents rely on, and explore opportunities for growth and development in areas like recreation and industry. He believes that his experience on council and his focus on ensuring that taxpayers receive good value for their money will be an asset to council for the next term. He's looking forward to continuing to work together with all of West Perth, council and constituents alike, to make a better future for our community.

Contact Information

Phillip O'Donnell

Phone: 519-868-5431

Email: philbert8@hotmail.com

Website:philodonnell.ca

Murray Rose

Mitchell Ward Candidate

I suppose I should have known that Murray Rose would be an interesting guy based on the car out front, but prior to our visit I wasn't aware that he was the owner of the 1964 aqua/sea foam Ford Mercury Breezeway that you can sometimes see driving around town. It's the kind of car that says its owner isn't afraid of being different or standing out.



Murray Rose, Candidate for West Perth Councilor: Mitchell Ward

Murray isn't afraid of conflict. He is well aware that he's considered one of the more argumentative council members and he doesn't mind. (He's even got a block at home that pokes fun at his "but I'm right" tendencies.) He told me he'll often go toe-to-toe with Nicholas Vink over spending, but that they're perfectly friendly after the meetings; to him, push and pull is a vital part of the democratic process.

His integrity won't allow him to compromise his support of certain issues– even when the pressure gets personal. The way he sees it, every councilor needs to listen to their constituents and then use their best judgment on each motion. He believes that councilors are not just meant to bend to public opinion, but to make the best choice possible given the circumstances – even when that's unpopular.

Murray is proud that during his time, West Perth has been building assets that our grandchildren can be proud of. He knows that many community members think its a waste of money to have "fancy" buildings like our new town hall and fire hall, but Murray sees it as investing in the future.

As a man who has worked in a variety of industries including farming, construction, and car sales, he knows that a flashy exterior on its own is no good, but at the same time no one wants to buy a car that runs well but looks like it was found in the garbage. He thinks the properties built by the town need to present a certain level of professionalism in order to help attract the kind of businesses that will benefit the rest of West Perth. Plus – for the town hall especially, it was cheaper to build new than it would have been to bring the old school up to Ontario Accessibility Standards, and Murray knows the importance of saving money.

Murray is looking forward to continuing his efforts as a councilor and all the things that will be accomplished by working together. He believes that his integrity, and proven dedication to our community, makes him ready to serve a third term advocating for West Perth.

Contact Information

Murray Rose

Phone: 519-301-2178

Email: murrayrose_2@hotmail.com

Butter Tart Squares



Bonnie Linton smiling in the Sugar Maple Kitchen

Bonnie Linton has been employed as a line cook at the Sugar Maple Restaurant for 6 years.

When she was young, Kim Faust, the owner of the Sugar Maple went to school at MDHS with Bonnie's son Scott Albrecht. This recipe came to Bonnie via Sarah Albrecht, Scott's paternal grandmother and is often featured in the Sugar Maple's treat lineup.

Butter Tart Squares

Bottom Layer:
1 cup butter
2 cups flower
4 tbsp sugar

Cream butter, sugar, and flour together. Press into pan (ungreased). Bake at 350 F for 15 minutes

Top Layer
While top layer is cooking, mix together in a separate bowl:
6 eggs
1 cup butter
1 cup walnuts or raisins or other nuts
2 cups brown sugar
dash of salt
2 tsp vanilla

When bottom has baked, remove from oven and spread second mixture evenly over top. Return to oven and bake 30 minutes longer.

SAVE THE DATE

for a

Musical Gala

Celebrating 80 years of the Mitchell Music Festival: 1947-2027

Saturday, March 6, 2027 from 1-5pm
West Perth Community Centre
(Snow date - Sunday March 7, 2027)

Calling all Mitchell Music Festival Alumni!
Performers, Volunteers, Sponsors,
Music Teachers, and Families!

Here is your invitation to
An afternoon of musical memories

Check ***the Heronry*** every month
for more details!

Alex Foster

Fullarton Councilor (Acclaimed)

Alex Foster is already acclaimed to his seat in Fullarton, but was happy to sit down with me anyway. At 25 years old, this youthful councilor has already sat a full four years on West Perth Council and says he's ready to continue tackling everything from budgeting to snow-clearing priorities.



Alex Foster, Councilor for West Perth: Fullarton Ward

As the youngest member of council, Alex brings an unique perspective to the table. Like many men his age, he enjoys playing video games (online farming simulators, because apparently real life farming isn't enough), attending committee meetings and keeping in touch with his friends. He's also started his own farming endeavor.

Alex works on the family farm, and due to there not being as much to do on the farm in the winter, thought it was necessary to find something extra to fill his days. After doing some research, he decided that raising sheep was a good path forward. He and his dad built a barn that could be converted into a shed if the sheep plan didn't work out, but it turns out that conversion won't be necessary: the market for sheep is there, and it fits in well with the rest of the farm work.

Alex enjoys being an active council member, finding that he enjoys pushing back against other councilors in order to get them to fully explain and justify their ideas. When he first ran four years ago, he remembers being the only candidate who answered every question posed by the moderator at the All Candidates Meeting, and believes that his responsiveness was the main reason he won his seat. "People want their councilors to be engaged on all the issues – and that even when they don't have all the information – to know that they're willing to find it out and develop their stances accordingly."

Contact Information
Alex Foster
Phone: 519-949-2486
Email: afoster@westperth.com

SCHOOL BOARD TRUSTEE NOMINATIONS 2026

Avon Maitland District School Board (English)

Sheila Armstrong-Marshall
msheep2026@gmail.com

Ginny Rolph
ginnyr66@gmail.com

Huron Perth Catholic District School Board

Mary Helen T. Van Loon
maryhelenvl@hotmail.com

Derek Van De Walle
davandewalle@gmail.com

Steve Herold

Fullarton Councilor (Acclaimed)

Steve Herold is a father of two and a grandfather of five, has been a farmer and a farmworker, and now works in the Ag Industry. Unbeknownst to many, he also moonlights once a month as a barbershop singer with "Voices Unlimited." Just this past March, he and his fellow singers went all the way to Germany to compete in the BinG! Barbershop Music Festival and took home the championship!



Steve Herold, Councilor for West Perth: Fullarton Ward

Just like any good group singer, Steve says his first priority is to listen and collaborate rather than trying to be the loudest voice in the room. He sees no reason to dominate conversations; he'd rather take his time, absorb what has been presented, and make a balanced decision that takes all available factors into account.

Steve values the way councilors don't make decisions simply based on their own understanding of a given situation. There are a lot of players that come to the table – and not all of them are seated on council. He says the permanent staff are a huge part of the decision-making process and an extremely important one. While the staff members don't vote on the issues, they do collect information, analyze potential impact, and bring their expertise to council as a resource. Even the general communication staff, (such as receptionists and the recreation coordinators), play a part by fielding questions from the community, and identifying if certain issues are causing a particular influx of concerned messaging. Of course there are the opinions of the local people that needs to be taken into account as well, and whether it's through conversations on the street or via email communication, Steve incorporates their thoughts into his decisions as well.

Steve is proud of the direction that West Perth has been headed, and is looking forward to working with the newly elected representatives to ensure that our future remains strong.

Contact Information
Steve Herold
Email: sherold@westperth.com

SCHOOL BOARD TRUSTEES: ACCLAIMED 2026

Conseil Scolaire Viamonde - French Language Board

Rachid Barrima

Conseil Scolaire Catholique Providence - French Language Separate School Board

Michael Salvatore

West Perth Community

Most of these events are open to the general community though some have age restrictions. A diamond ◊ is for persons 55+ or living with disabilities/chronic health co

October 1 - Thursday

◊$40 Reflexology (by Appt) | 9am-12pm | Manor Lounge
◊$10 Drop-In Yoga | 10am | Live Well 4 Life
◊$12 Euchrama w/ lunch | 10am-3pm | Mitchell C.C.
Mental Health Drop-In | 1-3pm | West Perth Public Library
◊Active Wellness - Level 2 | 1:30-2:10pm | Manor Lounge
Cozy Fall Activities | 3-5:30pm | West Perth Youth Centre
Guided Heritage Hike | 5:45pm | West Perth Public Library
◊Pickleball | 6-9pm | Mitchell Community Centre
Hall Walking | 6pm | MDHS

October 2 - Friday

◊G Exercise - Lvl3 | 9:30-10:30am | UT Missionary Church
EarlyON Play&Learn | 9:30-11:30am | Mitchell Arena
*Kinder Cookers | 9:30-10:30am | Mitchell Arena
*Kinder Cookers | 10:30-11:30am | Mitchell Arena
Legion Lunch | 12pm | Mitchell Legion
Fundraiser Bake Sale | 2pm | Thomson Martial Arts
◊WII Games | 2-3pm | Manor Lounge
Halloween Movie | 3-5:30pm | West Perth Youth Centre
Scottish Dance Club | 7-8:30pm | Knox Presbyterian

October 3 - Saturday

Men's Breakfast | 8:30am | 101 Restaurant
Thanksgiving Food Drive | 10am | Independent Grocer
Autumn in the Woodlot | 3-4pm | 6100 Line 12
Catch the Ace | 4-5pm | Mitchell Legion

October 4 - Sunday

Parent & Tot Skate | 11:30am | West Perth Arena
Public Skating | 12pm | West Perth Arena

October 5 - Monday

◊Pickleball | 8-11am | Mitchell Community Centre
◊G Exercise - Lvl3 | 9:30-10:30am | UT Missionary Church
◊$10 Drop-In Yoga | 10am | Live Well 4 Life
Babytime with EarlyON | 1-3pm | West Perth Public Library
◊Active Wellness - Level 2 | 1:30-2:10pm | Manor Lounge
*Dungeons & Dragons | 5:30-8pm | Youth Centre
Hall Walking | 6pm | MDHS
◊Cards | 7pm | Manor Lounge
West Perth Council Meeting | 7pm | 160 Wellington

October 6 - Tuesday

Rotary Meeting | 7:15am | Deck Dentistry Basement
◊Senior Fitness | 9:30am | West Perth Community Centre
◊G Exercise - Lvl3 | 9:30-10:30am | UT Missionary Church
Parent & Tot Skate | 11:30am | West Perth Arena
Learn to Play Mahjong | 1pm | West Perth Public Library
◊Farkle | 1:30-2:30pm | Manor Lounge
Crafter's Circle | 2pm | West Perth Public Library
Drop-In: | 3-5:30pm | West Perth Youth Centre
Hall Walking | 6pm | MDHS
◊Pickleball | 6-9pm | Mitchell Community Centre

October 7 - Wednesday

◊Pickleball | 8-11am | Mitchell Community Centre
◊G Exercise - Lvl3 | 9:30-10:30am | UT Missionary Church
Tales & Tunes | 10:15am | West Perth Public Library
◊Aquafit | 9:30-10:45am | Spruce Lodge
Parent & Tot Skate | 11:30am | West Perth Arena
Public Skating | 12pm | West Perth Arena
Cards and Fun Pool | 1pm | Mitchell Legion
◊Active Wellness - Level 2 | 1:30-2:10pm | Manor Lounge
Cheese Quesadillas | 3-5:30pm | West Perth Youth Centre
*Be Dragon Ready Event | 4pm | West Perth Public Library
Hall Walking | 6pm | MDHS
◊Cards | 7pm | Manor Lounge

October 8 - Thursday

◊$10 Drop-In Yoga | 10am | Live Well 4 Life
◊Active Wellness - Level 2 | 1:30-2:10pm | Manor Lounge
*Circuits & Saws | 3:30-5:30pm | West Perth Public Library
Drop-In | 3-5:30pm | West Perth Youth Centre
Tween Crochet Crew | 4:30-5:30pm | W.P. Public Library
Hall Walking | 6pm | MDHS
◊Pickleball | 6-9pm | Mitchell Community Centre

October 9 - Friday

◊G Exercise - Lvl3 | 9:30-10:30am | UT Missionary Church
EarlyON Play&Learn | 9:30-11:30am | Mitchell Arena
M Foodbank* | 9:30-11:30am | 1:30-4:30pm | 80 Rowland St
Parent & Tot Skate | 11:30am | West Perth Arena
Legion Lunch | 12pm | Mitchell Legion
◊WII Games | 2-3pm | Manor Lounge
Apple Day & Games | 3-5:30pm | West Perth Youth Centre
Scottish Dance Club | 7-8:30pm | Knox Presbyterian

October 10 - Saturday

Catch the Ace | 4-5pm | Mitchell Legion

October 11 - Sunday

Parent & Tot Skate | 11:30am | West Perth Arena
Public Skating | 12pm | West Perth Arena

y Events: October 2026

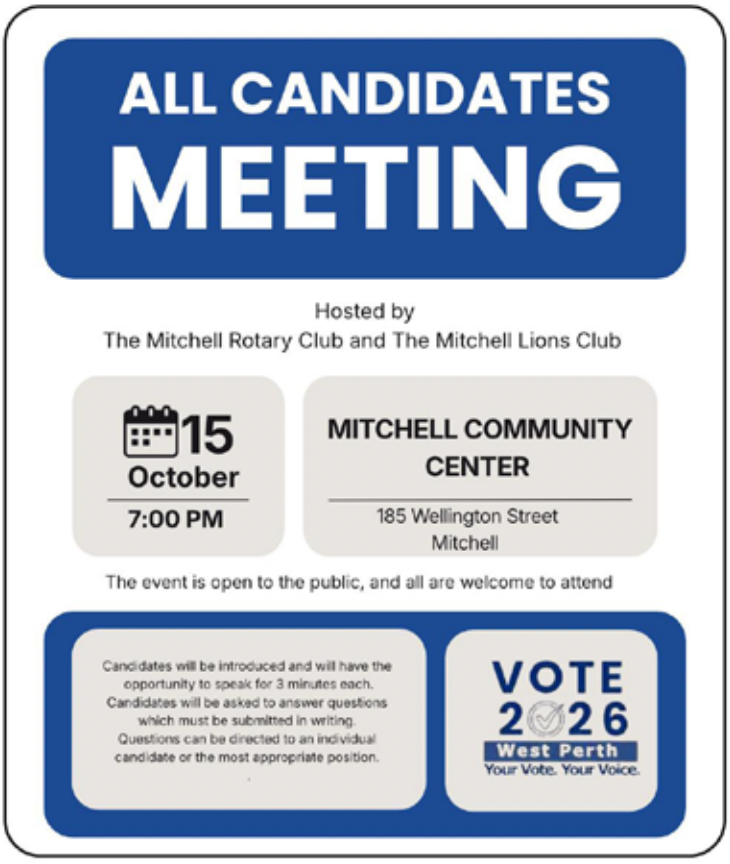
onditions, An asterisk means pre-registration or an appointment is required. A "~" indicates join-up is seasonal. A dollar sign or price indicates the event is not free.*

October 12 - Monday
Soup Fundraiser | 10am | Main Street United Church
Parent & Tot Skate | 11:30am | West Perth Arena
Public Skating | 12pm | West Perth Arena

October 13 - Tuesday
Rotary Meeting | 7:15am | Deck Dentistry Basement
◊Senior Fitness | 9:30am | West Perth Community Centre
◊Group Exercise - Level 3 | 9:30-10:30am | Mitchell C.C.
Foodbank Drive | 10am | Main Street United Church
Parent & Tot Skate | 11:30am | West Perth Arena Learn to
Play Mahjong | 1pm | West Perth Public Library
Blood Pressure Clinic | 1-3pm | West Perth Library
Mitchell Foodbank* | 1:30-4:30pm | 80 Rowland St
Crafter's Circle | 2pm | West Perth Public Library
◊Pickleball | 6-9pm | Mitchell Community Centre
Hall Walking | 6pm | MDHS
Lions Club Meeting | 6:45pm | Town Hall Legion Band
KIN Club Meeting | 7pm | Legion Basement
Practice | 7:30-9pm | Mitchell Legion

October 14 - Wednesday
◊$15 Dining for Seniors Delivery Meal RSVP Deadline
◊Pickleball | 8-11am | Mitchell Community Centre
◊G Exercise - Lvl3 | 9:30-10:30am | UT Missionary Church
Tales & Tunes | 10:15am | West Perth Public Library
◊Aquafit | 9:30-10:45am | Spruce Lodge
Parent & Tot Skate | 11:30am | West Perth Arena
Public Skating | 12pm | West Perth Arena
Cards and Fun Pool | 1pm | Mitchell Legion
◊Active Wellness - Level 2 | 1:30-2:10pm | Manor Lounge
◊Sing-a-Long | 2:30-3:30pm | Manor Lounge
◊Cards | 7pm | Manor Lounge
Apple Crisp | 3-5:30pm | West Perth Youth Centre
Main Street Anniversary Dinner | 6pm | Mitchell C.C.
Hall Walking | 6pm | MDHS

October 15 - Thursday
$10 Drop-In Yoga | 10am | Live Well 4 Life
◊$15 Dining for Seniors Delivery Meal* | 11:30am | Delivery
◊Active Wellness - Level 2 | 1:30-2:10pm | Manor Lounge
Creepy Craft Night | 3-5:30pm | West Perth Youth Centre
*Circuits & Saws | 3:30-5:30pm | West Perth Public Library
Tween Crochet Crew | 4:30-5:30pm | W.P. Public Library
Hall Walking | 6pm | MDHS
◊Pickleball | 6-9pm | Mitchell Community Centre
All Candidates Meeting | 7pm | 185 Wellington St



October 16 - Friday
◊$11 Brunch n Bunch RSVP Deadline
◊$4 Pie Social RSVP Deadline
◊G Exercise - Lvl3 | 9:30-10:30am | UT Missionary Church
EarlyON Play&Learn | 9:30-11:30am | Mitchell Arena
M Foodbank* | 9:30-11:30am | 1:30-4:30pm | 80 Rowland St
Parent & Tot Skate | 11:30am | West Perth Arena
Legion Lunch | 12pm | Mitchell Legion
Intergenerational Baby Time | 1-3pm | West Perth Village
◊WII Games | 2-3pm | Manor Lounge
Drop-In: | 3-5:30pm | West Perth Youth Centre
Scottish Dance Club | 7-8:30pm | Knox Presbyterian

October 17 - Saturday
Catch the Ace | 4-5pm | Mitchell Legion
Open Mic | 12:30-4pm | Mitchell Legion
Holiday Market | 8am -2pm | Mitchell Community Centre

October 18 - Sunday
Parent & Tot Skate | 11:30am | West Perth Arena
Public Skating | 12pm | West Perth Arena

continued on the next page

October 19 - Monday

◊Pickleball | 8-11am | Mitchell Community Centre
Election Voter Assistance | 8:30am-8pm | 160 Wellington
◊G Exercise - Lvl3 | 9:30-10:30am | UT Missionary Church
◊$10 Drop-In Yoga | 10am | Live Well 4 Life
Parent & Tot Skate | 11:30am | West Perth Arena
Public Skating | 12pm | West Perth Arena
Babytime with EarlyON | 1-3pm | West Perth Public Library
◊Active Wellness - Level 2 | 1:30-2:10pm | Manor Lounge
◊$4 Pie Social | 2:30-3:30pm | Manor Lounge
*Dungeons & Dragons | 5:30-8pm | Youth Centre
EarlyON Stories with Teddy | 5:45pm | W. P. Public Library
Hall Walking | 6pm | MDHS
◊Cards | 7pm | Manor Lounge

October 20 - Tuesday

Rotary Meeting | 7:15am | Deck Dentistry
◊Group Exercise - Level 3 | 9:30-10:30am | Mitchell C.C.
◊$11 Brunch n Bunch* | 10:30am | Manor Lounge
Parent & Tot Skate | 11:30am | West Perth Arena
Babytime with EarlyON | 1-3pm | West Perth Public Library
Learn to Play Mahjong | 1pm | West Perth Public Library
Crafter's Circle | 2pm | West Perth Public Library
Cozy Cafe Day | 3-5:30pm | West Perth Youth Centre
◊Pickleball | 6-9pm | Mitchell C.Centre
Legion Band Practice | 7:30-9 | M. Legion

October 21 - Wednesday

Election Voter Assistance | 8:30am-8pm | 160 Wellington
◊Pickleball | 8-11am | Mitchell Community Centre
◊G Exercise - Lvl3 | 9:30-10:30am | UT Missionary Church
◊Aquafit | 9:30-10:45am | Spruce Lodge
Tales & Tunes | 10:15am | West Perth Public Library
◊Community Edu Coffee Hour: Advance Care Planning: Rotary Hospice | 10:30-11:30am | Manor Lounge
Parent & Tot Skate | 11:30am | West Perth Arena
Public Skating | 12pm | West Perth Arena Cards and Fun Pool | 1pm | Mitchell Legion
Autism Support | 1-2pm | Mitchell Arena
◊Active Wellness - Level 2 | 1:30-2:10pm | Manor Lounge
Alzheimer Society Drop-In | 2pm | W. P. Public Library
Monster Sandwiches | 3-5:30pm | West P. Youth Centre
Hall Walking | 6pm | MDHS
◊Cards | 7pm | Manor Lounge

October 22 - Thursday

Election Voter Assistance | 8:30am-8pm | 160 Wellington
◊$10 Drop-In Yoga | 10am | Live Well 4 Life
◊Active Wellness - Level 2 | 1:30-2:10pm | Manor Lounge
Halloween Nail Art | 3-5:30pm | West Perth Youth Centre
Tween Crochet Crew | 4:30-5:30pm | W. P. Public Library
*Circuits & Saws | 4:30-5:30pm | West Perth Public Library
◊Pickleball | 6-9pm | Mitchell Community Centre
$10 Line-Dancing (18+) | 6:45pm | UTES

October 23 - Friday

◊Chili Lunch RSVP Deadline
Election Voter Assistance | 8:30am-8pm | 160 Wellington
Audiology Clinic (by appt) | 8:30am-4:30pm | Manor L
◊G Exercise - Lvl3 | 9:30-10:30am | UT Missionary Church
M Foodbank* | 9:30-11:30am | 1:30-4:30pm | 80 Rowland St
EarlyON Play&Move | 9:30-11:30am | Mitchell Arena
Parent & Tot Skate | 11:30am | West Perth Arena
Legion Lunch | 12pm | Mitchell Legion
◊WII Games | 2-3pm | Manor Lounge
Scottish Dance Club | 7-8:30pm | Knox Presbyterian
Night Drop-In | 7-9:30pm | West Perth Youth Centre

October 24 - Saturday

Optimists Spook-tacular | 1-4pm | #3945 Rd, 160 Mitchell
Catch the Ace | 4-5pm | Mitchell Legion
Courtyard Market | 5-8pm | Poppy Lane

October 25 - Sunday

Optimists Spook-tacular | 1-4pm | #3945 Rd, 160 Mitchell
Parent & Tot Skate | 11:30am | West Perth Arena
Public Skating | 12pm | West Perth Arena

October 26 - Monday

Election Voter Assistance | 8:30am-8pm | 160 Wellington
◊Pickleball | 8-11am | Mitchell Community Centre
◊G Exercise - Lvl3 | 9:30-10:30am | UT Missionary Church
◊$10 Drop-In Yoga | 10am | Live Well 4 Life
◊Senior Book Chat | 11am | Ritz Manor Apartment Lounge
Parent & Tot Skate | 11:30am | West Perth Arena
Public Skating | 12pm | West Perth Arena
Babytime with EarlyON | 1-3pm | West Perth Public Library
◊Active Wellness - Level 2 | 1:30-2:10pm | Manor Lounge
◊$4 Pie Social*| 2:30-3:30pm | Manor Lounge
Hall Walking | 6pm | MDHS
◊Cards | 7pm | Manor Lounge
*Dungeons & Dragons | 5:30-8pm | Youth Centre

October 27 - Tuesday

Rotary Meeting | 7:15am | Deck Dentistry Basement
◊Senior Fitness | 9:30am | West Perth Community Centre
◊G Exercise - Lvl3 | 9:30-10:30am | UT Missionary Church
Yahtzee | 10:30am | Manor Lounge
Parent & Tot Skate | 11:30am | West Perth Arena
Family Support Services | 12:30-2:30pm | W. P. P. Library
Learn to Play Mahjong | 1pm | West Perth Public Library
Blood Pressure Clinic (by appt) | 1-3pm | Manor Lounge
Mitchell Foodbank* | 1:30-4:30pm | 80 Rowland St

Crafter's Circle | 2pm | West Perth Public Library
Halloween Games | 3-5:30pm | West Perth Youth Centre
Hall Walking | 6pm | MDHS
◊Pickleball | 6-9pm | Mitchell Community Centre
Lions Club Meeting | 6:45pm | Town Hall
Legion Band Practice | 7:30-9 | Mitchell Legion
KIN Club Meeting | 7pm | Legion Basement

October 28 - Wednesday

◊Pickleball | 8-11am | Mitchell Community Centre
◊G Exercise - Lvl3 | 9:30-10:30am | UT Missionary Church
◊Aquafit | 9:30-10:45am | Spruce Lodge
Tales & Tunes | 10:15am | West Perth Public Library
Parent & Tot Skate | 11:30am | West Perth Arena
Public Skating | 12pm | West Perth Arena Three Rivers
Settlement Services | 1-4pm | WPP Library
Cards and Fun Pool | 1pm | Mitchell Legion $5 Senior
Dance | 1:30-3:30pm | Mitchell Community C
◊Active Wellness - Level 2 | 1:30-2:10pm | Manor Lounge
Golden Oldies Seniors Dance | 1:30pm | W.P. C. Centre
Halloween Cupcakes | 3-5:30pm | West P Youth Centre
Hall Walking | 6pm | MDHS
◊Cards | 7pm | Manor Lounge

October 29 - Thursday

Costume Circle Time | 10am-11am | W.P. Village
◊$10 Drop-In Yoga | 10am | Live Well 4 Life
◊Chili Lunch* | 11:30am | Delivery
Agilec Employment Services Support | 1-4:30pm | WPPL
*Circuits & Saws | 3:30-5:30pm | West Perth Public Library
Tween Crochet Crew | 4:30-5:30pm | W P Public Library
◊Active Wellness - Level 2 | 1:30-2:10pm | Manor Lounge
Pumpkin Carving | 3-5:30pm | West Perth Youth Centre
◊Pickleball | 6-9pm | Mitchell Community Centre
Hall Walking | 6pm | MDHS
$10 Line-Dancing (18+) | 6:45pm | UTES

October 30- Friday

◊G Exercise - Lvl3 | 9:30-10:30am | UT Missionary Church
M Foodbank* | 9:30-11:30am | 1:30-4:30pm | 80 Rowland St
EarlyON Play&Learn | 9:30-11:30am | Mitchell Arena
Halloween Stories & Crafts | 10:30am | West P. P. Library
Parent & Tot Skate | 11:30am | West Perth Arena
Legion Lunch | 12pm | Mitchell Legion
◊WII Games | 2-3pm | Manor Lounge
Halloween Party | 3-5:30pm | West Perth Youth Centre
Scottish Dance Club | 7-8:30pm | Knox Presbyterian

October 31 - Saturday

*Pumpkin Carving | 11am | West Perth Lions Animal Barn
Catch the Ace | 4-5pm | Mitchell Legion
Halloween in the Courtyard | 6-8pm (TBC) | Poppy Lane



Event Submission Link

Submit your community event to the Heronry and expand your reach! Submissions are due by the 15th of the month prior to publication!

West Perth events only! Club meetings, sports sign-up, and fundraisers welcome! Promotional items are welcome under our advertising category.

Reach out to wp.heronry@gmail.com for more information or call Christina at: 519-994-1431.

October Horoscopes

Maggie Turner
Professional Astrologer



Aries: March 21 - April 21 Relationships, marriage or otherwise, are coming to the forefront in October. You have the great ability to see both sides to every situation, keep that in mind this month.

Taurus: April 21 - May 20 Matters of work and routine may be keeping you very busy. Sound familiar? Make sure to add some time for relaxation and quality time with others for your own wellbeing.

Gemini: May 21 - June 20 Past hobbies and interests, even an ex-romantic partner, might make a return. You'll have to decide if you really want them back in your life.

Cancer: June 21 - July 21 Big surprise, Cancer, your main focus is on home and family, as per usual. A situation may come up around children or your own creative self-expression. That situation may be a part of a much bigger pattern that needs some attention.

Leo: July 22 - Aug 22 Watch who you're talking to and how, this month. Your thoughts and words might not be so pleasant, especially towards siblings and your family members. They might be testing your patience.

Virgo: Aug 23 - Sept 22 You may find yourself spending some extra time and money on travel. Expect some delays when trying to book flights or appointments closer to the end of the month.

Libra: Sept 23 - Oct 22 Happy Birthday, Libra! Focus is on you my friend, but your mind is on money. Try not to worry too much about what birthday celebrations might cost. Plan your month according to your bank account.

Scorpio: Oct 23 - Nov 21 Certain people and reoccurring events in life may have you a bit down and out. Take some time to yourself this month, Scorpio. It'll really help you reevaluate.

Sagittarius: Nov 22 - Dec 20 Joining a group or club could really help you feel a new sense of community. Being a part of something bigger than yourself will be really uplifting.

Capricorn: Dec 21 - Jan 20 Your public life or career might be in the spotlight. The people you meet or network with this month could make a big difference.

Aquarius: Jan 21 - Feb 18 Forget what you would usually tell yourself, Aquarius. Show up this month and be you, no apologies.

Pisces: Feb 19 - March 20 If things aren't feeling harmonious within any type of relationship, don't be afraid to speak your mind according to what you value and your needs are.

Maggie Turner is a local professional astrologer who loves to help heal and support people along their path in life using the amazing tool of astrology. Want to know more or book a personal reading? You can e-mail Maggie at magzturner9@gmail.com or find her on social media @mysticmaggzastro



All About Cats

Grace Reidy
West Perth Resident: Age 10



How Do You Make A Good First Impression On A Cat?
When you want to make a good first impression on a cat, you need to know how it acts around newcomers. I have three cats at home, so I will use them as examples.

If you find a cat like my cat, Muffin, who is super welcoming and friendly, you're set as long as you're gentle and don't grab his tail. But if you find a cat like Oreo, who is skittish and doesn't like new people much, give him some space. Don't force a nervous cat to come to you; let the cat decide when it is ready. Last but not least, there is my shy cat, Sarafeana. Shy cats will usually hide, but if you stay quiet and friendly, they might come over. You could use a treat if the owner says it's okay, and BOOM! Good first impression.

How Do I Tell How A Cat Is Feeling?
If your cat has its teeth bared, flat ears, and is hissing or yowling, it is probably scared, upset, or feeling defensive. Give it some space.

If your cat has its ears up, tail held high, and looks relaxed, you are probably looking at a happy cat. Cats also purr when they are happy, but weirdly enough, purring doesn't ALWAYS mean they are happy!

If your cat shows its belly, it can mean it feels safe and relaxed around you. But don't automatically go for a belly rub! Some cats will change their minds about that.

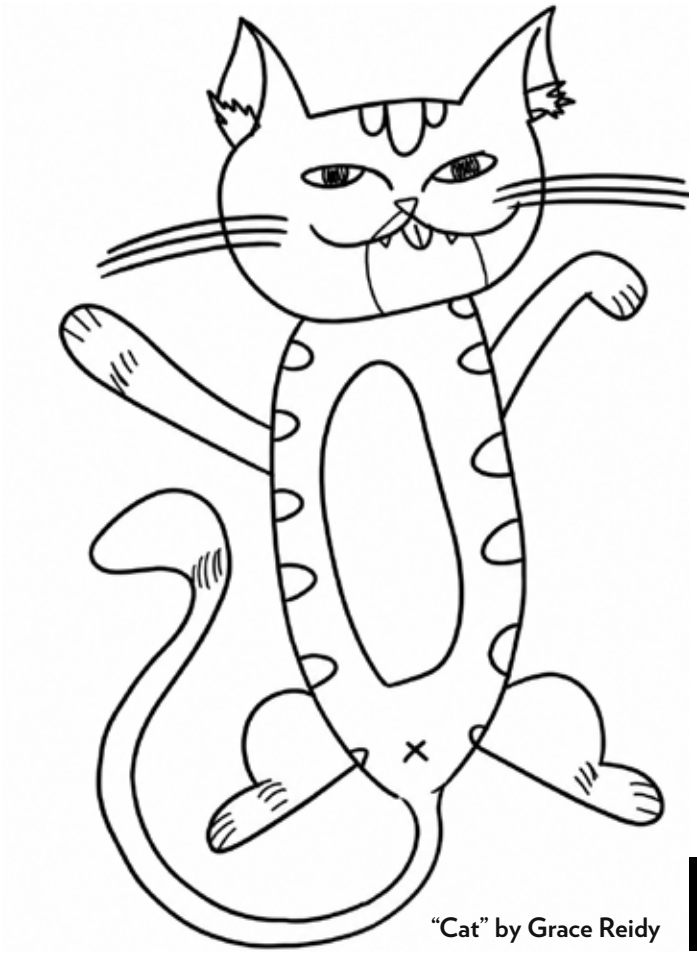
Why Are Cats Important?
Well, first of all, they are excellent hunters! Cats can hunt mice and other animals, which is one reason you sometimes see cats around barns. They can help keep some mice in check, but they won't completely solve a big rodent problem. Cats are also important to us as pets. They give people companionship, and people find it comforting to have their cat nearby when they are sad or stressed. I definitely do!

Why Do We Love Cats So Much?
Well, first of all, they are ADORABLE! Especially when they are kittens. Plus, they give us so much love. I love it when they jump up on my bed, sit on my lap, and start cuddling.

And they are hilarious. Cats are all over social media for a reason!

My cat, Sarafeana, is super goofy and super funny. Sometimes he will start rolling around on my bed, then fall off and be totally confused afterwards. During the winter, he will even lick the water off the windows.

Another thing that makes us love cats so much is how comforting they can be. Cats can notice some of our emotions, and sometimes they act differently depending on how we are feeling. When I'm feeling down and one of my cats comes to sit with me, it definitely makes me feel better.



"Cat" by Grace Reidy

Autumn's Arrival

Cathy Hutson
Fullarton Resident



Autumn has arrived! Seems like in the blink of an eye our summertime 2026 has come to an end. Officially, the summer season ended on September 22nd but we easily mark its passing as insignificant until the page on our calendars turns to October. This month sharpens our awareness of the true fall season.

Early evenings and early mornings bring a crisp coolness to the air. Trees are shedding rapidly now, some already bare and prepared for winter's icy blasts. We are definitely into sweater weather and it's a time to enjoy steaming mugs of spicy beverages. Pumpkins, mums and cornstalks adorn many a property.

Thanksgiving Day is almost here. Farmers have been harvesting, gardeners have been gathering, storing, canning and freezing food. Many have a nest egg of seeds, dried and saved for next year's crops.

Autumn is the season where we take stock of our yields and reap our rewards for a summer's worth of hard work. Feeling thankful puts us in a healthy place - a good place. We are hopefully fulfilled both with physical abundance and emotional wealth at this time of year. Turkeys and dressing will be roasting, pumpkin pies baking – all in readiness for the many family celebrations where we will give thanks for the abundance we enjoy.







Cathy Hutson dressed up in various costumes

Before long, Halloween will arrive to put a final touch on our October. I have had a longstanding tradition out here at Windbreak Farm to make Halloween night a bit of a "fun and spooky time". Rather than my usual dress code: jeans, a t-shirt, and rubber boots most days, I would don a full costume: a disguise for Halloween night. This began a long time ago when our children were of trick-or-treating age.

Back then, the rural tradition was that all the country neighbours would drive their brood of little ones from farm to farm to show off their costumes and collect some treats in the largest pillow cases they could snag from their Moms. Costumes thirty years ago were created with much care and were inspired by each child's wild imagination. Much thought, experimentation and rehearsal went into the perfect "look"! It seemed only fitting that I greet these trick-or-treaters as a wicked witch, a ghost from the past, or some other created character that would give them a good scream or a laugh!

It took days to create the perfect atmosphere for the big night. Jack-o-lanterns were carved, fake spider webs were hung, ghosts made of white bedsheets with balloon heads were hung to sway from the trees. Oh, what fun we had!

Tiger Dunlop's Tomb

Elysha Vorstenbosch
Local Musician & Composer



Back in the summer of 2025, I visited Tiger Dunlop's Tomb in Goderich. I went on multiple occasions as part of my research for my solo harp album: *Tales of the Huron Tract: The Whispers That Lie Dormant No Longer*.



The bench at Tiger Dunlop's Tomb

Tiger Dunlop's Tomb is a hidden gem that you might not find unless you're actively looking for it or the stars align and you stumble upon it by chance while walking the Maitland Trail. Hidden by a forest of trees, this tomb is located on a bluff which overlooks the Maitland River. It's only accessible by way of walking the Maitland Trail north of Goderich.

One sunny afternoon, I set out to find this tomb. After I was swallowed by the mouth of the forest, I followed a dirt path, which winds back and forth up a hill, until I reached a clearing at the top. I was overcome by the overwhelming sense of peace and tranquility. The sunshine shone down on the few trees growing in the clearing and standing all alone on the bluff's edge was a small cemetery surrounded by an old brick wall. Beside it was a bench overlooking the Maitland River and Menesetung Bridge through an opening in the barrier of trees. All around me, all I could hear was the rustling of the trees, the birds singing in the trees and sometimes the vehicles driving by on Highway 21. I only met a couple other people walking the trail within the hour I was there. This location was so peaceful, but it was also sprinkled with a feeling of loneliness and melancholy.



The view includes the Menesetung Bridge

One of the interesting facts I've learned is that Tiger Dunlop had been planning to develop a settlement at this location which he intended to name Gairbraid, after a town in Scotland. He passed away in 1848 before he could implement his plan. To this day, the clearing at the top of the bluff where Tiger Dunlop lies is the only remains of Gairbraid and the dreams of what it would be.

During my visit, I watched a dragonfly land on and flit about Tiger Dunlop's Tomb. Watching the dragonfly in that moment not only enhanced the calmness of this location, it got me thinking about the people and creatures that remain and witness our legacy after we're gone. From this interaction, I'm inspired to write a music piece from the perspective of the dragonfly flitting about the clearing and witnessing the remains of days gone by.

As I start writing the music, I'm inspired by the peaceful quality of this bluff, Tiger Dunlop's aspirations and unfulfilled dream, and the dragonfly zipping about the tomb. I hope the piece I create captures the tranquil feeling I felt while I visited the Tomb and the sense of longing for a dream and future that never came true.

Angie Moore
Eternal Care Stone Services



The Sixth Furrow: The Pioneer Women of Brodhagen

Every history of West Perth seems to begin with the swing of a man's axe, a name signed on a Canada Company land deed, or a clear-cut lot number on an early survey map. But if you want to understand how the vast forests of Logan Township became a living community, you must look past the legal deeds and step inside the pioneer cabins.

Moving slightly north up the township time-line to the 1850s and 1860s, a massive influx of German Lutheran immigrants arrived in West Perth, establishing the tight-knit settlement that became the hamlet of Brodhagen. It's named after Carl Brodhagen, one of those new immigrants who established the first post office, stores and community hub. While the men signed the property registers, it was the women whose resilience anchored these families and built the generations.



The Marker of Justine Opperman, Brodhagen (1812-1873).

Behind Carl was his wife, Johanne Justine Friedricka Oppermean Brodhagen, born in Eisdorf, Germany, 1812, the daughter of Heinrich Oppermean and Hanna Pinneke. She married Charles aka Carl June 30, 1836, and they arrived in upper Canada in 1856. Leasing for a few years, they then finally purchased lot 31 of Concession 8, in 1874.

Carl was an enterprising man, with early records stating he ran not only the sawmill, but also a hotel and store, prior to opening the post office in 1865. Other records list his many talents as including merchant, tailor, bandmaster, music teacher, farmer and gentleman. Through all the records I saw Carl's accomplishments but there was no mention of his wife, other than their wedding day. We can only presume she was there, she assisted, and most likely worked alongside him, on every task, until her death. Despite this, she is reduced to a single sentence in a record book.

To find these forgotten women, our research methodology must shift. They rarely appear on early business directories or land transfer records. Instead, we must open the yellowed pages of the early parish registers at St. Peter's Lutheran Church. I then look at the census records where they were listed with their family groups, and then evaluate the stones that still stand.

When you track families like the Morenz's, Siemon's, and Feltz's (often recorded phonetically as Voeltz in early Prussian records) through the archives, the census lines and church ledgers cease to be mere administrative lists; they become a window into the pioneer home.

Inside a small log house surrounded by an ocean of timber, life revolved around the domestic realm. If you entered that home, you'd be surrounded by things like the smell of traditional German rye bread baking in simple stoves, the sound of the howling Canadian winter wind, and the steady rhythm of the spinning wheel, as mothers turned raw wool into warm textiles to keep the bitter frost at bay. The women of the Siemon and Feltz households brought more than just basic domestic skills into the bush; they carried traditional hymnals, textile arts, and centuries of European herbal medicine to care for their neighbors when no doctor was within miles.

Yet reading these early ledgers also means



The German Baptist Memorial, members of the Stephan family are marked here.

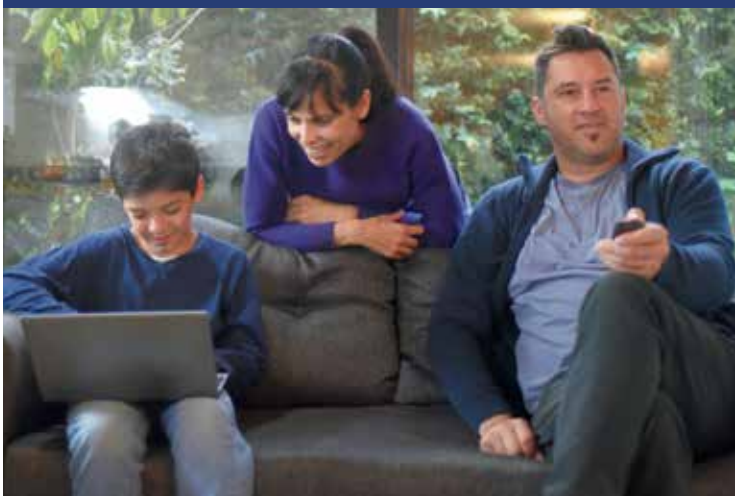
confronting a profound grief. The first few winters in Logan Township were brutal. Church registries at St. Peter's track a heartbreaking rate of infant mortality during those initial years in the bush. Long before consecrated burial grounds were established, young mothers, like those in the Stephan family who helped carve out farms near Brodhagen, were forced to bury their little ones in small, temporary forest clearings. They marked the graves with simple wooden crosses that would eventually rot back into the earth, leaving no trace on today's property maps. Some fragmented stones remain in the German Baptist Cemetery and nearby Saint Peter's, but only a mother's heart carries a map to all the plots where the innocent rest.

The purpose of uncovering these stories is not just to recount the hardship of pioneer life, but to create awareness for a side of our heritage that is so often overlooked. When we drive past the neat, well-drained agricultural fields of Brodhagen today, it is easy to forget the women who held those early households together through sheer force of will. The women that stood beside each man and experienced the same wins and losses, happiness and sorrow, and never wavered.

Each forgotten mother and daughter noted in those fading cursive church registers matters. They may not have their names chiseled onto grand stone monuments, or made the pages of history as a great entrepreneur, but their strength is woven directly into the fabric of the community we inhabit today.

If you would like to explore your own family lines from the Brodhagen settlement, local church registers (such as the microfilmed and digitized records for St. Peter's Lutheran) and the 1861 Agricultural and Population Census for Logan Township are the absolute best places to begin looking for female ancestors whose names were omitted from early land patents. If you would like an article focused on your family line, drop us an email. We'd love to dig deeper into the names that made this community the determined and welcoming one we know today.

QUADRO



Internet
Mobile
TV
Home Phone

1-800-265-4983
QUADRO.NET

ITS Recovery
Institute for Trauma and Stress Recovery

Psychotherapy for children • teens • adults • couples
affordable therapy program

Mitchell • Stratford • Virtual

Accepting new clients
548-221-1028 | hello@itsr.ca

Library Month

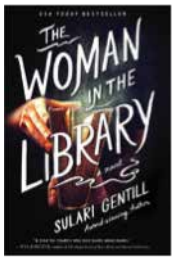
Laura Bere
West Perth Public Library CEO



October is Canadian Library month, a time for libraries and library partners across Canada to raise awareness of the important role of libraries! Stop in to say hello, ask for a book recommendation, or enjoy a program. Check out the books below for some library-themed reading for the month!



The Village Library Demon-hunting Society
by: C.M. Waggoner
Librarian Sherry Pinkwhistle is concerned by the number of murders in her small town. This cozy fantasy romance reads like a mash-up of Buffy the Vampire Slayer and Murder, She Wrote.



The Woman in the Library
by: Sulari Gentill
On a weekday morning a woman's scream echoes through the reading room of the Boston Public Library. As the library is put on lockdown, Harriet, Marigold, Whit, and Caine start to chat. They've all come to the library for different reasons, but one of them might be a murderer.

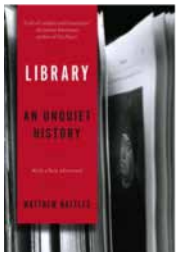


Lula Dean's Little Library of Banned Books
by: Kirsten Miller
As part of her crusade to rid public libraries of "inappropriate" books, Lula Dean starts her own lending library in front of her home. The daughter of her arch-nemesis starts secretly filling the library with banned books hidden under "wholesome" covers, unexpectedly changing the lives of the people who borrow them.

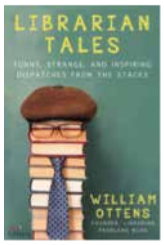


The Library of Legends
by: Janie Chang
In 1937 Nanjing China, bombs are falling and Hu Lian must flee to China's western provinces, walking 1000 miles through hunger, cold, and constant threat of attack. The risk is not only to their lives, but to the 500 year old collection of folklore that has been entrusted to them.

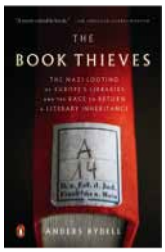
Non-Fiction



The Library: An Unquiet History
by Matthew Battles
A book about the history of the making and unmaking of libraries. Libraries throughout time have accumulated, and preserved knowledge. They have also shaped and sometimes destroyed knowledge. From medieval monasteries to the libraries of the Information Age, the author explores how libraries are built and destroyed.



Librarian Tales: Funny, Strange, and Inspiring Dispatches from the Stacks
by: William Ottens
An inside peek into life behind the desk at a public library. Otten shares the details about strange book drop finds, obscure reference questions, mishaps from the children's floor, and much more.



The Book Thieves: the Nazi Looting of Europe's Libraries and the Race to Return a Literary Inheritance
by: Anders Rydell
During the Second World War, the Nazis systematically pillaged Europe's libraries. This book tells the story of this offense and the efforts of some current day librarians working to return the stolen books to their owners.

For details about our programs, please visit our website: westperthpl.ca, visit the library, or call the desk at 519-348-9234. Keep an eye out for our monthly event calendars and let us know if you have any ideas for programs, services, or materials you would like to see!

Nicholas Hotz
Local Resident



Round 2 : Reversals

A cryptic is a word puzzle, often an odd phrase, that contains both a definition and wordplay clues that lead you to the answer. These are a specific type of puzzle that can take some time to wrap your head around. Last month's tutorial was about on cryptics built around the theme of "Hidden Words." The wordplay of "Hidden Words" features "indicator" words that tell you that the answer is contained in nearby text.

Round 1 Answers

Legend: Definitions are "in quotations." Indicators are *italicized*. Answers in wordplay are **bold.**

1. Mo**st ar**t *features* "famous person" (4)	STAR
2. Orc**hard est**ate *interior is* "most challenging (7)	HARDEST
3. Beeth**oven**'s *later conten*t was hot (4)	OVEN
4. Kanga**roo ster**nly *fosters* "chicken" (7)	ROOSTER
5. *Sample of* ra**rest ore s**upply "brings back value" (8)	RESTORES

Cryptic Structures

WORDPLAY
Contains (a) "fodder" text to manipulate into the answer; and (b) indicator clues

DEFINITION
- Answer theme
- STARTS or ENDS the cryptic

ANSWERS
- ignore punctuation
- can be multiple words

Cut back gab: flog with clubs (4, 3)

G O L F B A G

INDICATOR
- Text manipulation clues
- Here, "Cut back" indicates reversal

ANSWER LENGTH
- how many letters it contains
- multi-word answers feature commas

<u>This Week's Tutorial and Puzzles are on the theme "Reversals"</u>

Reversal indicators hint that nearby text should be flipped backwards to help get the answer. Look for words with themes of rotation (turn, around), changing direction (retreat, recedes), or backwardness (inverted, goes left).

Reversal Themed Puzzles:

1. Circled the reflecting pool (4)
2. Pull back plug, water goes down the hatch (4)
3. Ma doesn't like kitchen stains (nor pa, in retrospect) (5)
4. Farm vehicles rot; cart returned (7)
5. Flipped pots sub for roadside rendezvous (3, 4)

Community Resources

Municipality of West Perth
Phone: 519-348-8429
westperth.com

Emergency Services

Perth County OPP
132 St George St. Mitchell, ON N0K 1N0
Administration: 519-348-9700
Emergency Services: 9-1-1
Non-Emergency Services: 1-888-310-1122

West Perth Fire Hall
170 Wellington St, Mitchell, ON N0K 1N0
Non- Emergency Services: 519-348-9031
Fire Safety Question: 519 595 2800 Dial 4

Local Hospitals

Stratford General Hospital
Stratford, ON
Phone: 519-272-8210 Website: www.hpha.ca

Seaforth Community Hospital Seaforth, ON
Phone: 519-527-8404 Website: www.hpha.ca

St. Marys Memorial Hospital St. Marys, ON
Phone: 519-284-1332 Website: www.hpha.ca

General Health Information

Huron Perth Public Health
Address: Stratford ON
Hours of Operation: Mon - Fri: 8:30 am - 4:30 pm
Toll-free: 1-888-221-2133
www.hpha.ca

Health Care Connect
A free program connecting Ontarians without a healthcare provider to providers accepting new patients.
Phone: 1-800-445-1822

Health811
Immediate health advice 24/7 from registered nurses.
Phone: 1-866-797-0007

Unattached Care Clinics

Non-Emergency Care for individuals who are without a family doctor

Stratford Family Health Team:
Phone: 226-766-0510

Bluewater Area Family Health Team,
Exeter Medical Clinic,
Maitland Valley Medical Centre
Phone: 519-870-9034

Listowel-Wingham and Area
Family Health Team: Phone: 519-291-4511

Mental Health Supports

Ontario Structured Psychotherapy
Provides support for Ontarians age eighteen and over with depression, anxiety, or related symptoms.
Phone: 1-833-944-9966

Mitchell & Area Community Outreach
Providing supports to enable disabled or elderly people to continue living independently
Phone: 519-348-9765

City of Stratford: Social Services Department
Phone: 519-271-3773 ext. 200

Ontario 211
A helpline that easily connects people to the social services, programs and community supports they need.
Call or Text: 2-1-1
www.211ontario.ca

United Way, Stratford, ON
519-271-7730 / Toll-Free: 877-818-886
www.perthhuron.unitedway.ca

Canadian Human Trafficking Hotline
Phone: 1-833-900-1010
www.canadianhumantraffickinghotline.ca

Farmer Wellness Initiative
24-hour support for farmers and
their family members.
Phone: 1-866-267-6255
www.farmerwellnessinitiative.ca

Good2Talk
Free, confidential support services for post-secondary students in Ontario.
Phone: 1-866-925-5454
Text 'GOOD2TALKON' to 686868
www.good2talk.ca

Huron Perth Helpline and Crisis Response Team
Phone: 1-888-829-7484
www.hpha.ca/mentalhealth

Kids Help Phone
Phone: 1-800-668-6868
Text 'CONNECT' to 686868
www.kidshelpphone.ca

One Stop Talk
Phone: 1-855-416-8255
www.onestoptalk.ca

Optimism Place
24/7 Support Line: 519-271-5550
Toll-Free: 1-800-265-8598
After-hours: 519-272-2294
www.optimismplace.com

Counseling Services

Alcoholics Anonymous
If you want to drink, that's your business, if you want to stop, that's ours.
1-800-706-9833
Meeting locations found at web@aad4.org

Alateen
Support for teenagers with alcoholic adults
Online meetings every Wednesday on Zoom
HopePrevailsAlteen@gmail.com

Huron Perth Centre
Accredited community-based mental health centre for children and youth.
Stratford Office: 519-273-3373 ext. 2221
www.hpcentre.on.ca

Medavie Health Services
Mobile mental health program offering immediate help and referrals for people dealing with mental illness.
Phone: 1-877-872-6350
Email: ontariommh@medaviewhs.com

Family Services Perth Huron
FSPH provides individualized counseling, support services, advocacy, education and referrals.
Phone: 519-273-1020 / Toll-free: 1-800-268-0903
www.familyservicesperth-huron.ca

Shelterlink
Phone: 519-272-2294
Email: info@shelterlink.org
www.shelterlink.org

Victim Services
Phone: 519-600-4108
www.victimserviceshuronperth.ca

Canadian Mental Health Association (CMHA) Huron-Perth
Phone: 519-271-6819
Toll-free: 1-888-261-9350
www.cmhahuronperth.com

Senior Services

Alzheimer's Society Huron-Perth
Phone: 519-271-1910
www.alzheimer.ca/huronperth

Mitchell and Area Community Outreach
Phone: 519-348-9765
Email: maco@ritzlutheranvilla.com

One Care
Phone: 1-877-502-8277
www.onecaresupport.ca

West Perth Village
Phone: 519-348-8612
www.westperthvillage.ca

Local Food Banks

Mitchell Food Bank
80 Rowland St, Mitchell ON (Upper Thames Missionary Church building)
Phone: 519-703-4880
Email: mitchellcfs@salvationarmy.ca
Hours: Fridays: 9:30am - 4:30pm
Appointments preferred

Monkton Food Bank
Delivery Only - Independently Run
Phone: 1-780-222-5050
Email: tiggerdigrr@gmail.com

St. Mary's Food Bank
Phone: 519-284-2760
Email: st.marys@salvationarmy.ca
220 Queen St. E, St. Marys, ON

Stratford Food Bank
Phone: 519-271-2950
Email: stratfordcfs@salvationarmy.ca
230 Lightbourne Ave, Stratford, ON

The Heronry Distribution

Our distribution locations are always expanding! If a distribution location is out of copies, please text Amelia at: 519-955-3210 so we can deliver some as soon as possible! You can also find us online at theheronry.ca and wpheronry.substack.com

- Mitchell Office Pro
- Wieterson's Country Store
- West Perth Public Library
- Stratford Perth Museum
- Edward Jones Financial
- Van Bakel Homestead Meats
- Goettler of Dublin
- Mitchell Pottery Studio
- Dublin's Family Restaurant
- Home Town Variety
- Cartwright Chiropractic
- Deep Roots Collective
- Koertland Auto Care
- McDonald's Independent
- Black Donnelly's Brewing Co
- Hoegy's Farm Supply Ltd
- West Perth Village
- The Sugar Maple
- Eidt's BMR Express
- Culligan's Real Estate
- Dental Hygiene Clinic
- JMS Auto
- Dublin Mercantile
- YNCU
- Monkton Diner
- Deck Dentistry
- Farm to Family
- 101 Bar and Grill
- Kirkton Market
- Ontario Gun Shop
- Mitchell Legion









Regan Middegaal, RDH
Deck Dentistry Team Member



Why X-Rays are Important

In Ontario, dentists are responsible for prescribing x-rays as they deem necessary. Dentists and hygenists can only see the crowns of your teeth and soft tissues when looking in your mouth manually and X-rays show us critical structures we cannot see clinically with our naked eyes. X-rays are extremely safe, minimally invasive, and considered the standard of care.

With X-rays, we are able to see:

- Your bone level (how much bone is supporting your teeth in place)
- The condition of your existing fillings and restorations
- New areas of decay (cavities detected between your teeth)
- Certain other pathologies

Some X-rays we take in-office show us tooth-roots which let us check for infections, and some show the entire jaw and all the teeth in a single image. The latter kind we take to detect wisdom teeth or third molars.

To not be able to see, is to not know, and we don't want to be uncertain when it comes to your health. X-rays help us and you understand the whole picture. Your dentist then will analyze those X-rays and generate a treatment plan for you if needed.

If you repeatedly decline X-rays despite your dentist's recommendation, problems that were once relatively small and easy to fix may grow over time. Avoiding X-rays can lead to more severe and more expensive treatment down the line.

For example, let's say that you regularly decline X-rays, and a small cavity that's been hiding between your teeth gets missed. Over time, this once-small cavity spreads to a larger area of the tooth. It may even spread to other teeth since the bacterium that causes cavities can spread from tooth to tooth. If you then combine this situation with poor oral hygiene, lack of flossing, lack of salivary flow, and possibly a sugary diet, this cavity, which could have been detected with an x-ray when it was small, and had a conservative (aka small) filling placed, now has ballooned into a larger, more expensive problem which likely requires multiple appointments with your dentist to treat.

Dentists and hygienists also are looking at all the soft tissues in your mouth every single visit. This is normally called an "oral cancer screening. We look beyond the teeth themselves and check anatomy like tongue, throat, palate, cheeks, attached gums, floor of the mouth, tonsils, and lips for any lumps, bumps, or abnormalities that may draw our attention to something more serious that may be going on.

We also routinely check your jaw and lymph nodes to see if we palpate (feel) anything that is abnormal here as well. We can then make certain referrals to other professionals or specialists if necessary.

As always, dentists and hygienists have your health in mind with all the tools we use and recommendations we make. X-rays are just one of the many tools that we use to help ensure that these parts of your body receive the best care possible. We are excited to help you be a healthier you and to use X-rays in order to do that.

D25
EST. 2000

Endra the Ekans: Chapter 4

Kit Hotz
Age 10



"A REALLY BUGGY TREE"

"Woo hoo!" thought Endra, "I'm in the walnut tree!" Then he blacked out.

Ten hours later, Endra was disappointed to see he was back at the very bottom of the walnut tree. "Shoot. I'm at the bottom again," he said and began to climb back up the tree.

Just then he saw an incredible amount of Caterpies, Metapods, and Butterfrees.

"Wow, that's a lot of bugs!" said Endra in amazement.

"Who are you calling bugs, Tiny?" a strange voice asked.

Endra turned around and saw a Gigantamax Butterfree.

"Oh, oh, who are you calling tiny?!" a second voice demanded.

Suddenly there was a loud buzzing sound and seemingly out of nowhere, a Mega Beedrill appeared.

"So we meet again, Scutter," said the Mega Beedrill.

"So, we do, Yellow Jacket!" the Mega Butterfree named Scutter replied.

"This ends in death," said Yellow Jacket.

"Agreed," replied Scutter.

Squaring off, Scutter and Yellow Jacket did not notice Endra sneaking away from the scene to continue his climb up the tree.

Halfway up the tree, Endra saw a web. As he was trying to get around it, Endra heard a voice. It said, "Where do you think you're going, big snack?"

Endra quickly turned his head and saw a spider thing with a spike on its head.

"Ah, you're an Ariados, aren't you?" said Endra.

"Yes, I am," she replied.

"Well you can't eat me!" yelled Endra, and he tried to bite one of the spider-looking pokemon's legs off. Nothing happened and then it dawned on him, Ariados was a poison type and therefore immune to venomous fangs!

The Ariados lunged at him and Endra dodged and quickly slid around her webbing to continue up the tree.

Endra had finally reached the top of the tree and there he saw the Scizor family again.

"Hey, you're the jerks from Chapter 3," said Endra.

They all rushed him together, and Endra knew they would knock him down again.

Reaching out with his tail, he tripped them, and they all fell, hitting every branch on the way down.

"Well, I guess that's that", said Endra.

Cartwright Chiropractic
35 Ontario Rd, Mitchell, ON N0K 1N0
cartwrightchiro.ca
519-348-4690

For the Love of Horses

Cathy Hutson
Fullarton Resident



The love of horses is generational for some people and we have some extraordinary proof of this right here in rural West Perth. When we explore family/geographical histories there is often a common reference that goes. "It is in the genes" or it is "generational." I am a "horsey" kind of person myself, rather unlike my two sisters and brother. While growing up my Dad had a saying: "Horse people can't be made; they are born that way"!



Joe French wins second place with his yearling Clyde/Hackney in 1914.

Brooklawn Farms, now known as Brooklawn Equestrian Centre, has been a horse farm for over three generations of both horses and people. First, a little background on how it all started, the fame it gathered, and what brought us to today at Lori Campbell's Brooklawn Equestrian Centre.

Lori Campbell (born Lori French) is the fourth generation of "horse person" to carry on the tradition of horse farming on Line 29 in West Perth.It was via her Father, Bob French, that she inherited the "horse person gene". Bob had also started his career and gained the love of these majestic animals by learning from ***his*** father, Joe, who farmed just next door to where Brooklawn is located today. Bob's grandfather, William French, was a Clydesdale horse-breeder in the late 1800s and continued this until his passing in 1923. It was in 1922 that Bob's father attended the very first Royal Winter Fair in Toronto. He was learning from and helping Uncle Willy Urquart show his Clydesdales.



Bob French driving Brooklawn's Toreador in the Gig Class at the Royal Winter Fair, 1990

Bob French's lifelong involvement with horses, most notably the Hackney Horse breed, was triggered by his own visit to the famous Royal Winter Fair in Toronto, along with his Dad and twin brother Bill when they were 9 years old. Back then the senior Mr. French had one working team of Hackney/Clydesdale horses on the farm and they were Bob's favourite. I think this was the spark that started this third generation or at least gave it the fuel to carry on. This was almost 75 years ago.

Around 1977 Bob and his wife, Marilyn, purchased a few Hackney broodmares of their own. Originally it was intended to just to be a bit of a hobby! In no time, one of their broodmares, "Boulders Black Venus", bred to a very good stallion of the same breed. Things got crazy when only four years following this, "Boulders Black Venus" was awarded the prestigious title of Grand Champion Broodmare at the Canadian National Exhibition in Toronto! During that same time, 1st places were awarded to a foal: Brooklawn's "LaRosa", a yearling: Brooklawn's "Countess," and a 2 year old: Brooklawn's, "Columbia." The French family was on a roll! Back then it was difficult enough to even get such animals to the point where they could compete, so to win high level competitions and at s a distance away from West Perth was an incredible triumph.

(continued on next page)

The following spring a foal named Brooklawn's "Toreadore" was born. Toreadore was kept as a stallion and went on in his career to be recognized as a ten-time Grand Champion on the line at the Royal Winter Fair in Toronto! A second stallion, Brooklawn's "Cavalier," a son of "LaRosa," also went on to achieve great success under harness and as a breeding stallion also. Cavalier's bloodlines can be found today in many of the Hackney horses in both Canada and the United States.



Bob's induction into the Hackey Society Hall of Fame was recognized in the Mitchell Advocate

The French family bred, raised, trained and showed their Hackney horses at the Royal from 1979 to 2002. The family did the work it takes to present the horses the right way and it paid off.

The moment of crowning glory came on November 13, 2025 at the Royal Winter Fair horse show, when Bob French was officially inducted into the Canadian Hackney Society Hall of Fame. This proud moment of recognition was shared by all four French children who stood alongside their parents. Bob had definitely inherited the gene it takes to be a successful horseman. His daughter, Lori, is not far behind.



Lori competes in 2001 on "Phantasia" at the Ontario Trillium Championships

Lori has been by her Dad's side through all of the stages with the horses. Over the years she has gained tremendous experience and knowledge - not only regarding the horses themselves, but also in the business side of running a horse farm. She attended Humber College for two years where she obtained the Equine Canada Certified Coaching designation; this set her up with the necessary knowledge and credentials to teach/coach riders of all levels.

With time, some changes were made around the farm on Line 29. In 1993, a beautiful four season indoor training and riding arena was constructed on the property.

In 2015, Bob and Marilyn made the move into the town of Mitchell, thereby allowing Lori, her husband Chris and their 2 sons to purchase the farm and move from across the road into the original red brick farm house. Brooklawn Farms became Brooklawn Equestrian Centre and Lori was now in charge of all operations. A proud fourth generation horse farmer she was! Her own visions of the training/riding facility were now able to become reality.

Today the facility caters to all levels and ages of riders, helping them to develop skills and a passion for the sport of horse riding. Lori's experience has led her to a teaching style with an emphasis on safety and proper horsemanship. Hers is a place which offers a variety of training programs for horses themselves, their owners, riders and/or drivers. The farm features clinics, events and summer programs, all presenting opportunities for horse lovers to grow their passion in a safe environment. Although Brooklawn is not a certified facility for those with significant disabilities, there is opportunity for many diverse people to be included, grow, and enjoy the horses. There is always an open invitation to contact Lori and explore the opportunities that she can offer.

Currently, there are six experienced "school horses" on the property. Yes, there are descendants from the original show horses Bob French bred still on the farm. "Katrina," a thirty-year-old mare, is one of them. She is still going strong! Peter Piper is another from

the original gene pool. These horses are still living and working daily right where they were born and bred. They are living proof of the careful breeding and bloodlines the Frenches have worked on for generations. Once again its obvious that the love of horses is in the genes.

I questioned Lori on her own interests as far as all the horsey business she has been up to here in West Perth. She has shown her own home-bred and trained horses in the area of dressage over several years. She was successful at the provincial level and on the A-Circuit. One of Lori's own coaches, Mary Ambrose, ended up being long-listed for the Canadian Olympic Dressage team in the late 1990s. Lori attended these Olympic trials as groom to Mary's horses. She gained much valuable experience from this which she now passes on to her own competition-aspiring students.



Lori leads student, Juanita Power who is riding on "Katrina" - one of the decendants of the original French family show horses

After managing Brooklawn for 33 years now, I wondered if Lori was thinking of anything different for the future. She replied with: "I am not retiring anytime soon." Good news for West Perth horse enthusiasts. Lori says that the growth students show is rewarding and the big smiles they carry, even more so. In some families Lori has taught equestrian skills to first a mother, then to the daughter, and now to the grandchildren. She told me that if given a second chance with her life, she would choose the same path again!

Will there be a fifth generation of horse farmers at Brooklawn? One of Lori's sons will stay on the farm with his beef cattle, so at the very least it will remain a family farm. I am certain there will always be horses on the property too though, as Bob still keeps a few there and Lori will always have a few as well. The love of horses is in the genes!

Certainly for now and the foreseeable future, Brooklawn Equestrian Centre is a very desirable place to nurture and grow your love of the majestic horse. Learn from those who were "born with the gene." You can give Lori a call: 519-276-7456. Any opportunity to view the place and discuss horsey things at 5660, 29th line is a good one.

Sudoku Puzzle

Fill in the grid with digits so that every row, every column, and every 3x3 box have the digits 1-9 (no repeats allowed).

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

Mitchell Pottery Studio
mitchellpottery.com
@mitchellpottery
416-786-3365
Group Rates
Private Classes
Date Nights
82 Huron Rd, Box 534
Mitchell ON, N0K 1N0

Summer at the Barn

Taryn Zinger
Mitchell Lions Club Member



It's hard to believe September is already here—and almost gone! Another busy summer has flown by at the barn, and our animals have certainly enjoyed the warmer months, along with all the visitors who have stopped by to see them.

Throughout the summer, we were fortunate to welcome many schools, day camps and families to the barn. We love seeing the excitement on visitors' faces as they meet the animals and learn more about the special little barn we are so proud to care for.



The donkeys prefer being inside in the cold weather

The animals also received their annual checkups and immunizations this summer, and we are happy to report that everyone received a clean bill of health! Keeping our animals healthy, comfortable and happy is always our top priority.

We've also been busy making improvements around the barn to make life better for our animals and to continue creating a safe, comfortable and cozy sanctuary for them.

You may have noticed that concrete was poured in the spring in some of the existing pens. While concrete may seem like a hard surface, there was an important reason behind the improvement. The new flooring helps us better manage the pens and ensures the right animals stay where they are supposed to be while keeping uninvited critters out. It also makes the pens much easier to thoroughly clean and sanitize on a regular basis. Of course, comfort is just as important as cleanliness. The animals are provided with plenty of soft, cozy bedding so they aren't lying directly on the concrete.

Our donkeys have also been enjoying their regular mani-pedis! Every six weeks, a local farrier visits to make sure their hooves are healthy and properly maintained. Regular hoof care is an important part of keeping our donkeys comfortable and mobile.

As quickly as summer arrived, we are now looking ahead to the cooler months and beginning our winter preparations. The pens will be winterized and the barn will soon become a cozy retreat for the animals as the temperatures drop.

The donkeys will come inside for the winter, where they will have plenty of bedding, care and enrichment to keep them comfortable and occupied. Throughout the winter, they will have enrichment toys and activities to help keep their minds busy.

While many people may think of donkeys as similar to horses, there is an important difference when it comes to wet weather. A donkey's coat does not repel water in the same way a horse's does, and donkeys generally do not enjoy being cold and wet. So, when the damp, chilly weather arrives, our donkeys are more than happy to head inside, stay dry and cozy up in the barn.

As another season changes, we want to thank everyone who has visited, supported and followed along with the barn this summer. Every visit, donation and word of encouragement helps us continue providing a safe and loving home for the animals.

We're looking forward to a cozy fall and winter at the barn—and we're sure the animals are too!



MIRRORS AND WILDCARDS

Ophelia Blackwell

I was a mirror,
and you dropped me from a height
I couldn't fathom.

Up the ladder I went
with your promises of many.
A deck of cards,
tricks and wildcards between.
You played out with hands of love,
yes, the love was there.
But it felt that your heart was not attached.

At this turning point
in the story of us,
I wonder how our stories differ
…or if they differ at all.

You held my hand up this ladder,
wrapped me up,
cradled me.
And you meant it.
You did.
But like I said,
you played with wildcards.

I didn't know what I could trust,
as your grip was failing me.
And when I finally fell away,

I don't know if you expected it.

But how *long* I fell.
It was many, many months
of distance between us.

And at the end of it all
I shattered.

Previous Puzzle Answers

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

Tamara Comas

David Doyle
Local Artist



Tamara, her husband and two young children have recently moved from Toronto to Fullarton. She has been asked by many, "Why make that move?" It turns out that her husband had always enjoyed nature and in his youth had done a lot of outdoor activities with his father. Living in Toronto, there just were not those kinds of opportunities for him. Eventually they decided to make the move, and Stratford had a job opening he could take. At the time of this interview, they haven't lived here a full year yet, but they did get to experience one of our winters!



Tamara Comas

Tamara has always been a big city girl. As a Chilean-Canadian, she spent part of her childhood living in Santiago, Chile and the rest in Toronto. When she and her husband talked about moving out of Toronto, Tamara said that she did not want to live in the middle of nowhere. She wanted to be close to a place that had an established arts culture and, of course, Stratford fit the bill. They then decided that they wanted to live about 20 minutes outside of the city and Fullarton met those criteria. Before they moved there she had never heard of Fullarton or even Mitchell, but Tamara is an outgoing kind of person and she soon found her way in the small community.

One of the first things she did was to host a paint night. It was the beginning of winter when she contacted the local church knowing that it would have the space to host such a thing. As it happened, Tamara was just the person they were looking for and she hosted a paint night for a group of ten.

Another artistic endeavour she decided to embark on just two months after moving, is to contact stained glass artist, Bev Hewitt, from Stratford's Art in the Park and take an 8-week course, which demonstrated the stained glass process from start to finish, an experience she is very grateful to have had.

She is not a formally trained artist, but her paintings are very colourful, dynamic and skillfully done. Tamara got a lot of inspiration from artist friends and family in Chile. Their work greatly influenced hers. She would describe her style as infusing realism with fantastical elements like colourful brush strokes and whimsical motifs.



11"x14" Acrylic on Canvas

She has created many pieces as commissions for friends and family. After moving here she made contact with an individual on Stratford Life and created a portrait of his three children for him as a gift to his wife.

When it came to painting, Tamara was always strictly

focused on portraiture, which she obviously excelled in, but she wanted something more and decided to take a course that got her out of her comfort zone. The course was from the Toronto School of Art and was entitled "Autobiographical Painting: Objects and Spaces." It was taught by Toronto artist Brian Harvey and its focus was for students to explore self-portraiture and identity beyond the physical face and body.



Maverick, 11"x14" Acrylic on Canvas

As a mother of a then four and two-year-old, Tamara's life had some chaos in it. She looked around, saw her sink full of dirty dishes and thought, "yep, that represents my life right now" and she saw the beauty in it. The painting she did of that scene can be seen on the precious page, as well as on her website in full colour.



Blue Door, 16"x20" Oil on Canvas

Aside from painting, Tamara is always eager to explore new creative outlets, taking courses and workshops in everything from pottery to lost-wax casting. She has also enjoyed macramé and grew up playing piano and guitar. If there is a creative process to explore, she is curious to try it.

In terms of paintings, Tamara works most often from photographs and uses acrylic paint. For the course she decided to give oils a try, and she found that she really loved it.

The couple is working right now to get Tamara set up with a home studio. If she is to continue with oils, she feels she needs to be able to have a more private space where she can leave her setup out without worrying about the kids getting into things.

Time is a precious commodity for Tamara. She is a young mom and paints when her children have naps or have gone to bed at night. Because of this, she has continued to work in acrylics as it is easier to clean up and put away when mom duties call. Tamara is also working at the Stratford Film Festival as their social media manager, doing their social media, and is picking up gigs on the side, like designing a website for a Stratford artist. She is obviously someone with a great deal of ambition and energy.

So what's next? She would love to be represented in a gallery and get a solo show. Tamara has plenty of inspiration for her painting having recently returned from Chile where she visited many friends and family. She wants to paint a series of at least 12 paintings. All that and still wanting to be entwined in her new community sounds like a lot, but I believe she can and will achieve her goals.

Tamara's work can be viewed on her website:
www.tamaracomas.ca

NAPA AUTOPRO

NAPA JMS AUTOMOTIVE AUTOPRO

SLIDE INTO OUR SHOP

SO YOU DON'T SLIDE INTO A DITCH

Winter Maintenance Packages

Keep your vehicle running its best all winter long with our complete winter maintenance packages.

- Oil, Lube & Filter
- Brake & Suspension Check
- Tire Inspection
- Fluid Checks & Top Ups

Ask for more details!

Book and Purchase your Winter Tires

Get the grip you need for a safer winter.

- Wide selection
- Expert installation
- Better traction, more control

DON'T WAIT UNTIL THE FIRST SNOW!

TIRE STORAGE AVAILALBE NOW!

Undercoating Protection

Fight rust. Extend the life of your vehicle

- Helps prevent rust & Corrosion
- Protects the undercarriage from salt, ice, & Road grime
- Keeps your investment looking newer, longer



Call anytime: 519-348-8350

77A Montreal Street
Mitchell ON N0K 1N0

Monday - Friday: 8:00am-6:00pm

NAPA AUTOPRO
3 YEAR / 60,000 KM
LIMITED WARRANTY
ASK FOR DETAILS

A WEST PERTH PUBLICATION

the Heronry

Thank you for reading!
Please consider supporting
this community project

Donate Now

wpheronry.substack.com **theheronry.ca** **wp.heronry@gmail.com** **519-994-1431**