



# what's on **WOODSTOCK**

April 2026

Your Go-To Community Magazine



**KIM MITCHELL**



**CANADA  
2026 DAY**



**WOOD  
STOCK**  
EST 125 1901



### **SPECIALIZED TRANSIT**

New option for self-serve ride booking begins with para transit.

### **IGNITE VOLUNTEERISM**

2026 is the International Year of Volunteers.

### **EXPLORE PUBLIC ART**

Artwork in public spaces is expanding in Woodstock.



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# what's on **WOODSTOCK**

APRIL 2026

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Image by Volunteer Canada, ivy26.ca

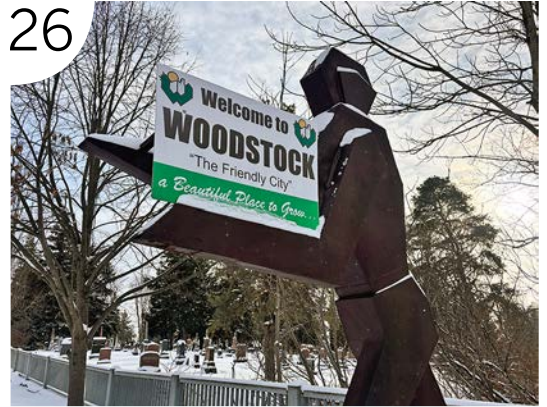


Photo by Danielle Hoewenaars

### **NEXT EDITION**

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*What's on Woodstock Magazine* is published by the City's Marketing and Communications Department. A total of 24,000 copies are delivered to the residents and businesses of Woodstock.

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## City of Woodstock Phone Directory Contacts

Art Gallery.....	519-539-6761
City Hall.....	519-539-1291
Civic Centre Arena.....	519-421-3484 x 4301
Goff Hall Rental.....	519-421-3484 x 4301
Library.....	519-539-4801
Market Centre Rental.....	519-537-8411
Museum.....	519-537-8411
Para-Transit Services.....	519-539-1291 x 2510
Parks & Recreation.....	519-539-1291 x 4101
Public Works.....	519-539-1291 x 3140 or x 3104
Small Business Centre.....	519-421-2129
Southside Aquatics.....	519-421-POOL (7665)
Southwood Arena.....	519-421-3484 x 4301
Transit Services.....	519-539-1291 x 3102

## Event Listings

To have your events listed in the FREE Community Events Calendar in *What's on Woodstock*, please visit [cityofwoodstock.ca/wowevents](http://cityofwoodstock.ca/wowevents)



# Woodstock Para Transit Enters a New Digital Era with Self-Serve Ride Booking

For many Woodstock residents, Para Transit is a vital service that supports independence, mobility, and community connection for riders who cannot use the city's fully accessible fixed route buses due to disability or functional limitations.

The door-to-door, shared ride system has traditionally relied on advance phone bookings. Now, the City of Woodstock Transit Department is ushering in a major improvement with a new online scheduling tool powered by Blaise Transit.

The partnership marks a significant leap in convenience and accessibility. Riders can now book, edit, or cancel their own trips through the Blaise Transit app or online portal. The platform emphasizes accessibility, offering clear navigation, and compatibility with assistive technologies.

By downloading the free app from the App Store or Google Play, or by visiting [ride.blaisetransit.com](http://ride.blaisetransit.com), riders can select their pickup location, choose a time, and confirm their ride with just a few taps.

Transit staff say the shift reflects a growing need for flexibility. "We know our riders lead busy lives," said Transit Supervisor Jeffrey Springsted. "Being able to schedule and modify trips anytime, from anywhere, makes the service more convenient and responsive."

Users can view upcoming rides, receive updates, and make changes independently. Behind the scenes, the system is improving operations as well. "The online tool reduces manual scheduling and helps us manage routes more efficiently," said Springsted. "That means fewer errors, better communication, and a smoother experience for everyone."

To ensure no one is left behind, the city has created a step-by-step guide for new users. Riders without a smartphone or computer can continue to book by calling dispatch at 519-539-2382 ext. 2510. "Technology should expand access, not limit it," Springsted said. "We're committed to supporting riders however they prefer to book."

The service continues to operate as a shared, prebooked system (not a taxi service), and riders must be ready at their scheduled pickup time to keep routes running efficiently. Travel times may vary, similar to conventional public transit, and riders are encouraged to plan accordingly.

As these changes roll out, the goal remains the same – to provide a reliable, accessible, user focused service that strengthens community connections.



Check out the COW Tales 'Way Back When' contest on page 15 and enter today!

**A:** George Pattullo.

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# Soccer Day Camps



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For location & registration details visit our website.



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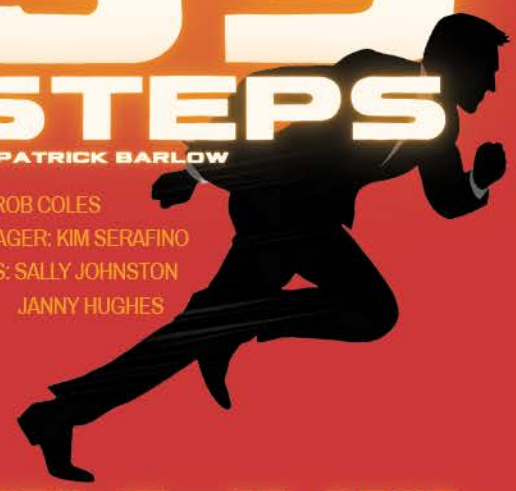
COME FOR THE MYSTERY. STAY FOR THE MADNESS.

THEATRE WOODSTOCK PRESENTS...







# THE 39 STEPS

BY PATRICK BARLOW

DIRECTOR: ROB COLES  
 STAGE MANAGER: KIM SERAFINO  
 PRODUCERS: SALLY JOHNSTON  
 JANNY HUGHES



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[www.theatrewoodstock.com](http://www.theatrewoodstock.com) | Box Office: 519-537-2582

The Woodstock Choralaires  
 presents

# THANK YOU FOR THE Music

Celebrating 60 Years of Singing

Saturday, April 25 at 3 pm

Knox Presbyterian Church, Woodstock

Dr. Lorinda van Wyk, Director  
 Susan Barta, Accompanist  
 Luciano DeCicco, Guest Artist



Tickets: \$30 (free admission to children 12 and under)  
 For Tickets:  
 Wilson and Markle Jewellers, Woodstock; [ticketscene.ca](http://ticketscene.ca);  
 Choralaire Members; 519-456-5270

# Thank you volunteers!

April 19–25, 2026 is National Volunteer week in Canada. This year we're celebrating the power of civic participation by highlighting some of the amazing volunteers who help make Woodstock a great place to live.

## Freedom Smetana-Slijboom

Freedom Smetana-Slijboom became a special events volunteer after moving to Woodstock in 2024.

"My original reason for volunteering was simply to gain the 40 volunteer hours I needed to graduate from high school. Now I continue to volunteer well after graduation to give back to a community that accepted me during an especially turbulent time of my life," said Smetana-Slijboom.

Participating in events like the Victoria Day Parade has helped Smetana-Slijboom adjust to life in a new city and make new friends.

"Words fail to capture the touching sense of community I feel when I encounter teachers or friends among the audience as I parade towards Southside Park."



## Audrey Davis

Audrey Davis started volunteering with the City since she was 12 years old.

"I grew up attending the City of Woodstock's summer camps and always had a great experience. Volunteering allowed me to stay involved with the camps and help create the same positive experiences for younger campers," she said.

In addition to making new friends and creating connections with the campers, Davis gained hands-on experience that she continued to build on last summer as a camp leader.

"I developed valuable skills such as leadership and the ability to make quick decisions when needed. I also learned how important it is to help people feel included and seen within our community," she said.

## Peter Epler

Peter Epler joined the Heritage Advisory Committee in 2020 and has been the chair since 2021.

The Heritage Advisory Committee makes recommendations and provides advice on heritage designations, heritage permits and planning matters, and education and awareness of heritage properties in the city.

"I saw this as an opportunity where some of my professional experience and skills could benefit the broader community," said Epler, who is a licensed archaeologist.

Epler has enjoyed working with other residents who are passionate about local history, while learning to navigate provincial legislation and municipal policies.



“There are so many different ways for people to volunteer that can suit their schedule and interests,” he added. “You can do really meaningful work for your community and meet lots of great people that you may have never met otherwise.”



**Current Opportunities**  
**Summer Camp Volunteers**

- Applications are open for youth ages 13 and older until May 31. Apply online at [www.cityofwoodstock.ca/camps](http://www.cityofwoodstock.ca/camps)

**Special Event Volunteers**

- Sign up to volunteer for events throughout the year at [www.cityofwoodstock.ca/specialevents](http://www.cityofwoodstock.ca/specialevents)

**Woodstock Art Gallery Advisory Board**

- The WAG is looking for community-minded leaders with experience in governance and compliance, financial management, strategic leadership, community partnerships and fundraising to join the Advisory Board. Learn more and apply at [www.woodstockartgallery.ca](http://www.woodstockartgallery.ca)

**YOUR PASSPORT'S FAVOURITE Event!**

**woodstock travel**  
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*Wish You The World Travel Show*

**Saturday, May 9th, 2026**  
**10am - 2pm**

Sally Creek Community Centre  
 330 Lakeview Drive  
 Woodstock, Ontario

**DRAGON FUN LEAGUE BOAT**

**COMING MAY 2026**

Learn to paddle  
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 Have fun

**INFO/REGISTRATION** →

Entry fee of \$75 includes:  
 paddle & life jacket rental + t-shirt

← **WDBC ON FACEBOOK**



File photo

# Kim Mitchell to headline Canada Day for Woodstock's 125<sup>th</sup> anniversary

The rumours are true — multi-platinum, Juno Award winning musician Kim Mitchell is coming to Woodstock to headline our Canada Day celebration on Wednesday, July 1 in Southside Park!

This year's event will be our most memorable celebration to date to mark the City's 125<sup>th</sup> anniversary.

"Since July 1 is the official anniversary of the City's incorporation in 1901, our goal was to secure an iconic Canadian headliner to help celebrate this memorable milestone," explained Kristen Brodhagen, Manager of Special Events.

"Whether you grew up listening to his classic rock anthems or are a new fan, Kim Mitchell is a celebrated Canadian artist whose music continues to bring people together across generations."

Known for hits including *Go For Soda*, *Rock N Roll Duty* and *Patio Lanterns*, Mitchell has sold more than 1.5 million records in Canada and earned 17 Juno award nominations. The acclaimed singer songwriter and guitarist was also inducted into the Canadian Music Hall of Fame in 2021.

## Canada Day Lineup

The free event will take place from 2–10 p.m. with live music from Northern Strum (an acoustic duo featuring Canadian rock veterans Carl Dixon and Sean Kelly), Always on Friday, Canadiana Band, Geoff Masse Band, The Joel Dupuis Trio and others.

The Canadian Kids Zone will feature fun family activities including a photobooth, petting zoo, inflatables and more. There will also be limited-edition Woodstock 125 merch for sale, along with



Photo by Al Peitman

food and marketplace vendors and a beverage garden, and free Canada Day-themed cookies.

Mitchell will take the main stage at 8 p.m., followed by a spectacular fireworks show to close out the evening.

You can find the full schedule and watch for event updates at [www.cityofwoodstock.ca/canadaday](http://www.cityofwoodstock.ca/canadaday).

## Get Involved!

Join in the festivities by becoming an event volunteer, sponsor or vendor. Visit the website for details and to apply.

For more information about the City's 125<sup>th</sup> anniversary and other opportunities to celebrate throughout the year, visit [www.woodstock125.ca](http://www.woodstock125.ca).



Check out the COW Tales 'Way Back When' contest on page 15 and enter today!

**A:** John Mearns.



# Go Green This Spring!

Rain barrels, backyard composters, additional green bins and kitchen catchers are available for sale at the Engineering Office, 944 James St.



[www.cityofwoodstock.ca/waste](http://www.cityofwoodstock.ca/waste)

## WOODSTOCK LEGION ATHLETIC CLUB

### Summer Day Camp Registration is open!

Back at the Terry Fox Track at CASS

Location: College Avenue Secondary School, 700 College Ave, Woodstock.



Camp Hours/Pricing: Full Day: 9 a.m.–4:30 p.m. \$200/Week  
Half Day: 9 a.m.–12 p.m. \$130/Week

#### Camp Dates:

- July 6–10
- July 13–17
- July 20–24
- July 27–31
- August 10–14
- August 17–21

Spots are limited each week and filled on a first-come, first-served basis. For any questions please email: [waccamp@gmail.com](mailto:waccamp@gmail.com)

Register your camper(s): [www.wlac.ca](http://www.wlac.ca)

### Spring Track Training Starts in April!

Jr. Development Program 2x per week – Tuesday & Thursday. Practice times: 6–8 p.m. Perfect for elementary school track meets and MTA circuit.

Competitive Program 3x per week – Tuesday, Thursday & Sunday. Practice times: 6–8 p.m. Perfect for athletes that want to take it to the next level.

For any questions please email: [wlaccoaches@gmail.com](mailto:wlaccoaches@gmail.com)

For more information please visit our website: [www.wlac.ca](http://www.wlac.ca)



## K2K PRODUCTIONS 2026 SEASON

...where students discover who they are, where they fit, and their purpose.

### BOX OFFICE TICKETS:

[k2kproductions.ca/boxoffice](http://k2kproductions.ca/boxoffice) | 519.290.9525

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# The Award That Makes Woodstock More Accessible

Do you know someone in Woodstock who goes out of their way to make life easier for people with disabilities? Maybe it's a shop adding a special ramp, a community group volunteering to improve access, or someone coming up with a creative solution that helps people throughout the city. The Donna Burleigh Accessibility Achievement Award celebrates exactly that! It honours people, businesses, and organizations who make our city more inclusive.

The award is named after Donna Burleigh, one of the founding members of the Woodstock Accessibility Advisory Committee. Donna, who lived with Multiple Sclerosis, spent more than 20 years advocating for equal access for everyone in town. She promoted the city's accessibility achievements for years, and after her passing in 2023, the award was renamed in her honour to keep her mission alive. You can also visit her memorial bench in Southside Park, placed in May 2024, which faces the water and honours her legacy.

Anyone can be nominated, whether it's a person, a business, or a group in Woodstock. The award recognizes efforts that make a real difference in people's daily lives. It also recognizes exceptional and meaningful efforts that go beyond basic compliance to enhance accessibility for people with disabilities in the City of Woodstock.

Past winners, such as the Woodstock Navy Club and Journey Well Health and Wellness, have been recognized for creative, lasting contributions that make Woodstock more accessible for everyone.

Nominations are open through the City of Woodstock website. Keep an eye out around town; you might spot the next winner in action. To read more about the criteria or to submit a nomination, visit [www.cityofwoodstock.ca/accessibility](http://www.cityofwoodstock.ca/accessibility).



Images courtesy of Journey Well



Some of the accessibility improvements at Journey Well Health and Wellness include installing an elevator, accessible and gender-neutral washrooms, wide doors and hallways, dimmable lighting and inclusive seating options.

# Healthy people in vibrant communities

Public health works to protect the health of entire communities by focusing on three core areas:

1. Protecting populations from disease and other health risks.
2. Promoting healthy behaviours like quitting smoking, staying active, and supporting young families.
3. Preventing health issues before they happen through vaccinations, dental screenings, and other essential services.

Public health also works with local partners like municipalities, schools, and community services to find solutions that fit our communities' needs. **Because together, we're healthier.**



1-800-922-0096  
[swpublichealth.ca](http://swpublichealth.ca)



# Green Bin Use for Waste Diversion



Oxford County's new Green Bin program collects food scraps and other biodegradable materials, reducing the amount of garbage sent to the landfill.

The program also lowers the cost of curbside collection for residents by reducing the number of bag tags a household uses in a year.

Here are a few facts about the Green Bin program.



## Where does our Green Bin material go?

In Oxford County, organic materials collected through the green bin program are sent to the Drumbo Resource Recovery Centre (operated by Generate Upcycle) in Blandford-Blenheim Township and are processed there to produce a decontaminated feedstock. This feedstock is then sent to London for further processing via anaerobic digestion, with the end products being renewable natural gas and organic fertilizer.

## What happens to the compostable Green Bin liner bags?

Collected material (both organics and the bags they may arrive in) are placed in a hammermill, which breaks everything into smaller pieces. If it's compostable, it will be effectively processed. Any residual materials (i.e. plastic bags) get collected at the Drumbo facility and sent to the landfill.

## How much organic waste is being diverted from the landfill?

Waste audits in Oxford County will be taking place in the spring and fall of this year and will include an audit of green bin and black bag participation. Along with historical waste audit information, this will determine how much organic material is still heading to landfill.



Check out the COW Tales 'Way Back When' contest on page 15 and enter today!

**A:** Royal Pavillion Hotel.



# Recreational Skating Schedule

## Adult Skating

Participants must be 18 years of age or older. This will be strictly enforced.

Reeves Community Complex – Red Rink  
381 Finkle Street

Mondays, 1:15–2:05 p.m.

Wednesdays, 1:15–2:05 p.m.

Fridays, 1:15–2:05 p.m.

Cancellation dates: Apr 3, 6, 13

Ending: Fri, Apr 24; Mon, Apr 27; Wed, Apr 29

Sponsored by the City of Woodstock

## Parent & Tot Skating

The maximum age of child participants is 5 years of age. Pucks and sticks are NOT PERMITTED on the ice. Skating aids will be available.

Reeves Community Complex

Wednesdays, 1–1:50 p.m. – Green Rink

Fridays, 9–9:50 a.m. – Green Rink

Fridays, 4:45–5:15 p.m. – Red Rink

Cancellation date: Apr 3

Ending: Fri, Apr 24; Wed, Apr 29

Sponsored by the City of Woodstock

**MORE INFO:**

[www.cityofwoodstock.ca/skatingschedule](http://www.cityofwoodstock.ca/skatingschedule)

**SPONSORS** — Are you interested in **sponsoring Public Skating** for the 2026–2027 season? If so, let us know! Email [parksandrecreationinfo@cityofwoodstock.ca](mailto:parksandrecreationinfo@cityofwoodstock.ca)

## Spring CLEAN-UP

**SATURDAY, APRIL 18**

**8 A.M.–12 NOON**

**EARTH DAY**



## Community TREE PLANTING

**SATURDAY, APRIL 25**

**8:30 A.M.–12 NOON**



**ARBOR DAY**



For more information visit:

[www.cityofwoodstock.ca/EarthDay](http://www.cityofwoodstock.ca/EarthDay)



[www.cityofwoodstock.ca/ArborDay](http://www.cityofwoodstock.ca/ArborDay)

# C.O.W. TALES

CoW Tales is a regular feature in *What's on Woodstock* designed to celebrate the City of Woodstock's rich history. Thanks to the contributions of the Woodstock Museum NHS and the Heritage Advisory Committee, CoW Tales shares stories that help us understand and connect with our past as our community continues to grow and evolve. In celebration of the City's upcoming 125th anniversary, this issue features some notable early reeves and mayors of Woodstock.



## Hugh Richardson

While he is best remembered as the presiding judge in the Louis Riel trial, Hugh Richardson also had the distinction of being the first reeve of Woodstock in 1851. Richardson established one of the first law practices in the community and was the crown attorney for Oxford from 1856 to 1862, before becoming mayor in 1864. He was also lieutenant colonel and commanding officer of the Oxford Rifles from 1865 to 1875. Photo: Lieut.-Col. Hugh Richardson.



## William Grey

William Grey was born in England and came to Woodstock with his family in 1825 at the age of 13. Grey built the first three-story brick building, the Royal Pavilion Hotel, at Brock and Dundas streets in 1840. He was also one of the founders of Oxford Builders Loan and Savings Society. Grey was elected to office several times, serving as reeve in 1853 and 1855, and later mayor in 1859, 1866, 1867 and 1870–1872. Photo: William Grey, 1870–1904.



## Joseph Sudworth

The role of mayor wasn't established by the town council until 1857. Joseph Sudworth was elected as the first mayor, defeating former reeve Hugh Richardson by a vote of 8–6. Sudworth had previously served as reeve in 1856. He was also a partner in Joseph & Wright, a wholesale and retail boot and shoe company. Photo: Mr. Sudworth and daughter, 1870.



## John McWhinnie

John McWhinnie was the editor of the *British American* newspaper from 1849–1853. In 1854, he started the *Woodstock Sentinel* with his son-in-law Alexander Hay. McWhinnie later bought out Hay's share of the paper and brought in his son Robert as the publisher. The pair continued to run the *Sentinel* until 1870. McWhinnie was deputy reeve in 1862 and reeve in 1863 before becoming mayor in 1865. Photo: John McWhinnie, 1867.

# C.O.W. TALES

## Way Back When Contest

**THE WINNER** of the March 'Way Back When' Contest question is Linda Wavell. Linda correctly answered that 'Farmer' was the name of the fire department's beloved horse. She wins a \$50 gift card from Boston Pizza Woodstock, and she will qualify for a \$100 Boston Pizza Woodstock gift card to be drawn from all the monthly winners in December.

### THANK YOU TO OUR SPONSOR!



**BOSTON PIZZA WOODSTOCK**  
431 Norwich Ave  
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[www.bostonpizza.com](http://www.bostonpizza.com)

### THINK YOU KNOW YOUR WOODSTOCK HISTORY?

Enter the Way Back When contest for a chance to win! Answer the last question below in bold. If your answer is correct, your name will be entered into the draw. The winner's name will appear in the next edition of *What's on Woodstock*. Contest questions have been selected from the book, *Quizzical History*, published by the Oxford Historical Society and Woodstock Museum NHS.

- Q.** Where was the first town council meeting held in 1851? (See pg. 12)
- Q.** Who took over the *Woodstock Sentinel* newspaper in 1870? (See pg. 4)
- Q.** Who was the last person to hold the position of reeve in 1899? (See pg. 8)
- Q.** How many women have been mayor of Woodstock?

Send your answer along with your name and phone number to [wow@cityofwoodstock.ca](mailto:wow@cityofwoodstock.ca) by Friday, April 17, 2026. You can also drop your answer in the contest box at City Hall.



## Parks and Sports Fields open May 1

As spring approaches, the Parks Department would like to remind you that parks and sports fields open for the season on May 1.

In the meantime, please stay off the fields to prevent deep ruts and other damage that can occur when the soil is wet due to melting snow or rain.

**Thank you!**



Learn more about the City's parks, trails and sports fields at:  
[www.cityofwoodstock.ca/parks](http://www.cityofwoodstock.ca/parks)

# COMMUNITY EVENTS

## April

- 11 **In the Mood with Big Bandemic**, South Gate Centre, 6:30 p.m. to midnight. Buy tickets at the Front Desk or online at [www.southgatectr.com/events](http://www.southgatectr.com/events). Big Bandemic will have you dancing and singing along with their 17 piece big band, 10 piece strings section and 2 terrific crooners!
- 16–18 **K2K Productions presents 'Seussical Jr.'** Hope Church, 64 Blandford St, Innerkip, 7 p.m. Matinée on Apr. 18 at 2 p.m. Tickets \$25. Bring your family and soak up every second! "Oh, the thinks you can think!" when imagination runs wild in Seussical Jr., presented by K2K's Junior Company! Tickets: [k2kproductions.ca/boxoffice](http://k2kproductions.ca/boxoffice)
- 16–18 **PAC presents 'The Magician's Elephant,'** Woodstock Collegiate Institute, 35 Riddell St, Apr. 16–18 at 7 p.m. and Apr. 18 at 1 p.m. Tickets \$30. Woodstock Performing Arts Collective youth theatre group presents the Canadian premiere of this musical. Visit [onstagedirect.com/tme](http://onstagedirect.com/tme)
- 17–26 **Theatre Woodstock presents 'The 39 Steps'**, Theatre Woodstock, 22 Reeve St, Apr 17, 18, 23, 24 at 7:30 p.m., Apr 19, 25, 26 at 2 p.m. All seats \$28 except Thrifty Thursday \$20. A fast-paced whodunit for anyone who loves the magic of theatre! For tickets visit [theatrewoodstock.com](http://theatrewoodstock.com)
- 18 **Spring Clean-up**, meet at the Parks Department facility in Southside Park, 192 Old Wellington St S, 8 a.m.–12 p.m. Be part of a community effort to refresh our parks, streets, and neighbourhoods. Visit [www.cityofwoodstock.ca/earthday](http://www.cityofwoodstock.ca/earthday)

- 25 **The Woodstock Choralaires presents 'Thank You for the Music'**, Knox Presbyterian Church, 3 p.m. Tickets \$30. Celebrating 60 years of singing. With guest artist, Luciano DeCicco. Tickets available at Wilson & Markle Jewellers or [ticketscene.ca](http://ticketscene.ca) or call 519-456-5270.
- 25 **Oxford Historical Society Meeting**, Chartwell Oxford Gardens, 423 Devonshire Ave, 6:30 p.m. Free event. Donations welcome. William 'Bill' Butt discusses his play, 'The Mighty Men of Zorra' – history and land helped them rise to the 1893 World Champions. Visit [oxhs.ca](http://oxhs.ca) or email [info@oxhs.ca](mailto:info@oxhs.ca) for details.

## May

- 7 **K2K Productions presents 'Freaky Friday'**, Hope Church, 64 Blandford St, Innerkip, May 7, 8, 9 at 7 p.m., May 9 at 2 p.m. Tickets \$25 ea. Bring the whole family and get ready to laugh, sing and swap perspectives! Tickets: [k2kproductions.ca/boxoffice](http://k2kproductions.ca/boxoffice) or call 519-290-9525.
- 20 **Fun League: Woodstock Dragon Boat Club**, Roth Park Clubhouse, 6–7 p.m. Cost \$75. Are you 12+, want to learn how to paddle? Sign up for 6 weeks of practice, coaching & mock races on Wednesdays. We supply all equipment and you bring your energy. Visit [woodstockdragonboat.ca/dragon-boat-fun-league](http://woodstockdragonboat.ca/dragon-boat-fun-league) or email [woodstockdbc.funleague@gmail.com](mailto:woodstockdbc.funleague@gmail.com)



## Curbside Brush Collection

Apr. 6 - 10, 2026

### Brush Must be:

- At the curb by 7 a.m. on Apr. 6
- Tied in bundles no longer than 2 m
- Less than 50 lbs



Visit [www.cityofwoodstock.ca/waste](http://www.cityofwoodstock.ca/waste) for details.



What's on Woodstock is your go-to source for information on our city and community.

### NEXT EDITIONS

- May/June 2026 – RESERVE BY APRIL 8
- July/August 2026 – RESERVE BY MAY 27

Advertise today: [www.cityofwoodstock.ca/wow](http://www.cityofwoodstock.ca/wow)

### ADVERTISING RATES

Size	Non-Profit	Regular
Eighth page	\$100	\$120
Quarter page	\$160	\$225
Half page (tall or wide)	\$270	\$375
Full page	\$510	\$650
Covers (inside, back)	\$875	\$875

**Note:** Advertising rates are for ad placement only.



## CONVENTIONAL & SPECIALIZED TRANSIT HOURS OF OPERATION

- **Monday–Saturday: 6 a.m.–10 p.m.**

No Sunday or Holiday bus service. Find route and schedule details at [www.cityofwoodstock.ca/transit](http://www.cityofwoodstock.ca/transit)

## FARES & PASSES

Fare Type	Adult	Student/ Senior (60+)	Child (under 5)/ Veteran
<b>Cash</b>	\$2.75 (exact fare)	\$2.75 (exact fare)	Free bus service
<b>Monthly Pass</b> (non-transferable)	\$66.00	\$53.00	Free bus service
<b>Han-D-Ride Pass</b> (discounted)	\$27.50 (12 rides)	\$27.50 (12 rides)	Free bus service
<b>Group Pass</b> (2–5 riders)	\$8.25 (all day)	\$8.25 (all day)	Free bus service

## WHO SELLS RELOADABLE PASSES?

You can purchase reloadable Monthly and Han-D-Ride cards at these convenient vendor locations:

- City Hall, 500 Dundas St.
- Pioneer Gas Station, 334 Norwich Ave.
- Southside Aquatic Centre, 315 Finkle St.
- Walmart Lottery Kiosk, 499 Norwich Ave.
- Woodstock Public Library, 445 Hunter St.

## SPECIALIZED TRANSIT

Woodstock Transit offers door to door bus service for residents that qualify and are registered with the City of Woodstock. Applications for this service are available online at [www.cityofwoodstock.ca/para-transit](http://www.cityofwoodstock.ca/para-transit). All trips must be booked in advance.

## DISPATCH OFFICE HOURS

- **Monday to Friday: 8:30 a.m. – 7:00 p.m.**
- **Saturday: 9:00 a.m. – 7:00 p.m.**

To book, call 519-539-2382 ext. 2510 (TTY 519-539-7268). Voicemail is available outside these hours.



**NEW!** Visit [ride.blaisetransit.com](http://ride.blaisetransit.com) to book online! You can also download the **Blaise Transit** app from the App Store or Google Play.



# Woodstock Votes

**Be Election Ready –  
get the information you  
need today!**



## Get on the Voter's List

Register to vote in the 2026 municipal and school board elections.

[RegisterToVoteON.ca](http://RegisterToVoteON.ca)



## Run for Office

Candidates can file their nominations to run for a seat on Woodstock City Council starting Friday, May 1.

Get your nomination package at:

[www.cityofwoodstock.ca/election](http://www.cityofwoodstock.ca/election)

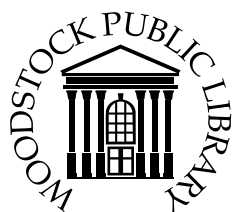


## Become an Election Worker

Help support the municipal election in October!

Learn more and apply at:

[www.cityofwoodstock.ca/electionworkers](http://www.cityofwoodstock.ca/electionworkers)



# PUBLIC LIBRARY

Monday to Thursday 10 a.m. - 8:30 p.m.  
Friday & Saturday 10 a.m. - 5 p.m.  
Sunday 1 - 5 p.m.  
Closed April 3, 5 & 6  
445 Hunter St., Woodstock ON  
www.mywpl.ca

## Storytimes!

Each program includes age-appropriate stories, rhymes, songs, and activities designed by library professionals to help children develop literacy skills and a love of reading. Dedicated time for play and to meet other families is provided at the end of the program. Children should be accompanied by a caregiver. **No registration required.**

Program	Description	Dates/Times
<b>Tales &amp; Tunes</b> (Family)	An interactive storytime that will cultivate a love of books with stories, songs, rhymes, and other activities.	Wednesdays Apr 1–May 13, 10:30–11:30 a.m.
<b>Toddler Tales</b> (12–36 months)	An active program for toddlers and their caregivers with stories, rhymes, songs, and other activities.	Thursdays Apr 2–May 14, 10:30–11:30 a.m.
<b>Books &amp; Bounces</b> (Birth–18 months)	Babies and caregivers will hear stories, and learn songs, rhymes, and bounces that will help foster a love of reading.	Thursdays Apr 2–May 14, 12–1 p.m.
<b>Story Explorers</b> (3–5 years)	Build on stories through songs, rhymes, and hands on STEAM activities for preschoolers.	Fridays Apr 10–May 15, 10:30–11:30 a.m.
<b>Baby Sign Storytime</b> (Birth–18 months)	Infants and their caregivers are invited to gather for songs, rhymes, and stories that feature American Sign Language.	Fridays Apr 10–May 15, 6, 12–12:45 p.m.

### Multilingual Storytime – Punjabi/English (Family) Saturday, April 18 – 11 a.m.–12 p.m.

Learn about and celebrate the diversity of our community at the Woodstock Public Library. We will learn about a new culture through language, art, song and story. This month we will be joined by Zach to learn about Punjabi! **No registration required.**

## Children & Families

### Homeschool Meet-Up (Family) Monday, April 13 – 1–3 p.m.

Stop by the library and meet other Homeschooling families for an afternoon of fun! Bring your own board games, or play one of ours. Test out a robot or two. We will also provide the snacks! Connect with old friends, and make new ones! **No registration required.**



### Two Row Learning (6–12 years) Monday, April 13 – 5:30–7:30 p.m.

Immerse yourself in Indigenous culture at our Two Row Learning sessions! Join us for an engaging exploration of Indigenous knowledge and teachings, presented by the Two Row Initiative, and sponsored by R&B Creative Creations, Line-X Woodstock, and Transitions Equine Assisted Learning. Through discussions, hands-on activities, and crafts, we'll delve into the wisdom of the 7 grandfather teachings; Love, Respect, Bravery, Honesty, Humility, Wisdom, and Truth. Enjoy complimentary pizza and snacks. **No registration required.**

# Children & Families

**PA Day Movie: *Elio*** (Family)  
Friday, April 24 – 2:30–4:30 p.m.

Join us for a family friendly movie! We will be showing *Elio* (PG). Popcorn included! **No registration required.**

**Adventure with Muk** (10–14 years)  
Saturdays, April 4 & 25 – 11 a.m.–12:30 p.m.

Muk invites young players to join him on a Dungeons and Dragons adventure. Players will continue to work on their own characters and to adventure with Muk and friends through Dankwood. New players are always welcome. **Registration required.**



**Squirmy Science: Explore How Worms Turn Kitchen Scraps into Soil** (Family)  
Saturday, April 25 – 3:30–4:30 p.m.

Join Amanda Hunter, the Worm Wrangler, to learn about composting with the help of earthworms—called **vermicomposting**. Together, we'll explore how worm bins work, what worms eat, and how to set up, maintain, and troubleshoot a healthy vermicomposting system. Participants will meet the worms up close, learn the science behind their soil-building superpowers, and discover how vermicompost supports composting as a key tool for protecting and regenerating soil. You'll leave confident in how to harvest and use finished vermicompost to reduce waste, build healthier soil, and enrich your garden from the ground up. **No registration required.**

# Youth & Young Adults

**Teen Brain Break** (12–18 years)  
Thursdays in April – 3–4 p.m.

Need a break from homework, stress, or scrolling? Drop in anytime during the hour to hang out and recharge. Play board games, make a craft, colour, or grab a snack. Come solo or bring friends – everyone is welcome! **No registration required.**

**Retro Video Gaming Night!** (All Ages)  
Thursday, April 23 – 6–8 p.m.

Feeling nostalgic about the games from your youth? Want to finally play the original Mario Party your parents won't stop talking about? Then come on down to the Woodstock Public Library for an evening of retro gaming! Play a sampling of retro games on various consoles.

In partnership with Operandi Gaming Community.  
**No registration required.**

**Lunch Time Breakout** (12–18 years)  
Thursdays in April – 11–11:45 a.m.

Can you and your friends solve all the puzzles to break open the box? A new Breakout EDU game will be featured each week! **No registration required.**

**Pizza Pop-up** (12+ years)  
Monday, April 13 – 11 a.m.–12 p.m.

Drop in to enjoy pizza and games! Learn about library resources and upcoming programs for teens. Two slices per person and must be eaten in the meeting room.

**Indigenous Beading Workshop for Teens** (12–18 years)  
Tuesday, April 21 – 6–8 p.m.

Participants will learn the significance of beading in Indigenous culture, and the history that surrounds it. No prior experience necessary, all supplies provided. **Registration opens April 7.**

# Adults & Families

## Mah-Jongg

Tuesdays in April – 10:15 a.m.–12 p.m.

American Mah-Jongg is an exciting game that will challenge participants. Join us! No registration required.

## Board Game Social

Monday, April 20 – 5:30–7:30 p.m.

Love board games but don't have anyone to play with? Join us at the Woodstock Public Library for an evening of board games and fun! Games and snacks will be provided – we hope to see you there!

## Chit Chat Circle

Tuesdays, April 7, 21 & 28 – 1:30–3 p.m.

Socialize in a safe space hosted by the Canadian Mental Health Association. We will discuss a variety of wellness topics. Refreshments provided. No registration required.

## WPL Book Club

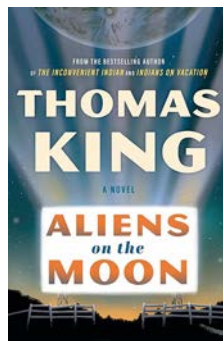
Thursday, April 9 – 7–8 p.m.

Tuesday, April 14 – 2–3 p.m.

Begin each month with a good read! Join us for our afternoon or evening session for a lively discussion on the title selected. Open to all. No registration required.

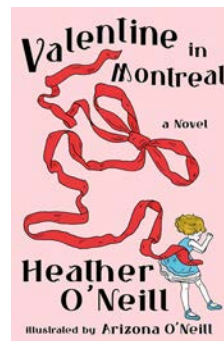
### April Title

*Aliens on the Moon*  
Thomas King



### May Title

*Valentine in Montreal*  
Heather O'Neill



## Knitting and Crochet Drop-In

Saturdays, April 11 & 25 – 3:30–4:30 p.m.

Come out for a cozy hour of knitting and crochet! Bring your project or check out our collection of crochet and knitting books for patterns. New to the craft? We will have extra crochet hooks, knitting needles, and yarn for you to get started! No registration required.



# Adults & Families



## Queer Conversations (16+ years)

Tuesday, April 21 – 6:30–8 p.m.

Join the Oxford County Community Health Centre and the Woodstock Public Library for a gathering of 2SLGBTQIA+ community and conversation. No registration required.

## Crafty Adults

Thursday, April 16 – 7–8 p.m.

If you've been looking for a way to spruce up your coffee table, join us for this month's Crafty Adults where we will be making perler bead cat coasters! All supplies will be provided by the library, no prior experience required. Registration opens April 2.

## Dungeons & Dragons: Dragon Heist (18+ years)

Saturdays, April 4 & 25 – 2:30–4:30 p.m.

No previous DND or roleplaying experience is required but a willingness to have fun with a group of like-minded people is. Game play is 2 hours. Adventure on! Registration opens two weeks before game play.

## Writers' Group (15+ years)

Wednesday, April 22 – 6–8 p.m.

Active and aspiring writers of all kinds! Join us once a month for a time of fellowship, support, and quiet writing. Snacks provided. Mutual support appreciated! No registration required.

## Cyber Assist

Tuesdays, 10:30–11:30 a.m.

Wednesdays, 5:30–6:30 p.m.

Fridays, 2:30–3:30 p.m.

Book one-on-one assistance with our technology specialist. Sessions are 30 minutes in length. Book online or call 519-539-4801, extension 3006.

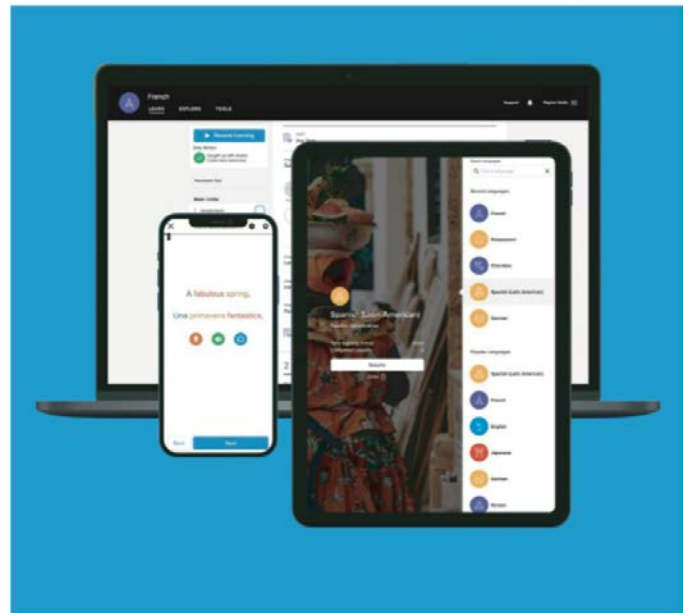
## Genealogy Assist

Book a one-on-one session with a genealogy specialist librarian. Learn how to use the library's digital microfilm readers and e-Resources including Ancestry Library Edition and Paper of Record. Each session is 50 minutes in length. Registration required. Check our website or call 519-539-4801, extension 3006 for available dates and times.



## Learn over 70 languages

**MANGO LANGUAGES**  Free access with your Library Card 





## Spring Programs

### Food Waste Film Screening

Tuesday, April 14 | 6:30–9 p.m.

Join us to watch *Just Eat It: A Food Waste Story* where filmmakers live only on rescued food for 6 months. A discussion afterward will be an opportunity to share your ideas and learn about what's happening locally. Popcorn included! Register in advance. **Ages 16+, \$5**



### Lunch & Learn: Spring Series

Select Tuesdays | 11 a.m.–1 p.m.

Join us for a unique topic at the Woodstock Museum followed by a light lunch. Register in advance to reserve your spot. **Ages 16+**

#### April 21: Life of Woodstock Artist Florence Carlyle

Artist Florence Carlyle lived in Woodstock for much of her life. Join Woodstock Art Gallery's Danielle Hoevenaars as she dives into everyday life and culture in the late 19th and early 20th century to illuminate the life and work of this prominent Canadian painter.

#### May 26: Oscar Wilde's Visit to Woodstock

Join us in the same room Oscar Wilde spoke during his time in Woodstock. Dr. Jason Pankratz, back by popular demand, will share stories of Wilde's life, his connection with the art aesthetics movement and the legacy of his later years.

#### June 23: Ode to Drive-in Movies

How we watch movies has changed a lot in the last 20 years but there is nothing like the drive-in movies for a bit of nostalgia. Librarian Chris Harrington will share the history of local drive-ins, their post-war boom, and how they survive in the digital era.

**\$25 (Members \$20)**

### Dig This PA Day

Friday, April 24 | 9 a.m.–4 p.m.

Get the dirt on all the cool plants of springtime. We'll take home some seeds, a planted pot of veggies, play some nature games and go outside for fun! **Ages: 5–12**

**\$55 (Members \$49.50)**

### Tea-rific Tea Party

Thursday, May 21 | 2–4 p.m.

Enjoy afternoon tea & treats in the Woodstock Museum's Grand Hall Ballroom and explore our exhibits to celebrate Museum Month! Dress-up in your favourite era or as a character from history. **Ages: 16+, \$25**

### Retro Games PA Day

Friday, May 29 | 9 a.m.–4 p.m.

Play the games of the past in this fun and retro day. Learn to use a rotary phone, play games of chance and skill, make your own game and enjoy creative play! **Ages: 5–12**

**\$55 (Members \$49.50)**

## Summer Camps

Join in all the fun this summer with learning, history, games, excursions, special guests and unique theme. Make some friends and try something new! Register now or sign up for the waitlist to be notified if a spot becomes available in a full camp.

Full day camps run on weekdays from 8:30 a.m.–4:30 p.m. Youth camp runs 1–4:30 p.m. Extended care is not available.

**July 6–10:** Unicorn Camp (Ages 4–7)

**July 13–17:** Dino Camp (Ages 4–7)

**July 20–24:** Culture Camp: Woodstock Museum (Ages 6–12)\*

**July 27–21:** Spectacular Science Jr. (Ages 5–8)

**Aug. 4–17:** Make and Bake Youth Camp (Ages 10–14)\*

**Aug. 10–14:** Swifty Summer (Ages 7–12)

**Aug. 17–21:** Dogs We Love (Ages 4–6)

5-Day Camps: \$200 (Members \$180).

\*Specialty Camps: \$300 (Members \$250)

February 16th to June 20th

## Bernadette Smith: Eve of Change Breaking the Old Boys Club

An exhibit on life of the first elected  
female mayor of a city in Canada

May is Museum Month Movie Night

# NIGHT AT THE MUSEUM



**WEDNESDAY, MAY 6 | 6:30 – 8:30 P.M.**  
MARKET CENTRE THEATRE, 22 REEVE ST  
TICKETS: \$5/PERSON

Hosted by the Woodstock  
Museum Advisory Committee

May is Museum Month  
**MMM**  
2 0 2 6  
**WWW**  
museumsontario.ca



## Programs

### Spring & Summer

### Children

#### After School Program

Wednesday, April 1–May 13

4–4:30 p.m.

Join us after school for guided gallery tours, art lessons and self-guided activities, with time and space for interactive creativity and social engagement.

**Ages: 6–12**

**Cost: \$8/day**

#### Start with Art

Wednesday, April 1 & May 13

11–11:45 a.m.

Discover a variety of artistic fundamentals, techniques and materials for preschool-aged children and their caregivers.

**Ages: 5 and under**

**Cost: \$8/day**

#### Creative PA Days

Friday, April 24 & May 29

8:30 a.m.–4:30 p.m.

Enjoy a full day of art-making lessons, guided and self-guided activities, and outdoor play!

**Ages: 5–12**

**Cost: \$75 (Members \$60)**

#### Summer Camps

Join us for a creative summer featuring art lessons, self-guided activities, collaborative projects, guest instructors and exciting field trips! Visit [woodstockartgallery.ca](http://woodstockartgallery.ca) for details and to register.

##### Full-Day Camps (Ages 6–12)

- July 6–10: Graffiti Art Camp
- July 20–24: Culture Camp: WAG
- Aug. 4–7: Fantasy Art Camp
- Aug. 10–14: Nature Art Camp

##### Half-Day Classes (Ages 4–6)

- July 13–17 & Aug. 17–21: Mini Makers



### Youth & Adults

#### Impressionist Acrylic Painting

Saturday, April 4

10:30 a.m.–4 p.m.

Explore the world of Claude Monet and the Impressionist movement and create your own Water Lily painting with instructor Lindsay Liboiron using acrylic and gel medium. Beginners welcome!

**Age: 13+**

**Cost: \$250 (Members \$200)**

#### Just for Teens: Music as Art (Drawing Class)

Saturday, April 11–May 2

10:30 a.m.–12 p.m.

Explore the connection between music and art in this drawing class led by artist Mercedes Schuster. Tour the gallery, learn about thumbnail, gesture and contour drawings, and create a music-inspired drawing using charcoal and pencil crayons.

**Age: 13–19**

**Cost: \$250 (Members \$200)**

#### Adult Open Studio

Wednesday, May 6–June 24

1–3 p.m.

This new open studio is a relaxed, creative, and supportive space for adults of all experience levels. Work independently and create at your own pace or collaborate, share ideas, and try something new with guidance and feedback from arts professional Megan Milton. Each week includes guided demonstrations across a variety of media. No experience needed!

**Age: 18+**

**Cost: \$20/day**

## Current Exhibitions



### *Great Small Things: 60 Years of Collecting*

**On view until Jan. 10, 2027**  
**Curator: Danielle Hoevenaars**

Louise Scott (American/Canadian, 1936–2007), *La Vista II*, c. 1966, oil on fibreboard, Gift of Ontario Centennial Art Exhibition by Province of Ontario, Woodstock Art Gallery Permanent Collection, Photo credit: Robert McNair



### *Arctic Abundance: How Environment Shapes Creativity*

**On view until June 20, 2026**  
**Curator: Braeden Gruber**

Oshaweetok B., *Walrus*, Soapstone, Courtesy of Ross and Fran McElroy. Photo Credit: Braeden Gruber



### *Florence's Woodstock*

**On view until Aug. 29, 2026**  
**Curator: Danielle Hoevenaars**

Florence Carlyle (Canadian, 1964–1923), *The Garden at Englewood*, c. 1907, oil on canvas, Purchased with the support of the Ontario Ministry of Culture and Communications and Art Gallery Trust Fund, Woodstock Art Gallery Permanent Collection, Photo Credit: John Tamblyn



### ᑕᑭᑭᑦᑕ Tautuppa | Long Looking: Tim Pitsiulak

**On view until June 20, 2026**  
**Opening Reception: Thursday, April 9, 6–8 p.m.**  
**Curator: Taqralik Partridge**

Artwork Credit: Tim Pitsiulak, ᑕᑭᑭᑦᑕ *Lumaajuuq*, 2015, coloured pencil on paper, 55.9 x 76.2 cm. Private collection. Photo credit: Martin Schwalbe

# Explore Public Art in Woodstock



Photo supplied

From the *Springbank Snow Countess* to the Bruce Flowers Sculpture Garden, Woodstock is home to a growing collection of public art.

“Public art refers to any temporary or permanent artwork installed with intention in public spaces,” said Danielle Hoevenaars, Head of Collections at the Woodstock Art Gallery.

“These artworks offer a chance to highlight our community’s culture and history and beautify our city’s streets, parks and public spaces.”

Public art has a long history in Woodstock. The *Snow Countess* at the corner of Springbank Avenue and Dundas Street was erected in 1937 to commemorate Oxford County’s legacy of dairy farming. Designed by artist Ross Butler, the monument depicts the Holstein-Friesian cow that held the world record for lifetime butterfat production in the 1930s.

*Ironsides*, designed by College Avenue Secondary School student Ed Baker in 1967, is another longstanding example, greeting residents and visitors coming into town over the Vansittart Avenue bridge.

The Woodstock Art Gallery has continued to grow the city’s public art collection with recent projects including Woodstock Art Cycle, which features bike racks designed by five local artists.

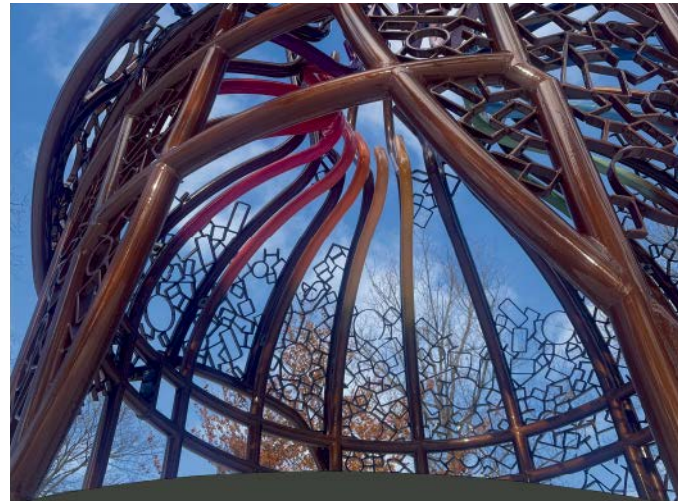
The Bruce Flowers Sculpture Garden was also established in 2021, in memory of a passionate and inspirational artist and educator from Woodstock. The first sculpture, *Wind Vane*, was installed by artist Nicholas Crombach in 2023.

The newest addition to the sculpture garden, *BIRD SET FREE*, was created by husband-and-wife artist team Duane and Urszula Kumala-Thomas. The sculpture commemorates groundbreaking artist Florence Carlyle, who grew up in Woodstock and rose to prominence as a painter in the late-19<sup>th</sup> and early-20<sup>th</sup> centuries.

“The sculpture draws inspiration from Carlyle’s nickname Bird and incorporates three components — a bird, a bird cage and a corset — to illustrate the complex nature of freedom and confinement,” explained Hoevenaars.

*BIRD SET FREE* will be officially unveiled at a special event on Saturday, May 30 at 11 a.m.

You can also take a tour of the city’s public art collection this spring with a new walking map and brochure, available in person at the Woodstock Art Gallery and online at [www.cityofwoodstock.ca/publicart](http://www.cityofwoodstock.ca/publicart).



EVENTS & PUBLIC ART

## Public Art Unveiling: *BIRD SET FREE*

Saturday, May 30, 2026, 11 a.m. - 11:30 a.m.  
Florence Carlyle Park

[WOODSTOCKARTGALLERY.CA](http://WOODSTOCKARTGALLERY.CA)

WOODSTOCK  
ART GALLERY



# FAIR

## ACCESS

FEE ASSISTANCE IN RECREATION



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**Credit** towards City-run recreation and culture programs



**50% discount** on monthly passes with Woodstock Transit

**Learn more and apply today at**

[www.cityofwoodstock.ca/fair](http://www.cityofwoodstock.ca/fair)



### Questions?

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