



Live. Work. Play.

Explore

NORTH DUNDAS

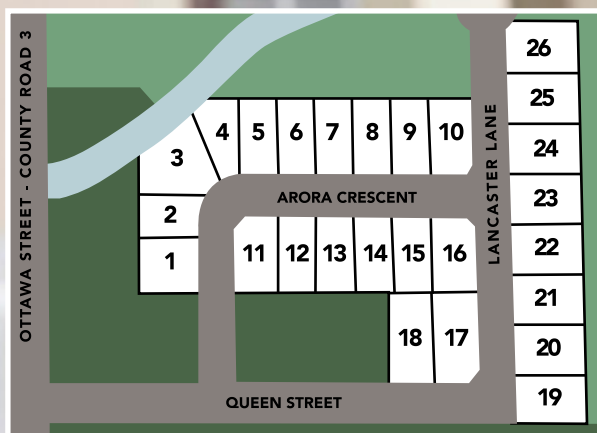


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\$77,900



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winchestermeadows.ca



Greetings from Council!

LIVE, WORK AND PLAY IN NORTH DUNDAS!

Welcome to the third edition of Explore North Dundas! This edition is a celebration of our lifestyle, what it is to live, work and play in North Dundas.

Residential growth in North Dundas is booming with the development of new subdivisions, including three that are anticipated to start construction this year. In this issue, we introduce you to these new subdivisions and the developers behind them.

Our community is home to numerous family-run businesses. They are a key strength in North Dundas and an important part of our economy. We are showcasing five businesses and the owners, whose hard work and determination have stood the test of time and made them successful for several generations. Council congratulates these businesses on their success.

Work life balance is not just a saying in North Dundas; it is a way of life. Recreation and culture play essential roles in our lifestyle. We are very proud of the variety of facilities and programs that are available, due largely to the many volunteers that contribute countless hours to providing this vital part of our culture. We are thankful for the efforts of these dedicated volunteers that make our community what it is.

As Council, we are grateful for the opportunity to serve the residents and business people of North Dundas. Our residents share a strong sense of community and we love to come together in celebration. We are excited that the 2020 edition of the extremely popular Meet Me on Main Street event series is expanding to Marionville. We hope to see you at one or all of the events!

We encourage you to take some time and check out all that North Dundas has to offer!

John Hay

Allen Armstrong

John Thompson

PAUL

Ed M. Linnell

Contributors



NATION VALLEY NEWS

Writers

Nelson Zandbergen is a longtime local journalist with over 20 years in the industry. The Chesterville resident is the founder of **Nation Valley News Ltd.**



Kelsey Smith has worked for three years at Nation Valley News. The Morrisburg resident handles a diverse file of responsibilities, including news reporting.



GINA DRAGONE PHOTOGRAPHY

Photographer

Gina Dragone is a local portrait, lifestyle, and product photographer. Her latest projects include photographing the region to help promote SD&G tourism. She is based out of Maxville.



MARRINER DESIGN

Graphic Designer

Susan Marriner specializes in branding, web design, social and print media for business marketing. She owns and operates her local graphic design company **Marriner Design**, which serves businesses all over SD&G and Ottawa.

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   northdundas.com

Municipal Office

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Winchester, ON
K0C 2K0

Phone: 613-774-2105
Fax: 613-774-5699

Hours of Operation:
Monday to Friday
8:30 am - 4:30 pm

Extended summer hours every Tuesday until 7pm
(May 7 - until Aug. 27)

*1200 visitors can't be wrong.
The annual Local Business Expo,
held at the Joel Steele Community Centre
on the 3rd Saturday each April,
is definitely the place to be.*

Sponsored by the Township of North Dundas and the North Dundas Chamber of Commerce this event continues to attract more visitors each year. The Expo stage features a variety of performances and demonstrations throughout the day, with different presenters each year.

The Township in conjunction with South Nation Conservation distribute hundreds of trees at the door while supplies last, along with ballots to enter to win door prizes. Larger trees are available to win as part of an Expo contest. Admission is free, so save the date and plan to attend. Come out and support the more than 100 local vendors.

LOCAL BUSINESS EXPO



North Dundas
Chamber of Commerce



In light of the COVID-19 outbreak,
the Township and the Chamber of Commerce
have elected to cancel this event for 2020.

Meet Me on Main Street

*Mark your calendars and join us for one
night or take part in the entire series!*

WEDNESDAYS 5:30PM - 8:00PM

CANCELLED

~~JULY 8~~ ~~JULY 15~~ ~~JULY 22~~

MOREWOOD SOUTH MOUNTAIN HALLVILLE

~~JUL 29~~ ~~AUG 5~~ ~~AUG 12~~

MARIONVILLE CHESTERVILLE WINCHESTER

*What began as a celebration of community
for Canada's 150th birthday has become an
annual tradition that is not to be missed!*

Starting on the first Wednesday in July, the Township of North Dundas closes a section of a main street in a different hamlet each week. Tables and chairs are set up in the middle of the street so residents and guests can enjoy live entertainment from 5:30PM till 8:00PM. Each location features a different local band, food options for purchase from local vendors, and buskers for everyone's enjoyment. This event truly is fun for the whole family.

Alcoholic beverages are available from various craft breweries and a local distillery. New this year is the addition of local cider producers and the expansion of this series to include an evening in the Village of Marionville.



The Dean Family
**MIKE DEAN'S
SUPER FOOD STORES**

BY: NATION VALLEY NEWS | PHOTOS: GINA DRAGONE PHOTOGRAPHY

*Born in Chesterville, a unique grocery chain reinvents itself
to survive in a tough industry*

CHESTERVILLE — Mike Dean's Super Food Stores' flagship King Street location is where it all began for the small-town grocer, and where the next generation of this Eastern Ontario family business continues to adjust and adapt to an evolving marketplace.

When his father bought that first Chesterville store from George Laflamme in 1976 (in the building beside the current store), "there were seven grocery stores in town," says Gordon Dean. That includes general stores, competing grocery stores and a butcher shop in the village at the time. "Talk about a different day," remarks the company president, in his office at the local grocer's North Dundas headquarters.

Today, the operation represents one of just 76 independent grocery retailers left in Canada, down from 2,000 in the 1980s, according to Gordon. Among the chains in that group, Mike Dean's is unique as a rural Ontario operation with a trio of outlets — in Bourget (12,000 square feet), Sharbot Lake (12,500 square feet) and Chesterville (11,000 square feet).

Today's grocery store, Gordon says, must compete for a 2020 consumer wooed not only by online sales and discount stores, but especially regional "destination malls" anchored by superstores owned by the dominant five grocery giants not part of that group of 76 — Sobey's, Loblaws, Costco, Metro and Walmart.

The challenges are felt in Chesterville, he concedes, where the village population has increased over the past decade and yet "probably half the people are driving to Ottawa every day now."

Acutely aware of each change in his home village's commercial landscape and knowing the impact on the number of customers through his own door, Gordon says the enterprise has "reinvented itself" by eschewing the traditional focus on large volumes sold cheaply. They have shifted toward more specialized, local products and "a ton" of food prepared or cooked in store.

"That's what will keep us alive as a retailer is that specializing in a lot of local, and people know it's local," he says. "Volume has become irrelevant. Today, I don't care what my sales are ... It's a matter of what products are we selling? Are we selling products that make sense?"

Local customers are today more likely to be attracted into the store on their way home from work to buy a hot meal or a fresh, prepared dish — a niche in which proximity still matters. "Everyday there's something that you can get and take home for supper, ready to go," he says, rhyming off such fare as barbecued whole

chickens, wings, ribs, meatloaf, tourtiere and more — "and tons of pizza."

Chesterville also hosts the company's 8,000-square-foot warehouse, located on Industrial Drive, feeding all three stores, and it's in Chesterville where much of the fresh food is prepared as well. "Our office is here and our overhead staff are here," he adds.

Bearing the name of the founder who passed away in 2017, the business continues to support the family begun by Mike and Nancy Dean — their children and grandchildren.

Gordon and his wife, Pamela, are fixtures at the business, and their four children — Siena, Thomas, Benjamin and Samuel — have growing roles within the aisles of the store as well. "I skipped a lot more school than my own children when I worked here as a kid," Gordon laughs, while conceding his progeny are following his childhood example by helping out.

His sister, Julie, and her husband, Daniel, are part of the team, and their mother continues to be a regular presence at the store, too. Nancy "likes doing her part," says her son, adding with a smile that she "still does work too much." A retired teacher, the family matriarch is, of course, the inspiration for the store's own in-house "Nancy's Fancy" brand of products, which Gordon and his father introduced — to her surprise — 20 years ago.

*"Everyday
there's some-
thing that
you can
get and
take home
for supper,
ready to go."*





The company employs 75 people, “three quarters of them full-time,” the president proudly notes. “We would rather have full-time staff than three sets of part-time staff with no benefits.”

For years, Mike Dean’s has contributed to a variety of charitable causes in Chesterville, such as supplying food to various Rotary Club of Chesterville events and selling calendars to support the Chesterville Lions’ Christmas hamper distribution. Also receiving support are the Dundas Junior Farmers, Chesterville Agricultural Society, both elementary schools in the village, North Dundas District High School, Timothy Christian School, Morewood Recreation, and Art on the Waterfront — to name but a few.


*“Mike Dean’s
has always
been good to
the Lions,
no matter
how you look
at it...”*

Ruth Gilroy of Chesterville, a Rotarian, lauds the Deans for supporting causes like the Club’s annual Breakfast with Santa and its recently revived Shrove Tuesday pancake dinner.

“They contribute a major amount to the breakfast,” says Gilroy, tallying outright Dean donations of “78 dozen eggs, 30 loaves of bread, jams, ketchup and coffee” plus discounted orange juice at the most recent Christmas event alone. “They give a lot.”

“Mike Dean’s has always been good to the Lions, no matter how you look at it,” says Carl Robinson of the Chesterville Lions Club, who also points out that Lions and other service clubs are always welcome to set up and sell fundraiser tickets inside the store.

Gilroy has been shopping at the place since it opened up nearly 45 years ago, and says she is always able to get what she needs. If an item happens to be out of stock, “I just ask somebody, and it’s back on the shelf. Gordon’s ready to help, same with Pam, Julie, Dan ... and of course, Nancy. They’ve been great.”

mikedeans.com 



Nautical Lands Group WELLINGS OF WINCHESTER

BY: NATION VALLEY NEWS

Sleek and ultramodern, the largest “adult lifestyle community” ever developed by Nautical Lands Group is set to begin rising in a field off Main Street West this year.

WINCHESTER — Available in one- and two-bedroom models (respectively averaging 750 and 956 square feet), the no-basement, wheelchair-accessible designs are inspired by the architectural style of Frank Lloyd Wright — with flat roofs, 12- to 14-foot ceilings, lots of large windows, earth tones and in-floor heating.

Set to start construction with an initial four-unit display model this spring, the Winchester build follows a market path blazed by the developer's first — and smaller — Wellings of Waterford, Ontario, “cottage community.”

Aimed at the 55-plus segment, Wellings residents enjoy full autonomy in modest-sized — but nicely appointed — homes arranged in four-plexes and six-plexes along curbed (but technically private) streets. Catering to a mobile clientele, there is room for parking and some of the units have carports.

“...designs are inspired by the architectural style of Frank Lloyd Wright...”

While Wellings, as landlord, handles lawn-mowing and snow-clearing outside, the regular chores of day to day life — such as cooking meals and laundry — naturally remain the tenant's responsibility. Each unit

features a full-sized washer and dryer as well as a kitchen equipped with full-sized appliances.

The company's Vice President of Marketing and Branding, Natalie Tommy, says the monthly rental

charge — currently estimated at \$1,495 (one bedroom) and \$1,995 (two bedroom) — remains affordable because there is no “care” component when compared to a retirement home.

The 470-unit rental development falls within the developer's unique “Wellings” brand.

“Are you feeling adventurous and fun? Because that's what Wellings is,” says Tommy, adding, “We're vibrant, we're fun, we're full of life.” Wellings of Winchester aims to woo a fully independent older demographic into its collection of semi-detached small-scale townhouses.

Instilling a sense of lively community in the new neighbourhood is part of the successful Wellings formula. The developer helps make that happen by putting up a community centre — a place for clubs and group activities to take root. Each tenant also receives an iPad loaded with the Wellings app to keep them aware of the goings-on in their midst.

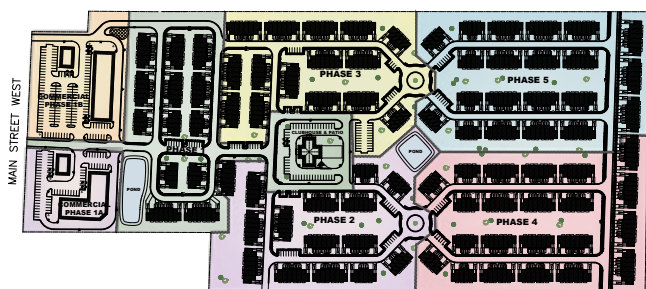
Watch for the large Winchester clubhouse to take shape sometime during the year-long first phase of construction, starting this August or September. The first 68 housing units will go in during this initial phase as well, with four more phases completing the multi-million-dollar build in subsequent years.

“We're really proud of the way this is turning out,” says Construction Manager Alex Lyons.

Winchester, says Lyons, is “the perfect spot” for the latest Wellings community.



nlgc.com



TRUSTED BUILDER AND DEVELOPER
OF GLOBAL AWARD-WINNING
COMMUNITIES SINCE 1991



Chesterville **KAYAK CLUB**

BY: NATION VALLEY NEWS

A 10-year tradition of kayaking in Chesterville

CHESTERVILLE — Ten years ago the late Bernie Curran was paddling with friends when he proposed turning their weekly hobby into a community club.

Over 30 interested people showed up for an advertised formational meeting a stone's throw from the South Nation River.

From as far as away Cornwall, Vankleek Hill and Ottawa, members are today drawn to the group's casual activities. Bonnie MacIntosh of Avonmore and Wayne Laprade of Chesterville cite the Club's website and the relative lack of kayaking clubs in the area as reasons for its popularity, along with a reputation for welcoming for a wide range of skill sets and ages.

"Our youngest member is 35 and oldest is in their late 70s," explains MacIntosh, president.

They explain the Club has also proven attractive by being more than paddling. It's also about the social aspect, nature and educational benefits. "We love being together," says MacIntosh, recounting a trip last year to a series of lakes in the Peterborough area.

The fun includes potlucks, barbecues and day trips — to bowling nights, a Christmas party and snowshoeing in the off-season — and more.

Boat launches at the Chesterville Waterfront and the Thompson subdivision have been funded with the help

of the Club. Members have further benefited the village by arranging placement of a porta-potty on the Chesterville waterfront for the last number of years.

Beyond the South Nation, members also ply the waters of the St. Lawrence and Rideau rivers. Other excursions have taken them to places like Barrin Canyon and Lake Nippising. Organized by Club Coordinators Kim Smith and Bob Forward, the calendar list comes out in the spring and members can individually pick and choose what they do. "There's no obligation. Sometimes you might have 10 members, you might have 30, you never know at an event," says Laprade. "There are lots of things going on, not just going up and down the Nation."

The club's most popular paddling date is the annual Poker Run between Cass Bridge and the Chesterville waterfront. Ninety-seven people took part in last year's event, raising \$1,600 divided among four local charities: Community Foodshare, Dundas Hospice, Naomi's Family Resource Centre and Camp Kagama. The Club hopes to see 100 paddlers turn out for the 2020 edition on June 13. Find out more about joining the Club and participating in this event on their website.

chestervillekayakclub.com  





The Heerkens Family
DUNDAS POWER LINE

BY: NATION VALLEY NEWS | PHOTOS: GINA DRAGONE PHOTOGRAPHY

*A very long run of achievements that began with just
"two men, two trucks and a backhoe"*

CHESTERVILLE — It's not a stretch to say that Dundas Power Line (DPL) has strung high-voltage wire in quantities measurable on a planetary scale.

"I wouldn't doubt twice around the world, easy," says company co-founder Frank Heerkens, quickly tallying 40-plus years' worth of new and replacement powerline work.

A recent job in Kapuskasing saw the DPL crew install over 300 km of wire alone (53 km of six-wire line), he notes as an example of that global estimate, while sitting at a boardroom table shared with his company partners — daughter Kandi (head of operations), son Jeremy (field operations manager and project manager) and Tim McKay (head estimator).

It's a very long run of achievement that began in Chesterville and continues to spool out of the same North Dundas community where Frank — now semi-retired — established DPL on April 30th, 1979 with just "two men, two trucks and a backhoe."

The company has grown and evolved to do work all over Ontario — and, when it comes to storm-relief activities, the rest of North America. But the operators say North Dundas Township remains the place to be for their main base of operations.

"It's home," declares Jeremy, who followed in his father's footsteps by achieving 'lineman' status — known today as powerline technician — in 2001.

"It's home, and it's a great community," his father echoes. "It's been a fantastic place."

They also highlight the success their firm has had dealing with the municipality on one building project or another as various expansions were erected at the DPL yard over the years.

DPL today typically employs more than 30 people — swelling to more than 60 at one point last year. Beyond the main electrical pole- and line-installation company (DPL), there is an affiliated rock-drilling and blasting outfit serving the utility industry (Dundas Drilling), a storage and property-management concern (Dundas Mini Storage) as well as a small hydroelectric generation company (Dundas Power Generation) that's intended to one

*"It's home,
and it's a great
community...
It's been a
fantastic
place"*



day build a planned 135 kW water-powered plant in Griffith, Ontario.

Following the example of their serial entrepreneur father, Kandi — who joined the company in 2002 — and Jeremy each have their own corporations that operate out of the same Chesterville site. Jeremy and a partner run Nationview Service Centre, while Kandi remotely operates Trans Test Ltd., which maintains 30,000 streetlights in the Niagara Region with her own crew based in that region.

Frank bought Trans Test in the early 2000s and sold it to Kandi, and they emphasize it wasn't given to her. "I made her slug it all the way to the end," he says of the financial arrangements. "So she knows what it was like to borrow the money," he says, noting that his daughter now occupies the office that he once did at DPL headquarters. "She's grown into her role. She can write stuff I can't even dream about writing."

The seeds of all this success were sown when a tornado tore through Chesterville in 1973. A teenaged Frank Heerkens — "fresh out of high school and not knowing what I wanted in life" — worked on the local recovery effort. Employed at the time installing poles and anchors for the only boss he ever had in his life — electrical line contractor Art Duff — he spent "two days straight ... helping people get their life in order."

It was an experience that left the son of Dutch immigrant farmers with no doubt he wanted to be a journeyman lineman.

"I made her slug it all the way to the end."



From that same twister eventually emerged DPL, which has carried on a tradition of working to restore power after Mother Nature does her worst — from the 1998 Ice Storm to dozens of calamities south of the border. DPL crews have lent assistance at least 30 times in the U.S., starting with Hurricane Sandy in 2012: After 26 days, "DPL was the last Canadian crew to leave Long Island, New York," Frank recounted during the company's 40th anniversary celebrations last year.

Working through a broker specializing in utility relief work, DPL employees clocked in 21 days dealing with the aftermath of Hurricane Irma in Florida, in 2017, where they were again among the last Canadian crews to leave the scene. And last year, they spent a similar period of time travelling 10,000 km through 14 states and four provinces effecting repairs to power lines after Hurricane Dorian.

They could have taken part in the rebuilding effort after the recent California wildfires but already had too much work on that occasion.

DPL is just one of two private high-voltage line installation contractors left in the region, out of the seven in the field when it started. Pursuing a philosophy of "go big or go home," Frank played a role in that industry consolidation by buying up the firm run by the family of Tim McKay, which put the third-generation lineman (then in training) into the orbit of DPL several years ago.

Tim landed a powerline technician's job with DPL and worked outside until the founder discovered his employee possessed a four-year business administration degree from Bishop's University. "He was a diamond in the rough," he says of Tim, now a partner in the enterprise.

The Bainsville native, who largely paid his way through university as an online poker player, helped DPL win its biggest contract ever in 2018. That job was completed on time and ahead of schedule as well.

Meanwhile, the semi-retired founder has been tapping a totally different opportunity for the last several years — running On the Bend Sugar Shack off County Rd. 11 in partnership with a childhood friend. "If you stop, you die," he says. "The problem with retirement is you never have a day off."

DPL crews have lent assistance at least 30 times in the U.S.

dundaspowerline.com

Prem Arora WINCHESTER MEADOWS

BY: NATION VALLEY NEWS

This village's latest collection of planned dream homes are beginning to emerge at Winchester Meadows' nine-acre site off Ottawa Street.

WINCHESTER — Developer Prem Arora finds that prospective buyers are drawn especially to the semi-detached bungalow option and the allure of a price in the \$300,000 range for those 1,000- to 1,100-square-foot models.

These units feature “a single-garage and one-floor design to meet the 55-plus market,” says the Ottawa resident, an otherwise familiar face to many North Dundas residents in his capacity as a part-time local pharmacist.

While their economical value appeals to locals, he says they seem to attract even more of those new to Winchester.

Residents will have the peace of mind of close proximity to Winchester District Memorial Hospital while enjoying the village's combination of “small-town vibe” — exemplified by a selection of friendly, small shops, eateries and live theatre — and urban conveniences like a 24/7 Foodland grocery store and multiple clinics and pharmacies.

At least two high-speed internet providers operate in the new neighbourhood.

As many as 45 units are to be constructed on 26 fully serviced lots, depending on the final mix of semi-

detached doubles and single detached dwellings erected over the next five years — the majority marketed and built by Arora's chosen builder, Moderna Homes Design. As many as 19 could be singles, he says, with Moderna offering several handsome designs up to a bit more than 1,600 square feet in size.

Partners in the development with his optician wife, Poonam, they're also building a small number of the homes at the property themselves.

Instead of a housing development, it was actually the idea of building a retirement home that initially drew Arora and his wife, Poonam, to check out Winchester. They stopped at the office of an enthusiastic North Dundas Planning Director Calvin Pol on their very first foray into the village, and Pol pointed them in the direction of a local realtor, which led to their purchase of the former Lancaster family property.

“He was very helpful, I would say, and encouraging,” says Arora, adding Pol and his officials “practically walked me through the whole process.”

The retirement home is still going ahead, he adds, along with a neighbouring high-density rental development

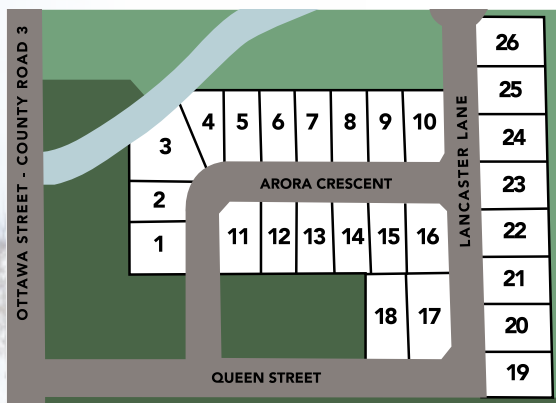
of 30 to 40 units, again catering to the 55-and-up demographic.

He aims to wrap it all up in the next seven and a half years, and he suggests that Winchester Meadows just might become his and his wife's personal address, too.

winchestermeadows.ca

“As many as 45 units are to be constructed on 26 fully serviced lots”

The Winchester Meadows site, looking east off County Rd. 3.





Events Lineup

See why North Dundas is a great place to live, work and raise a family.



DUNDAS COUNTY PLAYERS LIVE THEATRE

"On Golden Pond"

~~APR 17 - 26~~

CANCELLED

"2 Across"

~~JUN 18-21~~

CANCELLED

*"Sherwood: The Adventures
of Robin Hood"*

FALL 2020

The Dundas County Players have been entertaining the community with plays, cabarets and dinner theatre since 1996. This amateur theatre group always welcomes interested people to join them.

 [dcplayers.ca](https://www.facebook.com/dcplayers.ca)



100 WHO CARE NORTH DUNDAS



~~WOMEN~~ ~~CANCELLED~~ ~~MEN'S~~

~~MAY 7 + SEP 24~~

Get together with a group of 100 (or more) men and women who each commit to donate \$100.

Collectively they have \$10,000 (at minimum) to donate to various local charities and causes.

One night per year, registered not-for-profit and charitable organizations pitch their cause and this group decides who to support. Tax receipts are issued for donors. Any event costs are donated so 100% of the money raised goes directly to the selected organizations! You do not need to be a North Dundas resident to participate in this annual event, now in its third year.

 100 Women  100 Men

[100northdundas.com](https://www.100northdundas.com)

Events Lineup



20TH ANNIVERSARY TELUS RIDE FOR DAD

~~JUN 6~~

CANCELLED

The mission of the TELUS Ride For Dad is to raise funds to save men's lives by supporting prostate cancer research and raising public awareness of the disease. The 2020 Ride features an event finale and closing ceremonies in Winchester. Come out to see over one thousand motorcycles and support the cause!

[ridefordad.ca](https://www.ridefordad.ca)



ART ON THE WATERFRONT

~~JUN 6 & 7~~

CANCELLED

Bring the whole family to the Chesterville waterfront for this free event celebrating local artists & artisans. Enjoy live music, "Kids Zone", demonstrations from local martial artists, dancers and performers, vendor booths featuring artwork, handmade soaps, jewelry, preserves, home baked goods and much more.

[artonthewaterfront.ca](https://www.artonthewaterfront.ca)



RIBFEST

RIBFEST 2020

~~JUN 12~~

CANCELLED

Sweet Corner Park in Winchester comes alive with tasty ribs, beverages and live music. Get your tickets early as this event is a sell-out success every year. Don't forget to bring a lawn chair. This event is brought to you by the Winchester Downtown Revitalization Committee.



WINCHESTER BIKE NIGHT

~~JUN 18, JUL 16
& AUG 20~~

CANCELLED

Gather your friends, get your bikes and come out for a sweet ride to Winchester! Free admission, live music, food vendors and more! Held the 3rd Thursday of the month starting in June from 5pm - 9pm (weather permitting). Check the Facebook page for updates and rain dates. You don't need a bike to attend this festival-like event. This event is brought to you by the Winchester Downtown Revitalization Committee.



CANADA DAY CELEBRATIONS

~~JUN 30 - JUL~~

CANCELLED

Celebrate Canada Day at the South Mountain Fair Grounds. The local Lions Clubs will be hosting the celebration starting with a pre-Canada Day party on June 30 featuring *Ambush*. July 1 events include activities for the entire family — a petting zoo, bouncy castle, musical entertainment, a BBQ dinner, refreshments, cake and fireworks.

[northdundas.com](https://www.northdundas.com)

Visit our Community Calendar of Events at northdundas.com
for full details on these and many other great events.



128TH ANNUAL SOUTH MOUNTAIN FAIR

~~AUG 13-16~~ **CANCELLED**

Don't miss the South Mountain Fair where there's something for everyone. Activities include cattle and horse shows, milking competitions, agricultural exhibits, demolition derby, truck & tractor pulls, baby show, midway, and great musical entertainment. Previous headliners include Terri Clark, Tanya Tucker and The Reklaws.

southmountainfair.ca



89TH ANNUAL CHESTERVILLE FAIR

~~AUG 28-30~~ **CANCELLED**

Celebrate rural life with a visit to the small fair with BIG value. Come see the truck & tractor pull, demolition derby, goat show and hunter horse show. Enjoy local entertainment and children's activities and browse the home crafts displays.

chestervillefair.com



THE FESTIVAL OF SMALL HALLS

OCT 9

The Ontario Festival of Small Halls is coming to Winchester. This international event brings exceptional Canadian musicians to a select number of small venues across Eastern Ontario for an unforgettable night. Share your love of music with friends and family at the United Church in downtown Winchester. Let's show our community spirit with a small-town welcome to be remembered.

thefestivalofsmallhalls.com



NORTH DUNDAS ANNUAL PARADE OF LIGHTS

DEC 5

Enjoy a full day of shopping activities, food, fun and of course Santa! The Parade of Lights and the vendor & trade show is a not-for-profit, volunteer-run event. Visit the website for a full list of activities and sponsorships. Check back often as events get posted as they are confirmed.

northdundasparadeoflights.ca



BEAT THE WINTER BLUES

JAN & FEB

Bring your family and friends to celebrate winter with these communities during their carnival weekend.

Morewood Winter Carnival - Jan

Marionville Winter Carnival - Jan

Chesterville Winter Carnival - Feb

Inkerman Winter Classic - Feb

Dates and activities will be posted on the Township's website and Facebook as they become available.

northdundas.com

EXPLORE *North Dundas Map*

Loughlin's Country Store



loughlins.ca

Applestock Orchard



cloverdalelinks.com

Cloverdale Links



HALLVILLE

Winchester Public Pool & 100 Club Park



northdundas.com

Cup of Jo's



cupofjos.ca

Mountain Orchards



mountainorchards.ca



MOUNTAIN

Winchester Curling Club



winchestercurlingclub.com

Winchester B&B



South Mountain Park Disc Golf



northdundas.com

The Copper Penny Pizzeria



SOUTH MOUNTAIN



Cass Bridge Conservation Area & Kayak Launch



nation.on.ca


ORMOND


e Links Golf Course


Oschmann Forest & Trail

nation.on.ca

MARIONVILLE


Cannamore Orchard & Acres of Terror

cannamoreorchard.com



CANNAMORE

MOREWOOD


Winchester Cultural Center
& Old Town Hall

northdundas.com


WINCHESTER


Chesterville Heritage Museum

northdundas.com


Louis' Restaurant




CHESTERVILLE


Simply Baked Catering

simplybakedcatering.com


Chesterville Public Pool
& Community Park

northdundas.com


Chesterville Bowling Alley



CASS BRIDGE



The Pavlounis Family
LOUIS' RESTAURANT

BY: NATION VALLEY NEWS | PHOTOS: GINA DRAGONE PHOTOGRAPHY

It takes a 'Louis' Restaurant to feed a village

CHESTERVILLE — Members of the Pavlounis family have cooked up tons of delicious food and served multitudes of patrons since taking over the eatery at the corner of King and Water streets 42 years ago.

They renamed the former Milano Restaurant after new proprietor Elias ‘Louis’ Pavlounis, a Greek immigrant who had arrived in Canada with just \$20 in his pocket years earlier. He and wife Pitsa, also from Greece, and their two Canadian-born children took up residence in Chesterville six months after Louis’ opened — moving into an apartment above the establishment. The living quarters were nothing strange to the family: The Pavlounises came to Chesterville by way of Winchester, where they occupied a similar dwelling over the Country Kitchen Restaurant; Louis and his brother-in-law had owned that business together for several years after purchasing it from the Dockstader brothers.

The Chesterville restaurant still draws its loyal regulars, but things have changed with the times as well, observes owner Dinos Pavlounis, seated beside his mother at the Chesterville establishment.

“Back in the day ... you knew everybody by name that came into the restaurant,” he says, contrasting yesterday’s scene with today’s equally welcome influx of new diners.

“There are a lot of different faces now,” adds Pitsa, who arrived in Canada when she was just 18 and met her late husband in this country. (Elias passed away in 2015). She continues to work in the restaurant.

They attribute some of today’s revolving traffic to the Garden Villa Retirement Residence, which draws visitors from further afield.

Dinos and his older sister, Dina, grew up working and helping out in the restaurant, and as Chesterville Public School students often went home to Louis’ for lunch — only to find themselves in competition with the noon-hour rush. The crowd back then included workers from the Nestlé plant, then teeming with employees.

“We would throw a burger on, and I think we probably got the fifth or sixth burger because the first, second, third and fourth went out to the customers,” laughs Dinos, who remembers learning to operate the cash register at age 10. The skill came in handy at school bake sales because “we always got to skip class to run the cash,” he says.

After more than two decades of residence in Greece, Dina, a teacher, and her twin daughters — now in their final year at North Dundas District High School — have returned to Chesterville. The Pavlounises live together in the former United Church manse behind the

restaurant, which they acquired and turned into their family home several years ago.

Louis’ originally opened with Greek and higher-end items on the menu but quickly shifted to the more popular fare demanded by the local marketplace. However, the proprietors have since added some Greek dishes, and Dinos credits Ottawa’s Greek Festival for creating



a local taste for souvlaki, chicken on pizza, Greek salad and other foods from his family’s ancestral homeland.

The Pavlounises also put their culinary skills to work developing their own pizza — one of their most popular items — which won a best pizza contest in Morewood a few years ago. It’s a point of pride for Dinos, as he perfected the crust to go with his father’s special sauce recipe.

The establishment’s long history shapes the way the place is today. When asked why they’re closed on Monday evenings, Dinos traces it back to the time when all of Chesterville was closed that day, except for the bank, post office and butcher.

There are highlights after being in business so long, and Dinos counts the unexpected visit by the President of Madagascar as one of them. The head of state for the African nation lunched at Louis after checking out grain-handling equipment in the area, including the set-up at the Vanden Bosch farm outside the village.

“Back in the day ... you knew everybody by name that came into the restaurant”



The Ice Storm of 1998 was another period they won't ever forget, in terms of sheer time and effort. The Pavlounises fed not only patrons coming through the front door but also donated prepared food to staging areas and schools through the back door — in concert with the local Rotary Club that picked up and delivered it, according to Dinos.

"We donated food to the soldiers," Pitsa proudly says.

"We were working nearly 22 hours a day," her son recalls. "I don't want to see it again. Even though we're prepared with a generator today, I still wouldn't want to see it."

Longtime patrons John and Beate Stewart have enjoyed the establishment for more than two decades. "We've been going to Louis' Restaurant for our daily morning coffee club and a few times a week for supper and coffee with friends for 23 years now," say the Dunbar couple.

"The food is always fresh and delicious, with generous portions too. We really enjoy the chicken parmesan and the pizza's, they'll surely be your new favorites with just one bite. Staff are also really friendly and make you feel like you're a part of Dinos' family."

"Louis' is a hidden gem, well known to locals for the delicious, authentic Greek food," says North Dundas Mayor Tony Fraser, who grew up in Chesterville. "My wife and I thoroughly enjoy going to Louis'. Another signature item is their pizza; I highly recommend the Louis' Special."

Chesterville resident Betty Vanden Bosch enthuses over the "amazing" breakfasts at the establishment, "especially the poached eggs with bacon." Adds Vanden Bosch, "I've lived in the area since 1965, and Louis' has always been a community meeting spot to catch up with old friends and meet new people. The service has been fast and friendly since the first day we became regulars."

Though it won't be as major a renovation as the work done at the place 18 years ago, the proprietors say that patrons can look forward to a planned refresh of the restaurant interior sometime in the near future.

"Louis' is a hidden gem, well known to locals for the delicious, authentic Greek food."

Ian Drew Enterprise Inc. **WYLIE CREEK ESTATES**

BY: NATION VALLEY NEWS

Wylie Creek Estates planted by a 'farmer at heart'

HALLVILLE — A self-confessed “farmer at heart,” Ian Drew still plants about 200 acres of crops in the Osgoode countryside each year.

But the former dairyman is really a grower of subdivisions, finding fertile opportunity for development just over the municipal border in the Township of North Dundas.

This spring, the local entrepreneur intends to break ground on the latest endeavour for Ian Drew Enterprises Ltd.

Located on the east side of Reids Mills Rd. (County Rd. 1) in Hallville, Wylie Creek Estates will feature 26 homes — each worth around \$500,000 — on one-acre lots.

“We’ll probably set a minimum standard of 1,400 square feet per home, with a two-car garage and at least 75 percent brick or stone on the front,” says Drew, seated in a pickup truck and glancing at the snow-covered property on a February day.

“We’ve already done a little bit of site prep, but construction is pretty much a go in May as soon as half-load restrictions come off the roads,” he says of the project, which he expects will take three years to complete.

Still settling on a builder — or builders — to erect and market the houses, the developer himself looks forward to handling excavation duties at the site, allowing him to keep a close eye on the project’s overall progress. Now in his 50s and an experienced carpenter in his own right, a smiling Drew freely admits to preferring the relative comfort of a bulldozer or excavator cab over swinging a hammer anymore.

Hallville has a lot to offer to potential homebuyers including its “small-town feel, and the nice general

store,” he observes, lauding the “terrific” Loughlin’s Country Store as the village’s “centrepiece.”

He also cites the community’s close proximity to both Winchester and Kemptville, as well as its easy access to Ottawa via Stagecoach Rd. to the north. In another drawing card for residents of Wylie Creek Estates — named after the first landowner registered on title in the 1800s — the township is planning a nearby park opposite the intersection of St. John Street.

It represents the third North Dundas subdivision in 25 years for Drew, who has followed in the footsteps of his late father, who built a number of Osgoode-area subdivisions in the 1970s and 1980s while operating the family’s five-generation dairy farm.

From infrastructure improvements to new assessment, development brings a myriad of benefits to the township, notes the businessman, who estimates his Wylie Creek investment to date at about \$500,000 and five years of time.

And as much as they draw newcomers to the community, he suggests such projects also accommodate expanding local families.

Watch for a Wylie Creek Estates marketing effort and website to launch in mid-May. In the meantime, interested parties may contact Drew at 613-223-8320.

*“the third
North
Dundas
subdivision
in 25 years
for Drew”*





The Weagant Family
WEAGANT FARM SUPPLIES

BY: NATION VALLEY NEWS | PHOTOS: GINA DRAGONE PHOTOGRAPHY

Pushing 70 years at Weagant Farm Supplies



WINCHESTER — The Weagant family name has been a staple of North Dundas agribusiness for nearly 70 years.

In 1953, Fred and Anita Weagant sold their farm and opened a store, F.R. Weagant General Merchant, offering everything from soup to nuts, as well as gas and farm machinery, in South Mountain. Their very first tractor to be offered for sale, a Minneapolis Moline, arrived in the North Dundas village by railcar that year.

“They owned one of probably about eight gas stations in town at the time,” says their youngest grandchild, Scott Weagant, a Vice President with Weagant Farm Supplies, today’s multi-location dealership spawned by those humble beginnings.

“Grandpa knew machinery just by looking at it. He was a Jack-of-all-trades,” explains Scott, whose father, Laird, is one of Fred and Anita’s four children — all of whom grew up immersed in the family business.

Barbara, Bob, Laird and Janice were all encouraged by their parents to pursue higher education — a trend that continued with their own progeny.

Bob began at Weagant’s in an official capacity in 1970, with brother-in-law Dave Black (Barb’s husband) coming aboard in 1974. While Bob and Dave have both retired after many years with the business, Laird — who joined the operation in 1980 — is still manager of the Brockville location, a position he’s held since the growing enterprise expanded into that community in 1982. He’s also president.

Enter the next generation: Scott’s VP role sees him serve as manager of Topline Trailers & Equipment, established in 1993 on County Rd. 31, north of Winchester. Stacey Weagant (Bob’s daughter) and Julie Black (Dave’s daughter) have been co-managing the flagship Winchester location.*

*“Grandpa
knew
machinery
just by
looking
at it...”*

“We’re all equal,” emphasizes Stacey, also a company VP while her counterpart at the shop has the title of Secretary-Treasurer. This trio of cousins have all been involved with the company since 1996 or 1997.

In early March, the Weagant family announced another late-breaking evolution at the Winchester site: The sale of that location to Delta Power Equipment of Exeter, Ontario. Stacey says the buyer takes possession of the Winchester store and assets on April 1st, while Weagant Farm Supplies Ltd. will carry on as usual at its other two addresses. Stacey and the Winchester staff will become employees of the newly renamed ‘Delta Power Equipment, Winchester,’ with the place still fly-

ing New Holland colours. “The name may change on the physical store, but the values and the people are still the same,” she assures. Meanwhile, Julie and her administrative team will remain in the employ of the Weagant company, which is moving its central office out of the long-time site and into rented space at the North Dundas Business Centre.

Arrayed with tractors on a sprawling footprint, Winchester has been the oldest of the Weagant dealerships since 1980 when the family closed and consolidated South Mountain operations into their “new” spot on County Rd. 43. The Winchester site was initially set up in the mid-1970s to handle the White tractor line, leaving the venerable New Holland brand at the original store for a few years until everything was brought under one roof.

Torrid growth in Winchester alone saw the company expand its shop again and again, with several additions constructed through the years.

The expansion into Brockville involved the purchase of an existing small outfit that sold mostly Hesston products — turning the Weagant clan into one of the first

Ontario dealers of that respected line. A new, bigger building was erected on the same property a decade later.

They added Kubota to the mix in 1993 by setting up Topline Trailer and Equipment Sales, to separate the Japanese maker's products from those of New Holland.

The company still remains very much in touch with its history and institutional memory. Two thirds of the second generation may have retired, but that doesn't mean they're uninvolved. "They're retired but not gone," laughs Scott.

Bob and Dave remain as directors with the corporation as well — and are familiar and active faces in the community, too. Bob and his wife, Sandra, were honoured with the North Dundas Community Builder Award in 2016 for their involvement in a slew of good causes in the township. Dave is a past president of the Morrisburg Canadian Club and has been involved with the local prostate cancer Black Walnut Support Group.

"We are blessed that we can access walking knowledge," says Stacey, adding, "But they're still very good at letting us do our own thing."

Fred Weagant passed away in 2003, just short of the company's 50th anniversary. His 95-year-old widow lives at Garden Villa, and Anita's presence there has been known to sometimes draw a sparkling New Holland tractor to the parking lot of the Chesterville retirement centre during special events.

The family matriarch returns regularly to social events at the dealership and still helps out at the annual open house that has been a Weagant tradition since 1978. "Mother's likely to be out there cutting buns again this year," says Bob of the April 15th, 2020, Spring Customer Appreciation Event that draws between 400 and 600 visitors for a feeding of free bratwurst sausage.

"It is our chance to thank our customers. It is also an unofficial kick off to spring," says Stacey of the April gathering. "Customers place orders and roll the dice for a cash discount on that day. We get 400 to 600 every year at the Winchester location. Customers attend in multi-generations as well. Many of our clients come in family groups on that day."

Bob says the firm's strategy of maintaining ample inventory has helped draw and build up that customer base through the years. "The majority of our business would come out of Brockville, Cornwall, Ottawa, but we have all kinds of customers in Huntingdon and Ormstown, Quebec, to Pembroke to Napanee," he says, adding, "and we do regular service for those people as well."

The Internet also generates sales further afield, he says, allowing the company to "fringe out to Western Ontario ... and across the United States."

Bob points out that the enterprise got its start in North Dundas and remains there today, describing the township as the "heart of Eastern Ontario agriculture."

"All of the major company dealerships are accessible in Winchester. That brings buyers and tire-kickers from all over the country because they can tour six yards at one time."

Weagant's has in recent years employed a workforce of over 75 people at its original three sites, the majority of them on the payroll of the family business for at least 25 years.

"The name may change on the physical store, but the values and the people are still the same..."



Nation Valley **SNOWMOBILE ASSOCIATION**

BY: NATION VALLEY NEWS | PHOTOS: GINA DRAGONE PHOTOGRAPHY

Snowmobiling fun for the whole family on Nation Valley Snowmobile Association trails

NORTH DUNDAS — The scenery, the snow, and the satisfaction of sledding serenely through a winter wonderland. The Nation Valley Snowmobile Association (NVSA) offers area residents a chance to enjoy this quintessential Canadian activity on its trail system — and beyond — as well as the opportunity to roll up their sleeves and help as a volunteer on the local 380-km network.

“I love snowmobiling because it’s just quiet,” says Association President Spencer Livingston. It’s a tranquility he feels while comfortably suited up and riding his 800 cc machine through the countryside, enjoying a scenic vantage point outside the usual. “I find it a great way to clear my head and just relax. You see a lot of stuff you wouldn’t normally see.”

Livingston says snowmobiling is a sport for the whole family. He notes that the crowd at the recent annual sweetheart breakfast and poker run (held at the NVSA precursor Mountain Trailblazers clubhouse at the end of Van Camp Rd.) included 10 children with their parents. The event also drew a couple of 14-year-olds driving their own machines. So long as they take an online course, kids as young as 12 can operate a snowmobile on the trail and must be helped across any road crossing by an adult.

Area sledders can also get a special sense of satisfaction by riding and raising money for a good cause — in the Nation Valley Snowarama. A decades-long tradition, the annual day-long event in late January is the local version of a fundraising activity involving a number of Associations around Ontario. The 2020 Nation Valley edition brought in \$4,800, helping children

with disabilities acquire necessary equipment through Easter Seals Ontario programs. “It’s a group that does all of it with hardly any assistance from us,” says Kelly MacLaren, Easter Seals’ Development Officer for Eastern Ontario.

Snowmobiles must be insured and have a current licence-plate sticker before using an Ontario Federation of Snowmobile Club (OFSC) pass to access 30,000 km of provincial trails, including those in NVSA jurisdiction.

An interactive trail map is available on the OFSC website and associated mobile app. But the NVSA also offers a paper map of the local trail system.

The Federation is the exclusive seller of trail passes (both seasonal and by the day) — available online only at www.ofsc.on.ca/permits. Approximately 350 residents of the local Association’s coverage area (in Dundas and Stormont counties) have taken out trail passes, with a percentage of that revenue forwarded to the NVSA to assist with trail maintenance, including fuel for trail-grooming equipment.

As with any other volunteer organization, the Nation Valley Snowmobile Association can always use more helpers on the ground, according to its president. There are opportunities to assist with trail clean-up, maintenance and patrol. And at the beginning and end of each season, it is volunteers that stake out the entire network with a slew of traffic signs and side markers. “You don’t have to go to meetings” if you want to help out, Livingston emphasizes.

“I find it a great way to clear my head and just relax...”



North Dundas RECREATIONAL PROGRAMS

Be it the deep end or dance floor, theatre stage or ice surface, soccer field, ball diamond or banquet hall, folks of all ages in North Dundas aren't lacking for opportunities to step out and enjoy each other's company through sport, culture and social gatherings.



ARENAS AND RINKS

Lace up those hockey or figure skates and enjoy the township's indoor and outdoor ice surfaces.

Our community naturally finds much of its recreational focus in not one, but two beautifully appointed arenas, in Winchester and Chesterville. A meeting place for many, these facilities are central community hubs during the winter.

Take a stride toward better health and enjoy the ice underfoot during public skating select times at both arenas. No skates? No problem. Borrow what you need from free skate- and helmet-lending libraries offered at both sites. There's no excuse not to take part!

Outdoor rinks in South Mountain, Morewood, Hallville and Inkerman offer the chance to skate under the winter sky on old-fashioned natural ice but are naturally subject to weather and volunteer availability.

Enrol your child in the North Dundas Demons Minor Hockey program, the perfect place to learn and polish the skills of Canada's national game and make new friends.

Perhaps one day, they will play for the township's own NCJHL North Dundas Rockets or CCHL2 Winchester Hawks — whose home games are a popular draw for local fans on cold wintry nights.

When spring season arrives, ice makes way for the Chesterville and Winchester arenas' underlying

concrete: Sign up for ball hockey, roller hockey as well as Friday night public roller skating (in Winchester), vigorous activities that put the arena slabs to fun use during the summer.

Keep in mind that arena space is also available to host private and public events like galas, wedding stags and other gatherings (the annual Local Business Expo in April being a prominent example). If you know someone looking for a large venue, please keep us in mind!

POOLS

Maintain your exercise regimen (or start one!) this summer by diving into some refreshing watersports at either of the township's public pools. Take the plunge and immerse yourself in Aquafit and Aquazumba, or simply take advantage of the scheduled public swimming times, including lane swimming.

Give your children the benefit of learning how to swim or improving their skills in the water. Lessons are taught at both the Winchester pool and the Chesterville pool — and each is home base to a proud tradition of competition with the Winchester Waves and Chesterville Rippin' Racers swim teams.

The pools are available for private rental as well — for birthday parties and other gatherings. Put some splash into summer by enjoying these North Dundas facilities.



Nearly 30 percent of Township of North Dundas spending goes into recreational programs and facilities each year, a \$3-million-plus investment that adds immeasurably to the quality of life and health of our residents — from toddlers to seniors and everyone in between.



BALL DIAMONDS AND SOCCER PITCHES

Meanwhile, if you have aspiring “boys and girls of summer” in your household, get these young ball players into the game and onto a roster with the Winchester Sox Minor Baseball organization. The township’s top-notch ball diamonds in Chesterville, Winchester and South Mountain draw ball players from around the area. This includes the members of the Winchester Sox NCBL Tier 1 team and the 2019 NCBL Tier champions — the Winchester Heat — as both are based in North Dundas as well. Casual recreational ball also beckons to adults with a hankering for at-bats and a run around the bases.

Youngsters enamoured with the most popular sport in the world can put “their foot into it” on a team with the North Dundas United Soccer Club, which plays at beautiful pitches in Chesterville and Mountain.

TENNIS, DISC GOLF

Thanks to Bianca Andreescu, the popularity of tennis is on the rise in Canada, and the township’s courts in South Mountain and Chesterville are just the place to become reacquainted with the sport — or for budding players to emulate their idol. Be sure to try a fun round of disc golf when visiting the surrounding park in South Mountain.

BORROW RECREATIONAL EQUIPMENT FROM THE TOWNSHIP

Beyond skates and hockey helmets at the arenas, the township’s sports lending library offers a variety of equipment to borrow no charge. Snow shoes, boating vests, camping and fishing equipment, a variety of bicycles and helmets, baseball bats and gloves, skateboards, various balls, golf clubs and aerobic step and riser sets — it’s easy to try out a new pastime without buying into it! Donations are accepted to keep up the selection.



BORROW FROM THE SDG LIBRARY

The SDG County Library Branches in South Mountain, Winchester and Chesterville are still the place to borrow books as well as engage in literary pursuits like the popular summer SDG Reads program and the annual Meet the Author event each fall. But the Library has also evolved beyond the printed page to offer a “Library of Things,” loaning out musical instruments and mobile hotspots, among other items. Also check out the top quality courses available through the online Lynda.com video library offered through sdglibrary.ca. Visit your local branch and get a Library card if you don’t already have one!





ARTS AND CULTURE AT OLD TOWN HALL

Did you know that arts and culture is part of the mandate of the township's Recreation Department? Among the municipally owned buildings in North Dundas, the Old Town Hall in Winchester is the major event centre and hub for the township's cultural community.

The Dundas County Players Theatrical Society has staged dozens of plays and shows at the venue over the last 20 years.

Aspiring actors in the community should keep their eyes peeled for audition opportunities with Society productions. Child actors are also sought for summer youth shows, such as last summer's hit, *Bugsy Malone*.

The main stage in the soft-seat theatre regularly hosts live musical acts as well. Visiting performers in recent years have included the likes of Dan Hill, Great Big Sea alum Sean McCann and Fred Penner.

YES, WINCHESTER HAS A MOVIE THEATRE

Theatre-goers also enjoy popular, up-to-date films screened by the "Moovie" nights committee — named in homage to Winchester's dairying heritage. Popcorn and treats are sold in the lobby. There's no need to head into the city to catch a blockbuster flick!

On Sundays, the Winchester Open Mic Café sets up in the theatre lobby, transforming the space into an informal coffee house filled with the song and guitar sounds of local musicians.

RECREATION PROGRAMMING

An opportunity to meet your neighbours, socialize and try out a new activity, the township offers a range of organized recreational classes and activities throughout the year at several buildings. A convenient online registration system ensures the participant's place in dance, yoga, tai chi, floor hockey, stick-and-puck pick-up hockey and more.

Get active with a suite of fitness-class options including crossfit, spinning, Zumba or jump rope — or get serene with gentle, restorative, back care and hatha yoga.

Put a spring in your step, music in your soul and some 'cha cha' in your heart at one of the township's dance classes — from ballroom, ballet, and highland dancing to line dancing.

It's all lined up for you to enjoy!



The Whittaker Family
JWSD EVOLUTION

BY: NATION VALLEY NEWS | PHOTOS: GINA DRAGONE PHOTOGRAPHY

*A tradition of fancy footwork continues to inspire one generation
after another in North Dundas.*

HALLVILLE — Scores of children and youth have thrilled to the pastime since Joanne 'Joey' Whittaker started a School of Dance in her name in 1982. She ran the successful Mountain enterprise, JWSD, for over a quarter century before closing down in 2008 to move to California with her husband.

Just two years later, Whittaker's daughter Thea Sanders and close friend Danah Raymondo couldn't help but reopen the business, changing the name to JWSD Evolution Inc.

"We just missed Joey, dancing and the atmosphere so much!" exclaims Raymondo, one half of this dynamic duo who were alumni of the original school.

"If someone called and asked for 'Joanne', we knew they had never met her before," says Sanders of her mother's popularly used name.

When Raymondo and Sanders decided to restart the studio, keeping the name was a no-brainer: So many people knew Joey Whittaker and the business's reputation.

It seems they made the right choice.

"We started with just over 90 students, and two types of dance — ballet and jazz," says Raymondo.

Now, with nearly 200 dancers, 40 different classes in several different genres, seven days-a-week, business is booming.

They offer classes in a variety of styles including tap, hip-hop, contemporary, jazz, ballet, creative movement for three- to four-year-old beginners, Mommy and Me classes and even a 20-plus class for those who miss dancing and just love to dance.

"It grew a little faster than we anticipated," Sanders acknowledges.

Growing up, the duo individually coveted the studio, each wanting to own it. When the time came and they actually decided to give it a go together, they admit to having last-minute thoughts of, "Should we actually do this?"

But that's a decade behind them now.

Sanders can't believe they're about to hit a double-digit anniversary since reviving her mother's idea. "Time flies. It's been 10 years now, which seems crazy!"

She and Sanders grew up together, first meeting through dance then becoming very close friends who felt more like family.

Raymondo left for York University to study dance at 18 with dreams of the Broadway stage. After realizing



the commitments she'd have to make — moving to Los Angeles or New York full time — she changed her mind, moved home and resumed dancing with her long-time instructor.

Sanders says she was also immersed in dance from a very young age.

"I remember being two or three and colouring while my mom was teaching, and even insisting on dressing the part. One day I was watching, and my mom was like "Well you might as well join us."

As instructors, the proprietors say it's just as important for them to continue learning as it is for their students. They attend teacher conventions where they take classes and seminars on how to teach different classes and learn new moves from other instructors.

Conventions are held every year in cities like New York, Los Angeles and Toronto.

Although they don't plan on bowing out of dancing or teaching anytime soon, they have had some older students share their interest in possibly taking over someday.

They say they love owning a business in North Dundas.

"The thing about being out here is that we have such a wide range of areas we pull from. We get students from Ingleside, Carp, Iroquois, Brinston, and even Kemptville," says Sanders.

"It's a really great community, you don't always get that in the city!" adds Raymondo.

*"Time flies.
It's been 10
years now,
which seems
crazy!"*



They moved from their long-time Hallville location to their new 505 Church Street, Winchester, address over the Christmas holidays. Many of the parents helped with the process.

"We had some dads putting in the flooring and some of the moms were painting and sanding. It was like a full-on family event," recalls Raymondo.

A non-competitive studio, the owners say their approach is really about the love of dance — and more. "We teach life skills, how to get along and mesh with others."

Seeing the JWSD Evolution troupe perform to the beat at various public events in North Dundas, the benefits of health, confidence and creativity from the activity are readily apparent.

Leslie Johnson can attest to such positives, having taken classes during the earliest days of Whittaker's tenure and continuing until her dancing "retirement" more recently.

Johnson's mother joined JWSD as a means of exercise and took her daughter, then age 14, with her. "I quickly grew to love the classes and the combination of movement and music," says Johnson. "Although I was 'the young one' I never felt out of place and grew some amazing friendships from the experience," adds the Chesterville resident, who found it an "easy decision" to later enroll all three of her own daughters.

*"I quickly
grew to love
the classes
and the
combination
of movement
and music..."*

Live. Work. Play.

"To this day, one of my daughters still dances with the school, and with the next generation now upon us, I see my grandchildren dancing there in the future," says Johnson, who suggests she "may even go back to join them on the small stage someday."

Stormont-Dundas-South Glengarry MP Eric Duncan also counts himself an alum of the school, with two years of classes in the early 2000s to his credit.

Rather than competitions, the operators offer trips to national and international dance conventions featuring a few days of intense dance classes taught by world-class choreographers.

This year's upcoming trip is one for the books: In July, 70 students, teachers and family members are headed to Disney World where JWSD students will have the chance of a lifetime to dance in the world-renowned parade.

"Everyone's very excited about that!" Raymondo exclaims.

The studio also hosts a huge showcase every other year and also performs annually at the North Dundas Local Business Expo. In the alternating years they organize ballet and tap in-studio exams. There's no grading per se, just feedback. According to the owners, it's more encouraging for the participants than just receiving a pass or fail.

Sanders and Raymondo and the other teachers of JWSD Evolution studio continue to inspire young dancers to do what they love — just as the original School of Dance did for them.

jwsdevolution.com



Nation Valley ATV CLUB

BY: NATION VALLEY NEWS | PHOTOS: GINA DRAGONE PHOTOGRAPHY

*The Nation Valley ATV Club revved to life a dozen years ago
and continues to roll forward in popularity.*

NORTH DUNDAS — A part of the Ontario Federation of All Terrain Vehicle Clubs (OFATV), the Nation Valley group operates its own 235-km trail network (entirely separate from local snowmobile trails) year round. Members enjoy the countryside on their machines in both summer and winter conditions, and everything in between.

Add-on tracks, mounted in place of tires and rims, allow the four-wheelers to travel even more effectively through snow these days.

The sport “has become massive in Ontario,” says Leslie Rediger, Secretary and Membership Coordinator for the Nation Valley ATV Club, which currently counts a membership of 263.

The Club’s ATV trail network has been growing but “fluctuates” a bit each year as new stretches are added and (sometimes) subtracted. “It’s a combination of trails through private property, road shoulders and unopened road allowances,” Rediger says of the network, which also connects into the systems of other neighbouring clubs.

Members can head to points further east and west, “and we’re working on a connection with the Rideau Lakes ATV Club, via Kemptville,” she says.

“Technically, we can go as far east as Limoges and Embrun area and as far west as Renfrew,” adds Shawn Doolan, a Club trail warden.

To the immediate north, the local trail system extends as far as the Osgoode area.

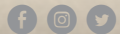
The Club’s most popular event is its Spring Ride, scheduled March 7 in 2020, with as many as 400 riders aboard 350 ATVs taking part. “People come from Quebec, all over Ontario and New York,” says Rediger. After several years of supporting Ride for Dad, this year’s rally is shifting gears; funds raised will go to Camp Erin.

She says it was the Club’s social activities that helped open up the community for her and her husband, Steve Hemeon, also a trail warden, when they moved to North Dundas. The military couple enjoy the year-round aspect of the sport, opportunities to reach campsites and travel with friends, and the ability to see the province’s natural landscape from a perspective not available in a regular vehicle.

Other highlights of the Club’s upcoming year include the June 12th weekend OFATV AGM (hosted by the local Club this year), the June 27 annual Summer Solstice Ride, the Aug. 16 Adam Wicks Memorial Ride, and the 13th annual Fall Rally (a Club fundraiser) on Oct. 3.

Annual trail passes are available through the OFATV website as well as the Country Kitchen Restaurant, where the Club meets. (Hard copy trail maps are also available at the establishment).

nvatvc.org



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Quebec, all over
Ontario and
New York,”*





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