

**\* READER CONTEST \* GOOD NEWS \* GREAT PRIZES \***

# This is Aylmer OUR HOME TOWN

Show what "This is Aylmer - Our Home Town" means to you. Whether you live here, grew up in Aylmer, work in town, have family ties or otherwise - let's highlight the wonderful, caring community that Aylmer truly is.

## SHARE YOUR PHOTOS, MEMORIES, ART - PRESENT AND HISTORIC

Send stories and photos to: ads@aylmerexpress.ca, 390 Talbot St. East, 519-773-3126, or message us on Facebook.com/AylmerExpress.

CONTEST RUNS FROM MARCH 3-28, 2021.

All entrants will be entered to win one of many **GREAT DOOR PRIZES**, including hundreds of BIA dollars, subscriptions, gift baskets, and more. Winners will be announced on March 31, 2021.

Inspired by Linda Kalmikov, a hometown promotion, by:



Multiple submissions welcome. Door prize draw entry limited to one per person.



**McTaggart Armstrong Insurance Brokers** has been proud to be part of this amazing community since 1927.



**Kerry Kerr**  
Registered Insurance Broker  
Office Manager



**Matt Sharpe**  
Registered Insurance Broker



**Melissa Walker**  
Registered Insurance Broker



**Meredith Webster**  
Registered Insurance Broker

**Aylmer is our Home Town.**

## McTAGGART, ARMSTRONG, DEWAR & OWEN INSURANCE BROKERS

A Division of Crawford and Danyluk Insurance Brokers Ltd.  
HOME • AUTO • FARM • BUSINESS

519-773-8401 | 1-800-505-5622 | 90 Talbot St. West, Aylmer  
www.mctaggartarmstronginsurance.com

10-24c

Ontario, Canada  
**Aylmer**  
Proud Heritage. Bright Future.

The Town of Aylmer is a great place to live, work and play.  
Best wishes from the Council of the Town of Aylmer.

46 Talbot St W, Aylmer  
519-773-3164 • www.aylmer.ca

**Aylmer Fire Department**

Proudly serving our Home Town!  
Aylmer Fire Department • 519-773-4905

**Home building centre**

Proud to be building OUR HOME TOWN!

Second Building Materials Ltd.  
187 John St. N., Aylmer • 519-773-8487  
www.homehardware.ca

**THE HEALING GARDEN** - established over 25 years ago by Ron Allen family, is under supervision of The Aylmer Grief Support. It is located directly north of the splash pad in Balmoral Park. There are almost 400 personalized memorial bricks laid in this special garden. You may "sit-a-spell" on a donated memorial bench, when you're "out-n-about" to reminisce & enjoy the attractive, quaint bubble rock and its surrounding gardens. The planting & maintenance of this special area is done by local avid volunteer gardeners. - Eva Wiebenga

**Spare Moments Craft Supplies**

New items in for Spring + Paint by number kits!

519-765-3550 | spareme@amtelecom.net | 530 Talbot St. E., Aylmer  
Mon. - Fri. 9am - 5:30pm | Sat. 9am - 5pm | Sun. Closed

**Johnny's RESTAURANT** "the little place with the big taste"

**HOME TOWN PROUD!**  
519-765-1724  
OPEN DAILY 7AM - 9PM

39 Talbot Street East, Aylmer, ON, N5H 1H3

**MCS** Mennonite Community Services of Southern Ontario  
faithfully linking resources with needs

Promoting integration and inclusion in our diverse community.

Mennonite Community Services  
16 Talbot St. E., Aylmer, ON • 519-765-3020  
www.mcs.on.org

**AYLMER TIRE**  
DIVISION OF SUMMERS TIRE SERVICE LTD.  
572 Talbot St. E., Aylmer

**Aylmer TIRECRAFT** 519-773-3141  
Auto Centre

**HOME TOWN PROUD!**

**WILSON WELL DRILLING**

PROUD TO LIVE & WORK IN ELGIN FOR 5 GENERATIONS OF WATER WELL SERVICES

**WELLS • PUMPS • SOFTENERS**

www.wilsonwelldrilling.ca  
519-269-3364 • 519-269-3995  
50850 WILSON LINE, SPRINGFIELD, ONTARIO

**\* READER CONTEST \* GOOD NEWS \* GREAT PRIZES \***

*"This is my grade five class from the year 2000! They had just made "time capsules" that were to be opened in 2010. The capsules contained newspaper clippings, photos, personal interests, favourite music, and current news of the time. I hope some of them were opened back in 2010!"*

*- Ginny Nielsen, Retired in 2013*



*"Aylmer Canning Factory on Myrtle St. The Factory opened in 1881 and closed in 1959. They canned peas and corn during this time. In the photo left to right: Charles Fick, Nelson Smith, Emery Mills, Morley Anderson (my dad)."*

*- Norma Jean TenHoor*



*"I came to live in Aylmer in 1961 when I married my husband Luke who worked at the Central Pipe Line (now Epcor) at the time. I have many memories of Aylmer. One is working as a volunteer at the Aylmer Fair in the Home Craft division for many years. I noticed that many family and friends from far and wide would meet one another there each year. This is one of the displays I set up. My entry is the white bedspread. Our Home Town is truly a town filled with many great people. "Proud to be an Aylmerite!" - Nelda Tenhor*

**IMPERIAL ROAD ANIMAL HOSPITAL**  
Caring for pets & their families in our **HOME TOWN**

IMPERIALROAD.CA 591 JOHN ST N AYLMEER, ON 519-773-8186

**we MUTUAL INSURANCE** We are firmly established We are all part of the same Community

HOME FARM AUTO BUSINESS

Aylmer Shedden Dutton Rodney  
Toll Free: 1-800-265-7635 www.westelgin.com

**SPICER'S BAKERY** Since 1950

Amazing baked goods for **OUR HOME TOWN!**

Tuesday - Saturday 7am-6pm  
20 Talbot St. W. Aylmer ♦ 519-773-8404

**Elgin Audiology**  
Hearing & Balance Clinics

17 King St., Aylmer  
**519-773-3838**  
www.elginaudiology.com

**AYLMER LEGION** Branch 81  
211 JOHN ST. N.

**HOME TOWN PROUD FOR 95 YEARS**  
Today, Tomorrow & Yesterday

**HILLS** PharmaChoice Advice for Life

Helping to keep our HOME TOWN healthy for over 74 years!

**HILLS DOWNTOWN** 35 TALBOT STREET EAST 519-773-9263 MON - FRI 9AM-5PM, SAT 9AM-3PM

**HILLS CLINIC** 420 TALBOT STREET WEST 519-765-2880 MON - FRI. 9AM-6PM

**Duck prints in the snow** - Margaret Klassen

**OSWELL CHIROPRACTIC CENTRE** 519-765-2565  
oswellchiro@gmail.com www.oswellchiropractic.com

**HOME TOWN PROUD!** WE'VE GOT YOUR BACK!

Serving Aylmer from 420 Talbot St. W., since 1991.

Lots of great memories of Johnny's for 38 years at the old Johnny's and a lot of great new memories to be made at the New Johnny's! We love Aylmer and we put our heart and soul into adding to our beautiful main street, and to serving our customers and community better. We are so proud to be part of this community. - Helen and Nety

**weedmd**

We're looking to reach **new horizons.** While **finding higher ground.** As we branch out into **new markets,** we'll continue to be **rooted in Aylmer.** And we invite you to **keep watching us grow!**

www.weedmd.com · orders@weedmd.com 1-844-933-3636

**CRIME STOPPERS** 1-800-222-8477

**Help prevent crime in your Home Town**

Your identity remains anonymous & you never have to appear in court. We pay cash rewards for tips on crime.

**1-800-222-TIPS [8477]**

www.stthomascrimestoppers.ca

**CYS BOWLING LANES & LOUNGE**

438 Talbot St E, Aylmer (519) 773-8072

**David Ritchie** took these photographs of Aylmer firemen exhausted from battling the flames in the sweltering heat of the large plastics fire in 1998.

Last week, four photos of the firefight that appeared in this section were also Mr. Ritchie's images. They were submitted by Yvonne Gavey.

**COLDWELL BANKER at SUCCESS REALTY** Independently Owned & Operated Brokerage

**AYLMER - WHERE WE LOVE TO WORK, LIVE & PLAY!**

52 Talbot St. E., Aylmer · 519-765-4993  
www.atsuccessrealty.com

**Howe Family FARM MARKET**

WE ARE DEDICATED TO COMPREHENSIVE SAFETY FOR OUR WORKERS, CUSTOMERS & COMMUNITY

Howe's Family Farm Market  
48556 John Wise Line, Aylmer  
**519-773-3779**

E-mail: info@howefamilyfarms.ca www.howefamilyfarms.ca

**FANCY NAILS and SPA** NOW OFFERING Laser Hair Removal & Laser Skin Rejuvenation

69 Talbot Street West, Aylmer, ON 519.765.2027

Contact us for a **FREE CONSULTATION**

Collision • Restoration • Paint

**Drew's Auto Body**

Your Home Town PPG Certified Collision Repair Centre

47733 John Wise Line, Aylmer, ON, N5H 2R4 Phone: (519) 765-3693

**Aylmer FAMILY DENTAL**

Proud to be creating and caring for smiles to share in the friendly and beautiful Aylmer community!

Dr. Lindsay Louwagie & Associates  
Phone: 519-850-2236  
4-418 Talbot St. W., Aylmer ON N5H 1K9  
aylmerfamilydental@gmail.com

**HAMILTON WARD & CATHERS INSURANCE SERVICE LIMITED**

Proud to be serving **OUR TOWN** for over 70 years!

AYLMER · Port Stanley · Tillsonburg · St. Thomas · Straffordville  
P: 226-667-4921 · www.hwcinsurance.ca

**igpc ETHANOL** Working together for our HOME TOWN!

**igpc FEEDS**

89 Progress Drive Box 205 Aylmer, Ontario N5H 2R9  
226-970-3293 www.igpcfeeds.ca

@FeedsIgpc @igpcfeeds @igpcfeedsON

**\* READER CONTEST \* GOOD NEWS \* GREAT PRIZES \***

# This is Aylmer OUR HOME TOWN

Share what "This is Aylmer - Our Home Town" means to you.

From your archives of December 9, 1981, you will find a much treasured picture taken by your now illustrious publisher: me, flanked by 6-year-old Peter (his all time favourite bowling alley is still Cy's because of their friendly service when he was a boy) and topped by 3-year-old Alex at the Santa Claus parade.

It was a tradition for many years for Paula and I to treat the kids to a parade where they could scramble for candies, laugh at the antics of the participants and line up to visit Santa. So much more fun and more personable than the London parade. Also, it was a chance to spend the day with parents Alf and Laura at their South St. home and to make the compulsory visits to Durkees, Spicers and a Dutch dry goods store among others. Forty years later, if this year's parade goes ahead Alex and Jon (living in Hamilton) would love to bring their 2- and 4-year-old boys to discover the down home fun of a small town parade.

While I left Aylmer about 60 years ago the pull, the memories and connections never disappear. Fifteen years ago Ray Perry found me and recruited me to join the "breakfast boys" he and Larry Jukes had organized and until COVID we met monthly at various area diners. Regularly attended by about two dozen guys of an older vintage, including regulars from London, Windsor, Sarnia and Brampton we exchange stories of our teen exploits, no doubt embellished, along with the results of our latest medical tests. It's a COVID casualty I truly miss but a vivid example of a hometown infection that stays with you.

- Dave Grimes, Ingersoll



Aylmer supports a thriving local thrift store! Owned and operated by Mennonite Community Services, all profits of this social enterprise go to local community programs and to the global relief, development, and peace work of Mennonite Central Committee. The thrift store diverts thousands of pounds of goods and materials from landfill every year. People of all ages - from high school students to seniors - volunteer at the thrift store to help it thrive. It opened as the Aylmer Mennonite Community Store in 1982, and has been so well supported by the community that it needed more space and moved to a larger location in November 2019! (Left: storefront in March 2002. Below Right: new location)



You could win...

**MERCHANDISE  
APPAREL  
SERVICES  
SUBSCRIPTIONS**

Share your stories

**HUNDREDS  
OF BIA  
DOLLARS**

Have you made Aylmer-themed art?

**BEAUTIFUL  
GIFT  
BASKETS**

Send your photos

**ALL PRIZES  
DONATED BY  
OUR LOCAL  
MERCHANTS  
AND SERVICE  
PROVIDERS**

Check old photo albums for memories!

**Paul Bode**  
Financial Advisor  
287 Talbot St. W.  
Unit 1  
Aylmer, ON  
N5H 1J9  
519-773-8226

**Invested in OUR TOWN!**

**Edward Jones**  
MAKING SENSE OF INVESTING  
www.edwardjones.ca  
Member - Canadian Investor Protection Fund

**Jenny McMullin**  
Sales Representative, ABR, SRES

**Our HOME TOWN**  
- a warm, welcoming community to raise your family!

488 Talbot St. E., Rear  
519-773-3113  
www.driver-realty.com

Call or Text  
**519.521.4444**  
jennymcmullin.com

**ELGIN INNOVATION CENTRE**

The Elgin Innovation Centre is proud to be a part of Aylmer for the last 11 years. For leasing and warehousing contact us at **519-858-4597**

516 John St. N., Aylmer ON

**Roszell's FURNISHINGS** QUALITY SERVICE for Over 80 Years!

**Aylmer - Our Home Town!**  
34 Sydenham St. West, Aylmer, ON  
**519-773-2031**  
www.roszellsfurnishings.com

Helping to keep OUR HOME TOWN clean!

Marketsquare Laundrymat & Wag'n Wash Dogwash

**SUPER SPLASH** Automatic "Touchless" Car Wash + 5 Self-Serve Bays **OPEN 24/7**

SPRUCE ST. EAST  
www.aylmersalesarena.ca • 519-765-2211

**GREAT PRIZES!**

Enter to win

SEE PAGES 12-13 FOR DETAILS ON HOW TO ENTER

**Aylmer Home Hardware**  
230 John St. N.

When you support local, local supports you.

226-289-2769 • aylmerhh@gmail.com  
homehardware.ca

Mon. - Fri. 8am-6pm • Sat. 8am-5pm • Sun. 10am-4pm

**MUTUAL FINANCIAL SERVICES** **HUB Capital Inc.**

Knowledge - Experience you can trust in OUR HOME TOWN

**Aylmer** 75 Talbot Street East • 226-667-6395  
**Straffordville** 9254 Plank Rd, PO Box 10 • 226-667-6411

**Butter Me Up Soap Company** Naturally, IN OUR HOME TOWN!

100% Natural Bath & Body  
30 Talbot Street West, Aylmer  
226-777-7359

Mineral Make-Up • Body Care Line • Facial Products  
Specialty Soaps • Mens Line • Gift Sets

Monday - Saturday, 9:30am - 4pm  
www.buttermeupsoapcompany.com

**JOHNSON EXCAVATING** 519-902-5345  
Lloyd Johnson

**Diggin' our HOME TOWN!**

Foundation Excavation • Driveways • Parking Areas  
Septic Systems Designed, Installed & Repaired  
Drain Cleaning • Camera & Locating • Building Demolition & More!

**HBI H. BROER** EQUIPMENT SALES & SERVICE INC.  
730 TALBOT ST. WEST, AYLMER

we are proud to call Aylmer home

519-773-3100 hbi.ca

*< I have a bit of a tear jerker. But I just love it. Taken the first St. Patrick's after dad passed. - Barb Kelly (Barb's father is Cy Kelly, the namesake of Cy's Bowling Lanes and Lounge*

*We have used this past year to do an entire renovation on Cy's (below). We have taken it back to the 1960's when our dad, Cy Kelly, purchased it.*

**Goodwill's USED CARS**

"Driving" our Home Town for over 40 years!

420 Talbot St. E., Aylmer • 519-765-1047  
goodwillusedcars.com

**home sweet home showcase** EAST ELGIN REALTY INC.

Jeneen Toth, Jeff Wiebenga, Michael Down, Eddy Wiebe

ShowcaseEastElgin.com p. 519 773 8800  
showcase@amtelecom.net

**H.A. Kebbel Funeral Home Ltd.**  
119 Talbot St. E., Aylmer, Ontario  
519-773-8400

Proudly serving OUR HOME TOWN for over 50 years!

**bakertilly** BAKER TILLY TRILLUM LLP  
Formerly EPR Trillium LLP Chartered Professional Accountants

**AYLMER, SMALL BUSINESS STRONG**

519-773-5348 • www.bakertilly.ca  
1-888-873-5348 • aylmer@bakertilly.ca  
174 SYDENHAM ST. E., AYLMEER, ON N5H 1L7  
• Tax Services • Accounting Services • Consulting • Bookkeeping

**Aylmer Veterinary Clinic**

Proud to be part of this community!

421 Talbot Street West, Aylmer, ON N5H 1K8  
519.773.3911 • aylmervet.com

**Elgin Feeds Ltd. Country Store**

Thank you to all our customers for their loyalty & continued support.

Your friendly HOME TOWN country store!

HOURS: MON.-FRI. 8AM - 5PM • SAT. 8AM - 3PM  
26 Beech St. W., Aylmer  
226-289-2403 • www.elginfeeds.com

**First Impressions** HAIR DESIGNING TEAM EST. 1990

Making your first impression, a lasting one in OUR HOME TOWN!

FirstImpressionsHair@amtelecom.net • FirstImpressionsHair.ca  
300 Talbot St. West, Aylmer, ON • 519-765-3288

**Ruby's COOKHOUSE**

Where family & friends come together to share good times & great food!

Mon. - Thurs. 9am-8pm | Fri. - Sat. 8am-9pm | Sun. 8am-8pm  
583 John Street North, Aylmer • 519-773-8786

**BERDAN PAVING LTD.**

Smoothing out AYLMEER, one driveway at a time! Residential & Commercial

Locally Owned & Operated for over 40 Years

For top quality work **519-773-3201**  
berdanpaving@hotmail.com