* READER CONTEST * GOOD NEWS * GREAT PRIZES

This is Aylmen 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:

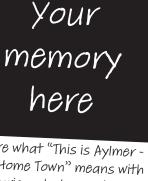






VIBRANT BUSINESSES

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is a great place to

live, work and play.

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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-aspell" on a donated memorial bench, when you're "out-nabout" 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



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"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



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



^ I came to live in Aylmer in 1961 when I married my husband Home Town is truly a town filled with many great people. "Proud to be an Aylmerite!" - Nelda Tenhor













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main street, and to serving our customers and community better. We

are so proud to be part of this community. - Helen and Nety



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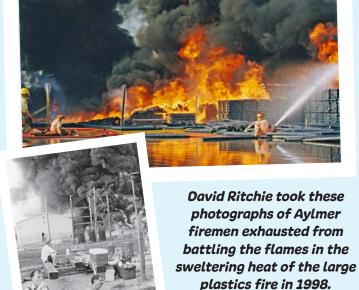
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Last week, four photos of the firefight that appeared in this section were also Mr. Ritchie's images. They were submitted by Yvonne Gavey.

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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 Oecember 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 Outch 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 COVIO casualty I truly miss but a vivid example of a hometown infection that stays with you.

- Dave Grimes , Ingersoll



Share your stories \$\$\$ OF BIA \$\$\$



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)

GREAT PRIZES!

inter to win

SEE PAGES 12-13 FOR DETAILS ON HOW TO ENTER

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I have a bit of a tear ierker. But I just love it. Taken the first St. Patrick's after dad passed. - Barb Kelly

Capital Inc.

(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,





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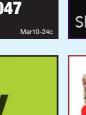
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