

## **Dutton Dunwich Economic Development**

*“Strengthening our Municipality through Creation, Partnership and Community”*



John E. Pearce Provincial Park



**Spring has arrived!**

**Take a stroll through the beautiful John E. Pearce Park and soak in the season.**

**Watch the Park come to life!**



**Congratulations**  
**Elgin Middlesex London MPP Rob**  
**Flack**  
**Named Minister of Municipal Affairs and**  
**Housing**

The Ontario Ministry of Municipal Affairs and Housing works to strengthen communities by ensuring strong, efficient local governments, and providing access to housing that meets people's needs, including policies for land use planning, housing supply, and provincial-municipal relations.

The Dutton Dunwich administration, led by Mayor Hentz, have been collaborating with MPP Rob Flack to address challenges and develop solutions for the wastewater treatment facility.

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**Don MacLeod (Named Interim CAO Dutton Dunwich)**

**Welcome to Dutton Dunwich.** Don started his career at Harwich Township in Kent County as Deputy Clerk and then moved to Bayham Township as Clerk/Administrator. He was in Bayham for four years before moving to Zorra Township where he remained until he retired last October. He has served on various Boards and Committees across the Province, including: board chair of the Municipal Health and Safety Association of Ontario, board chair of the Provincial Services Health and Safety Association, board member of the Ontario Municipal Administrators' Association of Ontario as well as having served on several committees and task forces.

Don's experience will assist the municipality in guiding it through the wastewater upgrades, working with engineers and ensuring the necessary steps are taken through the process.

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**Dutton Flour Mill - Impact of doing business in the USA**

**Business arrangements from Dutton to Indiana Circa 1921.**

**Dutton's Connection to the corporate giant General Mills.**

**A story of economic expansion.**



**The Dutton Flour Mill was established in 1874 by Archibald McEachern on Lot 7 Main Street North opposite the Dutton Dunwich Public School.**

In 1886 **Henry Hollingshead** from Galt a pioneer millwright moved to Dutton and purchased the mill from John Leitch and made many technological advancements including adding more capacity and an office. Later his son **William** in 1908 would take over the business. In 1921 William made a very important move for the milling company. He contracted with **Inglehart Bros. of Evansville Indiana** for milling of the very popular **Swan Down Flour**. A high-grade cake flour and special quality bran. Hollingshead cooperated with the MPP for Elgin F.S. Thomas, who was the agriculture representative, and got many farmers to grow the grade of winter and red wheat required for Swan Down Flour. Selling and doing business abroad is nothing new. Today many products move freely across borders creating opportunities for new markets and expanded capacity. Wealth was created in the Hollingshead family as a result of a decision William made in 1921.

**Learn more about The Dutton Flour Mill at Backus Page House in the Agricultural Building where you will find a truck that was once owned by Dutton Flour Mill.**



## **Inglehart Bros Mill - Indiana**

The Inglehart Bros Mill later became General Mills



## Home Grown - Agritourism and think Local!



### Farm tours from your couch Immerse Yourself in Canadian Farm and Food Tours

Thanks to a fabulous project by Farm & Food Care Ontario, tours of a wide range of modern farms and agricultural businesses are literally just a couple of clicks or taps away!

**FarmFood 360**, available online, offers 27 unique virtual farm tours that provide an inside look at how farm animals are raised and how crops are grown. The latest editions include behind-the-scenes tours of Ontario dairy, eggs, sheep, ginseng and berry farms, with more exciting tours currently in production.

[Check out the website below](#)

[Visit Farm Tours 360 here!](#)

## Find a local farm experience near you

There is no shortage of agritourism experiences across Ontario. Consider searching online for local breweries, wineries, cideries that are open at this time of year for tours and tasting. Many of them also sell local meats, cheeses and other products to help round out your experience.

Some dairy and other farms also offer visits, tours and on-farm shopping, and don't forget about local greenhouses and nurseries as a beautiful indoor space to walk around and plan your spring purchases.

And finally – it's maple syrup season and maple syrup producers across Ontario, including some local Conservation Authorities, are offering tours, tastings, and the chance to learn how this tasty product is made. A visit to [OntarioMaple.com](http://OntarioMaple.com) or a quick online search will help you find a producer near you.

[Agritourism experiences across Ontario - start here!](#)

## Dutton Farmers Market

The Dutton farmers market prepares for another season. The market has changed locations and will now be located in the parking lot of the Dutton Community Center.

June 1, 2025 to October 5, 2025 from  
9:00am to 1pm every Sunday

Proudly Sponsored by McNeil Insurance Brokerage



## Spotlight on Business

**McNEIL INSURANCE**  
BROKERAGE  
DUTTON, ON

**McNeil Insurance Brokerage  
Dutton**

Home Auto Farm Business  
181 Currie Rd. Dutton, Ontario

[McNeil Insurance Website](#)

**The roots of McNeil Insurance run deep in Dutton Dunwich.  
A business that had stood the test of time!**

The **McNeil family** settled in Port Talbot in 1843, and they still farm the same land.

In 1936, Murray McNeil bought Dan Black's insurance business and established **McNeil Insurance** in Dutton. Sixteen years later, John McNeil (Murray's nephew) started in the insurance business with his father, selling life insurance, general insurance and real estate while running the family farm.

Bonnie Vowel joined the company in 1979. When John sold his business to Crawford & Danyluk Insurance Brokers in 1990, Bonnie remained with McNeil Insurance Brokerage as the office manager.

**For nearly 90 years, McNeil Insurance has been a cornerstone of our community, actively supporting various activities and events. Most recently, they have proudly taken on the role of major sponsor for the 2025 season of the Dutton Farmers Market.**

[Send us an email - Your comments are welcome](#)

## Small Business Help starts Here!

alterna **savings**

### Alterna savings

"Discover the Good in Banking"

Dutton Branch

Personal, Commercial, Small Business, Investing and  
Community Banking  
For our community!

[Alterna Savings Website - Click here.](#)



### Elgin Business Resource Center

Serving all of Elgin County

The Resource Centre has someone that can help your  
business reach its full potential.

Contact Felicia Brice [fbrice@elgincfdc.ca](mailto:fbrice@elgincfdc.ca)

[Elgin Business Resource Centre | Free Business  
Counselling & Loans in St. Thomas \(elgincfdc.ca\)](#)



### Fanshawe Career & Employment Services St Thomas

Looking for employees, apprentices, employment  
grants opportunities, employment workshops. **They  
can help with employment placement and funding.**

Click below to learn more:

[Career and Employment Services - St.  
Thomas/Aylmer | Fanshawe College](#)

**Looking for a job.... Are you hiring? Contact Employment Services Elgin**



### Employment Services Elgin

**West Lorne Library** - 169 Main Street  
Tuesdays 10 am to 4pm

**Rodney Library** - 207 Furnival Rd.  
Fridays 10am to 4pm

**Dutton Library** - 36 Shackleton Street  
Monday 10am to 4pm

[Employment Service Elgin Website](#)

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**[Send us an email - We would love to promote your business. \(click here\)](#)**

**[Click here to like us on Facebook - Dutton Dunwich Economic Development](#)**

## **Tourism, Culture & Community**

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# **Community Calendar**

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**Crinan Community Centre  
Spring Drive Thru Beef Dinner  
Saturday, April 12, 2025**

**Roast Beef & Gravy  
Mashed Potatoes & Veggie  
Coleslaw & Roll  
Dessert**

**\$25**

**Tickets available from**

**Barb (519)878-9736**

**Alan (519)768-2759**

**Limited tickets available  
until April 7**

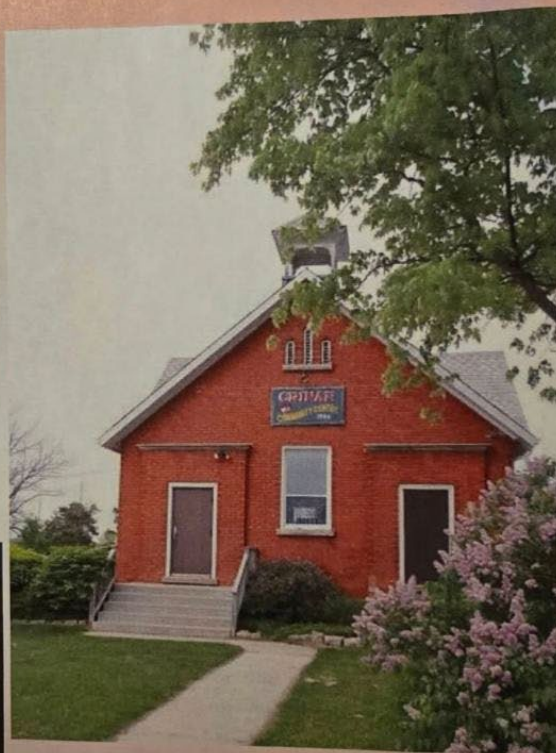


**Pick up 4:30-5:30**

**at**

**Largie Church**

**13125 Largie Road**



**All proceeds to be used for  
improvements at  
Crinan Community Centre**





SUNDAY APRIL 13, 2025

# Wallacetown Optimist Club EASTER EGG HUNT

SCAN HERE FOR LINK TO  
GOOGLE FORM FOR  
SENSORY HUNT



Kids 11  
and  
under

**Sensory Friendly Hunt 11:00 am**

Sensory Hunt - Please Preregister with Google Form

**Public Hunt 1:00 pm**

**Dutton Community Centre**

**Prizes for Best Decorated  
Easter Egg Basket**

1 Scotland Road, Dutton, N0L 1J0

Follow us on Facebook @ Wallacetown  
Optimist Club



# WARTIME HOMEFRONT

**BACKUS-PAGE**  
HOUSE MUSEUM



**MAY 31<sup>ST</sup>  
& JUNE 1<sup>ST</sup>**  
11AM-5PM

ADULTS \$15  
SENIORS \$10  
KIDS & VETERANS FREE!

ALL ACCESS WEEKEND  
PASSES:  
ADULTS - \$25  
SENIORS - \$15

EXPERIENCE BEING TRANSPORTED  
BACK TO CANADA DURING WORLD  
WAR I AND WORLD WAR II.

THIS IMMERSIVE EVENT FEATURES  
A MULTITUDE OF INTERACTIVE  
BOOTHs, EACH BRIMMING WITH  
ENGAGING ACTIVITIES FOR KIDS  
OF ALL AGES!

29424 LAKEVIEW LINE, WALLACETOWN  
[WWW.BACKUSPAGEHOUSE.CA](http://WWW.BACKUSPAGEHOUSE.CA)  
519-762-3072

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