

CENTERS' CHATTER

Published by the Leamington & District Half-Century
Centre Inc. A great place to make new friends!

July | August
2026

From the President

We have a Centre that we can be very proud of, thanks to you, the members, the donations, and the anonymous donors for 60 years.

We added this mural in 2019 to the west side of the building which all the town people are talking about. The whole interior has been remodelled. In the past 11 years, we have spent about close to \$500,000 on the centre.

Thanks to the board over the years for their wise decisions. And again, thanks to our CEO for keeping us as the centre we are today. We look forward to all our anniversaries in the future.

Cliff Hartwick, President



THE LEAMINGTON AND DISTRICT HALF-CENTURY CENTRE

A member of the Older Adult Centres' Association of Ontario

From the Executive Director – Christine Lehn

This year we celebrate our 60th Anniversary. The week of July 6 – 11 we will be having special events. Details are not final for the events during the week so watch for announcements.

On Saturday July 11, we will be having a comedy show in the afternoon, followed by a dinner. Special guests will be stopping in to say a few words. It is only fitting that we celebrate with comedy since laughter is an important aspect of our Centre.

I would like to thank our outgoing Board Members, Carmen Unsworth, Debbie Clinton and Gloria White for all their contributions. Welcome to our new Board Members Remi Fournier, Ernie Purr and Kathy Klym.

Every year we welcome 3 new members to the board. Please keep this in mind for next year. Have your say on how the Centre operates.

A big thank you goes out to Burgess Restaurant for donating the ice cream for our Strawberry Social. Also thanks to Carl's Produce for reducing the cost of strawberries. The construction on Seacliff has reduced traffic flow past his place but he still was generous enough to help us. Please say thanks to these two fine businesses when you shop there.

This summer, Qirui Li, will be working as our summer student. Please welcome him. I look forward to working with him. He is a bright young man and fun to be around.

BOARD OF DIRECTORS 2025-2026

PRESIDENT – Cliff Hartwick
PAST PRESIDENT – Larry Hillman
VICE PRESIDENT –
TREASURER –
SECRETARY – Shelley Miguel

MEMBERS OF THE BOARD

Jean Clark
George Clark
Remi Fournier
Kathy Klym
Ernie Purr
Peter Scorrar

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

Christine Lehn

JANITOR

Christina Pinch

BOOKKEEPER

Pam Siddall

REGULAR PROGRAMS & EVENTS

RECREATION: Art Group, Band Practice, Bridge (Contract & Duplicate,) Cornhole, Cribbage, Darts, Drum Fit, Euchre, Line Dancing, Pepper, Pool, Shuffleboard, Yoga.

TUESDAY LUNCH PROGRAM

ENTERTAINMENT: Bus Trips, Card Parties, Picnics, Dinner Theatre, Special Programs, Travel.

MEMBERSHIP: \$45.00 per year (April 1st – March 31st)
Ministry of Transportation Senior's Group Classes

NEWSLETTER SUBSCRIPTION:

Mailed to you: \$15.00 per year for 6 issues

Centre's Chatter is a publication of the Leamington and District Half Century Centre composed by staff with

contributions from Directors, Members and others interested in the issues and concerns of seniors. It is produced 6 times a year. Please contact us if you have comments, contributions, or if you would like to purchase advertising, or be a distributor of our newsletter.

SOCIAL SERVICES:

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Parkinson's Exercise & Support Group

Guest Speakers on Senior's Issues

160 Talbot Street East
Leamington, ON N8H 1M2

Phone: 519-326-2521 Fax: 519-326-2348

E-mail: halfcenturycentre@cogeco.net

Web: www.halfcenturycentre.ca

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REGULAR CENTRE ACTIVITIES

ART GROUP	WEDNESDAY	9:00 am.
BAND PRACTICE (Musical G's)	WEDNESDAY (call office for location)	10:00 am.
BRIDGE (Duplicate)	MONDAY & FRIDAY	12:30 pm.
BRIDGE (Contract)	WEDNESDAY	1:30 pm.
CORNHOLE	WEDNESDAY	1:30 pm.
CRIBBAGE	THURSDAY	2:00 pm
DARTS	THURSDAY	2:00 pm.
DRUMFIT	MONDAY	1:30 pm
EUCHRE	TUESDAY & FRIDAY	1:30 pm. 7:00 pm
LINE DANCING	MONDAY & THURSDAY	9:00 am. 7:00 pm.
PEPPER	SUNDAY WEDNESDAY	2:00 pm. 7:00 pm.
POOL ROOM	MONDAY - FRIDAY	8:30 am. to 4:15 pm.
QUILTING GROUP	MONDAY	9:00 am.
SHUFFLEBOARD	FRIDAY	1:30 pm.
YOGA	FRIDAY TUESDAY	9:30 am. 1:30 pm.

REGULAR PROGRAMS

DRIVE TEST G1 & G2

Eye/Written & Road Test

4th Tuesday Monthly at 9 am-12 noon and 1pm-4 pm

For road test appointments please call 1-888-570-6110;

do not call the centre.

PARKINSONS EXERCISE & SUPPORT GROUP

Tuesdays 10:30 am.

VOLUNTEER INCOME TAX CLINIC FOR LOW INCOME

TUESDAY LUNCH PROGRAM

Home-cooked meals at a great price. Enjoy our friendly service and comfortable atmosphere.

Lunch is served at 12 noon and cost is \$10 per person. Meals include an entrée, vegetables, salad, bread roll, dessert, and tea or coffee. A thank you to Venvi Residence and Rosewood Erie Glen for each supplying dessert once a month.

Please call the office at 519-326-2521 for the week's menu, and to be added to the list the Thursday before the luncheon. If you have any comments on the week's menu or suggestions for an upcoming menu please contact Christine. We try to make all meals interesting and enjoyable. Please note the menu is subject to change. We will not accept any walk-ins. Space is limited.

Lunch Menu

July 7 - Pulled Pork	August 4 - Pasta
July 14 - Hamburgers	August 11 - Cevapi
July 21 - Liver & Onions	August 18 - Ham
July 28 - Chicken Wraps	August 25 - Chicken Drumsticks

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Ted Bachmeier talks to the crowd after his afternoon of entertaining us with his music.

We all enjoyed his performance and can't wait to have him return.



Day Tours	
Grand Bend Theatre	
Frozen	
August 11 th	\$195
Over the River Through the Woods	
Aug. 20	\$195
Drayton Theatre	
Sister Act	
July 16	\$249
St. Jacobs Theatre	
Return to Grace	
July 30	\$229
Port Dover Theatre	
Liars at the Funeral	
Aug. 15	\$239
A Women Lover List	
Sept. 10	\$239
Get Down Tonight	
Sept. 23 rd	\$239
Hamilton Family Theatre	
Murder on the Orient Express	
Oct. 22 nd	
Overnights:	
Stratford/Shaw	
Sept. 15-17 th	\$899 Dbl
Agawa Canyon/Mackinac Island	
Sept. 23-26 th	\$1339 Dbl
Nashville	
Sept. 25-28 th	\$1339 Dbl
Niagara Bingo	
Oct. 1-2	\$295 Dbl
Collingwood Fall	
Oct. 4-7 th	\$1315 Dbl
Ottawa/Cornwall	
Oct. 15-20 th	\$1619 Dbl
Lancaster, PA.	
Sight & Sound (Joshua)	
Nov. 9-12 th	\$1319 Dbl

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Collins Law

We are partnering with the Alzheimer's Society for a "Social" Every Thursday morning from 9 – 12, we will be having a social group for those with early to mid-stage dementia or Mild Cognitive Impairment.

There will be games to enhance the brain, physical games to keep you active, emotional support discussions and refreshments.

We ask that you preregister so we are well prepared for the number of participants. There is no charge for this. The aim to slow the progression of the diagnosis.

I truly believe this is a positive activity for many of us. I am looking forward to this partnership.



The Social

**Sessions run
year-round**

A weekly social group for persons living with early stage dementia.

The Social is a 3-hour holistic designed recreational programming for individuals with early stage dementia.

The Social offers:

- A safe, comfortable and inclusive environment
- Engaging activities that promote social, mental and emotional well-being
- Care Partner respite
- Light refreshments offered each session

Additional Details

LOCATION:

Half Century Centre

160 Talbot St E, Leamington, ON
N8H 1M2

Registration is required

THURSDAYS

9 AM - 12 PM

CO-DESIGNED PROGRAMMING

For inquiries, please contact:

(519) 326-2521

halfcenturycentre@cogeco.net

ELIGIBILITY:

- In most cases, client has a diagnosis of early stage dementia or Mild Cognitive Impairment
- Client is able to stay within the program space for the duration of the session
- Client is able to find their own transportation to and from program



REGULAR CENTER ACTIVITIES - July

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
			1	2	3	4
			Canada Day Closed			
5	6	7	8	9	10	11
		Lunch: Pulled Pork Must sign up by previous Thursday	SAC Music by Common Ground at the Marina 10:00			60th Anniversary Celebration
12	13	14	15	16	17	18
		Lunch: Hamburgers Must sign up by previous Thursday				Pepper Tournament
19	20	21	22	23	24	25
		Lunch: Liver & Onions Must sign up by previous Thursday		Petrolia Trip		
26	27	28	29	30	31	
		Lunch: Chicken wraps Must sign up by previous Thursday				

Regular Weekly Activities

Pepper 2:00	Line Dancing 9:00 Sewing Group 10:00 Bridge 12:30 Drumfit 1:30	Lunch - Noon Euchre 1:30 Yoga 1:30	Art Group 9:00 Bridge 1:30 Pepper 7:00 Cornhole 1:30	Darts 2:00 Cribbage 2:00 Line Dancing 7:00	Yoga 9:30 Bridge 12:45 Euchre 7:00 Shuffleboard 1:30
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REGULAR CENTER ACTIVITIES - August

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
						1
2	3	4	5	6	7	8
	Civic Holiday Closed	Lunch: Pasta Must sign up by previous Thursday	SAC Border City Barkers at Meadowbrook Church 10:00			
9	10	11	12	13	14	15
		Lunch: Cevapi Must sign up by previous Thursday				
16	17	18	19	20	21	22
		Lunch: Ham Must sign up by previous Thursday				Pepper Tournament
23	24	25	26	27	28	29
		Lunch: Chicken Drumsticks Must sign up by previous Thursday				
30	31					

Regular Weekly Activities

Pepper 2:00	Line Dancing 9:00 Sewing Group 10:00 Bridge 12:30 Drumfit 1:30	Lunch - Noon Euchre 1:30 Yoga 1:30	Art Group 9:00 Bridge 1:30 Pepper 7:00 Cornhole 1:30	Darts 2:00 Cribbage 2:00 Line Dancing 7:00	Yoga 9:30 Bridge 12:45 Euchre 7:00 Shuffleboard 1:30
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Happy Birthday

July

Carolyn Wolf	1
Marie Ellwood	2
Dolores Near	2
Robert Buxbaum	5
Keith Hopper	6
Jim Leach	12
Marilyn Whittle	14
Kathy Klym	15
Debbie Scratch	17
Sandra Schumacher	19
Shirley Morel	20
Carolyn Campbell	25
Rosemarie Purr	25
Jean Towle	31

August

Peter Dickie	2	Eileen Bartel	21
Ernie Purr	4	Marie Mayhew	21
Aggie Halford	7	Bob Bell	22
Shirley Lehn	13	Carole Dibbley	23
Tom Testani	16	Charyn Tilden	24
Kathleen Bradley	17	Garry Johnson	25
Gary Hillier	17	Gaetan Levesque	25
Laurie Hylton	17	John Nikosey	25
Erwin Gurske	19	Karl Wachholz	25
Ken Lavender	19	Linda Lavender	26
Marlene Schmitt	20	Rosemary Heilser	28
Anne Horan	20	Steve Acott	29

The Leamington and District Half-Century Centre welcomes these people who have joined since our last publication. So, let's extend a big welcome to each of them and introduce yourself to them; remember how you felt when you were a new member of the Centre.

We welcome you, our new members, and encourage you to take part in as many of the activities as possible. We would also encourage you to get involved as a "volunteer." This is the quickest way to get to know us. Our volunteers are the reason why the Centre is so successful. We could not function without the people who give so generously of their time and energy to the Centre.

Welcome New Members

Christine Ball	Jenny Jackson
Roger St Dennis	Andrea Anthony-Luke
Linda St Dennis	Laurie Groeneweg
Roberta Adlam	Robert Buxbaum
Anna Olmsted	Marie Buxbaum
Glen Ure	
Kathleen Earle	


In Remembrance
Elaine Taylor
Isabelle Webster
Vi Major



The Beatles

Thursday, September 24th

With the success of All About ABBA, we step back again into the golden age of pop, as we celebrate the unforgettable Beatles catalogue and their songs that changed the world! From the early days of She Loves You and I Want to Hold Your Hand to the revolutionary sounds of Sgt. Pepper, Abbey Road, and Let It Be, this show is bound to be another VPP knockout!



Tickets: \$ 75 - members only until September 1st

Lunch at the Golf Course - please make meal selection

Tickets include transportation and the show. We will be departing from the Half Century Centre at 9:45 am. We will be stopping for lunch at the Golf Course. Tickets are limited! Please sign up one month in advance!


60th Anniversary Celebration

Do you know that the Leamington Half Century Centre was established as a Canada Centennial project? The Leamington and District Half Century Club was incorporated on May 4, 1966. The official opening of the Club's building at 38 Mill Street West took place on May 2, 1967. By September of that year the membership had grown to 239.

In July of 1970 the Club moved to its current location on Talbot Street East. The west room addition was completed in November of 1973, and the billiard, storage, and board rooms were opened for use on October 8, 1980. On May 15, 1992 our official name was changed to the Leamington & District Half-Century Centre, Inc.

This in very condensed form, covers 53 years of the Centre's existence, and takes us to the recently completed renovations. I hope you will all enjoy the "new" facilities, and invite you to attend the "Reopening of the Centre" on November 8. Despite joyful highs and troubling lows, the Centre has maintained its objectives of helping seniors to enjoy their leisure time.

-Homer Vandervecht



We thank Homer for his writings on the Centre's history. Continuing on what has been happening at the HCC. Don Nicholson and I hired Christine Lehn in 2015 as our administrator, and things have been progressing ever since. We have implemented 4-5 Petrolia trips every year and it has been a real popular program.

There have been many improvements to the Centre, we painted the entry and dining area that brightened up our club with the help of an anonymous donor, and your help and with the town's assistance we refurbished the parking lot.

- Cliff Hartwick

Saturday, July 11th - 3:00 pm
Comedy Show & Dinner

\$20

Please get your tickets by July 3



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MEADOWBROOK CHURCH

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WITH THEIR TALENTED DOGS

DATE

AUGUST 12TH

TIME

10:00 AM

LOCATION

**MEADOW BROOK CHURCH
219 TALBOT RD E, LEAMINGTON,**

DATE

JULY 8TH

TIME

10:00 AM

LOCATION

**THE LEAMINGTON MARINA
90 ROBSON ROAD, LEAMINGTON**

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OUTSIDE
THE BOX**



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