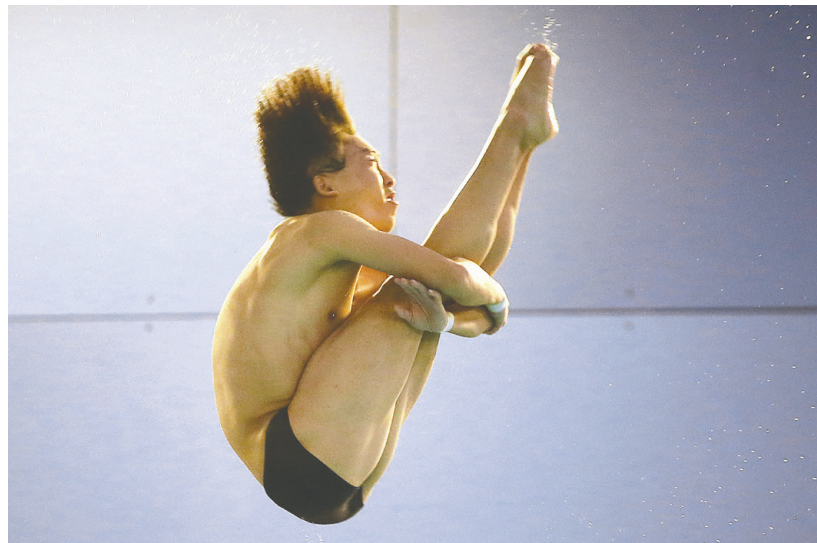




**WORLD DIVES INTO WINDSOR**

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THURSDAY, APRIL 9, 2026

ESTABLISHED 1890

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**Charity takes heat as sponsor cut**

**Art in the Park under fire after Chick-fil-A dropped from event**

TREVOR WILHELM

The charity behind Windsor's Art in the Park annual event and fundraiser is taking heat from all sides after announcing Chick-fil-A as a sponsor — and then dropping the restaurant — amid an uproar over the fast-food chain's controversial history with the LGBTQ community.

Allan Kidd, past president of the

Rotary Club of Windsor (1918), told the Star that many "armchair activists" are unmoved by the charity's removal of Chick-fil-A as a sponsor this week. And it has angered others who think the company should be able to donate to charity.

"Now we're under attack from both sides," said Kidd, also chair of the club's Art in the Park committee. "There's a group of people say-

ing, 'How is this inclusive? How can you call yourself inclusive if you're excluding people because the founder of the corporation is a Christian?' And then you've got other people that are saying, 'OK, you got rid of them but we want a public execution.'

"It's not enough, you didn't apologize enough."

The controversy came as a surprise to organizers — Kidd said Chick-fil-A sponsored the charity event in 2024 without a peep of protest.

The committee revealed the

event's 2026 sponsors last week, with the Chick-fil-A logo prominently displayed near the top of the list. The announcement was immediately met with criticism focused on the company's past financial support of organizations that oppose same-sex marriage initiatives and LGBTQ causes.

"I was stunned to see Chick-fil-A listed as a sponsor for Art in the Park and I know that many people in the community are, understandably, outraged, as well," wrote one of many critics.

SEE CHICK-FIL-A ON **A4**

**NP**

**CANADA**

Cases shed light on human smugglers' methods **NP1**



**IRAN WAR**

Both sides claim win in ceasefire **NP3**



The Ambassador Bridge, above, trails Sarnia's Blue Water Bridge as the No. 1 trading crossing to the U.S. **DAN JANISSE**

**Ambassador loses top spot as busiest trade link to U.S.**

TAYLOR CAMPBELL

The Ambassador Bridge's long reign as the busiest Canada-U.S. trade crossing has come to an end.

The Blue Water Bridge in Sarnia saw roughly 274,000 more commercial trucks than the Windsor border crossing last year, representing a major change in the movement of international freight. Why are carriers opting for a

bridge more than 100 kilometres away? Experts say high toll rates at the Ambassador are primarily to blame.

Tolls for commercial trucks at the Blue Water Bridge, which is owned by the Federal Bridge Corporation Limited, a Crown corporation, are \$7 per axle.

It's a fraction of what the privately owned Ambassador Bridge currently charges: up to \$27 per axle for those without what the U.S.-

owned company calls an A-Pass or E-ZPass. Trucks with passes pay around \$20 per axle to cross the Ambassador Bridge.

"The trucking industry, and particularly the trucking supply chain, is highly competitive. Companies strictly manage costs to stay competitive," Stephen Laskowski, president and CEO of both the Canadian Trucking Alliance and the Ontario Trucking Association, told the Star.

"Obviously, a great number of companies did their own calculations," leading to a "significant shift" in commercial traffic to the Blue Water Bridge.

SEE AMBASSADOR ON **A4**

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Windsor/Essex Hall of Fame 2026 class named **NP6**

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