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Waterloo Oxford celebrates graduates in commencement ceremony

Grade 12 students commemorated at Wilmot Recreation Complex on June 26



Grade 12 students at WO throw their graduation caps in the air at the conclusion of their commencement ceremony at the Wilmot Recreation Complex on Monday night, June 26.

By Veronica Reiner

A commencement ceremony for Grade 12 graduates of Waterloo Oxford (WO) District Secondary School took place at the Wilmot Recreation Complex on Monday night, June 26.

Throughout the commencement, there were welcome and opening ceremonies, including procession of graduates and staff, territorial acknowledgement, and the singing of O'Canada.

"Tonight is really about all of you graduates. You truly should be so incredibly proud of yourselves tonight. You did probably what no staff member in this room ever had to do - survive a four-year high school journey that no one could have ever prepared for," said WO teacher Robert Kovanchak, who also acted as the Master of Ceremonies (MC) for the event.

"You overcame so many obstacles - social and academic. Our hope as your teachers,

who have watched you grow, is that you can take what you've learned and endured here at WO, and go out into the world and do amazing things."

Special guests in attendance included Kitchener Conestoga Member of Parliament Tim Louis, Member of Provincial Parliament Mike Harris, Wilmot Mayor Natasha Salonen, and Superintendent of Education Vida Collis.

Continued on page 4

Care homes drop mask mandates - local providers thrilled

By Lee Griffi

The two government bodies in charge of rules and regulations in Ontario have ended mandatory masking in long-term care and retirement homes. What that means is staff members at homes are no longer required to wear masks unless asked to do so by a resident or resident family member. In addition, caregivers and visitors are recommended, but no longer required, to wear masks in all areas of a home.

The Ministry of Health and Long-Term Care and the Retirement Homes Regulatory Authority both rolled back masking mandates this week after being heavily lobbied by associations of care homes. The mandates have been in effect for over three years.

Steven Harrison is the Chief Executive Officer at Tri-County Mennonite Homes. He is also a board member at AdvantAge Ontario, an association of not-for-profit long-term care, housing, and services for seniors, and said the group had been advocating for some time now to have the mandatory mask mandate taken away. "This is a very welcomed shift on a number of levels. The residents like to see who is providing care to them. For some of our residents with cognitive impairments, a mask can be a little threatening. For others with hearing impairments, they do have elements of lip reading or reading your face. This is a really positive change that has happened."

Harrison added that from the operator side of things, staff members are pleased. "It's been four long years of wearing them on a day in day out basis. And from the leadership side, it's nice not to be having to chase people about wearing a mask all the time." Harrison admitted health care is never an easy place

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NEWS —

Care homes drop mask mandates – local providers thrilled

Continued from page 1

to work, and mask mandates didn't make it any easier. "You're dealing with people at end-of-life scenarios, families who are coming to grips with guilt and remorse, sadness, frustration, a whole bunch of things. Not having the flexibility to choose as an operator has been very difficult." He added that if staff are doing a point of care assessment and it is determined a mask would be best suited for an engagement with a resident, then that should happen as opposed to a blanket statement of all masks, all the time, regardless of who the person is. "It's putting the decision around care back in the hands of the care providers. That is the part we are quite excited about."

COVID gave the long-term care and retirement sectors the opportunity to learn where they could improve. "Hand hygiene, infection control practices, the proper use of personal protective equipment. I think, in many regards, we took it for granted that we were doing it well. We learned that we could do it better, and I think we are a stronger and more robust sector because of it."

Jen Killing is the Vice President of Quality, Research, and Strategic Partnerships at peopleCare and said the new government directives will be welcomed by everyone. "It is a very visual reminder of pandemic life. It is the last one thing to change that everyone is looking forward to. The other positive thing about this is we will still be mask friendly. People can now make their own choice which wasn't possible before this (government) directive around masking."

Deb Wettlaufer is the Executive Director of peopleCare Tavistock and said the end of masking is a blessing for everyone. "It will be so great to see the smiling faces of all of our staff again, including the newest members of our team, many of whom we haven't ever seen before. Being

able to see faces and hear others better will also make it easier for residents to communicate with their care team. We're really pleased about this change."

Killing added she doesn't believe there will be much in the way of resistance and health care has been the last sector to drop mandatory masking. "We have measures in place such as vaccines and the rest of the province has moved on to making their own decisions about masking. I really can't imagine there is going to be any pushback. I think everyone is going to welcome it." She added the great thing about the changes is the province has been taking their time and the decision on masking really comes down to the point of care assessment. "Removing masks in our home for everyone during routine day-day living and working is welcome news for residents and staff and an important step for quality of care."

Caressant Care owns and operates 25 long-term care and retirement homes across Ontario, including the Maples Home for Seniors in Tavistock. The Gazette reached out for an interview, but the company sent a brief, prepared statement. "Caressant Care will continue to follow requirements and recommendations released by the MLTC and the RHRA in alignment with the Office of the Chief Medical Officer of Health related to pandemic response measures for the safety of our residents and staff," said Natalie Dechert, Vice President of Operations.

peopleCare construction update

Ground was recently broken on the company's rebuild of the existing long-term care home in Tavistock. "Everything is on schedule, everything is going well, and we aren't experiencing any sort of challenges at all at this point," said Killing. The new home is expected to open late in 2024. "About 18 months from shovel in the ground for the 128 beds."



Tri-County Mennonite Homes CEO, Steven Harrison. (Photo credit: Tri-County Mennonite Homes)

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COMMUNITY —

The Butcher Barn opens old school operation in Oxford



Chris Bray shows off a package of his Italian smoked sausage at The Butcher Barn, a new butcher shop just outside of Hickson. (Photo credit: Lee Griffi)

By Lee Griffi

Oxford County's newest butcher shop is located in a 150-year-old barn just outside East-Zorra Tavistock and is run by life-long Hickson resident Chris Bray along with his wife, Tanya.

While he's never owned his own business, Bray is very well known in the area, having worked with meat since he was 12 years old at a number of local shops. "I used to work for Steve Rudy, helped Clarence Herlick out, helped Butch Mogk out a little bit too, and Brent Miedema in Embro. I helped out a lot with killing. There aren't many people who know how to do it."

For Bray, it is the realization of a years-long dream to be his own boss. "Something I have always wanted to have is my own shop. I am taking my 25 years of experience, and I am going to show people what I can do." Bray said it took about four months of building to open the store, and he added he couldn't have done it without a lot of elbow grease from his close buddies. "I have friends in almost every trade. An electrician, a plumber, and a framer. And between them all, they put this together. They have all just started their own small businesses, so it was nice to be able to give them the work." Red Clover Electric, J B Construction, and Revita Construction all chipped in to make The Butcher Barn a reality.

In terms of the products for sale, Bray said he could produce anything a customer is looking for. "Pretty well; anything you want to buy, I can have it. I'm not doing any custom butchering, other than custom curing and smoking. A lot of other shops bring their products here, and I smoke it for them."

The one part of Bray's business he is most proud of is the way he smokes his meat, a skill that is often lost in today's butcher business. He added quality is always his

top priority. "I do my curing and smoking the old-fashioned way. There isn't any liquid smoke. It's all brined, and it takes a week to make everything. Its time. Good things take time. There are no fillers or additives in my sausages. It's all gluten-free. It's the best quality possible." Bray buys all of his animals from local suppliers, including pork from T.J. Murray and beef from Norpac. "Great quality from both. It's always the best."

The business is located in Blanford-Blenheim Township, just outside of East Zorra-Tavistock on Road 8. While not a highly travelled path, Bray said they are focusing on word of mouth and social media to spread the word. "(My wife) Tanya has done a great job on Facebook, and that has already brought us a lot of business." He added supplying restaurants and retail stores is on the radar. "Going forward, we are going to get our feet under us, get a good routine going and then try to expand from there."

Bray said what makes his hard work creating his high-quality protein is the response he gets from his customers and friends. "I love doing this every day. I have gotten feedback from people that they have never had smoked pork chops like the ones they bought here." The 39-year-old butcher has received some interesting feedback from his friends over the years who say his smoked bacon is so good they call it 'Braycon.'

Bray's two children, son Jackson, is 10 and daughter Brynnley is 7, do their best to help despite their young age. "You gotta take the time to teach them. Just like I was taught."

The Butcher Barn is open Thursday and Friday from 8 a.m. to 4 p.m. and Saturday from 8 a.m. to 1 p.m. Appointments can be made from Sunday to Tuesday by calling 226-228-1023.

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COMMUNITY —

Waterloo Oxford celebrates graduates in commencement ceremony

Continued from page 1

Many volunteers went into putting the event on and making it a success, including about 50 teachers and staff that acted as greeters, readers, presenters, runners, marshalls, ushers, reception crew, and stage managers.

There was also a formal presentation of diplomas, certificates and awards, which showcased each graduate student and what they plan to do in the future. Many awards were handed out throughout the night, including subject awards along with special awards.

For example, Malcolm Duggan and Caleb Cook both won the Optimist Club of New Hamburg Award, which recognizes the contributions and achievements of worthy graduates in and around the Waterloo-Oxford community.

Isaac Currah won the Fleming Life Balance Award, which recognizes those who have the ability to balance academic achievement, school participation and work.

McKenna O'Connor won the Steinberg Family Award, which is given to graduates who have proven to be hardworking, in academics and in the pool as a swimmer.

Tavia Shonk won the Nancy Silcox Writer's Award, given to a graduate who shows exemplary talent in writing, writes in their own times and/or plans to study writing at a post secondary institution.

Sykora Waechter won the SAC Award, which recognizes exceptional leadership, services and sacrifice to student activities

at WO.

Camryn Zitzelberger won the Jennifer Fewkes Memorial Award, which celebrates graduates who have demonstrated an outstanding effort to succeed at the highest possible level in the grade 12 Mathematics of Data Management course.

Sonja Kagolovskaya won the Marguerite Geiger Memorial Award, which is given to a senior student who has shown exemplary participation in the music program at WO and is continuing in a full time music program at university.

Olivia Stiles won the Wilmot-Tavistock Gazette Award, which is given to a student in recognition of their valuable contribution to student publishing.

Following this, there were principal's remarks by WO Principal Carolyn Salonen.

"As you graduate, you are prepared and well positioned to go forward and change the world in a positive and lasting way," said Principal Salonen. "In the words of Martin Luther King Jr., the time is always right to do what is right, and we know you always will."

There was a valedictory address delivered by Tori Jantzi. Each year, the graduating class valedictorian is chosen by the graduates themselves. Graduates have the chance to nominate a peer by putting forth a nomination form detailing the reasons why their nominee would be an excellent choice to represent their graduating class. This nomination form requires 10 student signatures and two teacher signatures.

Jantzi's speech, along with many others

throughout the night, touched on the difficulties associated with school shutdowns due to the COVID-19 pandemic.

"There were some positives to distance learning - I learned that teamwork is very valuable, especially when completing online assignments," said Jantzi. "We learned that two metres is 46 Timbits - thank you to Tim Horton's. But then, the restrictions cleared up, and so did the acne. And after two years of pandemic life, we were finally able to have that first spring formal in grade 11."

Jantzi also mentioned a Relay for Life event that took place at WO, which raised thousands of dollars for cancer research.

"In conclusion - no matter what you're doing next year, I wish you the best of luck. And remember - life is all but a series of Google searches and trial and error experiences."

A charge to the graduates was delivered by Kathleen Cosgriffe Gundy. The charge is characterized as a command, direction, instruction or wise encouragement typically given by a teacher near or at the end of their career.

Gundy encouraged students to continue to develop their talents and learn in all aspects of their life, to continue to achieve in whatever endeavors students' chose, to continue to grow in respect and admiration of their colleagues and families.

Following this, there were closing remarks and recessional.

Special awards included the Ben Grosso Memorial Award for compassion, the Bene

Arare Award, the Bill Bond Memorial Award, the C.J. Seltzer Memorial Award, the CFUW Dr. B. Mabel Dunham Award, the CFUW Edna Haviland Chemistry Award, the Creative Beginnings Child Care Award, the David F. Loree Memorial Award, the Dr. John Schaefer Memorial Award, The Erb Transport Economic Award, the Equity Excellence Award, the Faculty Award, the Fred Stein Technology Trades Award, the I.W. McNaughton Memorial Scholarship, the John Hume Award, the Kinsmen Club of KW Community Scholarship Award, the Kyla Kowalik Quiet Leader Award, the Legal Studies Award, the Leis Pet Distributing Leadership in Business Award, the Mike Baldwin Memorial Design Technology Award, the Optimist Club of New Dundee Youth Appreciation Award, the OSSTF Teaching Promise Award, the Paul Diebel Trades Award, the Peace United Church Helping Award, the Principal's Award, the Ron E. Kropf Visual Arts Awards, the Royal Canadian Legion Awards, the South Easthope Mutual Insurance Company Accounting Award, the South Easthope Mutual Insurance International Business Award, the Susan Douglas Memorial Award, the Sylvia Forbes Business Leadership Award, the Technological Department Citizenship Award, the Top Learner Award, the Township of Wilmot award, the Vive Le Français Award, the WO Staff Fund Award, the Waterloo County School Bus Operators' Award, the William Gross Environmental Values Award, the Wilmot Agricultural Society Award, and the Governor General's Academic Medal.

Air quality advice from SW Public Health

By Wilmot-Tavistock Gazette Staff

Smoke from ongoing forest fires in Quebec and Ontario has impacted the air quality in several regions of Ontario, including Oxford County and the Region of Waterloo.

On June 27th, Environment Canada issued a special statement for Oxford County because the Ontario Air Quality Health Index (AQHI) for the region is rising to 7, which is considered high risk.

The health unit is offering some advice for residents, and they recommended we monitor the AQHI to evaluate the risk of smoke pollution to their health, as conditions and health risks could change quickly. Wildfire smoke can harm health, even if you cannot smell it. Symptoms of smoke exposure can include sore or watery eyes, runny nose, eye irritation, coughing, and headache.

For the general population, the health unit recommends reducing strenuous or

prolonged outdoor activities. They say it is also a good idea to stay inside if you have breathing difficulties, keep windows and doors closed when possible, and contact your healthcare provider if you have new or worsening symptoms. They suggest wearing a well-fitted respiratory type of mask if you have to spend time outdoors.

Those who are at-risk, such as people who have asthma, lung disease or heart disease, or older adults, children, pregnant women, and those who work outdoors,

may have a higher degree of health effects due to wildfire smoke and should evaluate their individual health risks.

The Air Quality Health Index calculates data from 39 air monitoring stations across Ontario to assess pollution-related health risks and air quality. Forecasts are posted hourly every day. The health index risk levels range from 1-3 as low risk to health, to above 10, indicating a very high risk to health.

The Wilmot-Tavistock Gazette

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COMMUNITY —

Waterloo Oxford celebrates graduates in commencement ceremony



WO student **Tori Jantzi** delivers her valedictory address during the commencement ceremony on Monday, June 26. The valedictorian was chosen by other WO students.



WO principal **Carolyn Salonen** gives an inspiring speech to graduates during the commencement ceremony on Monday, June 26.



WO graduate **Casey Bender** was presented with an award by Vice Principal **Sandy Millar** during the commencement ceremony on Monday, June 26.



WO graduate **Isaac Currah** was presented the Fleming School-Life Balance Award by Vice Principal **Sandy Millar** during the commencement ceremony on Monday, June 26. The award is presented to recognize a students' ability to balance academic achievement, school participation and work. (All photos by **Veronica Reiner**)



WO graduate **Selena Erb** was presented with several awards during the commencement ceremony on Monday, June 26, including the Snyder's Family Farm award. This award recognizes a graduate who shows entrepreneurial spirit, and who is involved in school life.



WO graduate **Olivia Stiles** was presented with several awards by Vice Principal **Dan Ballantyne** during the commencement ceremony on Monday, June 26, including the Wilmot-Tavistock Gazette award. This award recognizes a students' valuable contribution to student publishing.

COMMUNITY —

KWSP Humane Society pop up event update

By Amanda Modaragamage

The Humane Society of Kitchener Waterloo & Stratford Perth (HSKWSP) hosted a pop-up event as both centers were nearing capacity.

“We have 200 animals in care between our two centres, and almost 80 pets currently available for adoption,” stated Kathrin Delutis, chief executive officer of HSKWSP. “We are hoping our community will choose to adopt this week and give a pet a loving home.”

The event took place Wednesday, June 21st and June 22nd, from 1:00 p.m. until 8:00 p.m.

All adult dogs and cats, as well as small animals, had a reduced adoption fee in order to incentivize new families to take the leap and find animals their forever homes, “Our goal is to find forever homes for the animals currently in our care,” stated Amanda Hawkins, senior manager of animal care at HSKWSP. “For each home we find, it opens up a space for another pet in need.”

Between the two locations, staff has seen a total of 1,025 animals come into care since the beginning of 2023, and there are currently 73 pets waiting for a spot at the shelter. Hawkins noted, “Our goal is to find forever homes for the animals currently in our care,” she stated. “For each home we



Sunshine getting ready to go home with her new owners at the Humane Society, Stratford Perth location.

find, it opens up a space for another pet in need.”

The pop-up event worked, and the Humane Society of Kitchener Waterloo & Stratford Perth found loving homes for 64 in-need animals in and across Kitchener, Waterloo, Stratford and Perth County. These include 14 dogs, 40 cats and 10 small animals!

When asked why the rate of animals being surrendered has increased in recent

months, Hawkins added, “The most cited reasons for surrender were for financial or medical reasons, with pet owners finding themselves unable to afford care, pay veterinary bills or retain long-term medical support for their animals. We’ve also seen an increase in calls from people asking if we have support services and how to access them.”

Among the support options available to pet owners is the Pet Pantry program, which helps support pet owners in urgent need of pet food and basic supplies due

to a personal crisis or financial limitations. The HSKWSP also offers low-cost spay-neuter and microchipping services.

Among the newly adopted animals was Sunshine (pictured here with her new owners), one of 13 puppies born at the Stratford location earlier this year; her new owner happily said, “We heard about the pop-up adoption event from a family member and decided to come in to take a look and fell in love with her.”

In a recent statement, The Humane Society of Kitchener Waterloo & Stratford Perth noted, “The Humane Society cares for animals in both their animal centres, as well as with the help of a large number of foster parents at both sites. They have recently found themselves near capacity, with lost and stray pets continuing to come in from their 13 service areas across Waterloo Region and Perth County and community members calling for rehoming support. Operating as a registered charity, the HSKWSP does not receive any government funding for its charitable programs and services and relies on the generosity of its donors and fundraising events and activities.”

If you are interested in donating to the Humane Society of Kitchener Waterloo & Stratford Perth, please visit kwsphumane.ca or find them on social media @kwsphumane.






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COMMUNITY —

Tavistock's Scotiabank cooking up a storm for local minor ball teams



From left, Ellen Hurley (adviser), Lois Gascho who stopped by for lunch, Israel Franco, Marg Herlick (customer service manager), Tanner Michalek, Vicki Eckhardt (adviser), Nichelle Horst, Michele Froom (branch manager), and working inside the branch (not pictured), include Deb Stevely and Tina Wolff.

By Gary West

Tavistock minor ball got a boost from the team of the local branch of Scotiabank last Friday, as staff members barbecued up great food and refreshments for a good cause.

The local financial institution takes pride in knowing they are helping local

organizations raise money, and in this case local ball teams.

Some organizations Scotiabank have helped in the recent past include the Canadian Transplant Association, Tavistock Community Health, and Shakespeare's Optimist Club's bake sale in support of the villages new walking path.

East Zorra-Tavistock recognizes volunteer fire crews



East-Zorra Tavistock Firefighters, past and present, were recognized for long standing service to the community at a ceremony last week at Craigowan Golf and Country Club. Township Fire Chief Scott Alexander said that over 405 years of service is represented by the group of dedicated volunteers. The was to catch up with the provincial and federal milestone awards that were unable to formally be presented due to covid restrictions over the past few years. The provincial awards were for 25, 30, 35 and 40 years of service and the federal awards are presented at 20, 30 and 40 years of service. Front row from left to right: Chris Roth, Phil Buzzell, Mike Donaldson, Greg Bender, Jon Rowe. Back Row: Yvon Gigault, Andrew Raymer, Tom Bickle, Tyler Thompson, Kevin Ward, Nelly Green, Fred Chilvers, Chief Scott Alexander. Those unable to attend: Ron Lightfoot, Kevin Kaufmann, Tim Moyer, George Junker. (Photo credit: EZT Fire Department)



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COMMUNITY —

New Dundee resident voices safety and environmental concerns with municipal drain project



A New Dundee resident walking her son to the end of Cottage Lane to get on the bus. The contractor was operating on the road, with the excavator blocking the one way lane. There was no flagger to direct the family across from the construction site safely.



The contractor operating without proper erosion and sediment controls. (All photos by Courtney Huber)

By Veronica Reiner

A New Dundee resident has voiced several safety concerns with a municipal drain project on Cottage Lane near Queen Street.

The project is being constructed by Robert M Simon Construction Limited of Waterford for \$192,162.80 (plus harmonized sales tax) back in December 2022. The drain is intended to find sufficient outlet for run-off of agricultural drainage.

Courtney Huber is a Certified Inspector for Sediment and Erosion Control and an Ecologist, whose property backs onto the construction site.

"They do not appear to be directing the contractor to ensure public safety or environment safety during active construction," said Huber. "Wilmot township drainage superintendent Ken Vanderwal is not returning my calls regarding my concerns."

Huber listed several examples. A neighbour was trying to walk her son to the end of Cottage Lane to get on the school bus. The contractor was operating on the road, with an excavator blocking the one way lane. There was no flagger to direct the family across the construction site safely.

This also could have had major consequences if an emergency vehicle needed to travel down that path, as the roadway was blocked with aggregates, added Huber. When Huber pointed this out to the Ministry of Labour, she was told that it was a "gray area," due to the fact that it is an easement and not a high traffic road. She was also told that the Ministry of Labour jurisdiction does not govern public safety.

Huber also observed workers operating without proper shoring on June 14. Shoring provides a temporary structure for construction projects to prevent the collapse of systems on site.

The contractor was also operating without proper erosion or sediment controls to protect the watercourse - an Alder Lake tributary that outlets into Alder Lake - that is within 30 metres of the construction site. When Huber pointed this out, the contractor attempted "to install a silt fence, but it was not installed properly or in all areas that

required sediment and erosion protection," said Huber.

Heavy equipment was operating within a wetland. Huber found a destroyed birds nest, and believes it was a possibility that the contractor did not conduct a proper sweep during bird breeding season.

Under the Migratory Birds Convention Act / Migratory Bird Regulations (which ensures the protection of active nests and viable eggs), a construction company must check the area for all nests before they begin working. If they see a nest, they are required to construct an enclosure around it so they do not harm it, and continue to monitor the nest until the young have fledged.

Huber said she approached many officials at Wilmot township regarding her concerns. She contacted Senior Engineering Technologist Nate Fach, who was leaving the role shortly, and Wilmot Mayor Natasha Salonen, who she did not receive a response from.

Huber did receive a response from Ward One Councillor Stewart Cressman, who came on site to observe and listen to her concerns. "My understanding is that he attempted to make contact with people responsible for the municipal drain such as the engineers and drain superintendent but did not get far himself," noted Huber.

The communications department at Wilmot Township said that a drainage engineer was appointed to oversee the project. Stephen Brickman of Headway Engineering was appointed as the Drainage Engineer for this project.

"The Township of Wilmot takes responsibility to the environment, and health and safety very seriously. The Consultant, Headway Engineering, and the Township have worked with the contractor to ensure safe working conditions on the site," said the unnamed communications department in an email to the Wilmot-Tavistock Gazette.

"We have also ensured traffic control is installed as per MTO Book 7, the Ontario Traffic Manual for Temporary Traffic Conditions, and confirmed that trench safety is being adhered to. We are satisfied with a recent Ministry of Labour visit which indicated no present concerns."

They added that Wilmot township staff visited the worksite, and did not witness evidence that the contractor

contravened the Ontario Migratory Birds Act. The project will continue to be monitored to ensure the contractor is adhering to provincial requirements and municipal standards.

"The Queen Street Municipal Drain project is progressing well, and we anticipate completion in this area within the next couple of weeks," said the township.

The Wilmot-Tavistock Gazette reached out to the contractor for comment, but did not hear back by press time.



A destroyed birds' nest at the construction site.

COMMUNITY —

Castle Kilbride National Historic Site announces 2023 summer programming line-up



The interior of Castle Kilbride, the 1877 Italianate home of James Livingston, Canada's "Flax and Linseed Oil King." Left is the library, and right in the dining room. (Photo credit: Veronica Reiner)

By Wilmot-Tavistock Gazette Staff

A diverse array of creative events and engaging programs are planned for the summer at Castle Kilbride in Baden. From a twenties-inspired Tea and Tour to a summer-long concert series featuring an eclectic array of talented performers, residents and visitors alike will find lots to enjoy both inside and outside of the Castle's ornate walls.

The summer concert series is back! Every Thursday evening, from 7 p.m. to 8 p.m., summer is celebrated at the Castle with an outdoor concert on the front lawn. This series is historically well-attended as it brings the community together through music - a tradition original owner James Livingston began 140 years ago. Bring your lawn chair and love of live music! Admission is by donation, and concerts are weather permitting. Scheduled concerts include:

July 6 - Dana K & The Remedy (Rock/Soul/Contemporary)

July 13 - Rescue Junction (Gospel/Bluegrass)

July 21 - Unleashed (Classic Rock)

July 27 - Onion Honey (Old-time folk)

August 3 - Folklore Junction (Country/Folk)

August 10 - Kitchener Musical Society (Classical)

August 18 - York Street Thought Process (Indie/Folk)

August 24 - Festival City Big Band (Jazz/Swing)

August 31 - Smile 'n' Wave (80s Dance Party)

Events at Castle Kilbride:

Twenties Tea & Tour (Offered: July 21 & 22 and August 18 & 19 at 1:30 p.m.)

A twenties take on our classic tea and tour experience! Think Gatsby!! Be our guest for a fully guided tour of the historic home and see our newest exhibit. Afterwards, enjoy tea paired with a fruit scone and sweets on the front lawn of Castle Kilbride. (During inclement weather, tea will be held indoors.) Advanced tickets are required, and are available on EventBrite. The cost is \$22 per person.

Castle Kilbride - Ghost Walks

They're back... Take a walk on Castle Kilbride's eerie side. The tour features frescoes from an artist who should have been dead, playful kids throughout, including Kilbride's resident spirit and haunted antiques that have found their way back to the Castle. Participants secluded inside

the house with their guide creates a perfect environment for experiences. This indoor tour has not disappointed it has been Ghost Walks most active.

Tour with costume guide as they present an out of the ordinary tour. In partnership with Ghost Walks.

June 24, Jul. 29, Aug. 26, Sept. 30, Oct. 14 and 28. Tickets are required at www.ghostwalks.com

Exhibits:

Whisked Up in Wilmot: Nothing brings people closer together than food! Wilmot has produced many fine food products. Whether it was in the family home or produced to distribute globally,

Wilmot takes the cake... and cheese... and butter!

Whisked Up Weekends: To pair with our special exhibit Whisked Up in Wilmot, Castle Kilbride is offering a special feature every month. Visits on these special days include a small talk on the theme as well as additional features.

Time: 11 a.m. - noon or 1 p.m. - 2 p.m.

Cost: with regular admission

Sunday, July 30 - Honey-mini talk and sample honeycomb.

Sunday, August 27 - Teddy Bear picnic - bring your own picnic and join us on the front lawn for lemonade.

Sunday, September 24 - Corn Husk Dolls - learn how to make a corn husk doll.

Saturday, October 7 - Butter - Make butter and learn about butter sculptures.

Sunday, October 29 - Cider Mills talk and sample hot or cold cider.

Sunday, November 26 - Cheese Please - local cheese production and sample cheese.

Saturday, December 3 - Traditional Victorian Christmas Feast talk and sample shortbread.

For a full list of events, visit wilmot.ca/CommunityEventsCalendar

Built in 1877, Castle Kilbride is a restored and furnished mansion; home of James Livingston, Canada's "Flax Mill King." The museum features rare, nationally designated three-dimensional wall and ceiling murals known as, Trompe l'oeil, a French term that translates to "trickery of the eye." These magnificent murals reflect the Victorian

love of extravagance and variety while providing an interesting illusion of depth.

The museum is open Wednesday through Sunday, 10 a.m. to 3 p.m.

Admission: adults: \$9, seniors/students: \$8, children: \$5; families: \$25. The museum is bus-friendly and wheelchair accessible to three out of the four floors. For more information, check out the Castle Kilbride Facebook page, email the organization at CastleTour@wilmot.ca or explore the website at www.castlekilbride.ca.

Castle Kilbride is owned/operated by the Township of Wilmot and is located at 60 Snyder's Rd, Baden.

WORSHIP IN WILMOT TOWNSHIP

St George's Anglican Church

Corner Waterloo St. and Byron St., New Hamburg

In-person service and online worship Sundays at 10:15 a.m.

Programs each Sunday for children during service.

St James Chapel of Ease

4339 Huron Rd. Wilmot Township

Special guest preacher is Canon Christopher Pratt.

All Welcome

Rev. Margaret Walker; Office: 519-662-3450

sgacnewhamburg@gmail.com

Current health and safety protocols are followed.

St Agatha Mennonite Church

1967 Erb's Road St Agatha 519-634-8212

Pastor Nancy Mann

Worship service 10am followed by coffee hour and sermon discussion. All are welcome

COMMUNITY —

Dollarama, City Pizza, BarBurrito and Tumeric coming to Union Street plaza

Businesses scheduled to open around August

By Veronica Reiner

Construction on the 174 Union Street commercial plaza is nearing the finishing touches, with businesses renting out the space scheduled to open up around August 1.

The plaza is a total of 15,552 square feet. It will be home to a Dollarama, which will take up the largest amount of space at around 11,000 square feet. There are three confirmed businesses that will lease out the spaces with about 1,000 square footage, including City Pizza, BarBurrito and Tumeric (Indian restaurant).

"The building was designed like a heritage building in the downtown - it wasn't made to look modern," said developer Greg Voisin of Voisin Developments. "So it's

trying to blend in as best you can in the downtown. The yellow brick was popular around 50 to 100 years ago."

A double row parking lot is still under construction on the lot. "There will be lots of parking across the front of the plaza," said Voisin.

Voisin worked with the Grand River Conservation Authority for about three years to understand and comply with all their regulations. Greg explained that building in a flood plain is permitted if the land is in a downtown urban core and the finished floor is above the flood elevation.

He said that he was able to meet all their requirements and eventually got a building permit. The property was purchased around 2017.



The plaza at 174 Union Street.

The New Hamburg Board of Trade is excited to announce the Canada D'EH! Decorating Challenge

By Scott Dunstall

The New Hamburg Board of Trade is holding a decorating challenge for Canada Day, with the winners receiving prizes.

Gail McMullen sits on the New Hamburg Legion Executive and was recently looking for event ideas and noticed a Canada Day home decorating challenge in Hornepayne, Ontario. Lyle Cressman, President of the New Hamburg Board of Trade, was pitched the idea and he thought it was a great way to celebrate the day. All homes and businesses in Wilmot are eligible. Simply take a picture of your creation and post it on the "Show Us Your Wilmot" Facebook page and include the words CANADA DAY in the caption or in the comments section. You can also email your entry to: membercoordinator@nhbot.ca.

Residents are encouraged to vote for their favourite entries by going to the Media Tab on the "Show Us Your Wilmot" Facebook page. There is only one tab there, and it is entitled "CANADA DAY DECORATING CHALLENGE." All entries will be posted there. Simply react (like, love, care or wow) to the pictures you like. The top three pictures with

the highest reactions will be the winners.

Winning entries will be showcased on the "Show Us Your Wilmot" Facebook page and featured in The Wilmot-Tavistock Gazette.

In addition, cash prizes will be funded by The New Hamburg Board of Trade: First Prize: \$300; Second Prize: \$200; Third Prize: \$100.

Other details include:

1. Enter as many times as you wish as long as it is a different building.
2. Deadline for posting or emailing your picture will cut off at 12 p.m. (noon) on June 30th.
3. Cut off for counting reactions to your picture will be noon on July 1st.
4. Winners will be announced at the New Hamburg Legion at 3 p.m. on July 1st.

Have fun, get creative and show your love for Canada!



The first entry submitted for the challenge.



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COMMUNITY —

Schools, municipal buildings lower flags at half mast to mark National Day of Remembrance for Victims of Terrorism



Flags lowered at half mast at the Wilmot Recreation Complex.

By Wilmot-Tavistock Gazette Staff

Schools across the Waterloo Region District School Board, along with office buildings, and regional township buildings (including Wilmot and Wellesley) joined other Ontario government establishments in flying the Canadian flag at half-mast on June 23rd to mark the National Day of Remembrance for Victims of Terrorism.

Some local buildings that lowered their flags to commemorate the event include the Wilmot Recreation Complex and the

Wilmot Administrative Complex.

The day takes place annually on June 23rd, and was first observed that day in 2005 in memory of those who lost their lives through acts of terror in Canada and around the world. The day was chosen to coincide with the anniversary of the Air India Flight 182 tragedy that occurred in 1985. On that day, a bomb exploded on the flight while on route from Toronto to London, England, killing all 329 people aboard, 280 of which were Canadians.

Stop Trudeau signs across the area



Here is one of the many 'Stop Trudeau' signs appearing around East Zorra-Tavistock recently. Pictured is one at the intersection of Hope Street West and William Street North. (Photo credit: Lee Griffi)

By Lee Griffi

Prime Minister Justin Trudeau has had his fair share of protestors as his popularity has dropped over the last few years, but something new has hit the stop signs of East Zorra-Tavistock.

An individual or individuals have been putting Trudeau stickers on stop signs in recent weeks, something EZT Public Works Manager Tom Lightfoot said is being dealt with. "The crew removed those stickers off nine of our stop signs (last) week. They ranged from Hickson to Tavistock, and there was a bunch on Oxford County signs also, probably more than us. As of now, all our stop signs have been inspected and cleared." Lightfoot said he reached out

to Oxford County staff to let them know. "They have removed some and plan on getting the rest removed soon. I did make a police report earlier this week."

Mayor Phil Schaefer had his own message for the culprit or culprits. "Getting your political message out there is one thing, but defacing stop signs in order to do so is illegal, and it threatens public safety."

Constable Patti Cote with the Oxford Provincial Police said anyone found defacing signs could be charged with mischief under the Highway Traffic Act. "If convicted, someone could be fined between \$200 and \$1,000 or face imprisonment of up to six months, or both."

NEWS BRIEFS

Cocaine seized in traffic stop in Wellesley

A Wellesley township man is facing multiple charges after police seized suspected cocaine in a traffic stop in Wellesley Township on June 26.

At about 11:15 p.m., an officer from the Waterloo Regional Police Service (WRPS) Neighbourhood Policing North Division on proactive patrol conducted a traffic stop in the area of Queen's Bush Road and Nafziger Road.

The driver was administered an approved screening device and registered an alert. Throughout the investigation, officers located and seized suspected cocaine.

The driver, a 20-year-old Wellesley Township man, was arrested and charged with "possession for the purpose of trafficking," "novice driver - blood alcohol concentration above zero," "disobey stop sign - fail to stop," "owner

drive motor vehicle - no insurance," "drive vehicle with cannabis readily available," "having care or control of a motor vehicle with unsealed container of liquor."

The accused driver license was suspended for seven days.

Break and enter at Wellesley PS

A break and enter occurred at Wellesley Public School on Queen's Bush Road in Wellesley Township.

The Waterloo Regional Police Service received the report at about 8:30 a.m. on June 26. Over the weekend, an unknown individual entered the school through a window and damage property in the classroom. Nothing was reported stolen.

Anyone with information is asked to call police at 519-570-9777, or to remain anonymous, Crime Stoppers at 1-800-222-8477. To submit online, visit www.waterloocrimestoppers.com.

Man charged after violent incident in Perth East

A man has been charged after a violent occurrence on

Line 34 in Perth East Township that occurred on June 18.

The Perth County Ontario Provincial Police (OPP) responded to the incident, where it was reported that a passenger in a vehicle assaulted the driver and damaged the windshield.

A 29-year-old West Perth man was arrested and charged with "mischief under \$5,000," "assault," and "having liquor in open container in unauthorized place."

The accused is scheduled to appear at the Ontario Court of Justice in Stratford on July 17 to answer to the charges. The accused was also given a Provincial Notice for the liquor charge.

Anyone with information is asked to call the OPP at 1-888-310-1122. Those who wish to remain anonymous can call Crime Stoppers at 1-800-222-8477 or leave an anonymous online message at www.P3tips.com where you may be eligible to receive a cash reward of up to \$2,000.

COMMUNITY —

Wilmot Township awards sidewalk program to Chad Hartman Construction for \$66,140

By Veronica Reiner

Wilmot township awarded a concrete replacement sidewalk program to Chad Hartman Construction of St. Paul's for \$66,140 plus harmonized sales tax (HST).

The decision was made during a council meeting on Monday, June 26. The program is an annual program designed to address broken or missing portions of the sidewalk, as well as to incorporate changes needed to accommodate the Hamilton Road pedestrian crossover.

The township issued a tender for the program through their e-bidding site on May 18. There was a total of 19 plan takers, including suppliers, with nine bids received at the time of close on June 8. The lowest bid came from Chad Hartman Construction.

"The low bidder has provided the appropriate bid bond documentation. References have been checked by Township Staff and appear to be satisfactory," wrote Director of Infrastructure Services Jeff Molenhuis in his

report.

The township also received bids from Can-Create Inc. of Woodstock for \$74,728.75; DPA Contracting Ltd. of London for \$75,108; Amazing Construction Ltd. of Terra Cotta for \$78,072.04; Epic Paving & Contracting Ltd. of Etobicoke for \$79,472; Vista Contracting Ltd. of Cambridge for \$87,435; Royal Crown Construction of Caledon for \$87,790.16; ET Construction of Mississauga for \$93,595; and Aloia Bros Concrete Contractors Ltd. of Toronto for \$138,750.

The township has about 89,575 metres of sidewalks. The municipality is provincially required to inspect sidewalks for surface continuity once per calendar year, with inspections taking place not more than 16 months apart.

The funding is coming from the general levy. Some of the funding for the Hamilton Road pedestrian crossing was budgeted to come from the Canada Community Building Fund and development charges (public works).

OBITUARY

HERGOTT: Kenneth Clarence "Ken"



passed away peacefully surrounded by family at the Maples Home for Seniors, Tavistock. Ken Hergott of New Hamburg in his 83rd year.

Dear father of Tim & Joan of Tavistock, Doug & Holly of Powassan and Dan & Leeann of Shakespeare.

Sadly missed by his grandchildren Courtney, Jackson (Kayla), Jamieson (Madelynne), Tyson, Justin, Nicholas, Kiersten (Marshal), Zachary, Kurtis, Ashton, Christopher, Anneka and great granddaughter Sloane. Survived by his sister-in-law Maureen Hergott of Linwood.

Predeceased by his parents Louis & Laura (Kienapple) Hergott, brothers Gerald & wife Rita, Bruce and wife Eleanor, Laverne and sister Shirley & Mervin Martin.

Relatives and friends will be received in the Mark Jutzi Funeral Home, 291 Huron St. New Hamburg on Tuesday from 2-4 & 6-8pm. Funeral Service will be conducted at the funeral home chapel on Wednesday July 5, 2023 at 11:00am. Interment St. Agatha R.C. Cemetery

Special thank you to the staff of the Maples Home for Seniors for the Excellent Care During his time living there.

In lieu of flowers, donations to the Parkinson Foundation or the Maples Home For Seniors Resident Council would be appreciated by the family. Personal condolences can be posted at www.markjutzifuneralhomes.ca

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Bridge Street bridge construction progress



Workers began to pour bridge deck for the Bridge Street bridge replacement project on Wednesday, June 21. The project was awarded to Sierra Bridge Inc. of Woodstock for \$4,782,267.90 during a council meeting in June 2022. (Photo credit: Anne Loeffler)

Tavistock U8 Boys undefeated in season



The U8 Boys Tavistock Tornados team gold is undefeated on the season so far and won the tournament on June 26. (Photo contributed)

COMMUNITY —

The Wilmot-Tavistock
Gazette Weekly Quiz

- 1) What are Canada's two national sports?
- 2) Name the first Canadian to win a Nobel Peace Prize?
- 3) Who was the first Canadian astronaut to enter space?
- 4) Andrew Bonar Law was the only Canadian ever to do what?
- 5) How many time zones are there in Canada?
- 6) What is the highest mountain in Canada?
- 7) When was "Oh Canada" proclaimed as Canada's national anthem?
- 8) How many provinces and territories are in Canada?
- 9) What is the longest river in Canada?
- 10) Who was the first Canadian born Governor General?

Answers found on page 26

BIRTHDAYS &
ANNIVERSARIES

June 29: Happy birthday to Jaxon McOrmand (10), Austin McOrmand (10), Rowan Bartlett (15), and Simon Bender.

June 30: Happy birthday to Lauryn Baechler (20) and Rose Danen.

July 1: Happy birthday to Brayden Nanasi (8), Garrett Yantzi (9), Darcy Zehr (13), Macauley Seip (19) and Ray Oesch.

July 2: Happy birthday to Mary Kropf, and anniversaries for Jerry and Tara Murray (18th), and Drew and Steph Hallman (18th).

July 3: Happy birthday to Hailey Lupton (15) and Belle Houle (18), and anniversary for Bob and Marilyn Zehr.

July 4: Happy birthday to Weston Richmond (6) and Larissa Brenneman (21), and anniversary for Ryan and Marcia de Gouw (14th).

July 5: Happy birthday to Simon VanRooyen (20), and anniversaries for Bob and Rosalyn Sim (54th), Chad and Jodi Ziegler (26th), Dan and Haley Roth (15th), and Greg and Staci Leis (9th).

July 6: Happy birthday to Aubrey Shewchuk (15), Ava Mohr (17), and anniversaries for Keith and Ruth Wagler (55th), Jeff and Chris Schultz (32nd), Paul and Marilyn Vandenberg (27th), and Justin and Jennifer Yantzi (10th).

Does someone in your family have a special day coming up? Let us know at tavistockgazette@rogers.com or wilmotpost@gmail.com to appear in our Birthdays and Anniversaries listing or to arrange for a special announcement ad.

The Old Gazettes

By Stewart Grant

Slowly but surely, I'm reading through the past pages of the Tavistock Gazette (est. 1895). Within this weekly column I'd like to share with you some of my findings.

June 20-27, 2018 Edition (5 years ago)

Jamie Boyd would have been proud. A tournament he had in mind to host was held in his memory the weekend of June 8-10 in Tavistock with 10 teams participating. His son, Ty, plays on the Tavistock Minor Midget U19 team which is coached by Dave Wiffen.

After 30 years in the teaching profession, Tavistock Public School Grade 1 teacher Mrs. Janet Sheldon is retiring.

Subway restaurant's Tavistock store opened on May 2, 2018. They held their official Grand Opening special sale this past Saturday. Franchisee Naila Mahmoud and her staff welcomed guests from 10 a.m. to 6 p.m. She is in her third year at Ryerson University in Toronto where she is studying Business Technology Management. Subway is located at 5 Woodstock Street North in Tavistock, sharing space with the Hasty Market and Esso gas bar, operated by her father, Fazal Mahmoud.

June 18-25, 2008 Edition (15 years ago)

Laverne Yantzi would be proud. Fifty years after his first mobile truck rumbled down the backroads of the area, his son and grandson

carry on the Yantzi name and continue to offer the service and value to area farmers that he built his reputation on. Yantzi's Feed & Seed Ltd. was founded in 1958 and the company, now led by Laverne's son Steve, is planning a celebration this Sunday to mark 50 years in operation.

There are not many events held in Tavistock where you won't find either Carl and Mary Nicklas or Ron Wiffen working up front or behind the scenes. These individuals were honoured last week by the Township of East Zorra-Tavistock as the 2008 Seniors of the Year.

The Tavistock and District Recreation Centre was packed on Sunday when more than 1,000 people came out to support Jesse Yantzi in a gathering of fun, food and entertainment. Jesse, son of Maynard and Connie Yantzi of RR 1, Tavistock, suffered a stroke on November 2, 2007 while being treated for a rare medical condition called moyamoya disease.

June 17-24, 1998 Edition (25 years ago)

Thanks to the generosity of the Canada Post Corporation who struck a nominally-priced land deal with Bob Rudy of the 150th Anniversary committee, Tavistock's memorial cairn may soon be rebuilt back in the centre of town, near to where it stood originally. The new cairn will be of cut fieldstone, just like the original, and will cost about \$6,000.

The Tavistock Bantam Girls softball team went undefeated at a tournament in Hagersville June 12-14 and will now represent the Ontario Rural Softball Association at the upcoming Ontario Summer Games August 13-16 in Guelph. The team includes Carolyn Quehl, Jessica Riehl, Holly Bender, Kimmy Bender, Heather Roth, Meghan Heinbuch, Abby Lichti, Jessica Junker, Amanda Yausie, Carin Long, Rachel Park, Dawn Boomer, Mary Margaret Ditner, Dinah Swartzentruber, and Anna Roth.

June 27-July 4, 1973 Edition (50 years ago)

The Ministry of Transportation and Communication has been sending its trios throughout the area with visits to the local clubs and organizations to assess the local feeling on the route of the new highway link between Kitchener and Stratford. The need of the new highway is based on the level of service which the said road is called on to give; there are six levels, A,B,C,D,E,F, each showing an increasing flow of traffic where E indicates a critical stage and F even worse. The part of Hwy. 7&8 between New Hamburg and Kitchener at rush hours is already rated "D" and fast approaching "E".

Tavistock Golf Club is now in operation. The course, owned by Delmer Zehr, is a par three, laid out over 25 acres on the 13th Line just south of the village. Its longest hole is 228 yards and the shortest is 90 yards.

Are you planning a family celebration?

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Pastor Jim Brown

131 Wettlaufer St., Tavistock 655-2581

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Masks welcomed but not required.

All Ages JRSS will follow after the worship service.

Stream services online at
www.tavistockmennonitechurch.ca

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www.tavistockbc.org

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Church Phone 519-276-0701

Wellington Street, Tavistock

stpaulstavistock@gmail.com

Pastor Rev. Michael Mayer

EAST ZORRA MENNONITE

677044 16th Line Road, East Zorra

Pastors Ray Martin & Mike Williamson

www.ezmennonite.ca

Service audio recordings available at:

<https://ezmennonite.ca/worship/>

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77 Mogk St., Box 220, Tavistock NOB 2R0

Pastor Hugh Rutledge 655-3611

Email: office@tavistock.church

www.tavistock.church

COMMUNITY —

Tavistock Men's Club tours the Fryfogel Tavern following their monthly dinner meeting



Men's club President Ken Kropf, presents a cheque to board chair and treasurer, Jim McKenzie, following the group's tour of the historic inn.



Board member Jim Hazlewood, explains to the Tavistock Men's Club, different aspects of living in the 1800's at the Fryfogel Inn.

By Gary West

Members of the Tavistock Men's Club, along with their wives, toured the historic Fryfogel Inn and Tavern, east of Shakespeare last week after their monthly dinner meeting.

Fryfogel Board members, Emily Coyne, who also helps with tours in the summer, along with Jim Hazelwood and Jim McKenzie, explained how the three floors of the inn served travellers with horses and buggies. They would eat and rest for the night on what was then known as the Huron Tract.

The Canadian company needed to have inns along Huron Road, where settlers could find food and shelter. Such inns, like the Fryfogel Inn, were essential in opening up the bush country, and Innkeepers who could give reliable information and advice to immigrants at the time, had to be found.

Sebastian Fryfogel was one of those men and erected the present building in 1844, and his signature could still be seen in the

stairwell years later.

It is interesting to note that the council meetings of SouthEasthope Township Council were conducted in the inn for many years, and in later years saw the formation of Perth County council.

The inn flourished as a stagecoach stop and hotel until 1856, when the grand trunk railway built a rail line a short distance behind the tavern to the south, and the tavern's demise followed.

Historians have noted the regular stop, which had brought the Royal Mail and passengers through 3 times a week, was terminated within a few years of the rail line being built.

Following a tour of the building, the Mens Club did learn that donations are a key source of revenue and were happy to make a \$200 donation on behalf of the club.

The Fryfogel Inn and Tavern is open to the public in the summer months from Wednesday to Sunday from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. and hosts a summer day camp for kids ages 6 to 11 on July 17 to 21.

Are you planning a family celebration?



We accept all announcements - weddings, anniversaries, birthdays, new baby, etc. Or are you looking to hire local people, or wanting to sell something or buy something? We will publish your classified ad. For pricing call 519-580-5418 or email ads@wilmotpost.ca.

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COMMUNITY —

Region of Waterloo seeking feedback as to how to end homelessness

By Wilmot-Tavistock Gazette Staff

The Region of Waterloo is looking for feedback as to how to create a plan to end chronic homelessness.

An online survey is available on the Engage Waterloo Region (WR) website in multiple languages. It is available until July 28 and is expected to take between 10 to 15 minutes. The survey can be found at: <https://www.engagewr.ca/end-chronic-homelessness>.

There are also two virtual engagement

labs scheduled, where facilitators guide participants through information seeking activities. Space is limited. Sessions are expected to take 30 to 45 minutes and will run on July 11 and July 19. Registration is available through the Engage WR website.

The Engage WR website also published a discussion guide to help host community conversations about homelessness. The copy is available on the Engage WR on the CommunityToolkit section. Some of the questions posted include "What

does equitable, stable housing mean to you?" and "How could you/your community be involved in ending chronic homelessness?"

Those interested can also submit a question.comment directly online or by phone - email is endchronichomelessness@regionofwaterloo.ca, or phone number is 519-575-4400, extension 5008. Deaf and hard of hearing can call 519-575-4608.

The number of people experiencing homelessness in the region is higher

than ever before. Region of Waterloo staff estimates that there are 500 people in the community experiencing chronic homelessness.

The region is creating a plan to end chronic homelessness, with a roadmap of strategies, resources and timelines. A project update will be provided to regional council in September 2023. The final report will be completed later this year.

How to access Police for urgent and non-urgent help

By Lee Griffi

The Oxford detachment of the Ontario Provincial Police said it continues to receive calls for police assistance left on an after-hours answering machine. Constable Patti Cote said the problem is it often causes undo delay in responding to calls for service outside of regular office hours. "If a member of the public requires immediate police assistance for an

emergency, they should call 9-1-1."

"If someone does call our administrative line, it isn't manned over the weekend. That was the whole premise of putting out the messaging." Cote added people are calling 519-688-6540, which kicks into an answered service that isn't checked until Monday morning. When people call between 8 and 4 Monday to Friday administrative staff will forward it

to our communications centre to be dispatched appropriately."

If someone has a non-urgent need for police but would still like to report an incident or speak with a police officer, they should dial the toll-free number of 1-888-310-1122 or *677 from a cell phone. "This number will connect to the OPP Communications Center, who in turn will direct the call appropriately,"

added Cote.

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COMMUNITY —

Progress on Queen's Bush Road construction



The progress on the Queen's Bush Road construction taking place in Wellesley village as of Sunday, June 25. The reconstruction is being undertaken by Kieswetter Excavating for about \$2.1 million. This phase of the project will involve the replacement of all storm water infrastructure, replacement of curbs and sidewalks and base course asphalt. The full project will take place over three years. (Photo credit: Veronica Reiner)



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STONETOWN TRAVEL



COMMUNITY —

Shakespeare dairy farm welcomes international group



New Hamburg area, dairy farmer, Gary Pletsch, explains to the group from India, how dairy farming and cropping operates in Canada. He also took time to explain how his modern robotic milking system functions and how the milk marketing system works to the dairyman's advantage in Canada.



Host farmer, Richard Smelski, touring Friendship Force Group members on a hayride through his farm east of Shakespeare.

By Gary West

It was a busy day on the robotic milking dairy farm of Gary and Tessa Pletsch and their family just west of New Hamburg in Perth County.

They welcomed the Stratford/St. Mary's Friendship Force International group from Nashik River, India. Before the dairy farm tour, the group of ambassadors were treated to a brunch at the Shakespeare

Optimist Hall by their local hosts and were also involved in organized games and social times to get to know each other at the farm of "Friendship Force Members," Richard and Jean Smelski east

of Shakespeare.

The 15 members that were in the touring group, stay with local members in the Perth County area for one week, and then will be heading back home to India.

21 traffic charges laid in Wellesley on June 20



On the morning of Tuesday, June 20, Waterloo Regional Police Service (WRPS) officers conducted traffic enforcement on Moser Young Road in Wellesley Township. Two vehicles were seized for stunt driving, and there were a total of 21 charges laid, including speeding, unsafe vehicle, driving while suspended and no insurance.

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COMMUNITY —

Show Us Your Wilmot



Each week, the Wilmot-Tavistock Gazette will publish interesting photos from around the community. The inspiration for this came from the Show Us Your Wilmot Facebook group. This photo shows a deer at the Mike Schout Wetlands Preserve in mid June. (Photo credit: Amelia Becker)

Happy Canada Day

Mike HARRIS
MPP KITCHENER-CONESTOGA

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Farm Misc. Tools Etc.

Approximately 2 wagon loads of miscellaneous items, Large bale hay feeder, 12' cattle fence line bunk feeder, HD shoeing stocks, Team harness, collars, oat roller, belt lacer, endless belts, T posts, fuel tanks, rope and pulley hitch set, hay fork and car, neck-yokes, whippetrees, 3 complete milker units (good condition), New pulsator, SS milk pails, SS double sink, claw washer, tri-wheeled deluxe horse lawn mower, push mowers, pony cart, Stihl chain saw, buggy running gear, 12' aluminum boat, purple martin bird houses (new), some harness shop tools and supplies, torch set with tanks, power washer, air compressor.

Household Items

5 burner tabletop oil stove, 2 burner oil stove, stove top baker, beds, dressers, tables, chairs, desk, SS cookware, treadle sewing cabinets, folding tables, sausage stuffer, meat grinder on stand, SS water heaters, lamps and lanterns, 10'x12' steel insulated icehouse (good shape), School textbooks, teacher answer keys, library books, lunch box shelves, assorted school charts, arts and smaller miscellaneous.

Consignments

1411 New Holland disc bind 11' cut (mint condition), MF 24 plate disc, 1HC #7 hay mower, 1HC 8' double packer, 1HC 13 run grain drill, 1HC #407 walking plow, Flat rack wagon on rubber, bee keeping supplies including hives, SS extractors etc., Quick hitch steel wheel road cart.

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COMMUNITY —

The family dairy farm is alive and well in Perth County



From left, Landon, Jaxson and Paisley with parents David and Jessica, make up the Wilhelm family. They are pictured at the entrance to their farm where they live in a century stone farmhouse and work in their new dairy barn, on the outskirts of Amulree, in Perth County's North Easthope township.



The young Holstein herd of David and Jessica Wilhelm on the southern outskirts of Almuree on Eoad #107 in the hills of Perth County. Most of the heifers pictured are black and white, while some are red and white, but both are purebreds and registered in the Holstein Association of Canada Herdbook.

By Gary West

The photo gives new meaning to the word "serenity" as these animals graze peacefully on lush pastures. They will be part of the dairy family's milking herd in the future, and will also be part of the fabric of the NorthEasthope township dairy farming community for years to come. Father Ross was slightly ahead of his time, as decades ago, he planted many acres of trees in the name of soil conservation to prevent erosion and made good decisions to keep the future of his family's farm viable.

David and Jessica have three children - Landon, 10, Paisley, 7, and Jaxson, 3. With a keen interest in dairy farming, David

and Jessica took over from David's parents, Ross and Anne Wilhelm, in 2015.

The dairy herd, established by their parents, was one of the first in the area to grow organic crops to produce certified organic milk. Their farm's milk carries the Harmony Organic label and is marketed in many stores throughout the area.

They milk both black and white, along with red and white purebred Holsteins (45 in total), in the milking parlour of their newly constructed dairy facility on their 300-acre farm. In case you're wondering, the milk produced is all the same from both colours of Holstein cows.

Their milking herd is fed a mixture of hay

and haylage, along with shelled corn and corn silage with vitamins and minerals, and protein supplements added to make the organic ration balance to their cows needs to produce the grade A milk the farm has been well known for- for many years in the past.

Rotational grazing is part of this farm's makeup, which is required if their milk is to be certified organic.

The young family is also involved in many school activities. As their kids get older, they are also getting involved in 4-H clubs.

David, for the past 18 years, volunteers his time as a firefighter in Shakespeare, where, according to station chief Greg

Ankenmann, is one of their most respected and dependable when the alarm sounds.

The farm press reports on the disappearance of family farms. Area farmers like the Wilhelm family will be the kind that will farm well into the future, and probably defy those statements.

The makeup of farms in NorthEasthope township and Perth County are some of the most productive acres in the Province, and hard-working families like the Wilhelms, will, more than likely, make the farming community one to be proud of for many years to come.

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COMMUNITY —

Concert at Foxboro Green



The folks at Foxboro Green enjoyed an outstanding concert last week. Featured performers were noted jazz and R&B singer Denise Pelley, and keyboard whiz Marque Smith, both of London. The duo performed songs by Stevie Wonder, Burt Bacharach, Carole King, Billie Holliday and more, to enthusiastic response and a standing ovation. The event was hosted by the Foxboro Green Special Events Committee. (Photo credit: Paul Knowles)

Strawberry social in Wellesley



Wellesley Mayor Joe Nowak, right, and Barb Nowak served strawberry shortcake to visitors at St. Mark's Church (1123 Henry Street, Wellesley) on Monday night, June 26. Freewill donations were accepted to support the Wellesley Food Cupboard. These sweet strawberries came from Herrle's Country Farm Market in St. Agatha. (Photo credit: Wellesley Food Cupboard)

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COMMUNITY —

Wellesley Township hosts backyard barbecue



Some of the food trucks that showed up for the backyard barbecue include Crystal's Fries, Wild Boar, and Los Rolling Tacos.



The fireworks set off in the evening at the Wellesley backyard barbecue on Friday, June 23.

By Wilmot-Tavistock Gazette Staff

The Wellesley Township backyard barbecue took place at the municipal office at 4639 Lobsinger Line in St. Clements on a rainy Friday, June 23 from 5 p.m. until around 11 p.m. There were food trucks present, including Crystal's Fries, Los Rolling Tacos and Wild Boar. There was also live music, including artist Jack Redman. In addition, there were games and fireworks.

The event typically sees between 400 and 600 residents

attend each year, and has seen as many as 1,200 people in attendance before.

Admission was free and always has been. Cash and non-perishable donations for the local food banks were accepted at the bar.

The backyard community barbecue was first hosted in 2017 to celebrate Canada's 150th anniversary.

The Wilmot-Tavistock Gazette

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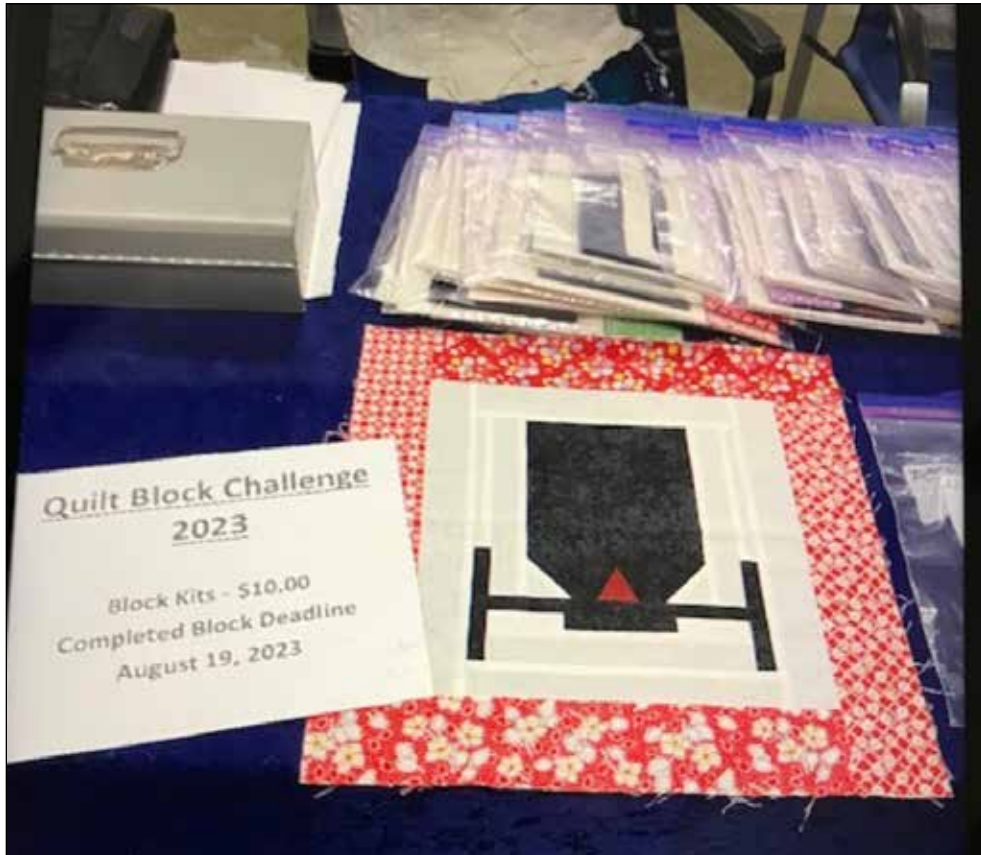
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COMMUNITY —

Wellesley Fall Fair holding quilt block challenge



By Wilmot-Tavistock Gazette Staff
 The Wellesley Township Fall Fair is holding a quilt block challenge this year, with the winners receiving cash prizes.
 The kit cost is \$10 each, and participants are welcome to enter often. Kits are available by calling Pauline at 226-660-0220 or Joanne at 519-214-0305 or emailing Joanne.stewart@uwaterloo.ca
 The deadline for completed blocks is August 19, and all blocks will be on display at the fair.
 Winners will receive the following cash prizes:

1st prize - \$75
 2nd prize - \$50
 3rd prize - \$40
 4th prize - \$30
 5th prize - \$20
 6th prize - \$10.
 Full details are on the organization's website www.wellesleynehfallfair.ca.
 The blocks will be the property of the fall fair and will be used to create a quilt with a possible table runner and lap quilt if there are enough blocks. These items will be used for a raffle to raise funds for the fall fair and go on sale in spring 2024.

Concert benefits Wilmot Family Resource Centre



By Janet Bradley Worthington
 Jack Wyndham, piano teacher and resident pianist at Zion United Church, New Hamburg, presented a brilliant benefit concert to a full audience on June 10. He delighted patrons with renditions of classical and jazz pieces, ending with one of his own compositions as an encore.
 He was pleased to present a cheque

to Trisha Robinson of Wilmot Family Resource Centre (WFRC) for \$1,200 as a result of generous donations. Jack said he is impressed with the programmes offered by WFRC, especially for children, and was happy to support a local organization for his first benefit concert.
 Jack, a fifth-year student in the music programme at Laurier, plans to support other charities with future benefit concerts.

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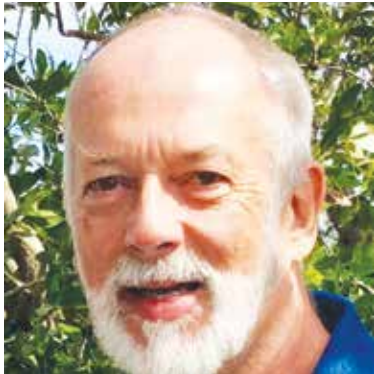
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TRAVEL —

OH, THE PLACES WE'LL GO: Discovering Italian cookery and culture in the Nickel City



By Paul Knowles

"Who knew?"

I asked that a lot during my weeklong stay in Greater Sudbury earlier this month. Like most denizens of southern Ontario, I had a full basket of stereotypes about the Nickel City and sure, a very few of them were correct. There is indeed a "Big Nickel" high on a hill beside an intriguing place called "Dynamic Earth".

And there are mines and smokestacks soaring high into the sky.

And that is probably the full list of my stereotypes that come anywhere close to accuracy.

I was there for the annual conference of the Travel Media Association of Canada. Sudbury proved to be a terrific host, setting up all sorts of intriguing activities for us when we weren't ensconced in the heart of the Holiday Inn holding business and professional development sessions.

So it came to be that one afternoon, I was part of a group that was doing something related to being Italian. That's all we knew.

Actually, it was amazing. We learned a lot but the best part was getting up to our wrists in potato, flour, egg and salt – yep, we were making gnocchi.

I was expecting a tour but this wasn't that. It was a cooking and culture lesson at Sudbury's biggest Italian club, Società Caruso.

And yes, I do mean "big". Turns out, there are about 25,000 folks of Italian descent living in Sudbury, anything from first to fourth generation people. Some first came to the city at the end of the nineteenth century to work in the new nickel and copper mines. More arrived through the early twentieth century including a significant wave who immigrated after the Second World War. Those who arrived in the 1950s found the Società Caruso already up and running and ready to welcome them – the club is celebrating its 75th anniversary!

There's a lot going on at the club from a thriving restaurant and banquet halls to bocce ball courts (made to meet official bocce qualifications, and thus host to provincial tournaments), to cooking and language classes.

The talented and amusing women who conducted our class and helped all of us gnocchi rookies were a ton of fun, teasing us and each other and occasionally offering clearly unwanted advice to the woman who was actually leading the class.

That was Christine Sansalone, a professor from Laurentian University, who combined a bit of culinary history with hands-on cookery.

While she made the delicious Tuscan-style meat and veggie sauce, she gave us a crash course in the history of Italian cuisine and some examples of cuisine that has never existed in Italy. Spaghetti and meatballs, for example, is unknown in Italy. Same with Caesar salad and even Alfredo sauce. These are all North American creations.

And by the way – while tomato-based sauces are now a staple of Italian cooking, Christine confided that even this is relatively new. The first known tomato sauce recipe dates back only to the late 1800s. Before that, pasta was flavoured with things like lard, sugar and spices.

She debunked some myths, starting with the idea that pasta was invented by the Chinese and brought to Italy by Marco Polo. Turns out, food historians know that a century before Marco Polo, a food item that clearly is pasta was being produced from Durham wheat in Sicily. Pasta does belong to the Italians.

Christine joked with us that there is no actual recipe for the food we were about to make. "We don't use recipes" she said. "We use as much as you need." The women who were assisting her all nodded; the lady closest to my table learned over and confided, "I taught her everything she knows." She was Christine's mother!

With Christine's sauce well underway, we started making gnocchi and while I love to cook, this was a new adventure for me. The potatoes had already been put through a ricer for our con-



Christine Sansalone shares some culinary tips, some insights into culture, and some proud Italian history. (Photo by Paul Knowles)

venience but I have borrowed such a device for my do-it-myself gnocchi dinner next week.

Christine told us that while Italian cuisine varies wildly through the regions of Italy – so unique are the regions that some argue there is no actual Italian cuisine – gnocchi is made in almost every region.

But there is a caveat: "They all make them differently, and they all dress them differently."

Which will be my excuse when my next effort at making gnocchi produces something unrecognizable!

You don't have to make gnocchi to have a great experience of Italian cuisine and culture

in Sudbury, but it would be a shame to visit the Nickel City and not sample some of its Italian flavour. There is an Italian festival every year; there are many Italian restaurants, including the excellent eatery at the Società Caruso; and there are great shops featuring Italian ingredients and prepared foods.

Including gelato. Which, I learned, is the perfect way to top off a meal of excellent, hand-made gnocchi.

Paul Knowles is an author and travel writer. To contact Paul about travel, his books, or speaking engagements, email pknowles@golden.net.



Canadian travel writers Judi Cohen, left, and Anita Draycott, with their gnocchi class well underway.. (Photo by Paul Knowles)

New President at Travel Media Association of Canada

Paul Knowles has been named President of the Travel Media Association of Canada. He assumed office at the conclusion of the annual TMAC conference, held in Sudbury, from June 15-17. Paul is the travel columnist for this newspaper, and all of the Granthaven papers (including St. Marys, Stratford, Wilmot-Tavistock and the new Woodstock-Ingessoll publication), writing a weekly full-page feature about national, international and local destinations. He also contributes regularly to the travel sections of the Toronto Star and vacay.ca, as well as other publications and websites.

Paul succeeds outgoing President Tracy Ford, Director of Public Relations for the Chelsea Hotel in Toronto, who has led the TMAC Board of Directors for the past two years. Knowles' term will extend until the end of the 2025 TMAC conference, in June

of 2025.

TMAC is described as "the trusted organization of choice for accredited travel media and tourism industry professionals in Canada." Its membership includes about 380 Canadian travel media professionals and destination representatives.

Paul heads a 10-person board, which includes directors from across Canada, from Nova Scotia to British Columbia. They include travel writers, content creators, and destination representatives.

During the TMAC convention in Sudbury, TMAC signed a memorandum of understanding creating a working partnership with the Indigenous Tourism Association of Canada. As well, it was announced during the conference that the 2024 TMAC annual conference will be held in St. John's Newfoundland.

OPINION —

EXPERT ADVICE: Trends For Men: Great value with no pressure!



By Scott Dunstall

I suppose I have painted quality men's stores in a somewhat negative light with references to pushy salesmen and pricing that would scare the ears off a jack-rabbit. But like any point of view, there are always exceptions, and some of those are right here in our neck of the woods. Trends For Men is one of those exceptions. I had the genuine pleasure of meeting up with the owner of this gem at his Sunrise Centre location. His name is Moe Visram, and he has recently added his third stunning location at 762

Kind Street, Kitchener. The third location is in the Outlet Mall in St. Jacobs.

His dad started the business many years ago in Kitchener and it has taken on several iterations since the beginning. Moe's dad originally had an audience between every day (lower end) and mid market buyers. Through time and Moe's integration into the business, he has very gradually taken the store's range of offerings into the sweet spot between high end and mid range. Let me tell you, the store is stunning, and the summer colors right now make it all pop.

He himself started working in his dad's store when he was 13. Including himself and his dad, there are 11 employees between the three stores. Moe and his father do all the buying. And when it comes time to look at adding new designers to their fold, there is a healthy discussion balanced through the experience of his dad and through his own youthful lens. He told me that he does

not include brands that are the latest trend. Instead, he looks at the value the brand brings to the table. He knows that if he sees the value in a brand, so will his salespeople, of which many have been with him for years. Which I think is a huge asset. First, as a customer, I know I will get expert and seasoned service. But what is also tells me is that this is a pretty good place to work... and that the boss is not only a sharp businessman but also a fashion forward guy and, most importantly for me, a good person to work for. Nothing sabotages a business faster than unhappy employees.

This led me to my next question, does he train his own staff? He does, but he also will leave that up to some of those long-term employees who mirror his own style. And that is, never be pushy. That was music to my ears because of what I said at the top of the article. Many guys are afraid of walking into a store like TFM because they are intimidated. I

was and am still to a certain degree. We feel like we are at a disadvantage because our knowledge can't compete with the staff and we know, at least we think we know, that we are coming out with a major dent on our credit card.

You won't get that at Trends for Men. Moe stated that he abhors pushy salespeople with him, so there is no way that will be the way his shops are managed. He told me that between 75% to 80% of his clients are repeats, with most being long term clients. They trust him. And as he pointed out, you never need to push when you have done your job bringing value to the shop floor. And here is the kicker, they do a little bit of social media and some print advertising for those members of his audience that still get their news the old-fashioned way... in newspapers. The biggest source of promotion? Word of mouth and referrals.

What a field day for a guy like me. I get to take my time looking

at all this beautiful fashion without any pressure, just good honest service and advice. Just a hop and a jump down 7/8. Walk in and let Moe, his dad and the rest of the Trends for Men staff show you value at your own pace!

"Style is just fashion filtered through your personality"

Scott Dunstall has been on a stylistic journey for over 10 years. He believes that every guy has a style of their own. When it's discovered, it empowers and builds confidence. Scott has appeared several times on Rogers TV Kitchener as a guest on DAYTIME. His writing has been republished by LinkedIn Top Influencer and INC. Magazine contributing editor, Jeff Haden. He has also written several pieces for the Baden Outlook. You can follow Scott on Instagram @everydaystylebyscott or on LinkedIn @scottdunstall. Feel free to ask questions or propose collaborations: everydaystylebyscott1@gmail.com.

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Canada Day in Wilmot	July 5th	July 6th, 13th, 20th, 27th	July 12th	July 16th
Featuring Indigenous sunrise ceremony, vendors market, food trucks, live music, family fun and fireworks. To take place at 251 Jacob Street in New Hamburg from 6 a.m. to 10 p.m.	East Zorra-Tavistock Council Meeting	Summer Drop-In	Youth Summer Drop-In	Breakfast in the Park
July 1st	In-person council meeting taking place at 695566 17th Line in Innerkip starting at 7 p.m.	Meet up by the climber at Scott Park at 75 Hunter Street in New Hamburg. Weather permitting. Play based for children ages zero to six accompanied by a caring adult. Older siblings welcome. For more info, contact 519-662-2731.	Takes place on Wednesdays from 1 p.m. to 4 p.m. Youth Centre at the Wilmot Recreation Complex, for ages 9 to 12.	From 8:30 a.m. to noon at Petersburg Park. The Optimist Club of Petersburg is once again hosting Breakfast in the Park. Enjoy scrambled eggs, pancakes, bacon, homefries, toast, juice and coffee. Adults are \$15; 10 and under is \$10.
Canada Day at the Heidelberg Restaurant	July 5th	July 11th	July 13th	July 24th
Featuring live music from 3 p.m. to 6 p.m. by Rob Witherspoon, fireworks and hot dogs. Takes place at the Olde Heidelberg Restaurant Tavern and Motel at 3006 Lobsinger Line.	Youth Under the Rainbow storytime	Wellesley Council Meeting	Childhood Cancer Fundraising BBQ	Wilmot Council Meeting
July 3rd	Takes place at the New Hamburg Library starting at 2 p.m. Come and join as the Region of Waterloo library reads stories, makes crafts, and plays	Hybrid council meeting taking place at 4805 William Hastings Line in Crosshill at 6:45 p.m. Also	The 19th annual childhood cancer fundraising barbecue will take place at 1239 Notre Dame Drive in Petersburg from 11 a.m. to 6 p.m. All proceeds will go towards Scotland's Yard (Grand River Hospital), Children's Health Foundation (London) and Walk to Conquer Cancer (Princess	Hybrid council meeting taking place at 60 Snyder's Road West in Baden at 6:45 p.m. Also streamed on the Township of Wilmot YouTube page.
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