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The Tavistock Spray Pad was officially opened on Friday, May 17 with a ribbon-cutting ceremony. From left to right, deputy mayor Brad Smith, Coun. Steven Van Wyk, Saputo plant manager Derek Lockhart, Ontario Trillium Foundation representative Lori Van Osptal, Oxford MPP Ernie Hardeman, Mayor Phil Schaefer and community fundraising coordinator Danny Roth. Photo by Lee Griffi

Harrison named chair of provincial long-term-care association

By Lee Griffi, Local Journalism Initiative reporter

The new chair of the board of directors at AdvantAge Ontario is a familiar face to those in Wilmot Township.

Dr. Steven Harrison is the chief executive officer of Tri-County Mennonite Homes, an organization with long-term care and other facilities in New Hamburg and Stratford. AdvantAge Ontario primarily represents non-profit and municipal long-term-care homes across the province as an association providing advocacy, education and other services.

Harrison explained professionally it's recognition his board colleagues trust and have faith in him.

"The board chair is only as good as the rest of the team, and we work collaboratively. That will absolutely be the hallmark of what I am going to be working on with them. How do we do it better together?"

He added the sector is on the back end of the pandemic and he'd like to think the worst is over. Many homes including Nithview in New Hamburg are either redeveloping or looking to redevelop. Harrison said the timing is right for long-term care to look at artificial intelligence and technology.

"We are all embracing what that could bring to how we support seniors when they are in our care but also what that does to the design and development of our homes."

Additionally, he said there is a shifting demographic in long-term care. People in their 80s and older today didn't have access to the computer world when they

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EZT officially opens Tavistock Spray Pad

By Lee Griffi, Local Journalism Initiative reporter

East Zorra-Tavistock's first-ever aquatic facility opened to much fanfare last week.

About two dozen elected officials and dignitaries were on hand at Queen's Park May 17 for a ribbon-cutting ceremony. The idea was first floated by residents Danny and Haley Roth back in 2019 but was delayed for several reasons including the pandemic. The couple played a major role in the spray pad's completion.

"It's great to see people and the province

working together to make projects like this one come to life in our communities," said Ernie Hardeman, Oxford MPP. "This wonderful spray pad certainly meets the Ontario Trillium Foundation's (OTF) mission to foster more active lifestyles and bring people together."

The aquatic attraction was made possible through a \$150,000 capital grant from the foundation and over \$100,000 in community fundraising efforts. Hardeman said writing a successful application is crucial when it comes to receiving Trillium funding.

"More applications are being made than

there is money to fund each year. The best application is the one that explains to the volunteer board what benefits will be derived from the project to build a vibrant community."

The township said the project will offer a unique, inclusive and accessible play area that expands the community's outdoor-recreation options. Spray pads are non-slip, aquatic play areas with no standing water that instead feature water sprinklers, sprayers, nozzles and games that are motion activated or on limited-run times.



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COMMUNITY —

New Tavistock Spray Pad opens to much fanfare

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"The residents, staff and council of the township are grateful for the generous support of the Ontario Trillium Foundation in helping to make the new Tavistock Spray Pad a reality," said mayor Phil Schaefer. "Their support, along with local businesses and residents, will ensure families have an additional facility for enjoyment and fun activity without having to leave the township."

Schaefer thanked all the donors, staff and council members for working together to

bring the project to life.

"Together, we did accomplish something that I think was sorely lacking from our recreation supply. We also owe a debt of gratitude to Danny and Haley Roth, our fundraising chairs. Their vision and hard work have made this a reality for the township. Thank you."

Schaefer added while he's excited about the spray pad, he isn't nearly as excited as Lincoln, his three-year-old grandson.

One of the local businesses to support the project financially was Saputo, which

pledged \$35,000. Tavistock plant manager Derek Lockhart said the promotion of a healthy lifestyle is the core of the company's civic engagement.

"We are committed to making meaningful contributions to the communities where our employees live, work and play. As a part of this commitment, we invested in improving the quality of sports facilities with the objective of building a lasting legacy," he added.

The Ontario Trillium Foundation is an agency of the Ontario government with

a mission to build healthy communities across the province. Last year, OTF invested more than \$110 million into 1,044 community projects and multi-sector partnerships. Projects aim to enhance economic wellbeing, foster more active lifestyles, support child and youth development, provide spaces for people to come together and connect, and create a more sustainable environment.

Hundreds of area residents were able to cool off at the spray pad over a hot and sunny Victoria Day long weekend.

Provincial long-term-care association name Harrison new chair

Continued from page 1

were growing up, but those a little younger entering care now did have somewhat of an introduction to technology.

"They were the kids who grew up with the Commodore 64 when computers were just starting to arrive and their demands on us as providers of services for seniors in the community are very different. They are the walking embodiment of early adopters of technology. We are having to shift gears on how we will adapt to the ever-changing needs of those coming into our care."

He added the sector is looking at how it can grow long-term care homes with technological resources to support the demand from residents.

"It's here to stay. This isn't a blip and it will continue to grow and morph. We're going to have to keep pace with that changing demand."

Just like any other publicly funded health-care industry, long-term care lobbies the government to receive what they believe will help the sector and residents. They provide a pre-budget submission where wants and needs are highlighted along



Steve Harrison, CEO of Tri-County Mennonite Homes, is the new board chair of AdvantAge Ontario. Contributed photo

with funding suggestions. Harrison said the relationship with government will continue to play an important role.

"Advocacy needs to ensure a deep and profound understanding of what senior

care is becoming. Not what it was, but what it will be going forward. We spend a lot of time working with the financial-services side of things to the most senior and bureaucratic team members to help them fully understand what it's like on the front line."

He added over the last few years of his time on the board and with Tri-County, the sector changes quickly and when you think you understand what's going on today, that could be challenged a few days later.

"It is the pace of change and demands placed on seniors' care to be proactive, thoughtful, engaging and to listen to the residents and families, and respond. We need to truly listen and hear what their desires are as they age in long-term-care homes across the province."

Harrison has over 20 years of experience in health care and social services, and has a PhD in medical anthropology and community/public health at the University of Toronto.

For more than 100 years, AdvantAge Ontario has been a strong voice for not-for-profit seniors' care in Ontario. Harrison

said he's looking forward to engaging with his new board in a new and exciting path forward where they are going to work hard to listen, respond and react.

"We are going to demonstrate that strategic thinking we have been known for over the years to bring all of that work forward. We will work with our colleagues at the Ontario Long-Term Care Association, Ontario Hospital Association and Ontario Medical Association. We are all partners in the health-care system. Our job is to continue forward."

He added there is room for everyone at the table and there is an absolute need to work well together to continue to support the people of Ontario.

AdvantAge represents more than 500 providers of long-term care, seniors' housing, supportive housing and community service agencies, including 98 per cent of all municipal long-term care homes and 83 per cent of all not-for-profit long-term-care homes.

Harrison will continue in his role as CEO of Tri-County Mennonite Homes.

Wednesday Walks in Wilmot's Wonderful Woods

By Louis Silcox, Let's Tree Wilmot volunteer

Wilmot is fortunate to have an environment with so many trees and such a variety too.

Not only does Let's Tree Wilmot work to increase our tree canopy – almost 4,000 trees so far and counting – but we also want people to appreciate trees.

We have many pleasant trails in the township that invite young and old to step away for a while and bathe in the cool quiet. To that end, Let's Tree Wilmot has begun a

series of Wednesday Walks in Wilmot's wonderful woods. These evening strolls will introduce people to some of the beauty that surrounds us.

The price is right – walks are free – and you can go back as often as you want. You can find the schedule on our website, letstreewilmot.ca, and sign up on Eventbrite. Registration is used to prevent crowding; we can add more walks to satisfy demand. New walks will be added every month.

Join us!



Come walk in Wilmot's wonderful woods with Let's Tree Wilmot. Contributed photo



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COMMUNITY —

Upcoming power outage for some Tavistock residents

By Lee Griffi, Local Journalism Initiative reporter

ERTH Power Corporation has scheduled a planned power outage this weekend.

The utility said for ERTH Power Corporation to make improvements to the electricity supply system, a temporary interruption is necessary starting at 11 p.m. May 25 and ending at 5 a.m. May 26.

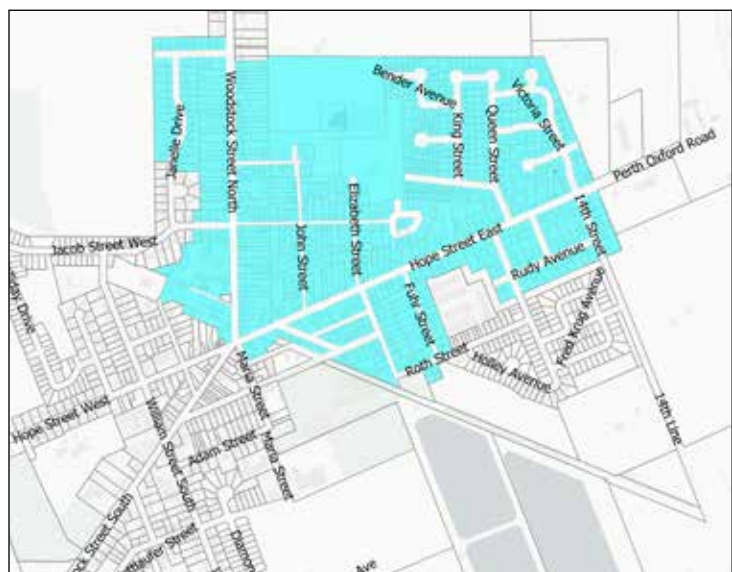
Jeff Nicholson, director of operations with ERTH, said in order to do the necessary work, the power needs to be off.

"We have two hydro poles to change, one on Hope Street East and one on Woodstock Street North. We need the outage to safely change them as the poles are going in very

close to existing conductors and they are difficult ones to change."

Only a portion of Tavistock will be affected and he added the timing of the outage is to allow business as usual for affected businesses. Affected customers should have already received an automated phone call from ERTH. If not, Nicholson said to give them a shout.

"If you aren't sure if you are affected, call the office. We generate the calls through a computer that goes by the phone number on file with us. If a customer has changed their number, they wouldn't have received the message. By all means, call us and update your information and at the same time see if you are in the outage area."



According to ERTH Power Corporation, in order to make improvements to the electricity supply system, a temporary power interruption is necessary. The outage will take place on Saturday, May 25th, 2024 between the hours of 11:00pm - 5:00am. Only customers located within the blue highlighted area on the map will be affected. Contributed image

Oxford OPP warn students playing 'Assassins Game'

By Lee Griffi, Local Journalism Initiative reporter

Over the past few weeks, the Oxford OPP has received several calls for service regarding weapon-related incidents, which turned out to be unfounded.

Police said the calls came from people playing a game called Senior Assassin in which participants use water guns to eliminate a fellow participant. At the time of the calls, neither the public nor the police knew the weapons were water guns, which caused public concern.

"The just of it is Grade 12 students are playing a game where they are given a target at the start of the school year and by the end of the year, whoever is left is the winner. Different schools have different prizes, but the idea is to squirt your target with a water gun or Nerf gun," said OPP media relations Const. Randi Crawford.

It sounds innocent enough, but more and more reports of dangerous misunderstandings have surfaced not only in Oxford County but elsewhere across the globe.

"If it's done in a schoolyard or a neighbourhood where everyone is aware this is

happening, then it's not as worrisome, but in an area where people aren't familiar with this game, it can be scary."

Crawford explained, depending on the toy gun being used, they can look very real and that's where the concern comes in. She also wants to make sure participants are not playing the game while in a vehicle, either as the driver or a passenger. Her advice to teenagers would be to come up with a new game to play.

"But if they are going to do it, we would remind everyone to be smart about it. Make sure you do it in a safe and suitable area and if you are going to use a water gun, make sure it's something that looks like a toy and nothing like replica firearms that are on the market."

Police would like to remind participants that the members of the public who are unfamiliar with the game may confuse a water gun with a real firearm and call 911.

"Police certainly want students to enjoy their final year of high school safely. Our officers would like to encourage students to find a safer way to celebrate the success of their graduation," said Crawford.

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COMMUNITY —

The North Easthope Antique Tractor Club toured Wellesley and area recently

By Gary West

It was an exciting day for kids from the Inspiring Minds Early Learning Centre in Wellesley last week.

They were able to watch Antique Tractor owners from the North Easthope Antique Tractor Club (NEAT) tour through Wellesley and end up in the parking lot of the Schmidtsville Restaurant and Gift Shop, close to their nearby education centre.

As the students, aged two and a half to four years old, watched the owners who had just had a full breakfast at the restaurant start their engines and head in all directions back to their respective homes and farms.

Their next expedition will see 40 or more antique tractors tour through another part of the countryside next week in Waterloo Region and Perth and Oxford counties, weather permitting, to promote local restaurants, schools and church groups.

Coming venues for the tractor club include Tavistock's Quehl's Restaurant, Anna Mae's Bakery and Restaurant in Millbank, Plattsville's Shakers Restaurant, Waterloo-Oxford Secondary School in Baden, Milverton Lutheran Church, Sebastopol Lutheran Church, Scram and Dram Restaurant in New Hamburg, and the Monkton Diner in Monkton.



Students from the Inspiring Minds Early Learning Centre wave to Bill McMillan on his Massey Harris Mustang tractor as he leaves the parking lot of Schmidtsville Restaurant May 16. Photos by Gary West



A total of 53 members of the North Easthope Antique Tractor club gather around Schmidtsville Restaurant staff following breakfast. They include, from left, restaurant owner Miriam Kuepfer, Alexa Jantzi and Sheryl Martin.



The Breakfast Club with their 30 antique tractors garnered lots of attention from onlookers in Wellesley last week, at the Schmidtsville Restaurant parking lot.

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The Wilmot-Tavistock Gazette

Publisher
Stewart Grant • stew@granthaven.com

Editor
Galen Simmons • galen@granthaven.com

Graphic Design / Sales Inquiries
Erin Parsons • thewtgazette@gmail.com

Business Development
Heather Dunbar • heather@granthaven.com

Billing Administrator
Cindy Boakes • boakescindy1576@gmail.com

Administrative Assistant
Wendy Lamond • wendylamond74@gmail.com

Contributors
Lee Griffi, Nancy Silcox, Gary West, Paul Knowles, Mercedes Kay Gold

36 Water St. St. Marys, ON, PO Box 2310 N4X 1A2
thewtgazette@gmail.com | 519.284.0041 | granthaven.com

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COMMUNITY —

Oxford County celebrates Paramedic Services Week

By Lee Griffi, Local Journalism Initiative reporter

Paramedics in Oxford are joining other services during this year's Paramedic Services Week to highlight this year's theme of "Help Us, Help You," emphasizing the many ways paramedic services help in our community.

The week runs from May 19-25 and is billed as the perfect time to recognize and celebrate the skilled paramedic professionals locally and across the globe.

Oxford County Paramedic Services provides emergency care for the critically ill and injured and plays a proactive role in the greater health system through community paramedicine. Last year, paramedic services responded to more than 19,000 paramedic calls in Oxford and made over 4,000 community paramedicine visits to vulnerable, marginalized or homebound residents.

Oxford County Paramedic Services operations commander Joe Vandermeer said the week provides a forum to get some important messages out to the public.

"You can look at that from so many different viewpoints. I think it's a good opportunity for us to reach out to the community and let them know some ways they can help us help them. We have a campaign happening this year to make sure your 911 or house numbers are visible. It is also a big help to unlock the door, lock up pets and have your health card and medications available."

There have been immense changes to the scope of practice and utilization of paramedics in the last few years. They played key roles during the pandemic to support other health-care sectors such as hospitals and long-term-care programs. Vandermeer said many exciting things are happening.

"The recent addition of community paramedicine to pretty much all of the paramedic services in Ontario has been great. A lot of services, including ours, have taken an active role in providing immunizations. Many changes are happening in terms of areas where we can be utilized."

Vandermeer added paramedics have proven to be adaptable and nimble

to be able to address any changes or needs in the health-care system.

"We are unique in the sense we are mobile. We never work in one place, which is dynamic and different than any other health-care agency. We go to where the trouble is, we go to where we are needed to help. It is unique and gives us a platform to be able to positively affect change in the sector."

Through the paramedic union, Local 114, the service was able to produce informative videos this week to highlight key messages and give people a glimpse into their daily work lives. Vandermeer said it's a unique look into what they do daily.

"We engaged a few of our paramedics. It was completely led by them, filmed and edited. They worked closely with the (county) communications department to make sure we had great content, but it was all about this year's theme to create that community engagement."

Follow Oxford County Paramedic Services Local 114 on Instagram at @oxfordparamedics114.



Oxford County paramedics Miranda and Jessica are part of the team celebrating Paramedic Services Week. Photo by Ashley Shultz

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COMMUNITY —

New Hamburg Mennonite Relief Sale brings local fun with global impact

By Wilmot-Tavistock Gazette staff

Since 1967, the New Hamburg Mennonite Relief Sale (NHMRS) has been a highlight of spring for hundreds of thousands of folks in Southwestern Ontario.

The sale is run by over 2,000 volunteers who bring their time, expertise and energy to prepare delicious food, breathtaking quilts and many other items for sale. All net proceeds from the NHMRS support the relief, development and peace work of Mennonite Central Committee, a global non-profit working in Canada and in over 45 countries around the world.

The 58th annual sale will be held Friday, May 24 from 5-9 p.m. and Saturday, May 25 from 7 a.m. to 1 p.m. at the New Hamburg Fairgrounds.

"We are so grateful for the many volunteers who work tirelessly to create this beautiful event every year, for the generous sponsors who care deeply about this work, and for the thousands who show up every year and spend generously for a great cause," said NHMRS committee chair John Reimer in a press release. "We are truly blessed by the community around us."

The Treasure Trove Auction on Friday



This year's New Hamburg Mennonite Relief Sale at the New Hamburg Fairgrounds May 24 and 25 will be fun for the whole family. Contributed photo

evening will feature vintage quilts, collectibles, furniture and more. The Work and Play Auction on Saturday morning will sell home and garden equipment, hardware and sporting goods. There is a lot of fun for young families with the Kid Zone featuring face painting, the Junior

Peacebuilders Makerspace, a scavenger hunt, St. John Ambulance therapy dogs and more. Beautiful fair-trade rugs from Bunyaad will also be available for the first time.

The popularity of the Voices Together Community Hymn Sing on Friday night – first unveiled in 2022 – has firmly established itself as a mainstay event. All are welcome. Even for those who have never sung before, this is a great opportunity to experience the thrill of being in the midst of more than 200 singers belting out heart-lifting, four-part harmonies.

Saturday morning will feature another mainstay of the relief sale. The Run for Relief is a run (or nature walk) at two-kilometre or five-kilometre distances – another event that's fun for the whole family. More information on how to register and fundraise is available at nhmrs.com/run-for-relief.

One of the highlights every year is the quilt auction, where over 200 gorgeous quilts of all sizes – donated by skilled and

generous artists and quilters – are available for purchase. While most of those will be sold at auction, for the first time, there will be pre-priced quilts available for immediate purchase off the rack for those who prefer a less-exciting way of buying a quilt.

This year's feature quilt is by Sara Cressman who started quilting as a teenager and has donated over 20 quilts to the NHMRS over the last two decades. This year is her first feature quilt, simply called, "Tree."

"When I was starting to think about this quilt, I knew I wanted to have a grief component to it," said Cressman, who lost her grandmother, aunt and father in the past five years. "But I also know that grief can lead to positive things, too. ... There are times when we dwell on sorrow, and other times when we dwell more on hope, so I wanted the meaning to be in the eye of the beholder."

For more information, visit nhmrs.com.



This year's feature quilt at the New Hamburg Mennonite Relief Sale is by Sara Cressman and is simply called, "Tree." Contributed photo

St. Marys Independent The Wilmot-Tavistock Gazette Goderich Sun

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Introducing our Seniors Month feature, celebrating the remarkable seniors who enrich our communities during Ontario's Seniors Month in June. This annual nationwide celebration is more than just a tribute—it's a recognition of the invaluable contributions seniors make to the vibrancy of our community.

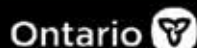
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COMMUNITY —

Wilmot Township's Canada Day celebrations heading back to Scott Park

By Galen Simmons

Wilmot Township's annual Canada Day celebration is making its triumphant return to William Scott Park in New Hamburg this year to take full advantage of recent restorations made to the historic waterwheel.

Refurbished last year, the waterwheel will offer a wonderful backdrop for the many events, games ceremonies, musical performances and, of course, the fireworks that make the township's July 1 celebrations so special each year.

"They've just refurbished (the waterwheel)," said Lillianne Dunstall, a volunteer serving on a subcommittee of this year's Canada Day task force. "We received a \$300,000 grant from the government, so it's just been refurbished, and the promenade with the lights right by the river there; it really is quite stunning.

"... (Canada Day) was at Scott park for many years but then it moved over to the grandstands by the Legion where they have the fall fair. It's a very large venue and the last couple years, it hasn't been attended by a lot of people, so it was almost dwarfed with this huge venue. So this is a little more intimate and there's a lot of trees for shading, which

we thought was going to be really important for the kids."

This year's celebrations will officially run from 11 a.m. to 10 p.m., however it will begin with a traditional Indigenous Sunrise Ceremony at first light. The official opening ceremony takes place at 11 a.m., followed by the cutting of a Canada Day cake and a performance by children's entertainer Erick Traplin.

The event includes vendors, bouncy castles, potato-sack races, face painting, an egg-and-spoon race, a scavenger hunt, three-legged races, bubble-making a craft table, costume characters, a gaming trailer and so much more.

"One of the great things we're also having is Janet Divita - who has her childhood educator (certification and) she is the designated family grouping program at YMCA daycare in Shakespeare - is going to have a toddler event, so there is going to be all sorts of games and activities for the toddlers. ... One of the things that's really getting the kids excited is we're going to have a dunk tank. The W-O (Waterloo-Oxford District Secondary School) principal, Carolyn Salonen, has agreed (to sit in the dunk tank) as well as one of the teachers, and I'm trying to get some of the other teachers.

"... So there will be teachers and school staff. I can imagine the kids will be lined up around the block to get their favourite teacher."

Live musical performances will take place into the evening including the Guistini sisters singing O' Canada, the New Hamburg Band, The Randy Satchell Band and more.

The New Hamburg Board of Trade will take to the stage at the waterwheel to bring greetings at 12:20 p.m. and there will also be an official grand opening for the newly refurbished waterwheel.

The Canada Day event will be capped off with a fireworks display along the Nith River starting at dusk.

Event organizers are still looking for both volunteers and sponsors to support the Canada Day celebrations. Dunstall says Canada Day is an excellent way for local students to get volunteer hours toward their 40-hour high-school requirement and the day will be a fun opportunity for older volunteers to support their community. To apply to volunteer at the event, visit www.wilmot.ca/cdvolunteers.

For more information about sponsoring the Canada Day event, contact Coun. Steven Martin at



519-807-5214 or Steven.martin@wilmot.ca

People should come out and enjoy the day as it is geared to appeal to all ages," task force members Lou Divita said. "Many of the participants in this event are


local community members. We've tried where possible to make sure that this is an event for the whole community by the whole community. We also welcome all from surrounding communities to come out as well.



Locals celebrate during Wilmot Township's annual Canada Day event at William Scott Park before it was moved to the grand stands at the New Hamburg Legion in 2017. Contributed photo



Wilmot Township's Canada Day celebrations are moving back to William Scott Park in downtown New Hamburg this year after they were held at the grand stands by the New Hamburg Legion for the last several years. Contributed photo



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Corn planting ramping up near New Hamburg recently

By Gary West

Most farmers in the area are busy planting all kinds of crops like alfalfa, spring grain, corn and soybeans, but have been dealing with a weatherman that is making planting a daunting task this spring in Perth County.

Up until last Thursday, every tractor, planter, sprayer, fertilizer spreader and even forage harvesters were having a workout when a few days of dry weather meant long days and short nights for most area farmers.



Gary Pletsch, who farms with his family between Stratford and New Hamburg, was taking advantage of dry weather early one morning last week, while planting corn. Within 24 hours, over an inch of rain had drenched most area fields and farm equipment came to a sudden standstill. Photo by Gary West

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COMMUNITY —

Oxford OPP lay charges after Tavistock assault

By Lee Griffi, Local Journalism Initiative reporter

Police arrested a 52-year-old man after being called to a business in Tavistock last week.

On Tuesday, May 14 at about 9 a.m., police received a report of an individual with an edged weapon in downtown Tavistock. Police attended the area and arrested a 52-year-old from Zorra Township at Tim Horton's.

No injuries were reported and police say the male was charged with assault with a weapon, possession of a weapon for a dangerous purpose and failing to comply with a probation order.

What the press release from the OPP doesn't say is the suspect was given a warning by officers approximately 15 minutes before the alleged assault. Several witnesses called the OPP complaining someone was acting erratically at the five-corner intersection. One witness reached out to the Gazette and wished to remain anonymous.

"He was just outside the laundromat

around 8:40 a.m., no shoes on and a bandana tied around his face. He was kicking poles and punching the walls and signs while the children were walking through to go to school. I called it in for the concern that the children felt unsafe."

Police arrived, but the witness was told they couldn't lay charges based on the original disturbance. Around 15 minutes later, there was another report of the suspect in Tim Horton's.

"I only know of the second interaction because the officer who reported both times followed up with me yesterday afternoon through a phone call. I just told him it was unfortunate that the second interaction occurred when it could have been avoided if something had been done on the first call. The officer said they gave him a warning and (told him) if they were called again, he would be going in."

They added the situation was scary based on how the male was behaving in front of children and he looked to be under the influence of drugs or alcohol.

The Gazette heard from a second

witness who also wanted their name withheld. They said the biggest concern was the safety of children and parents on their way to school and added crossing guards at the main intersection put the safety of those crossing first and foremost.

"The guards got them out of the intersection and away from the chance of anything happening. He seemed to be in his own world at that time and wasn't going up to anyone. I'm not sure if it was a mental health issue or drugs, he was just acting erratically. He commented to police he thought he was in Stratford."

They added the suspect should have been taken out of the area to get help.

"It's not like he did any harm to anyone from what I saw, but it could have progressed. There's a lot of stuff going on in the main intersection of Tavistock and of course it was a peak time when the kids were all coming and traffic was very busy.

Provincial police added they want to thank members of the public for their assistance with the incident.


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COMMUNITY —

OBITUARY

WETTLAUFER, Lyla Irene

Passed away peacefully with her family by her side on Wednesday, May 15, 2024, at the Hospice of Waterloo Region. Lyla was a resident of New Hamburg and was born 78 years ago in Walkerton, Ontario, a daughter of the late Herman and Verna (Perschbacher) Schul.

Loving mother of Crista Coughlin and fiancé Cecil Shresta, Steve and wife Amanda Wettlaufer, and Bryan and wife Anesa Wettlaufer. Proud and devoted grandmother of Riley, Iris, Aaron, and Taylor. Lyla is survived by her brother Dennis and wife Jan Schul, sister Marlene Henrich, 9 nephews and many great-nieces and nephews. She will be dearly missed by Jean Cook.

Predeceased by her beloved husband James "Jim" Wettlaufer, sisters-in-law and brothers-in-law Helen and Jack Pearson, and Norm and Eileen Wettlaufer.

Lyla was a long time member of Trinity Lutheran Church. She was a member of the church choir for many years, often counted the church offerings and sat on church council. Volunteering was a vital part of Lyla's life, she volunteered at many places for herself and also along side her husband Jim. A devoted hockey mom in her younger years cheering on her sons, and cooking delicious meals for her family, friends and community. Lyla's cabbage rolls, scalloped potatoes and ham will be missed by many, as she cooked to show her true love for all.

Lyla is soaring with the dragonflies now. Everyone was invited to join the family on Friday, May 17, 2024, from 2 - 4 & 6 - 8 p.m. at the Mark Jutzi Funeral Home, 291 Huron Street, New Hamburg. A funeral service was held at Trinity Lutheran Church, 23 Church Street, New Hamburg, on Saturday, May 18, 2024, at 11:00 a.m. Interment followed at Riverside Cemetery. A time of fellowship was held at the New Hamburg Legion.

As expressions of sympathy, memorial donations can be made to Trinity Lutheran Church, Hospice of Waterloo Region or a charity of your choice.

Personal condolences and donation information available at www.markjutzifuneralhomes.ca

IN MEMORIAM

Happy Heavenly Birthdays
Mom & Dad

Willis Fryfogel--May 24, 1927- May 30, 1987

Doris Fryfogel--May 26, 1928- August 31, 2019

Those we love don't go away,
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Forever in our hearts.

Jean Anne, Sharon and Shirley and Families

OBITUARY

GARVEY, Donald Louis George Jr.



Passed away unexpectedly after a brief illness, on Friday, April 26, 2024, at his residence in Cambridge, Ontario. Donald Garvey born in Nanaimo, British Columbia, 49 years ago.

Donald will be forever embraced by his parents Donald and Francis (Widen) Garvey. Donald will be missed by his wife

Joanne (Cox) Garvey, sons, Peter, Nathan, and Travis (Niamh).

Donald is survived by his brother Leonard Garvey, who shared in both his joys and sorrows throughout life's journey. Together, they forged bonds of brotherhood that will endure beyond veil of mortality.

Donald is also survived by his nephews and nieces, Aaron, Owen, Seanna, Jaxson, and Aria, as well his many aunts, uncles and cousins.

Cremation has taken place and no formal services at scheduled for this time.

As expressions of sympathy, memorial donations can be made to the KW Humane Society and can be done through the funeral home website.

Personal condolences and donation information available at www.markjutzifuneralhomes.ca

CELEBRATION

The Coulthard twins
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COMMUNITY —

The Wilmot-Tavistock Gazette Weekly Quiz

1. "99 red balloons" was originally sung in what language?
2. What planet has the strongest gravity in the Milky Way Galaxy?
3. What is the capital of Puerto Rico?
4. When was the selling of raw milk banned in Canada?
5. Who was the leading voice of Coach's Corner on Sportsnet?
6. What is Heliophysics the study of?
7. In which sport would you perform the Fosbury Flop?
8. Who is the author of "Oliver Twist"?
9. What is the name of the tallest building in New York City?
10. What does the Roman Numeral "X" stand for?

Answers found on page 22

BIRTHDAYS AND ANNIVERSARIES

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

May 23: Happy birthday to Rebecca Ropp (3), Olive Adams (7), Crew Munro (9), Lochlan McOrmand (12), Adele Ferguson (2) and anniversary for Cory and Caitlin McKay (9th).

May 24: Happy birthday to Avery Brenneman (16) and Leif Gladding (22).

May 25: Happy birthday to Reid Wynette (10), Ethan Hanlon (20), Riley Wettlaufer (23), and anniversaries for Daniel and Kathleen Green (11th), Brett and Amber Jackman (11th), Chad and Amanda Blum.

May 26: Happy birthday to Emerson Kalbfleisch (6), Eloise Stock-Bateman (15), Mahalia Bamberry (15), Jaymie Riehl (20), and anniversary for Luke and Angie Wencel (14th).

May 27: Happy birthday to Ellie Green (5), Reid Harold (9), Lindsay Vanderhyden (16), Nicole Danen (20), and anniversaries for Murray and Barb Roth (46th), and Nathan and Amy Yantzi (7th).

May 28: Happy birthday to Cole Mosburger (12), Kenneth Wilhelm (22), Hope Albrecht (23), Katelyn Wagler, Angie Wettlaufer and Juniper Pavey.

May 29: Happy birthday to Claire Yantzi (21), Mia Kurzat (22), and anniversary for Kris and Krista Matthews (20th).

The Old Gazettes

By Jake 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.

May 22-29, 2019, Edition (5 years ago)

With less than two weeks before the annual tournament, the World Crokinole Championship committee is faced with another record attendance. As of May 17, registrar Linda Bender has announced that the singles categories are sold out. That means that 124 tables will be in use on tournament day.

The East Oxford #2 Regional Track and Field Meet was held at College Avenue Secondary School in Woodstock on Tuesday May 21, 2019. Pictured is Grade 6 student Everett Carne, 11, who set a new record for the Intermediate Boys' Long Jump at 3.43 meters. Also pictured is Ayesha Mir, Grade 5 student, and winner of the 200-meter race in the Junior Girls' category.

Garden Party for a cause! A cheque for \$8,127.85 was presented to Jennifer Baxter, manager, community relations, Children's Health Foundation at the annual meeting of the Oxford District Women's Institute on May 22.

Elvis Presley may be gone, but his legend lives on in quality shows by impersonators such as Garry Wesley who brought his talent to Grace United Church for a sold-out event on Sunday evening, May 26.

The Optimist Club of Tavistock in cooperation with the Oxford County Injury Safety Prevention Team hosted another successful Bike Rodeo at Tavistock Public School, May 24, 2019. One-hundred and sixty-two students brought their bicycles and scoot-

ers to school to have them checked mechanically and learn the rules of the road.

May 20-27, 2009, Edition (15 years ago)

Who would have thought that a high school class project could turn into a \$5,000 grant and meals for 2,000 people in need in Stratford. Northwestern Secondary Grade 10 students Christy Harris and Celeste Cook teamed up with the Community Meals program administered by several Stratford churches in order to serve their community.

Jack Danen of RR #1, Tavistock is the Western Region winner of the Ontario Dairy Youth Award for 2009. The selection committee made the announcement on May 12, 2009, with four recipients in Ontario. Congratulations Jack!

May 18-25, 1994, Edition (30 years ago)

A very moving note of appreciation has been received from a recipient of clothing, following the appeal for blankets and clothing by the Rotary Club of Tavistock. It is from a mother in Bosnia-Croatia who conveys a sincere thank you for your generosity. The war separated her and her husband, and she fled for safety with her two children.

Lots of sunburned faces on Saturday, but Sunday brought clouds and cold, rainy weather for Monday.

Walter McDonald, of RR #1, Bright, Service Officer for the Royal Canadian Legion Branch 518, Tavistock was presented with a 50-year service pin on Saturday evening, May 14. Walter was a member of the Plattsville Legion Branch before coming to Tavistock to join the local Branch.

Four fires within 24 hours in East Zorra-Tavistock kept volunteer firefighters busy this past long weekend as two area barns were destroyed and another saved, as well as a

minor stump fire near the village.

The Tavistock Girls Squirt B Team played their first game on Monday, May 16 against Rostock and put up a great effort losing 20-15. Heather Roth and Jessica Sippel scored three runs with Abby Lichti and Mary Ditter scoring two runs each. The girls had a good game considering how cold it was.

Michael J. Sullivan, retiring member of the Tavistock Police Services Board, was presented with a special plaque last week in recognition of his contribution to the board over the past two years.

The 25th Anniversary Celebration for Don's Food Market in Tavistock was a complete success from the weather to the crowd of close to 1,000 people who attended last Wednesday evening. The Tavistock Arena Fund benefited with a \$2,600 donation, proceeds from the event.

May 22-29, 1974, Edition (50 years ago)

Many hidden talents were revealed in the hobby show sponsored by the Tavistock Library Board over the weekend beginning Friday evening and continuing through to Sunday. The hall held a varied selection of artists works, with portraits, button designs and a table holding many hours of diligent work by the younger set-in cars, trucks, motorcycles and hot-rod models. There was also hand-carved chairs and tables, masterpieces of hand work in knitting, crocheting and macrame, quilts and lace tablecloths, several arrangements of dried flowers and hand-embroidered wall hangings.

The ladies of the Tavistock Women's Institute were treated to a verbal tour of Mexico and South America at their May meeting. The meeting was held in the Library Hall last Tuesday evening with 17 members and four guests present.

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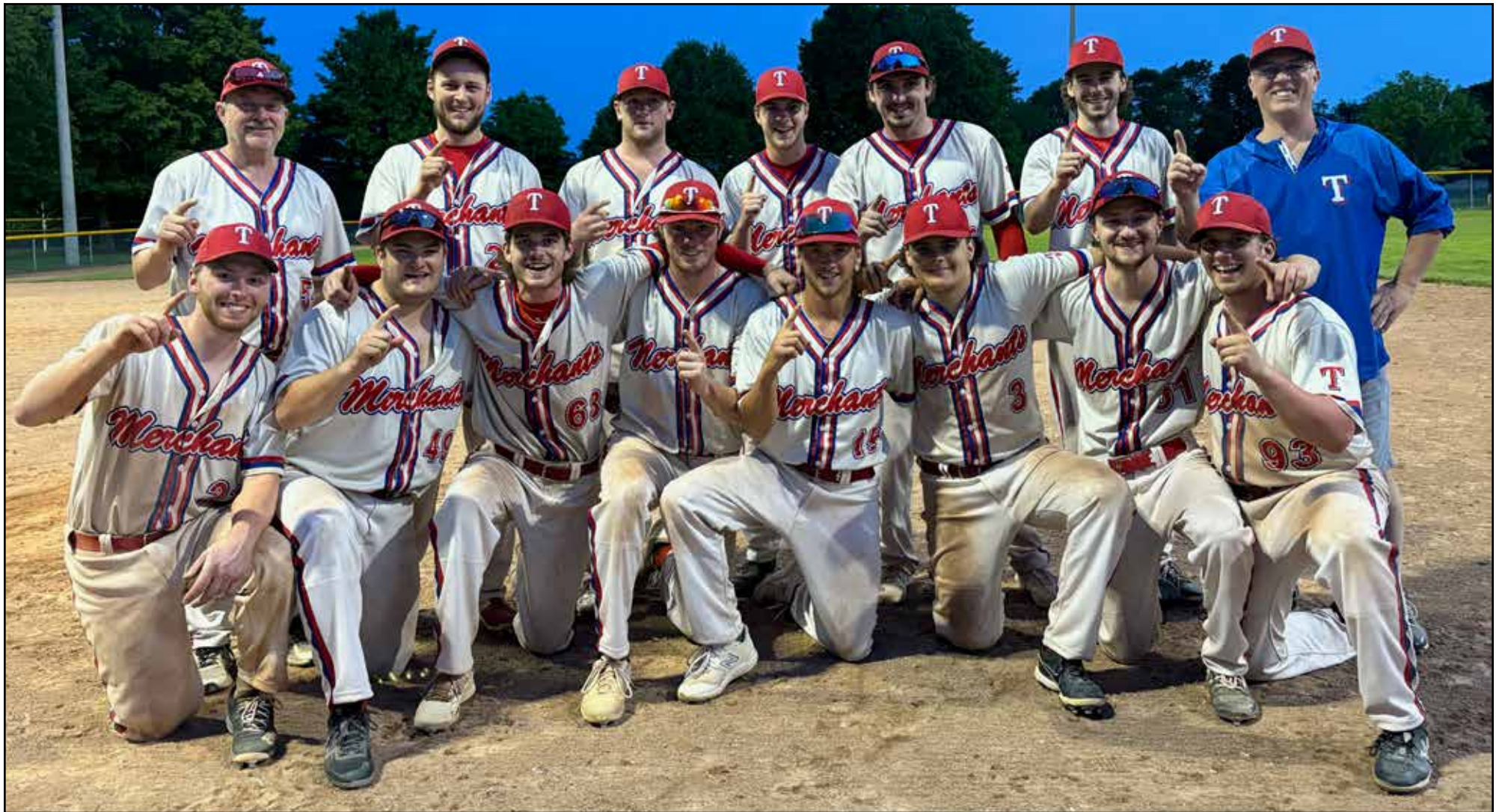
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SPORTS —

Merchants take Innerkip Victoria Day tournament



The Tavistock Merchants. In back row, from left to right, are Gary Baker, Kyle Roth, Connor Brooks, Justin Roth, Tye Boyd, Sam Bauman and Kevin Zehr. In the front row, from left to right, are Calvin Munro, Thomas Baker, Andrew VanBoekel, Derek Erb, Bo Schurink, Keenan Bateman, Jaxon Gilbert and Jake Bauman. Contributed photo

By Lee Griffi, Local Journalism Initiative reporter

The Tavistock Junior Merchants dominated their opposition to take gold over the weekend.

They defeated the Waterdown Hammer 8-0 in the championship game capping off six games in just 36 hours.

Their bats were hot, hitting 10 home runs, half of those by Connor Brooks. In 151 plate appearances, the Merchants hit .377 and scored 41 runs. The pitching tandem of Tye Boyd and Andrew VanBoekel held the competition to 22 runs on 37 hits.

Head coach Kevin Zehr said while the offense was hot, it was a complete effort.

"The defense gave great support only

committing just two errors and consistently made big outs in both the infield and outfield. We played against some very good men's team and the experience should help us the rest of the season. Three of our wins came with two out rallies. That shows great character from the young guys."

The Merchants look to defend their

provincial title in Tavistock from June 28-30 and their Canadian championship in Kitchener from July 31 to Aug. 4.

"I'm quite happy with our results so far and the play of the boys, but we know we are at the bottom of the hill and have a lot of work to do to get to the top," added Zehr.

"This weekend will definitely go a long way with their confidence."

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SPORTS —

Perth County's Levi Dill in the winner's circle again at Grand Bend Motor Speedway

By Gary West

There is a 12 year old from North Easthope Township in Perth County who has established himself, with his family's encouragement, to be a champion at Grand Bend Motor Speedway.

Levi Dill, who lives near the Hamlet of Hampstead, had a big win with his first two races of the season at the raceway this past weekend.

He raced both Saturday and Sunday with wins both days.

His parents, Mike and Kirsten Dill, said "the wins did not come without troubles. Saturday night was a scramble to change motors as the motor was acting up, and on Sunday there were clutch issues, but he managed to pull out another win."

Levi is a Grade 7 student at North Easthope Public School and started racing in 2019 at the age of seven.

He races under the World Drag Racing Alliance (WDRA) and is in the junior dragster division, which is a eighth-of-a-mile race. His winning speeds are 76.5 m/hr in 8.42 seconds.

His sponsors continue to be Advanced Drainage Solutions, W.C. Dill Co. In Stratford, John Bear GMC in New Hamburg and Wells Food Processing in Wheatley.



Levi Dill with his two winning trophies from his first weekend of racing this season at Grand Bend Motorplex. Contributed photo




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COMMUNITY —

Endangered Snail Species Discovered in the Upper Thames River Watershed

By Wilmot-Tavistock Gazette staff

Live Shagreen (*Inflectarius inflectus*) snails have been discovered at Snake Woods Nature Preserve near Woodstock by Scott Gillingwater, species at risk biologist with the Upper Thames River Conservation Authority.

The observation was first made in April 2023, corrected a year later via iNaturalist, and subsequently verified by two mollusk experts that specialize in Canadian snails. In April 2024, a second specimen was observed on the property.

The Shagreen is a terrestrial snail that is endangered both provincially and federally. While this species used to be found in two sites in southwestern Ontario (Leamington area) and five islands in Lake Erie, the Committee on the Status of Endangered Wildlife in Canada status report states that "it is currently known to persist on only two islands." This suggests that Snake Woods Nature Preserve could be home to the last remaining mainland population in Canada.

Shagreen populations have dwindled mainly due to habitat loss and fragmentation. Climate change impacts such as extreme temperatures and flooding also threaten the species' survival.

An identifying feature of the Shagreen, when compared to similar-looking species, is its closed umbilicus (the centre of the underside of the shell). This key feature was noted by an iNaturalist user, leading Gillingwater to seek out snail experts (malacologists) Dr. Annegret Nicolai and Robert Forsyth to confirm the species.

"This is why iNaturalist is so important to scientists. Without access to international experts, this find may have fallen through the cracks," said Gillingwater in a press release.



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OPINION —

FROM THE EDITOR'S DESK: *Taking a dog on holiday*



By Galen Simmons

As I write this column, I am sitting in a quaint cottage on the shores of Longbow Lake just outside of the City of Kenora in northern Ontario.

My mom, sister, girlfriend and I made the trip up to Kenora last week to visit family, something my immediate family has done every summer – or every other summer after my dad passed – since I was a baby.

The trip is a somewhat long one. It's about an hour and a half by car from Stratford to Pearson Airport, a little more than a two-and-a-half-hour flight from Toronto to Winnipeg, and then another two-and-a-half-hour drive from Winnipeg back over the Ontario border to Kenora.

This year, my girlfriend, Julia, joined us for the first time on our annual pilgrimage to my patrilineal roots, and we decided, instead of paying for doggy daycare, we would bring her dog – a one-and-a-half-year-old mini cockapoo named Phoebe who looks more like an Irish setter puppy – along for the ride.

Neither Julia or I have ever travelled with a pet in any mode of transportation other than a car, and Phoebe, too, has never known any other way to get from Point A to Point B, so we weren't sure what to expect.

Because of her size, we had to stow Phoebe in the pressurized-cargo compartment of the plane, so we called the airport well in advance and booked a spot for her and her kennel in the belly of the beast. Even so, the ticket agent said there was no guarantee there would be room for Phoebe in the plane and we would only know for sure on the day of our flight.

Needless to say, both Julia and I were a bundle of nerves when we arrived at the Park 'N' Fly lot at Pearson and boarded the shuttle bus to Terminal 1. Once we arrived, we were told to wait in line to speak with a ticket agent since we were flying with a live animal and would need to drop her off at the oversized/fragile luggage desk.

So, we waited, and we waited, and we waited. Forty-five minutes later we stepped out from the front of the line and walked up to the counter to speak with a perfectly pleasant and slightly inexperienced ticket agent. With a little less than an hour before we were to board, the ticket agent and her supervisor did their best have us fill out the tags, place the stickers, and tie down the hard-top dog carrier we'd purchased somewhat last minute the night before.

Everything seemed to be going smoothly. We had our boarding passes and we brought Phoebe to the oversized-baggage counter to have her carrier scanned for dangers (drugs, weapons, illegal immigrants; who knows what people smuggle in their dog carriers). As another ticket agent was checking out the carrier, she suddenly realized we hadn't gotten a luggage tag and, according to her, Phoebe would not have made it to Winnipeg if she hadn't noticed it was missing, and we likely would have been pulled off the plane, too.

So that was another layer of stress, worrying about what could have been, but my girlfriend quickly ran back to the original ticket agent, explained the situation and had a luggage tag printed and stuck to Phoebe's carrier in no time.

We were then instructed to leave the luggage cart carrying Phoebe in her carrier at the oversized-luggage desk – one of the hardest things I've ever had to do – and proceed through security to our gate. With all the confusion and chaos of getting Phoebe ready to fly, we only just made it to our gate with less than 10 minutes to spare.

Julia and I worried about Phoebe for the whole flight. Did she make it on the plane alright? Was she hungry? Thirsty? Did she have to go to the bathroom? Where would we find her when we got to Winnipeg?

As it turned out, we had nothing to worry about. A luggage staff member at the Winnipeg Airport brought Phoebe out from behind a door at the back of the luggage-carousel area shortly after we picked up our other bags, Julia took her out for a quick pee and a runaround in the small dog park just outside the airport, and we all loaded into a rental car and headed toward our rental cottage in Kenora.

While the first time flying with a dog was stressful, I don't regret bringing Phoebe at all. She's having so much fun exploring her new surroundings, riding in a boat for the first time, and going for an entirely unintended swim off the dock – and we're having fun watching her experience all of it.



Flying with a dog for the first time is definitely stressful, but totally worth it. Photo by Rhianna Simmons

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OPINION —

EXPERT ADVICE: *Right on, rhubarb!*



By Mercedes Kay Gold

Ontario's rhubarb season is in full swing. Though native to Asia, rhubarb, one hearty veggie with the crazy celery stalk resemblance, is suitable to survive Canada's harsh winter.



The key to minimizing the tartness and eliminating the need for excess sugar in rhubarb is choosing the thinnest and brightest, boldest, red rhubarb stalks. Photos by Mercedes Kay Gold

Fun fact: The colour of the stalk, from light green to a deep purplish-red, is due to the variety and growing conditions whether wild, garden or greenhouse. Rhubarb is a stupendous sidekick to strawberries in a home-baked pie, marvelous in muffins, a crown jewel in jam or super in smoothies. Rhubarb is not a fruit but rather a member of the buckwheat family, and classified as a vegetable crop.

As a holistic nutritionist, I favour fresh over frozen, and always seek out the shiny, firm, ravishing red stalks. They are thinner, tender and sweet, and not as fibrous as paler hues. When picking rhubarb from the garden, always grab at the base of the stalk, tug, twist, and gently pull. Cutting rhubarb is a no-go. It won't grow back, and tends to rot below the cut line. Greens are the go-to for optimal health but not in this case. The leaves are inedible, containing an extremely high concentration of oxalic acid. Rhubarb grows quickly but wait a few weeks for the plant to recover before picking more.

Rhubarb, like all plants, contains body-nourishing nutrients. Most notably is cold-prevention powerhouse vitamin C and rhubarb is a great source of vital vitamin K, key to blood clotting and bone health. Rhubarb is incredibly low in carbohydrates thanks to its high-fiber content. With just 13 calories in a cup, reach for rhubarb to support weight loss and weight management. The sugar is negligible, and the tasty tart favourite is perfect paired with strawberries, a sweet sidekick in smoothies. Bored of the same mundane meals? Rhubarb can be roasted with maple syrup or honey for the perfect add-on in summer salads or with a dollop of whipped cream.

Let's bake a rhubarb loaf. This Canadian recipe creator was lucky enough to use backyard, fresh, garden goodness. The key to minimizing the tartness and eliminating the need for excess sugar is choosing

the thinnest and brightest, boldest, red rhubarb stalks. The magic of maple syrup and sugar was courtesy of @waglermaple-products.

For extra rhubarb love, top the loaf with compote or on ice-cream as a last-minute dessert. Rolling in rhubarb? Chop and freeze for smoothies or baking.

Rhubarb Loaf Love

Vegetarian, nut- and gluten-free

Ingredients:

- 1 ½ cups of chopped fresh rhubarb in ¼ inch or smaller chunks
- 2 tbsp maple sugar
- ½ cup of maple syrup
- ½ cup of avocado oil plus 1 tbsp
- 1 large egg
- 2 tsp pure vanilla extract
- 1 ½ cups of oat flour
- ½ tsp Himalayan Sea salt
- ½ tsp baking soda
- ½ tsp baking powder
- ½ tsp ground Ceylon cinnamon

Directions:

1. Preheat oven to 350 degrees Fahrenheit.
2. Chop the rhubarb in ¼ inch chunks and sprinkle with the maple sugar. Stir to coat evenly.
3. In a separate bowl, whisk the egg, vanilla and maple syrup.
4. In a new bowl, combine flour, baking soda, baking powder, cinnamon and salt.
5. Combine the two bowls and mix well.
6. Pour into a standard silicon or greased loaf pan 8 ½ x 4 ½ by 2 ½ inches.
7. Bake in the middle of the oven 45-50



I used maple sugar from Wagler Maple Products to help sweeten my rhubarb loaf.

minutes or until a toothpick comes out clean.

Rhubarb Compote

1. Chop 2 cups of rhubarb into 1-inch chunks, cover with water and add ¼ cup maple sugar.
2. Stir well and bring to a boil.
3. Turn down, simmer and stir often until desired thickness.
4. Cool and store in the fridge or freeze in a glass jar.

According to my taste tester extraordinaire, the compote was rated a six for sweetness on a scale of one to ten. The idea is to serve on muffins, granola, ice-cream or top with whip cream, and all these have sugar already.

Happy Rhubarb Season!

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TRAVEL —

OH, THE PLACES WE'LL GO: Bleu Lavande: a blooming wonderful surprise



By Paul Knowles

There are occasions in this peripatetic life of mine when I stumble into a perfect day out. Last summer, that happened in and around the town of Magog, Que..

Half of the day was not really a surprise. We were booked to do a luncheon cruise on Lake Memphremagog aboard the vessel, the Grand Cru. Lunch on the water; what could be nicer?

The other part of the day was more mysterious. We were to visit a place called Bleu Lavande – Blue Lavender in English – where they grow lavender. Okay, big deal, right?

Actually, yes. The cruise was great, but the time at Bleu Lavande was simply amazing.

Let's start on the water. It was billed as a luncheon cruise, but it was much more than that. We checked in at the dock before 11 a.m., boarded the boat

and found our reserved table in one of the several dining areas. But then we were free to wander out on the deck, find some comfortable chairs and enjoy the scenery on this cruise that lasted at least a couple of hours.

This is no small body of water. Lake Memphremagog covers 110 square kilometres and reaches a depth of 107 metres. The shoreline is dotted with elegant summer homes, but the highlight is a working monastery – the Abbaye Saint-Benoit-du-lac, itself well worth a visit (and also worth the feature I wrote for this space a few months ago).

The three-course meal was excellent. For instance, the mains on offers included local rainbow trout, Québec lamb and waffles with herb confit duck. Desserts included salted caramel mousse, and I see no reason to go any further! Onboard entertainment – a duo of musicians playing on the main deck – was top notch. Sailing on the Grand Cru was one of those experiences you don't want to end.

But I'm glad it did because then we headed 10 minutes away to Bleu Lavande. I guessed we would stay there for 15 minutes; we stayed for hours.

Bleu Lavande has been in its present location for only six years and officially opened there in 2021. The highlight, of course, is the many rows of beautifully blooming lavender. In season (high season runs from June 17 to Sept. 7 this year), it is gob-smackingly exquisite.

Visitors stroll around the lavender beds, frequently sinking

into one of the many garden chairs that are there because you need to relax to really take in the wonder.

The wonder is a bit noisy, by the way. Not because of any outside clamor but because the lavender is so laden with busy bees. They ignore the humans, probably because they are so enraptured with the flowers. So, the bees and the humans have that in common.

Honestly, I could have sat and soaked in the ambience all afternoon, but there is much more to do at Bleu Lavande.

Not surprisingly, there is a well-stocked and nicely designed shop selling everything lavender. That includes essential oils – and we learned that it takes 180 kilograms of lavender to produce one kilogram of essential oil, which is why Bleu Lavande buys most of its lavender for production elsewhere, much of it imported from Bulgaria. The beds on site are for beauty, not product.

The facility also includes an interpretive centre where visitors learn more than they ever dreamed about lavender, including the fact that there are 39 species of the flowering plant.

Included in the centre is a magical feature created by the groundbreaking digital-entertainment company, the Moment Factory. This one is called Champs Chromatique – Fields of Colour – which sounds less exciting in English. Visitors are immersed in four walls of colour and discover that you can change the display by moving your body. Those less inhibited end up dancing with the light



Visitors to Bleu Lavande surrender to the beauty of it all. All photos by Paul Knowles

show.

But the real focus here is relaxation. Bleu Lavande offers aromatherapy massages in the gardens. Less costly but also relaxing is lunch on the patio, often accompanied by live music of an appropriately bucolic kind. When we were there, we enjoyed the talents of a classical harpist.

We had to tear ourselves away from Bleu Lavande – exactly the opposite response that I had been anticipating. Maybe it's the aroma, maybe it's the visual display, maybe it's the music, but there is something perfectly hypnotic about spending time at this unexpected jewel.

Bleu Lavande attracts about 30,000 visitors a year. In high

season, admission is only \$15 for adults. That may sound like a lot of people, but as they spread out over acres of lavender and lots of indoor space, it is simply not crowded.

This was one great day in Québec's Eastern Townships. Rest assured, you can find many more in this intriguing part of our country – great food, terrific wine, beautiful countryside and lots of history.

A wonderful destination, right next door to Ontario.

Paul Knowles is an author and travel writer, and President of the Travel Media Association of Canada. To contact Paul about travel, his books, or speaking engagements, email pknowles@golden.net.



Bleu Lavande is one of the most surprisingly enticing destinations this writer has visited.



A classical harpist performs on the patio.



The shoreline of Lake Memphremagog, as seen from the deck of the Grand Cru.



The Bleu Lavande shop sells everything lavender.

OPINION —

EXPERT ADVICE: *Online or Instore?*



By Scott Dunstall

Before I get started and for those of you following along, I am proud to announce Susan Honderich-Mills was the winner of the Guess the Shoe Colour contest. The correct answer? Seafoam green. In my last piece I asked my readers that if they met me at an event, they would have to tell me the colour of the shoes hidden in the clue I gave. Susan came up to me at a Firebirds game and simply said, "Seafoam green." Cha Ching; a \$10 Timmies card. Keep your eyes open for the next contest.

We are now full-on heading into summer. Long weekends, friends,

family, barbecue, baseball, cut grass, flowers, leaves, life. And, as part of the annual rebirth, I must review my summer lineup. As you may or may not recall (or care), I took all my stuff down to Florida for a few weeks, but I came back with a few items on the disabled list. Not saying who and not saying how, but one of my white polos got red wine splashed all over it. Now what I do when this kind of thing happens is I immediately spray a stain remover on it and rub it in. But alas, poor Tommy (Hilfinger), I knew him well. So I have to get a new one.

Next, I fell and ripped a pair of RLP (Ralph Lauren Polo) shorts. As you may be thinking, the previous incident and this incident had nothing to do with each other. Finally, somebody put another polo shirt (that is very hard to replace by the way) in the dryer. As this person knows, I do not put shorts, shirts or jeans in the dryer. It's the worst thing you can do to your clothes.

So where am I going to buy

these replacements? The Bay? Nope. Winners/Marshalls? Nope. I am going to buy online. Why, Scott? Why? Because these are known entities I am replacing. I know the brand, the size and the colour. Why not search on the net for the exact same thing for the best price? That's what I do. If I am looking from something in a particular range but not sure exactly what that would be, I am off to the store to experiment in person.

Quite often, what I will do is take along the items I am going to wear that piece with to see what it will look like in real time in the dressing room. And don't forget that when you do this, always take in one size above and below the size you think you are, so you aren't running around the store with your pants down around your ankles look for another size. If you know exactly what you are looking for, as I said, that is your green light to shop online.

Don't be afraid of going the fully Monty in your search. Look at retailer websites, even in the

US. I buy a lot from Lord and Taylor (The Bay's sister company in the states). Look at designers' pages. The pricing may be no better as they need to protect their distributors, but you may find the exact same piece in a colour you wouldn't find on the retailer's site.

And look at Amazon – if it ain't there, it ain't anywhere.

Scott Dunstall has been on a stylistic journey for over 10 years. His belief is 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 or Life & Style Wilmot on Facebook. Feel free to ask questions or propose collaborations: everydaystylebyscott1@gmail.com.



Susan Honderich-Mills sit on her porch proudly showing the spoils of winning the Guess the Colour of the shoes contest. Photo by Scott Dunstall



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REVIEW —

The Sweetness at the Bottom of the Pie by Alan Bradley

By Oxford County Library staff

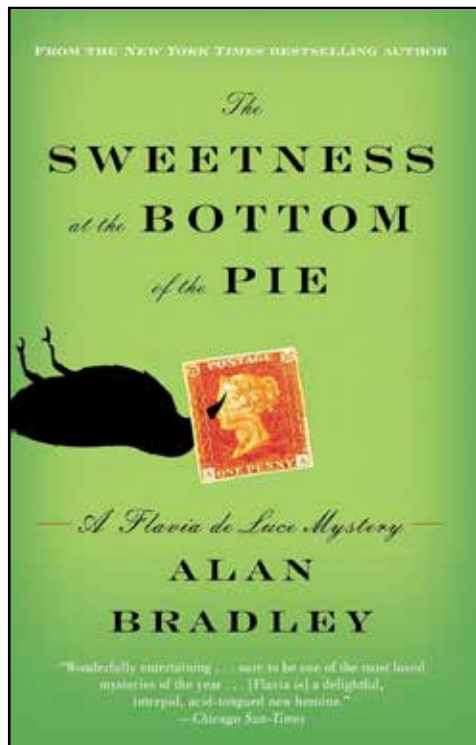
Flavia is not your ordinary seven-year-old girl. Growing up in 1951, in the increasingly decrepit Buckshaw manor with her two sisters, her dad, her dad's old war friend, Dogger, as well as the cooking lady, Mrs. Mullet, Flavia wiles her time away learning all she can from the old chemistry lab in the attic, becoming affluent in the subject.

However, between chemistry experiments with poison-ivy laced lipstick and social experiments with her distant father and vile sisters, Flavia becomes embroiled in a murder mystery involving an old stamp-collecting friend of her dad's who turns up suddenly, and then appears dead in the manor's garden just the next day.

Flavia takes it on herself, using her wits, charisma and forensic talents to conduct her own investigation into this mysterious past friend, uncovering secrets of her father's boyhood with chemical equilibrium.

Readers will adore the bombastic and unusual Flavia De Luce, who's personality and narration colours the story from cover to cover of this book. Not since Hercule Poirot and Sherlock Holmes has a more ingenious and endearing detective graced the pages of mystery literature, and it's likely we won't have a detective quite like Flavia for a long time after too.

Readers can also expect a whole host of colourful side characters like Flavia's sisters, the studious Ophelia and the musical Daphne, or the sounding-board and mystery solving companion extraordinaire,



Dogger.

The author, Toronto-born Alan Bradley, is a virtuoso of blending Flavia's navigation of the mystery, her family life and the co-valent bonds between her and the women around her post Second World War British parish. Readers can also be assured that this is no one off, as the Flavia De Luce mystery series has eight more novels with all of the equivocal charm and genius

Gazette Puzzles

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Pet of the Week

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 Our Pet of the Week is Nala. Levi, Lexi and Jade Dill of Gadshill rescued her 10 years ago. She is around 12 years old and is a German Shepard mix. She enjoys carrying around her tennis ball and basking in the sun.



Nominate your Pet of the Week by emailing: thewtgazette@gmail.com

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COMMUNITY —

Blanket Exercise invites participants to experience history from an Indigenous perspective

By Wilmot-Tavistock Gazette staff

In recognition of Indigenous People's month, community members are invited to participate in the KAIROS Blanket Exercise on Thursday, June 6 at 7 p.m. at the New Hamburg Community Centre (251 Jacob St.).

The event is hosted by Wilmot Ecumenical Working Group on Indigenous/Settler Relationships (WEWGISR) in collaboration with the Mennonite Central Committee and sponsored by Trinity Evangelical Lutheran Church of New Hamburg. The event is free, but donations to offset costs are being accepted.

The KAIROS Blanket Exercise is an interactive experience that shares the colonized history of our country from the perspectives of the First People. Five hundred years of history is condensed into three hours and reveals the resilience of Indigenous peoples as their communities were impacted. Sensitive subjects will be discussed, including residential schools, assimilation and missing murdered Indigenous women, girls and two-spirit-plus people. The material in the exercise is intended for people over the age of 14.

"Participants usually comment on the many things they learned and are surprised to hear so many facts that they have not heard before," said WEWGISR

co-chair Gladys Bender in a press release. "It can be quite emotional for some people. Often, they comment on how this has changed them and it makes participants want to learn more."

Blankets will cover the floor at the community centre, representing Turtle Island, a name many Indigenous people used and continue to use for the continent of North America. Guided by a narrator, participants encounter the often-untold stories of First Nations, Inuit and Métis peoples on an emotional and intellectual level.

This tool for reconciliation was first developed by KAIROS Canada, an ecumenical movement for ecological justice and human rights around the globe. Initiated in the late 1990s, the exercise was a response to the report of the Royal Commission on Aboriginal Peoples.

The WEWGISR began in Wilmot Township in 2017 in response to the 94 Calls to Action of Canada's Truth and Reconciliation Commission of 2015. The group's overarching goal is to facilitate relationship building between Indigenous and non-Indigenous people in our community.

Register at <https://bit.ly/WilmotBlanketExercise>.

For additional information, email ecumenicalworkinggroup@gmail.com.



A KAIROS Blanket Exercise. Contributed photo

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- Act as claims examiner on claims assigned to independent adjusters.
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- 5 or more years experience in claims adjusting
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- Sound decision making and problem-solving skills
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- Strong attention to detail
- A valid driver's license and reliable transportation are necessary

We offer a competitive compensation package, comprehensive benefits, ongoing education, flexible working arrangements, and a culture that values work-life balance.

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We thank all applicants for their interest. Only persons selected for an interview will be contacted. Appropriate accommodations will be provided upon request during the hiring process.

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COMMUNITY CALENDAR - MAY/JUNE/JULY 2024

THURSDAY, MAY 23

Community Care Concepts Lunch and Fellowship
12 p.m.
Join us for lunch and fellowship.
Wilmot Rec Complex,
1291 Nafziger Rd, Baden

FRIDAY, MAY 24

New Hamburg Mennonite Relief Sale
5:30 p.m.
New Hamburg Fair Grounds
251 Jacob St., New Hamburg

SATURDAY, MAY 25

New Hamburg Mennonite Relief Sale
7 a.m.
New Hamburg Fair Grounds
251 Jacob St., New Hamburg

Foxboro Green's Gigantic Multi Family Yard Sale
8 a.m. to 2 p.m.
Rain or Shine. Bargains galore!
2975 Erb's Road West,
Baden

SUNDAY, MAY 26

Optimist Club of Petersburg Breakfast in the Park
8:30 a.m. to noon
Petersburg Park
1338 Notre Dame Dr., Petersburg

MONDAY, MAY 27

Township of Wilmot council meeting
7 - 11 p.m.
Council chambers
60 Snyder's Rd. West Baden

WEDNESDAY, MAY 29

Explore Schmidt Woods
7 - 8 p.m.
Register at letstreewilmot.ca/events
Wilmot Recreation Complex (meet at trail entrance near the Splash Pad)
1291 Nafziger Road Baden

SATURDAY, JUNE 1

World Crokinole Championship
8 am. to 9 p.m.
Free Admission (Registration fee for players). For more information:
worldcrokinole.com
Tavistock Arena,
1 Adam Street

Tavistock Fire Department Drive Thru Chicken BBQ
3 time slots: 4-5 p.m., 5-6 p.m. and 6-7 p.m.
\$25 per meal. Includes BBQ chicken, potatoes, veggies, cole-slaw and dessert. For tickets call 519-221-6414.
Tavistock Fire Hall
260 Woodstock St. S., Tavistock

Tavistock Optimist Club Parkfest
11 a.m. - 3 p.m.
Free Event
Bouncy castles, Wagon rides, Face painting, Food trailer, Freezies, Cotton candy
Tavistock Optimist Park
250 Woodstock St. S., Tavistock

SUNDAY, JUNE 2

New Hamburg Legion Decoration Day
2 p.m.
Riverside Cemetery
83 Bergey Ct., New Hamburg

WEDNESDAY, JUNE 5

Township of East-Zorra Tavistock council meeting
9 a.m.
Council chambers
89 Loveys St. Hickson

Explore the Baden Hills Trail
7 - 8 pm
Register at letstreewilmot.ca/events
Baden Hills Regional Forest
2733 Sandhills Road Wilmot

WEDNESDAY, JUNE 5

Tavistock Men's Club Fish Fry
Serving 4 p.m. to 7 p.m.
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Men's Club Hall,
78 Woodstock St., N

THURSDAY, JUNE 6

KAIROS Blanket Exercise
7 p.m.
Experience history from an Indigenous perspective by participating in a KAIROS Blanket Exercise. A free event hosted by the Wilmot Ecumenical Working Group on Indigenous/Settler Relationships.
Register at:
<https://bit.ly/WilmotBlanketExercise>
Questions? Contact:
ecumenicalworkinggroup@gmail.com
New Hamburg Community Centre,
251 Jacob Street

FRIDAY, JUNE 7

Tavistock Optimist Club Friday Night Fries
4 - 8 p.m.
Tavistock Optimist Park
250 Woodstock St. S., Tavistock

SATURDAY, JUNE 8

Shakespeare Field Day and Fish Fry
All day
SCAA Park and Optimist Hall
3974 Galt St., Shakespeare

TUESDAY, JUNE 11

Township of Wellesley council meeting
6:45 p.m.
Council chambers
4805 William Hastings Line,
Crosshill

WEDNESDAY, JUNE 19

Explore Downtown New Hamburg's Pageant of Trees
7 - 8 pm
Register at letstreewilmot.ca/events
Kirkpatrick Park
122 Wilmot Street New Hamburg

MONDAY, JULY 1

Township of Wilmot Canada Day
11 a.m. opening ceremony
William Scott Park
84 Bleams Rd. W, New Hamburg

FRIDAY, JULY 5

Tavistock Optimist Club Friday Night Fries
4 - 8 p.m.
Tavistock Optimist Park
250 Woodstock St. S., Tavistock

FRIDAY, AUGUST 9

Tavistock Optimist Club Friday Night Fries
4 - 8 p.m.
Tavistock Optimist Park
250 Woodstock St. S., Tavistock

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SATURDAY, MAY 25TH • 8 AM TO 1 PM

Weekly Quiz Answers

- | | |
|---------------|---------------------------|
| 1. German | 6. The Sun |
| 2. Jupiter | 7. High Jump |
| 3. San Juan | 8. Charles Dickens |
| 4. 1991 | 9. One World Trade Center |
| 5. Don Cherry | 10. Ten |



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