

# The Wilmot-Tavistock Gazette

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## Canada Day: A time of reflection



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Wellesley Mayor Joe Nowak cuts the ribbon alongside members of council, town staff and other local dignitaries at the grand opening of the new Wellesley Recreation Complex at 1401 Queens Bush Road. Photo by Galen Simmons

## Wellesley celebrates “two-year labour of love” with grand opening of recreation complex

By Galen Simmons

Wellesley Township councillors, staff, volunteers and residents joined other local dignitaries to celebrate the result of a “two-year labour of love” at the official grand-opening celebrations for the new Wellesley Recreation Complex.

On June 22, the township hosted the grand-opening ceremony and barbecue at the new recreation complex, also called the

Bill Gies Recreation Centre in honour of the complex's first major donor. Hundreds of residents gathered to watch as Wellesley Mayor Joe Nowak cut the ribbon alongside local councillors, Kitchener-Conestoga MPP Mike Harris, Kitchener-Conestoga MP Tim Louis, chair of the Something 4 Everyone capital campaign Chris Martin, the township staff who worked day and night to see the recreation complex completed and other local dignitaries.

“As proud as I am of this magnificent accomplishment for our township, I’m equally proud of how this day has been made possible,” Nowak said, thanking all those who made the recreation complex a reality, including the Erb family for selling the 40-acre property to the township, eight acres of which was donated and has been established as the Erb Haven Trail, MPP Harris for helping to secure a \$16.1-million grant

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## Wilmot opens Nith River Promenade and Trail

By Lee Griffi, Local Journalism Initiative Reporter

The Township of Wilmot officially opened the Nith River Promenade and Trail in New Hamburg on Monday with a riverside ribbon-cutting event.

Several dignitaries and community members attended the ceremony which celebrated the project's completion.

“The Nith River Promenade has been transformed from a deteriorating path into this beautiful and accessible riverside trail in the heart of New Hamburg,” said Mayor Natasha Salonen.

“This renewal, made possible through the generous support of the Province of Ontario and the government of Canada, enriches our natural landscape and enhances opportunities for our residents and tourists to enjoy our community.”

She also acknowledged the hard work of township staff and the contractors who worked on the project and explained what the renovation means to the community.

“We are celebrating the promenade's transformation from a deteriorated path that I know many people had issues navigating to get to the cenotaph. Now we have this walking space that really highlights the river.”

The construction for the promenade and trail enhancements address erosion below the promenade, stabilize the riverbanks during high-water events and reinstate the trail lighting using innovative materials and construction methods. The improvements include adding two spacious gathering areas, replacing deteriorating trees and plantings and relocating the electrical-field panel and meter base.

The Nith River Promenade and Trail

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# COMMUNITY —

## Grand opening of Wellesley Recreation Complex

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from the province to support the rec-complex project, the Gies family for their million-dollar-donation catalyst at the onset of the project, and town staff who spent many days and sleepless nights ensuring the project was completed on time and on budget.

“Over the years, I’ve heard requests for many amenities, most of which were identified as needs in our recreation master plan. I can now confidently say that our recreation complex will address most of those requests. ... This complex positions the Township of Wellesley to meet the needs of our growing communities for future generations. This larger, safer recreation complex

has become a hub where township communities meet, compete and come together for healthy activities and comradeship. It is a source of pride for Wellesley Township residents.”

The new recreation complex came about after township council decided to build a new recreation facility with the help of provincial grant funding and community fundraising instead of completing a laundry list of expensive structural repairs and upgrades at the aging Wellesley Arena.

With a total budget of more than \$27 million, the new rec complex includes an NHL sized ice rink and home for the Wellesley Applejacks, a walking track, a fitness gym, a gymnasium/community centre, a youth

centre, the Wellesley Community Health Centre, a skateboard park, a playground, soccer fields and outdoor walking trails.

“Five years ago, we were given news about the closure of the old Wellesley Arena,” Martin said. “It seems so long ago, yet it feels like yesterday. So much work and effort by so many people has taken place over this time to get us here today. I’m incredibly proud of our community and how we’ve worked together to create something for everyone that will last for generations.

“ ... None of this would be here without the dedication and hard work of our many community volunteers and fundraisers that started in 2019 with the formation of the Wellesley Township recreation centre

advisory committee. ... This group advocated for the 20-plus Wellesley Township user groups. ... Building this space allows our community organizations to do their best work and it will have a positive and long-lasting effect in Wellesley Township.”

Martin also gave thanks to the many donors who stepped forward during a difficult time, the COVID-19 pandemic, and helped the Something 4 Everyone capital campaign not only reach its \$2.5-million goal, but exceed it with a total of \$4.3 million raised.

Now fully open, more information about the Wellesley Recreation Complex can be found at [www.wellesley.ca/en/living-here/new-recreation-land.aspx](http://www.wellesley.ca/en/living-here/new-recreation-land.aspx).



Wellesley Mayor Joe Nowak speaks at the grand-opening ceremony for the new Wellesley Recreation Complex.



Members of Wellesley Township council and staff stand among the hundreds of residents who showed up for the grand-opening ceremony and barbecue at the Wellesley Recreation Complex. Photos by Galen Simmons



Local musician Kodylyn Tanner performs at the Wellesley Recreation Complex’s grand-opening celebrations June 22.



Students in grades 3, 4 and 5 from Wellesley Public School sing and sign O’ Canada during the grand-opening celebrations at the Wellesley Recreation Complex.

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# COMMUNITY —

## Nith River Promenade and Trail now open

Continued from page 1

allows visitors to downtown New Hamburg a chance to enjoy views of three New Hamburg landmarks: the New Hamburg Reservoir Dam, the New Hamburg Waterwheel and the Hartman Bridge.

"I am delighted to see the Nith River Promenade and Trail open in New Hamburg," said Kitchener-Conestoga MP Tim Louis.

"This project is a testament to the power of collaboration between our federal, provincial and municipal governments. The enhancements to this beautiful space will not only protect our natural heritage but also provide residents and visitors alike with a welcoming place to connect with nature and enjoy the scenic beauty of the town."

"It is always rewarding to see all levels of government come together with a focus on impactful local projects like the Nith River Promenade right here in New Hamburg," added Kitchener-Conestoga MPP Mike Harris, whose office said he had a scheduling conflict and couldn't attend.

"Revitalizing this area with new infrastructure and landscaping will provide our local communities and countless visitors with a space to enjoy recreational activities with access to our local landmarks for many years to come."



Wilmot Mayor Natasha Salonen addresses the crowd as the township officially opened its new Nith River Promenade and Trail in downtown New Hamburg. Photos by Lee Griffi



Politicians, township staff and residents attended a ribbon-cutting ceremony Monday to officially open the Nith River Promenade and Trail in downtown New Hamburg

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COMMUNITY —

# Perth County releases updated draft official plan and project update

By Wilmot-Tavistock Gazette staff

Last week, Perth County council approved the release of the updated draft official plan and the next phase of public engagement for the official plan project.

The first version of the draft official plan text was released in December 2023 to provide transparency for the public, stakeholder groups, steering committees and council on how feedback received to date had been considered and implemented. Open houses were held in February 2024 for review of the draft official plan and to receive additional feedback from the public and stakeholder groups. Following the release of the first draft this past winter, significant work has been completed to prepare an updated draft official plan document in response to community feedback.

“Council is pleased with the work that has been done to update the policies based on public feedback,” said Perth County Warden Rhonda Ehgoetz in a press release. “We are confident that the revised document and policies reflects the needs of the community and will support the county’s growth for many years to come. We are excited for the community to see

the updated draft and have the opportunity to provide further comments.”

Highlights of the next phase of the official-plan project include four key components:

1. The release of the updated draft official plan policy text
2. The launch of a new online interactive map, Draft Official Plan Map Viewer, showing proposed land designations
3. Additional opportunities to connect with the planning team in local municipal offices
4. The date and locations for the next open-house information sessions

“The official plan project would not be possible without the valuable input from the community. We are grateful for everyone who has taken the time to engage with this project and provide constructive feedback so far,” said county senior policy planner Moira Davidson in the press release. “This next phase of the project allows residents to see how their input was directly implemented through the updated policy document and mapping for the proposed designations on their property. We’re also providing additional

opportunities to connect directly with the planning team for anyone who may have site-specific questions about the official plan and how it relates to their property.”

The updated draft official plan policy document is available to view on the county’s website at [www.perthcounty.ca/NewOP](http://www.perthcounty.ca/NewOP). Along with the updated draft official plan, the county also released an online, interactive map viewer allowing the public to see the proposed draft official plan designations. The Draft Official Plan Map Viewer along with a tutorial video and instructions are available at [www.perthcounty.ca/DraftOPMap](http://www.perthcounty.ca/DraftOPMap)

On July 22, the county will host two open-house information sessions. The first session is scheduled from 10 a.m. to 12 p.m. at the Perth East Recreation Complex and the second session will be held from 6-8 p.m. at the West Perth Community Centre. Each session will include an informative presentation showcasing a summary of updates made to the text and followed by an opportunity to mingle and connect directly with planning staff and members of county council to ask questions or discuss the project. For those unable to attend, a recording of the presentation will be

available in advance for viewing.

If landowners have site-specific questions about their property in relation to the draft official plan, appointments can be scheduled to meet in person with a policy planner at a local municipal office on the following days:

- July 23 – Perth East
- July 24 – West Perth
- July 25 – North Perth
- July 26 – Perth South

To book an appointment, call 519-271-0531 ext. 419 or email [newofficialplan@perthcounty.ca](mailto:newofficialplan@perthcounty.ca).

While comments will be accepted up to the day the official plan is adopted by county council, the planning division recommends comments be provided by Aug. 30 to provide staff with adequate timing to incorporate additional comments and feedback into the final official plan document. Comments can be submitted by email at [newofficialplan@perthcounty.ca](mailto:newofficialplan@perthcounty.ca), by phone at 519-271-0531 ext. 419, and by mail to 1 Huron St., Stratford, Ont., N5A 5S4.

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COMMUNITY —

# Township of Wilmot launches engagement for 2024-2027 strategic plan

By Lee Griffi, Local Journalism Initiative Reporter

The Township of Wilmot is launching the development of a new strategic plan that will serve the community and provide Wilmot council with tools for decision-making from 2024-2027.

The township is seeking community input into it, allowing stakeholders to help shape future programs, services and township planning. Wilmot has hired Linton Consulting to work with the corporate leadership team, council, internal and external stakeholders to develop the plan over the coming months. Kelly Linton, a partner with the company, said the township is looking forward to the process.

“We are very excited to work with the Township of Wilmot. There is a lot of passion on council and in the community for planning the future of the township. I am confident that collaboration will result in a very successful strategic-planning process and positive outcomes for Wilmot.”

Township CAO Sharon Chambers said the growth of Wilmot makes the strategic planning process that much more important.

“As we prepare for significant growth over the next decade and beyond, council and

staff are committed to planning strategically for our future. The 2024-2027 plan will set priorities and guide us in our decision-making to ensure that we build a community that meets the needs of residents and businesses. We value input from our community as we chart this exciting path forward.”

The planning and implementation of a plan was delayed during the pandemic, but Coun. Steven Martin said he’s ready to go to work on it.

“We want to come together and see what we can work on that are important projects for the next two and a half years.”

Staff and members of council kicked off the plan’s first stage at an informal meeting last week. Salonen said hearing from residents will play an important role.

“The plan is part of the Municipal Act and it is one of the important things council is supposed to do. I am looking forward to going through the process and really re-checking where we are. I think with the two-year gap since the election it’s a great time to consult with residents and see if priorities have shifted.”

Residents are encouraged to complete a survey at [surveymonkey.com/r/Wilmot](https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/Wilmot) to have their say.

## Petersburg post office to close temporarily June 28

By Wilmot-Tavistock Gazette staff

As a result of a temporary closure of the Canada Post office in Petersburg as of noon June 28, mail delivery will no longer be available at 1249 Notre Dame Dr., Canada Post said in a recent letter to residents.

In that letter, Canada Post said it will maintain local mail-delivery service by temporarily replacing current delivery service with community mailboxes.

For those looking for the full range of postal products and services including pickup of personal-contact items, CODs, money orders and money grams, Canada

Post is directing residents to visit the Wellesley post office at 1166 Queens Bush Rd. between 9 and 11 a.m. and noon and 5 p.m. Monday to Friday, and from 9 a.m. to noon on Saturdays.

“We will continue to work with your community leaders to come up with a permanent solution for the Petersburg community mail,” Canada Post said in the letter. “Further communication will be provided over the next week with regards to the transition to your temporary community mailbox.”

Any questions about the transition can be directed to Canada Post customer service at 1-866-607-6301.



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COMMUNITY —

# Childhood Cancer barbecue fundraiser reaches 20th anniversary

By Hannah Kavanagh

It started over 20 years ago with a regular backyard barbecue and a singular pop-up umbrella.

Now, Bechthold Home Improvements' Childhood Cancer Barbecue is hitting its 20th anniversary and has raised over \$263,000 for childhood cancer organizations.

The annual barbecue will be held on July 11 from 11 a.m. to 6 p.m. at 1239 Notre Dame Dr., Petersburg. There, Warren Bechthold, his wife, Bernice, his children, Stacey, Leslie and Stewart, and a host of other staff, friends and relatives will be working hard to serve food to anyone who stops by. All are welcome.

Warren Bechthold was part of the Optimist International's speakers bureau when Optimist International took up the fight for childhood cancer. In 1999 and 2000, he went district to district encouraging communities to help out, whether that

be through donations, helping families, or funding research. By 2002, his business had its own building, and he had a realization.

"If I'm asking other people to do something for childhood cancer, I now had a physical location where I could also do something," said Warren Bechthold.

Thus started the first barbecue in 2004. He would spend the next three years trying to get word out about the day and raising money for the Optimist International's Childhood Cancer Campaign and the London Children's Hospital cancer program. It grew traction over the years and even earned Bechthold a Queen's Jubilee medal during a Canada Day celebration back in 2013.

Recently, the barbecue is heading in a more local direction. With the support of other businesses and the Optimist Club of Petersburg, the Bechthold's continue to buy all supplies and donate 100 per

cent of the proceeds to organizations they feel are important. Since last year, that's been Grand River's Scotland Yard, London Children's Hospital and the Walk to Conquer Cancer by the Princess Margaret Cancer Centre.

"It's local, so people can feel attached to it a little more," said Warren Bechthold. "It's a decision that we thought would be in the best interest of the barbecue."

The Bechthold family has learned a lot about their community throughout the years and is thankful for all the support they've received in their efforts. Warren Bechthold's wife, Bernice Bechthold, notes that as a business, the effort to spread the word and become a successful source of donations has been worthwhile.

"When someone comes up and buys a hamburger and tells you that their son or daughter has had childhood cancer and that they appreciate what we're doing, that's payback enough for us," said Bernice

Bechthold.

"Childhood cancer is the number-one disease that's killing our children, so even if we can diminish that number by a few, that makes a difference."

This year will be back to the basics. They're already preparing for local businesses that either shut down for an hour to join the barbecue or will pre-order food for their employees to enjoy that day. Their main concern in the hot weather is ensuring there's enough room for everyone to sit and enjoy. Melanie Austin, a young girl with leukemia from New Hamburg, will come back this year to speak at the event.

"It's a cause that everyone can relate to," said Warren Bechthold. "As a business, it's a way of paying it forward, paying it back."

Those who aren't able to attend the barbecue will be able to donate online at <https://bechtholdhome.com/childhood-cancer-bbq>.

**Happy Canada Day**

**Mike HARRIS**  
MPP KITCHENER-CONESTOGA

Contact Constituency Office:  
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## COMMUNITY —

# Rural Oxford EDC teams up with Canada's Outdoor Farm Show on new exhibit

By Lee Griffi, Local Journalism Initiative Reporter

The Rural Oxford Economic Development Corporation has joined Canada's Outdoor Farm Show (COFS) to create a Discover Rural Oxford exhibit.

"The exhibit will bring local fare to an international stage, said Rural Oxford EDC economic development officer Crystal van Roekel.

The exhibit is an exciting initiative set to debut at Canada's Outdoor Farm Show, the country's premier agricultural event. The exhibit aims to spotlight the vibrant entrepreneurial landscape of Rural Oxford.

The Discover Rural Oxford tent will host four distinct Rural Oxford businesses on each of the show's three days. Those businesses selected will then have the opportunity to showcase their products and offer visitors an interactive experience, allowing them to taste, touch, or try locally sourced goods firsthand.

"The vendors will have the opportunity to sell their products directly onsite, giving rural businesses access to a larger market stage," van Roekel said.

"By providing a platform for Rural Oxford businesses to engage with a diverse audience of local and international visitors, Discover Rural Oxford promotes economic growth within the region and fosters connections between producers and consumers in the agricultural community."

This innovative, market-style approach promises to unlock new opportunities for



Rural Oxford's entrepreneurial ecosystem while enriching the overall experience of attendees at Canada's Outdoor Farm Show. Participants will benefit from the exposure at the three-day event and be included in an extensive marketing campaign through Canada's Outdoor Farm Show and Rural Oxford EDC channels.

"We couldn't be more thrilled to add a new dimension to our event which attracts over 36,000 visitors," said Carol Carson, COFS sponsorship and partnership lead.

"Twelve Rural Oxford business participants will benefit from being showcased alongside a diverse array of businesses spanning the agriculture sector at the

show. We highlight not just agriculture but also manufacturing, technology, tourism and agri-food enterprises, many of which hail from southwestern Ontario."

"We look forward to bringing this exhibit to such a staple event in our community and being able to champion our Rural Oxford businesses on this platform," added van Roekel.

For over 30 years, Canada's Outdoor Farm Show has been bringing together visitors and exhibitors from across Canada and beyond to showcase the newest and most-innovative products and technology in agriculture. It takes place on Sept. 10, 11 and 12.

Participating businesses will have use of the booth at no charge and van Roekel said it will be a wonderful opportunity for them to introduce themselves in new markets.

"By showcasing these businesses at the farm show, which attracts a large and diverse audience, the project provides an opportunity for Rural Oxford businesses to access a wider market that they may not have been able to reach otherwise in a short amount of time."

She added a dedicated social-media campaign spotlighting the participating businesses will amplify visibility across various platforms.

"This concerted effort maximizes exposure for the businesses, reaching a broader audience and generating increased interest in their products and services," van Roekel said.

The rural Oxford businesses have the chance to network with other vendors, industry professionals and attendees, fostering connections that can lead to future collaborations and opportunities for growth.

Rural Oxford businesses that are interested in applying for this program can find the application form at <https://ruraloxford.ca/discover/>.

Only businesses located in a rural Oxford township are eligible and preference will be given to those who meet program eligibility.

# Humane Society of Kitchener Waterloo & Stratford Perth names new board of directors for 2024-2025

By Wilmot-Tavistock Gazette staff

The Humane Society of Kitchener Waterloo & Stratford Perth (HSKWSP) recently held its annual general meeting (AGM) where the 2024-2025 board of directors was announced, including three new board members.

Jennifer Ly named as a director: With several years of experience in financial reporting, FP&A and strategic planning, Jennifer Ly is an accomplished CPA known for her expertise across several industries. Currently, she is the director of revenue operations at LogiSense applying her skillset at revenue management, financial strategy and business planning to drive growth. She also contributes her expertise as a board member for the Waterloo Region legal services.

Aran Matier named as a director: Currently serving as chief legal and privacy officer at eSentire, a Waterloo based cybersecurity firm, Aran Matier is responsible for minimizing legal risk and ensuring legal and regulatory compliance. Matier has lived in the Waterloo Region for close to 20 years and believes strongly in supporting the community in which he and his wife have



The Humane Society Kitchener-Waterloo & Stratford-Perth's 2024-2025 board of directors. Contributed photo

made their home.

Amanda Craig named as a director: Amanda has a career steeped in progressive finance roles, particularly within the technology sector including multiple roles with BlackBerry and OpenText.

Currently, she is the senior director of global billing and revenue operations at KORE Wireless where her strategic leadership and financial acumen play a pivotal role in shaping operational excellence.

Mark Fox was named the board chair.

"The HSKWSP is a best-in-breed, not for profit organization dedicated to the welfare of animals and the relationship between them and their humans," Fox said in a press release. "It is an honour and a privilege to be elected as chairperson for such a fine organization. I look forward to working with the board, our communities and the skilled volunteers, staff and leadership."

Making up the remainder of the board are vice chair Nickola Voegelin, treasurer Rob Grein, secretary Alex Wiltshire and

directors Carleen Carroll, Krista Linklater, Angela Woods, Lucinda Wallace, Michael Banham, Andrea Roth and Nathan Riedel.

Along with their passionate commitment and dedication to people and pets, each board member brings knowledge, experience and insightful perspectives to the Humane Society.

The HSKWSP also celebrated its accomplishments in the past year by releasing its 2023 Annual Report. Highlights included the foster program that supported 997 animals, 6,743 pets helped through the pet food bank and an incredible 5,682 medical procedures performed at the Humane Society's in-house vet clinics.

"We are grateful and excited to have this new group of individuals join the board and bring their unique talents, expertise and perspectives to our organization," HSKWSP CEO Victoria Baby in a press release. "As an organization, we look forward to all we can do together to help people and pets in our communities."

For full board member bios or more information on the initiatives of the Humane Society, please visit [kwsphumane.ca](http://kwsphumane.ca).

# COMMUNITY —

## Tavistock Optimist Club members enjoy a busy June

By Gary West

The spring and early summer months have been busy times for members of the Tavistock Optimist Club.

First they were busy cleaning up their Optimist Park and their Fry Wagon to get ready for another busy season of sports

and fundraising.

The beginning of June saw hundreds of local youth from the Tavistock area take part in the club's annual ParkFest.

They were then kept busy organizing their annual bike rodeo at Tavistock Public School for prizes and education on bicycle

safety for those in kindergarten Grade 8.

Tavistock Optimists handed out four brand-new bicycles at the year-end school assembly recently.

After their latest fundraiser, club president Terry Rozendal said the members all pitched in and the night was very

successful for their annual Steak Out.

The club is kept busy with hundreds of steak lovers showing their support.

Once a heavy downpour and thunderstorm left, the skies cleared and turned out to be a most successful evening of visiting with friends and neighbours.



Jaeden Rozendal and Violet Stoesser were part of the annual bike rodeo organized by the Tavistock Optimist Club, where they learned about bike safety at the Tavistock Public School Location. Contributed photo



Optimist member Chris Zehr shows Rayna Gunn from East Zorra Township what it takes to ride her bike safely without incident. Photo by Gary West



Young bikers learn how to control their two wheelers on a mapped-out path. Contributed photo



Pictured from left are optimist members Ed Danen and Dennis Kuefer, who kept the steaks coming as the gas barbecues were set up for cook-your-own steaks at this year's annual Steak Out held at the Optimist Park and pavilion recently. Photo by Gary West



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COMMUNITY —

# Cost of Perth County speed-radar signs comes in under budget

By Galen Simmons

Perth County will pay \$166,318.80 to purchase a total of 44 speed-radar signs that will be installed in 22 locations across the county to help curb speeding in those communities.

Along with the cost of installation and the purchase of wooden signposts, Bill Wilson, the county's manager of public works, said the cost of purchasing these signs from the successful bidder, Cedar Signs Inc. of Cambridge, along with the purchase of wooden signposts and the cost of installation will come in at less than \$200,000, well under the \$308,000 budgeted for this project with funds from the county's capital road reserve.

"The sign that they're proposing is the Traffic Logix SafePace Evolution 15SD, which is the same sign we're using right now – the ones we're using to rotate (between high-speed areas of concern)," Wilson said. "It's a solar-powered device with a 15-inch screen."

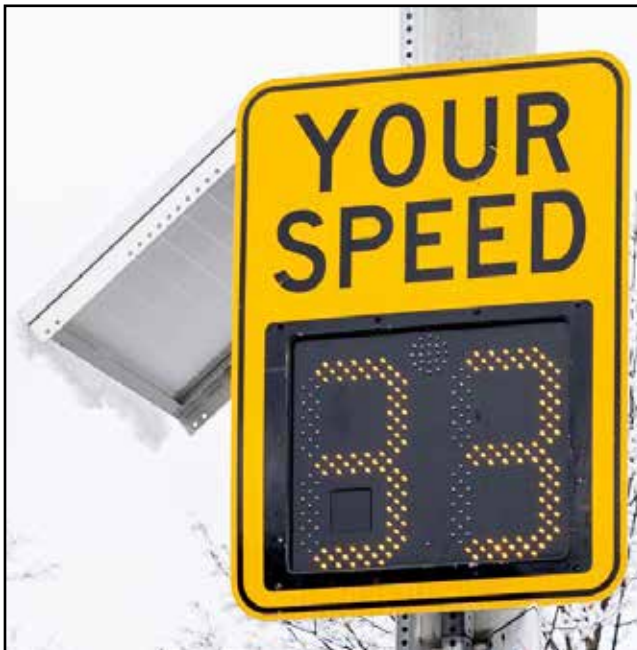
As per Cedar Signs' accepted proposal, the county will pay \$3,779.95 per sign. Wilson said the successful proposal was ranked highest from among six proposals submitted to the county based on sign design, performance, installation, recording and recording functionality, warranty, technical support, references and unit cost.

As part of the proposal, Cedar Signs also included a one-year subscription to Traffic Logix SafePace cloud reporting system which allows for remote viewing of data and sign parameters.

According to Wilson's report to council, delivery of the signs is expected within four weeks of the county ordering them and the signs are scheduled to be installed in August with preliminary work beginning in July.

Perth County council first gave staff the green light to purchase and install 44 speed-radar signs across 22 locations – two signs in each location – at its April 18 regular meeting. The locations for the signs were selected based on the following criteria:

- the sign must be within a reduced-speed zone along a county owned roadway located in a town, village or built-up area;
- the reduced-speed zone is on a through road where there are no stop controls within or at the end of the reduced-speed zone;
- the speed limit on either end of the reduced-speed zone is 80km/hr;



- the location for speed-radar signs will be within the reduced-speed zone approximately 80-100 metres from the beginning of the reduced zone;
- other installations, location or removal of the permanent speed-radar signs will be at the discretion of the director of public works; and
- the permanent speed radar sign program will be reviewed every 10 years and/or if there are issues with maintenance or the effectiveness of the program.

Based on those criteria, staff identified 22 locations where permanent speed-radar signs will be installed and ranked those locations based on traffic volumes and 85th percentile speeds.

Topping the list of ranked speed-radar-sign locations was Perth Line 72 in Donegal followed by Perth Road 119 in Brunner, Perth Road 121 in Poole and Perth Line 26 in Harmony.

In addition to the 22 permanent signs to be installed across the county, public works staff will still be able to use the county's four temporary signs as needed to track and control speeding in high-traffic, reduced-speed zones that don't meet the criteria for a permanent sign including Milverton (Perth Road 131), Dublin (Perth Road 180),

Shakespeare (Perth Road 107), Millbank (Perth Line 72), Fullarton (Perth Road 163) and Gowanstown (Perth Line 88).

Data collected by the signs will also be shared with local police to help guide traffic enforcement.

The full list of locations where speed-radar signs will be installed this summer is as follows:

1. Donegal (Perth Line 72)
2. Brunner (Perth Road 119)
3. Poole (Perth Road 121)
4. Harmony (Perth Line 26)
5. Gadshill (Perth Road 119)
6. Carthage (Perth Road 131)
7. Molesworth (Perth Line 86)
8. Avonton (Perth Road 130)
9. Rannoch (Perth Road 139)
10. Hesson (Perth Road 121)
11. Fullarton (Perth Line 20)
12. Wartburg (Perth Road 135)
13. Millbank (Perth Road 121)
14. Staffa (Perth Road 180)
15. Newton (Perth Line 72)
16. Britton (Perth Road 147)
17. Kurtzville (Perth Line 88)
18. Cromarty (Perth Road 180)
19. St. Pauls (Perth Line 20)
20. Rostock (Perth Road 135)
21. Brodhagen (Perth Line 44)
22. Prospect Hill (Perth Road 139)

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- Tavistock**  
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## COMMUNITY —

The Wilmot-Tavistock  
Gazette Weekly Quiz

1. Who is the small yellow bird from Peanuts?
2. Who wrote the satirical essay "A Modest Proposal"?
3. What football league does Cristiano Ronaldo currently play in?
4. What day of the week did the Romans call dies solis?
5. What does VHS stand for?
6. What is the longest day of the year called?
7. Which country is nicknamed the sugar bowl of the world?
8. The art of folding paper is known as what?
9. What was the first Netflix show to win an Emmy?
10. How many stomachs does a cow have?

Answers found on page 30

BIRTHDAYS AND  
ANNIVERSARIES

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

**June 27:** Happy birthday to Morgan Young (12) and Matthew Clemmer, and anniversaries for Myron and Kelly Yantzi (43rd), and Brian and Heidi Wagler (32nd).

**June 28:** Happy birthday to Blakely Griffi (7), and anniversaries for Ron and Lyla Becker (56th), Keith and Kathy Bell (21st), and David and Katherine Adams (16th).

**June 29:** Happy birthday to Jaxon McOrmand (11), Austin McOrmand (11), Rowan Bartlett (16), and Simon Bender.

**June 30:** Happy birthday to Rhys Martin (7), Oakland Pavey (8), Lauryn Baechler (21) and Rose Danen.

**July 1:** Happy birthday to Brayden Nanasi (9), Garrett Yantzi (10), Darcy Zehr (14), Macauley Seip (20) and Ray Oesch.

**July 2:** Happy birthday to Mary Kropf, and anniversaries for Jerry and Tara Murray (19th), and Drew and Steph Hallman (19th).

**July 3:** Happy birthday to Hailey Lupton (16) and Belle Houle (19), and anniversary for Bob and Marilyn Zehr.

## 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.*

**June 25- July 2, 2014, Edition (10 years ago)**

Four East Zorra-Tavistock residents were honored with 2014 Senior of the Year Awards at the annual Seniors' Picnic held in the Tavistock Memorial Hall on Wednesday, June 18, 2014. Frank and Kaye Bickle, William R. Wettlaufer and Steve Cahill were all recognized for their volunteer work and dedication to the community.

It was eggs-actly what the Huron Perth Eat and Learn program needed. The Egg Farmers of Ontario cooked up a \$10,000 cheque for their program through their annual Eggs Factor colouring contest. For each online contest submission, the Egg Farmers donate the farm value of one dozen eggs to an Ontario school nutrition program. This year, more than 4,500 entries were received.

After winning the Mitchell tournament earlier this month, the Tavistock Squirt Boys (2002's) competed in their second tournament of the year this past weekend in Innerkip. Tavistock dominated their way to the finals and captured the tournament championship in a 15-8 win over Innerkip.

Approximately 1,500 people attended the third annual Firestone Bigfoot Monster Truck event outside of Baden on June 21, 2014. The event raised over \$5,600 for the Canadian Children's Optimist Foundation.

**June 23-30, 2004, Edition (20 years ago)**

There are survivors and there are those surviving. Both came together last Fri-

day in Woodstock for the fifth annual Oxford County Branch of the Canadian Cancer Society's Relay for Life. Over 200 survivors of cancer and 900 participants joined in the laps for a 12-hour marathon of hope that raised \$12,000 for cancer research.

About 200 residents of the community were welcomed to the annual Senior's Picnic held at the Tavistock Memorial Hall last Wednesday afternoon. The event organized by Mayor McKay offered old and familiar tunes, entertainment and raised over \$2,000 for cancer research.

The sign belonging to the Best Little Pork Shoppe, Shakespeare, disappeared overnight on June 14. Perth County OPP were called to report the theft at the shop located at the east end of the village. The following day, the owners received a call from Niagara Falls stating a resident found it in their garage. The sign was promptly returned.

In Monday night's federal election, the Liberal Party under Prime Minister Paul Martin was given a minority government with 135 seats. Conservative Leader Stephen Harper will form the opposition with 99 seats, followed by the Bloc Quebecois with 54 and NDP with 19.

Tavistock Optimist Park's wheelchair accessible playground and new equipment for preschool and primary age children is now complete.

**June 27- July 4, 1984, Edition (40 years ago)**

Just good honest sweat dominated the first annual Ball Hockey Tournament organized by the Tavistock Royals Intermediate Hockey Club executive on the weekend. The New Hamburg Sparrows were the championship team.

Bell Canada paid more than \$80,500 in

taxes to East Zorra township in 1983 as a result of telecommunications operations in Tavistock and other exchanges in the area. In addition, Bell spent more than \$187,000 in 1983 to maintain and upgrade telephone service in the exchange.

**June 23-30, 1964, Edition (60 years ago)**

A well-known girl's drum corps will be one of the feature bands at Tavistock's annual band tattoo the night of Wednesday, July 22. The corps of that of St. John's College, Brantford, which first entered competition in 1956 and were consistent runners-up for six years, and then in 1962 won the Canadian Girls Championship and repeated the victory in 1963.

An air landing strip to accommodate two private planes is being built on a 200-acre property west of Woodstock on Governor's Road by a Woodstock man. The landing strip, 250 feet wide and over half mile long, will take up 11 acres.

A severe wind, electrical and rainstorm slashed its way across western Ontario last Tuesday afternoon leaving a patchwork pattern of wreckage and chaos, flooding and personal injury.

The Ontario Wheat Producers Marketing Board has announced that board deductions on all marketings of 1964 new crop Ontario wheat will be 16 cents per bushel. The new deduction rate is six more cents per bushel more than the rate in effect since establishment of the board in 1958. The new rate will come into effect July 1 and will continue through to the end of the marketing year June 30, 1965.

Twenty-One children attending Tavistock Public School during the term which concluded Friday had a perfect attendance record.

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131 Wettlaufer St., Tavistock 655-2581

Sunday Worship services begin at 9:45am, with coffee and fellowship to follow at 11am. Masks welcomed but not required.

All Ages JRSS will follow after the worship service.

Stream services online at  
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Pastor Hugh Rutledge 655-3611

Email: [office@tavistock.church](mailto:office@tavistock.church)

[www.tavistock.church](http://www.tavistock.church)

**PUBLIC NOTICE**

# Notice of the passing of Development Charge By-Law

**TAKE NOTICE** that the Council of the County of Oxford passed development charge by-law No. 6639-2024 on the 12th day of June, 2024, under section 2 (1) of the Development Charges Act, 1997, S.O., 1997 c. 27, as amended;

**AND TAKE NOTICE** that any person or organization may appeal to the Local Planning Tribunal under section 14 of the Act, in respect of the development charge by-law, by filing with the Clerk on or before the 22nd of July, 2024, a notice of appeal setting out the objection to the by-law and the reasons supporting the objection.

The charges in the aforementioned by-law will apply to all new residential and non-residential development, subject to certain terms, conditions and limited exemptions as identified therein.

County-wide development charges are levied against new development to pay for the increased capital costs related to the provision of such municipal services as library, ambulance services, growth-related studies, waste diversion, long-term care and services related to a highway. Schedule 1 sets out the development charge rates applicable throughout the County.

Area-specific development charges related to the provision of water and wastewater servicing apply to the specified areas of Woodstock, Tillsonburg, Ingersoll, Plattsville, Drumbo, Tavistock, Innerkip, Norwich, Thamesford, Embro and Mt. Elgin. All area-specific charges are listed in Schedule 2.

Key maps are not set out in this notice as the details and scale of such maps would be difficult to reproduce in an accurate and legible form. Map schedules for each applicable service area are attached to the by-law on the County's website.

**The development charges imposed under the by-law, which came into effect on June 13, 2024, are calculated and payable on the date of building permit issuance.**

Copies of the complete development charge by-law are available for examination during regular business hours (weekdays from 8:00 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.) in the offices of the County located at 21 Reeve Street, Woodstock, and on the website at [www.oxfordcounty.ca](http://www.oxfordcounty.ca).

For further information, please contact the Clerk's Office at 519-539-0015, ext. 3001.

Chloe J. Senior  
 County Clerk, Oxford County  
[clerksoffice@oxfordcounty.ca](mailto:clerksoffice@oxfordcounty.ca)  
 21 Reeve Street, P.O. Box 1614  
 Woodstock, Ontario N4S 7Y3

## Schedule 1 – County-wide Development Charge Rates

Service Component	RESIDENTIAL DWELLINGS <sup>1</sup>				NON-RESIDENTIAL <sup>2</sup>		
	Single Detached & Semi Detached	APARTMENTS		Other Multiples	\$/sq m of Gross Floor Area	Per bed for Farm Bunk Houses	Per Wind Turbine
		2-Bedroom & Larger	Bachelor & 1-Bedroom				
Services related to a highway	4,462	2,541	1,613	3,159	16.16	1,430	4,462
Waste diversion	139	79	50	98	-	-	-
Ambulance services	58	33	21	41	0.21	19	58
Long-term care	1,857	1,057	671	1,314	-	-	-
Growth-Related services	141	80	51	100	0.33	45	141
Library Service <sup>1</sup>	1,556	886	563	1,102	0.86	499	-
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$8,213</b>	<b>\$4,676</b>	<b>\$2,969</b>	<b>\$5,814</b>	<b>\$17.56</b>	<b>\$1,993</b>	<b>\$4,661</b>

<sup>1</sup> The charge for library is not applicable in Woodstock

<sup>2</sup> Industrial buildings exempt

## Schedule 2 – Area-Specific Development Charge Rates

Area	Service	RESIDENTIAL DWELLINGS <sup>1</sup>				NON-RESIDENTIAL <sup>2</sup>	
		Single Detached & Semi Detached	APARTMENTS		Other Multiples	\$/sq m of Floor Area	Per bed for Farm Bunk Houses
			2-Bedroom & Larger	Bachelor & 1-Bedroom			
Woodstock	Water	\$3,348	\$1,737	\$1,103	\$2,200	\$17.96	\$1,073
	Wastewater	\$3,534	\$1,834	\$1,165	\$2,322	\$19.24	\$1,133
Tillsonburg	Water	\$6,401	\$4,087	\$2,595	\$5,102	\$42.46	\$2,052
	Wastewater	\$1,309	\$836	\$531	\$1,043	\$7.43	\$420
Ingersoll	Water	\$5,819	\$3,491	\$2,217	\$4,359	\$13.57	\$1,865
	Wastewater	\$8,966	\$5,380	\$3,416	\$6,716	\$31.84	\$2,874
Plattsville	Water	\$5,139	\$2,843	\$1,806	\$3,549	\$24.63	\$1,647
	Wastewater	\$6,771	\$3,746	\$2,379	\$4,677	\$10.82	\$2,170
Drumbo	Water	\$2,390	\$1,323	\$840	\$1,651	\$4.94	\$766
	Wastewater	\$31,003	\$17,153	\$10,893	\$21,414	\$97.87	\$9,937
Tavistock	Water	\$7,325	\$4,181	\$2,655	\$5,219	\$26.27	\$2,348
	Wastewater	\$33,029	\$18,851	\$11,971	\$23,534	\$95.40	\$10,586
Innerkip	Water	\$156	\$89	\$56	\$111	\$0.98	\$50
	Wastewater	\$16,198	\$9,245	\$5,871	\$11,542	\$63.41	\$5,192
Norwich	Water	\$3,926	\$2,165	\$1,375	\$2,703	\$11.82	\$1,258
	Wastewater	\$6,060	\$3,343	\$2,123	\$4,173	\$37.98	\$1,942
Thamesford	Water	\$3,586	\$2,114	\$1,343	\$2,640	\$22.95	\$1,149
	Wastewater	\$9,156	\$5,399	\$3,429	\$6,740	\$26.64	\$2,935
Embro	Water	\$2,706	\$1,596	\$1,013	\$1,992	\$6.70	\$867
	Wastewater	\$7,860	\$4,634	\$2,943	\$5,786	\$8.84	\$2,519
Mount Elgin	Water	\$3,398	\$1,619	\$1,028	\$2,021	\$6.98	\$1,089
	Wastewater	\$11,736	\$5,592	\$3,551	\$6,982	\$26.78	\$3,762

<sup>1</sup> For exemptions that may apply, check applicable by-laws

<sup>2</sup> Industrial buildings exempt

COMMUNITY —

# Anne of Green Gables comes to Perth County with museum performances

By Connor Luczka

Any local fans of Anne of Green Gables won't have to drive halfway across the country to see her for very much longer.

Starting Canada Day, they can find Anne Shirley just down the road from Shakespeare, teaching in a one-room schoolhouse like how she did in L. M. Montgomery's book series.

Siobhan Anastasia Molson-Kelly will be playing the eponymous Shirley at the Brocksden School museum, located on Perth Line 37 in Perth East.

When asked if preparing for the role of Shirley made her an Anne of Green Gables expert, Molson-Kelly shook her head.

"Absolutely not," Molson-Kelly said. "I read the books when I was a kid. I've re-read the first and second book recently.

"I prefer improv," Shirley said, when asked about how difficult it is to embody someone from a different life that everyone knows so much about. "If I say it confidently, I'll probably be okay – and if I'm incorrect, I'm sure that a diehard fan will make sure to let me know."

Her 45-minute performances will happen at 10 a.m. and 2 p.m. and will be an open house so people can pop in and leave as they see fit. It's also going to be an interactive show with Molson-Kelly assuring that if people don't interact with her, that's okay, but she would prefer it if those in attendance ask questions and interact with her.

Molson-Kelly would not describe herself

as an actress per se, though said she has experiences working in education at a university and museums, so when she saw the job listing on kijiji for an actress, she nevertheless thought it would be a perfect fit.

The Brocksden School is a one-room schoolhouse that started in 1853 and shut down in 1967. After it stopped operating as a school, it continued its legacy in education, becoming a museum, remaining one of the last and oldest schoolhouses of its kind in Perth County.

Anne of Green Gables doesn't have a direct connection with the school, other than it being a similar space to what she would have taught in, but she did attend Queen's University here in Ontario, so that is connection enough, Molson-Kelly joked.

Scott Campbell, chair of the museum's board, said many people in the area have a history with the school, including himself. One of his distant relatives, Mabel Campbell, is even in an old class photograph on the wall of the museum, circa 1909.

"We just live a mile and a half away from here," Campbell said. "My father, my grandfather was here – my great grandfather – ... so I've got a lot of history at this (school)."

The Anne Shirley performance is an effort to revitalize the museum and spread the word on it being a resource for schools, parents and anyone interested in history, local or otherwise.

On June 23, the museum also hosted a



Siobhan Anastasia Molson-Kelly sitting as Anne Shirley at her desk at the Brocksden School Museum. Molson-Kelly will be playing the titular character of the Anne of Green Gables book series starting on July 1 in interactive performances at the museum. Photo by Connor Luczka

hymn sing where about 50 people came out for a non-denominational reading and sing, but so far, the Shirley performances and the sing are the only things planned for this summer.

In an effort to revitalize, Campbell said the board is open to further ideas as well.

"We're open to some really good ideas as to what we can do with this museum," Campbell said.

## Real Estate and Contents Auction

Selling on behalf of Delores McLeod and the late Don McLeod the real property located at **3124 Line 29, Perth East on Saturday July 27th at 10 am**. Property to be sold by public auction to the highest bidder (subject to Seller approval).

### Real Estate

Subject consists of a two-storey dwelling on a half acre lot fronting on a paved Township Road within two miles of the City of Stratford. There is an attached garage and a detached workshop previously used as a woodworking shop. Other features include two propane gas fireplaces, woodstove, back up generator, central air, central vac, spacious principal rooms, mature landscaped lot.

### Contents for Sale

Simplicity Colt ZT 2352 zero turn riding lawnmower (650.9 hours), Ingersoll 6018 Utility Tractor with bucket (1244 hours), Ingersoll HT41 Rototiller, Simplicity 4 x 4 garden tractor (577.9 hours), front mount snowblower, Generac single phase 20 kw generator; quantity of woodworking equipment including: General lathe Model 160, Craftsman Bandsaw, Rockwell radial saw, Sprunger 6" jointer, King Sander, Makita 10" and 14" saws, assorted quantities of wood and veneers, quantity of assorted smalls.

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**TAKE NOTICE** that the Council of the Township of East Zorra-Tavistock passed By-law #2024-21 on the 5<sup>th</sup> day of June, 2024, and By-law #2024-25 (to amend By-law #2024-21) on the 19<sup>th</sup> day of June, 2024, both under Section 2(1) of the *Development Charges Act, 1997, as amended*;

**AND TAKE NOTICE** that any person or organization may appeal to the Ontario Land Tribunal (OLT) under section 14 of the Act, in respect of By-law #2024-21 by filing with the Clerk of the Township of East Zorra-Tavistock on or before the 15<sup>th</sup> day of July, 2024, a notice of appeal setting out the objection to the By-law, the reasons supporting the objection and must be accompanied by the prescribed fee.

The schedule of development charges imposed under By-law #2024-21, which came into effect as of June 13, 2024, is as follows:

Service	RESIDENTIAL				NON RESIDENTIAL		
	Single and Semi-Detached Dwellings	Other Multiplax	Apartments - 2 Bedrooms +	Apartments - Bachelor and 1 Bedroom	(per sq. ft. Gross Floor Area)	(per lot for Farm Road Houses)	(per Wind Turbine)
<b>Municipal Wide Services:</b>							
Services Related to a Highway	4,354	2,884	1,088	1,212	14.75	1,181	5,444
Fire Protection Services	3,856	2,642	2,026	1,255	16.75	1,187	5,886
Parks and Recreation Services	8,054	6,386	4,088	1,212	12.25	2,121	
<b>Total Municipal Wide Services</b>	<b>16,314</b>	<b>11,912</b>	<b>9,202</b>	<b>3,742</b>	<b>43.75</b>	<b>5,182</b>	<b>6,912</b>

The schedule of development charges imposed under By-law #2024-25 replaces the schedule of charges under By-Law #2024-21. These charges came into effect on as of June 20, 2024, and are as follows:

Service/Class of Service	RESIDENTIAL				NON RESIDENTIAL		
	Single and Semi-Detached Dwellings	Other Multiplax	Apartments - 2 Bedrooms +	Apartments - Bachelor and 1 Bedroom	(per sq. ft. Gross Floor Area)	(per lot for Farm Road Houses)	(per Wind Turbine)
<b>Municipal Wide Services/Class of Service:</b>							
Services Related to a Highway	3,144	2,111	968	1,212	14.75	1,084	5,144
Fire Protection Services	2,727	1,873	1,451	1,240	16.75	1,216	5,750
Parks and Recreation Services	9,245	7,445	4,763	1,277	12.42	2,058	
Specialized Services	224	87	262	192	1.71	172	580
<b>Total Municipal Wide Services/Class of Service</b>	<b>15,340</b>	<b>10,516</b>	<b>7,451</b>	<b>3,921</b>	<b>45.63</b>	<b>3,530</b>	<b>6,554</b>

The lands to which the By-laws apply include all lands within the corporate limits of the Township of East Zorra-Tavistock.

By-laws #2024-21 and #2024-25 are available for examination at the Township of East Zorra-Tavistock Administration Building, 89 Loveys Street, Hickson, Ontario, during regular office hours, or by contacting Township Clerk Will Jaques at [wjaques@ezt.ca](mailto:wjaques@ezt.ca)

Dated at Hickson, Ontario this 20<sup>th</sup> day of June, 2024.

Will Jaques  
Clerk  
Township of East Zorra-Tavistock

# COMMUNITY —

## New Hamburg celebrates Pride Month

Businesses, organizations and residents of New Hamburg celebrated Pride Month in many different ways this month. Here is a selection of photos from one of our

readers that show just a few of them. The Wilmot-Tavistock Gazette is proud to celebrate Pride Month. Happy Pride!



The historic waterwheel in downtown New Hamburg was lit up at night in changing, rainbow colours during Pride Month.



Zion United Church flew the Pride Progress flag with the slogan, "Every One Is Welcome Here," on it.



Trinity Lutheran Church, the Interfaith Counselling Centre and Community Care Concepts also flew the Pride Progress flag.



The owners of Meme's Café & Food Shop hung a Pride Progress flag inside their store for the month of June.



A Pride heart sticker was stuck to the curb outside the New Hamburg Post Office for all to see and appreciate.

**TIM LOUIS** Member of Parliament for Kitchener-Conestoga

Happy Canada Day,  
from my family to yours!

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COMMUNITY —

# EZT and area municipalities raising awareness of abandoned oil and gas wells

By Lee Griffi, Local Journalism Initiative Reporter

Oxford County is launching a public-awareness campaign about the risks of abandoned oil and gas wells and the provincial program available to help landowners identify and plug old wells to help keep communities safe.

The county is drawing on \$105,000 in funding from the Government of Ontario for the campaign, including educational materials and emergency response support. They include road-closure trailers, supplies for emergency reception centres and hazard-specific emergency response plans for abandoned oil and gas wells.

“The Government of Ontario supports municipalities in taking a proactive approach to this issue. Through public education and awareness, we can help landowners identify whether they could have an abandoned well on their property, understand the risks and take the proper measures to ensure the safety of themselves, their family and the public,” said Ryan Hall, director of Oxford’s Paramedic Services.

Across Ontario, there are approximately 27,000 records of oil and gas wells no longer in production, many of them on private lands in southwestern Ontario. According to data from the Ontario Oil, Gas and Salt Resources Library, there are an estimated 500 abandoned oil and gas wells on rural properties in Oxford County. The group’s website offers a searchable map to check the locations of abandoned wells.

Hall said the ministry is partnering with upper-tier governments like the county to get the word out.

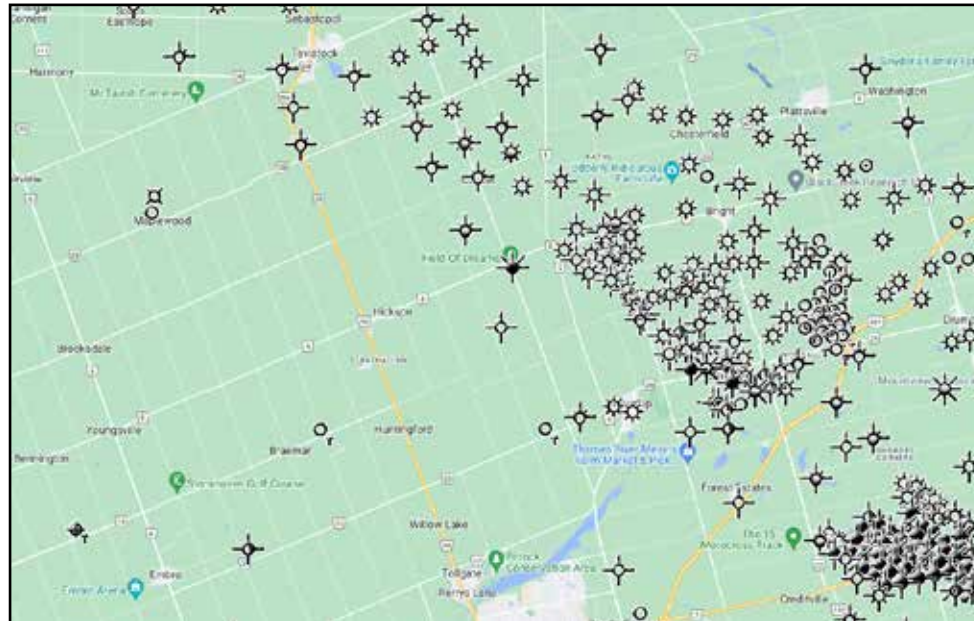
“(We want) to bring local awareness about oil and gas wells and to help local municipalities prepare for the worst-case scenario like they had down in Wheatley a couple of years ago.”

Seven people were sent to hospital and two buildings were destroyed in the Chatham-Kent municipality when an explosion rocked its downtown core in 2022, just over an hour after high readings of hydrogen sulphide were recorded. It was believed to be caused by an abandoned gas well.

“The overall goal is to prevent another Wheatley incident. Much of our activity is about informing landowners. When ownership changes hands, you may not know there is one on your property that may have or may not have been plugged and abandoned,” Hall said.

He added people should be aware of potential hazards on their property and one of the factors that led to the Wheatley situation was nobody knew the infrastructure was in the ground and they built on top of it.

“That’s what we are trying to prevent. No one will be building structures in the middle of farmland, but over time, if there is infrastructure and the wells aren’t plugged correctly,



An image showing the locations of abandoned oil and gas wells in the area from <https://maps.ogsrlibrary.com/>

there could be potential secondary impacts.” Hall explained there could be chemicals seeping into the land, potential groundwater contamination and tripping and fall hazards. Anyone who discovers an unplugged well on their property should have it inspected and apply for funding to take care of it.

“When we found out these things were all over the place it was a real eye-opener for us. If landowners know they have one, I would encourage them to do a cursory check for any bad smells. If they have any concerns, contact the ministry.”

EZT Mayor Phil Schaefer said he encourages people to utilize the resources available to them.

“I was quite surprised when I learned about the amount of abandoned gas and oil wells, not only in Oxford County but provincially. My main message would be that landowners with these wells must have them professionally plugged and that they should avail themselves of resources being provided by the Ministry of Natural Resources and/or Oxford County.”

If you aren’t sure you have an uncapped well on your property, an interactive map is available at <https://maps.ogsrlibrary.com/>.

The funding from the province is flowing only to the county itself and not the lower-tier governments such as East Zorra-Tavistock.

The following signs could indicate the presence of an abandoned well, especially if the property is in a former or current oil- and gas-producing area:

- farm properties with multiple farmsteads, abandoned land or structures, uncultivated sites or sinking land;
- areas with different or stunted vegetation,

- compacted trails or sites, oil residue, or abandoned drilling pads;
- areas with soil staining for vegetation die-off caused by leaking wells;

- a rotten-egg smell caused by hydrogen sulphide, a poisonous gas; and
- natural gas bubbling or oil odours in well water.

Abandoned wells can pose risks to human health and the environment, including:

- poisoning from hydrogen sulphide gas (with a rotten-egg smell) that may be released from a leaking well;
- flammable or combustible environments inside buildings caused by the release of methane;
- tripping or collision hazards caused by sinking ground over existing or mined caverns;
- fires or spills caused by blowouts, the uncontrolled release of oil or gas; and
- contaminated soil or groundwater.

Landowners may qualify for financial support through the Ministry of Natural Resources and Forestry’s Abandoned Works Program. If you suspect an abandoned well on your property, contact the Ministry of Natural Resources and Forestry Petroleum Operations Section via email at [posrecords@ontario.ca](mailto:posrecords@ontario.ca) or by phone at 519-873-4634.

Find more information about legacy oil and gas wells at [www.oxford72hours.ca](http://www.oxford72hours.ca).

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<sup>1</sup> No purchase necessary. Contest runs from 8:00:00 a.m. ET on June 20, 2024, until 11:59:59 p.m. ET on September 30, 2024. There are a total of eighteen (18) prizes available to be won, as follows: seventeen (17) \$1,000 Prepaid Mastercards® (one per winner) and one (1) grand prize \$3,000 Prepaid Mastercard®. The odds of winning depend on the number of entries received. Selected entrants must answer a skill testing question and sign a release. For full rules and how to enter, visit <https://myenergyrewards.ca>. This Contest is in no way sponsored, endorsed or administered by, or associated with Mastercard.



COMMUNITY —

# The carver kings of Shakespeare

By Gary West

There are many different forms of artwork in all shapes and sizes, but the carver kings of Shakespeare can make a log of wood or the trunk of a tree come alive just like an artist can make a canvas come alive with paint.

Paul and Jacob Frenette, the father-and-son team, are considered two of the best as extreme-sport chainsaw sculptors.

They compete in competitions all over the world and put on chainsaw shows at various events including fairs and exhibitions across Canada.

Paul Frenette has been carving for over 15 years and ranks in the top 10 carvers in Canada and the top 5 per cent in the world.

He has competed and won or placed in worldclass competitions with the best of the best. He was also a TV personality on the TV show spinoff of Timber Kings – Carver Kings on HGTV and SAW Dogs on OLN.

Last week, Paul Frenette was the guest speaker with the Shakespeare Optimist Club and told members how his upper-body and arm muscles need to be in good shape to be able to handle a chainsaw and carve out artistic works of all kinds.

He says he has 20 saws in his shop and uses all sizes and shapes, and makes sure the saws he uses are always sharpened and in top condition.



Local carver Paul Frenette is flanked by Richard Smelski (left) and Shakespeare Optimist president Mike McNeil (right) who thanked him for his talk on being one of the top chainsaw sculptors in the world.



A look at the sculptured bears that help Paul Frenette welcome visitors to his Main Street shop in Shakespeare.



Paul Frenette relaxes in his Shakespeare showroom where he has a number of his sculptures and carved benches on display.

REVIEW —

# Oxford County Library book review: This is how You Lose the Time War

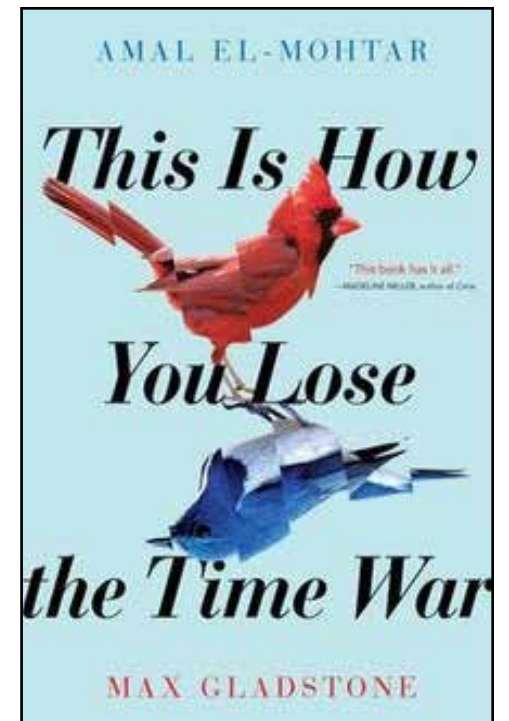
By Oxford County Library staff

Amal El-Mohtar and Max Gladstone's epistolary romance novel is a triumph of creativity and style.

Follow the journeys of Red and Blue through time, realities and space as they carry out a vicious war for their respective factions, performing cryptic actions to change the course of history and swinging the war in their favour. They taunt each other throughout with letters that are hidden in tree stumps, china shops in mythical cities, in the beats of bird wings and unfurled flower petals.

At first, the letters mock their recipient, but soon those letters of taunting turn to teasing and familiarity. That teasing turns to flirtation and interest, a simultaneous desire to keep speaking with one another and keep foiling each other's plots in hopes of reading another letter from each other. Finally, that flirtation turns to love, not before Red and Blue's respective factions in the time war catch wind of their operative's secret epistolary affairs.

By the end, the reader will be just as desirous as Red and Blue are to be together. The twists, turns and heaping helping of internet culture references (like a reference to I'm Blue by Eiffel 65, which caught



me off guard) alongside the intricately complex emotions and time-travelling escapades of this novel generate a gripping love story from start to finish.

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## SPORTS —

# EZT playing host to international fastball competition

By Lee Griffi, Local Journalism Initiative Reporter

Fastball fans in East Zorra-Tavistock are in for a rare treat when the seven-time ISF-WBSC World Champion New Zealand Black Sox play four exhibition games in the area next week.

Exhibition games will take place on Tuesday, July 2 in Tavistock and Wednesday, July 3 in Hickson. A big part of why the team is here can be attributed to a man well-known in fastball circles across the province, Larry Lynch. The Kitchener native has been a key volunteer in the evolution and sustainability of senior men's fastball in Ontario.

New Zealand and Canada dominated fastball in the '80s, '90s and early 2000s, and despite a recent slump by the Black Sox, they are back on the world stage.

"The game has changed since then, so now you have teams like Argentina and Australia that are really strong. They've all taken advantage of playing in ISC events and have become the stars of the game. Canada is still strong, but New Zealand has struggled but they are on their way back," said Lynch.

He has hosted tours with several national teams from across the globe in Ontario and he added the roots of softball are rural, something he puts at the forefront.

"No matter what was going on in the big city, every small town had a softball team. Centres that were as far apart as Hickson and Tavistock, for example, were fiercely competitive. When I bring a touring team in, I always take them to small towns that are keeping the game alive."

Lynch added Tavistock has a great minor ball program and Hickson has an excellent young program that is providing a solid feeder system for the upper echelons of fastball.

"The game is coming back at the youth level and we need that because a lot of older players are going to retire soon," Lynch said. "If we don't keep the young guys coming, there won't be a game, but it's still very strong among young players in rural Ontario."

One of the most interesting spectacles in sports will be at the forefront before the games, and that is the haka war dance. The haka is a pre-match ceremony done by New Zealand teams, most famously by the All Blacks rugby team.

"They don't do it all the time. It's up to the team captain to decide when they are going to do the haka. I have been reassured they are going to perform it before the games in Hickson and Tavistock. They do it mainly when they play other national

teams," explained Lynch.

To view a previous version of the haka by the team, visit <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Etl23vc2cXw>. It truly is something to view in person.

The Black Sox are no strangers to Ontario, having toured several times as they were competing in major fastball events across Canada. This time around, they are headed to Saskatchewan to take part in a tournament build-up before competing in a WBSC staging event held in mid-July in Prince Albert, B.C. It will decide spots for the WBSC World Series of Nations, also in Prince Albert next summer.

The exhibition games in Tavistock and Hickson will raise funds for both minor softball associations, and the entrance fee is only \$5 in each location. Tickets are available at the gate. Local ball players will be admitted free of charge if they wear a team jersey.

The Black Sox will showcase members of the New Zealand Men's National Team and are led by captain Cole Evans. The opposition will feature some of Ontario's top young stars with a couple of additions from Australia who are playing locally this year.

On Tuesday night, the best young players in the Tavistock area will showcase many of the guys who were part of the National Championship U23 and U20 teams of 2022. Many of these players are now on the Tavistock Hops team and that group will join a select team of local up-and-comers who have honed their skills in the highly successful Tavistock Minor Softball system.

On Wednesday, the doubleheader will feature a team of Ontario select players including legendary pitcher Adam Folkard who is living locally this summer. Both nights have the pre-game ceremonies at 6:30 p.m. and game one starts at 7 p.m.

The evening will also feature an opening pitch from legendary centerfielder and Woodstock native, Brian Paton. Paton is Canada's most recent player elected to Softball Canada's Hall of Fame. He will be throwing to his best friend, catcher Chuck Hendricks, another legend in Ontario fastball circles.

"Brian Paton was the longest-serving member of the Canadian team with 17 years and played with the legendary Toronto Gators and Tampa Bay Smokers. He was the baseline you measured centre fielders with. Chuck has always been his best friend and they could write a book together on life on the road. Two great guys to have there for the first pitch."

Food and refreshments are available from local service clubs at both parks.

## The Shakespeare & Community Athletic Association (SCAA) would sincerely like to thank our generous sponsors for their financial support towards the SCAA 77th Annual Field Day and Fish Fry.

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We would also like to thank our numerous individuals and businesses that donated items to support and make our Silent Auction and Live Auction a great success.

Thank you also to our many many volunteers!

We couldn't do it without any of you!!



SPORTS —

# Jamie Boyd Memorial tournament held in Tavistock

By Lee Griffi, Local Journalism Initiative Reporter

The Tavistock Athletics U20 team was one of four to compete in the annual Jamie Boyd Memorial Tournament last weekend.

The event was a four-team round-robin with each team playing one game Friday night and two on Saturday with the semi-finals and final Sunday afternoon. Rostock defeated Plattsville in the championship game 4-3 in extra innings.

"There was actually a decent turnout of local people from Tavistock who came to watch the championship even though we weren't playing in it. The support the town showed to the Boyd was amazing to see," said Tavistock coach McGregor Ramseyer.

The Athletics lost their three round-robin games but played better in a 6-0 loss to Rostock in a semi-final matchup.

"We had trouble getting hits, but our pitcher Grady Ryksen threw fantastic for us and kept the game scoreless for the first three innings despite our troubles putting many hits together. We played great defensively in the semi-final as well, so the coaching staff is hoping that's a sign of good things to come," explained Ramseyer.

In past years, Tavistock Minor Baseball has run this tournament with five or six teams but due to factors out of their control, the field was limited to four teams this year.

"We hope there will continue to be interest from our neighbouring centres in attending this tournament next year and we can increase the number of teams back to five or six. The OASA Eliminations are almost always in early July, so this tournament works out to be a great tune-up event for most teams to prepare."

That tournament is set for July 5-7 in Cobourg which will determine what teams represent Ontario at the Canadian Championships in August.

The Jamie Boyd Memorial Tournament was organized by the Tavistock Minor Ball Association's executive committee with help from the head of the group's tournament committee, Jeff Roth.

Ramseyer added a special thank you to Dennis Roth who organized the umpires for the weekend and the U15 Athletics who volunteered all weekend to maintain the diamonds and keep the large water jugs on the benches filled with cold water and ice for the teams.

"Dave Nahrgang, Corey McCann and Keith Zehr scheduled the U15 players in shifts and kept other volunteers organized during the weekend and they deserve a lot of credit too."

There was an opening ceremony on Saturday morning where the four teams were joined on the diamond by Boyd's family – his wife, Tracey, son, Tye, daughter, Shelbie Hale, and son-in-law, Jordan Hale, along with granddaughters Layla and Darla.



Tavistock Athletics U20 player Justin Roth stands beside Jamie Boyd's granddaughter, Layla Hayle. Laya threw out the ceremonial first pitch to Roth as part of the Jamie Boyd Memorial Tournament's opening ceremonies. Contributed photo

## U10 Boys earn Bronze at regional tournament



The U10 Royal Blue Boys Wilmot District Soccer League team have gotten off to a fantastic start to their season, boasting a record of six wins and one loss. The team also placed third in a regional tournament over the June 22-23 weekend. Pictured in the front row, from left to right, are Owen McInnis, Hudson Ceaser, Kayo Kimpinski, Hunter, Mason Macdonald, and Andrew Roy. In the back row, from left, are coach Brent Taylor, Jacob Desjardins, Dominic Liscombe, Joel Kox, Ethan Szusz, Julius M-T, Mason Taylor, Alexander Farkas, and coach Justin Taylor. Contributed photo

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# SPORTS —

## Wilmot ACES complete successful weekend tournament

By Lee Griffi, Local Journalism Initiative reporter

The past couple of weekends have seen some amazing results for the Wilmot ACES swim club.

At the Festivals Championships in Etobicoke, six members of the ACES competed at the U12 Ontario championship meet.

Leading the way was recently turned 11-year-old Vasyi Kruppynin, who has been putting up top-10 performance times in Canada over the past two years. Vasyi set new club records in the 200 breast-stroke, 200 individual and 400 individual medley. He took home an incredible two silver and three bronze medals

Not to be outdone, 11-year-old Anna MacDonald, who has also been putting up times in the top 10 in Canada for over a year, set new club records in three events. Anna won two silvers and two bronze medals.

The ACES finished the meet in 17th place overall out of over 70 teams.

The second meet held in Markham saw four Aces competing for a last-chance opportunity to qualify for the Ontario Swimming Championships in early July.

Leading the ACES was 14-year-old Grace Bach who qualified for the first time in the 100 fly by winning the event with a new club record. She added a second gold and a bronze.

Fifteen-year-old Austin Heinbuch qualified in the 400 individual medley with a third-place finish. He added a second bronze medal at the event. Bailey Ewanchuk and Tess Weyers also qualified to compete at the provincials.

The team finished 40th out of over 70 teams. The ACES have three more meets left before they wrap up the season.



Grace Bach shows off one of her medals from a recent competition. Contributed photos



Anna MacDonald (left) and Vasyi Kruppynin (right) had some great success at a recent meet in Etobicoke.

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OPINION —

# FROM THE EDITOR'S DESK: *Getting to know the community – one of the best parts of my job*



**By Galen Simmons**

As a journalist, I've had the opportunity to work in more than

a dozen different communities over the course of my 10-year career.

While working in each of those villages, towns and cities, my job provided me with an inside look at how each community functions, I've been introduced to residents from all walks of life and I've been able to share stories about the local issues, initiatives, projects and individual accomplishments that make each community vibrant and unique.

I have to say, getting to know a new community is among the

parts of my job I enjoy most.

Having taken over as editor of the Wilmot-Tavistock Gazette only six short months ago, getting to know the communities in our coverage area – from Wilmot and Wellesley to New Dundee, Tavistock and everywhere in between – has been an absolute joy.

Everyone I've met has been friendly, helpful and downright eager to support our efforts to cover the news and sports that matter most to them.

From putting together this year's heritage edition and meeting the

legendary, late Ernie Ritz, and having the chance to visit and learn about unique local farms like The Tavistock Hop Company and Nith Valley Apiaries for our farm edition to getting to know the students and staff at Waterloo-Oxford Secondary School and meeting all the wonderful business owners I've had a chance to visit for our Shop Local profiles, I'm slowly broadening my understanding of the communities that make up the Wilmot-Tavistock area.

While it may be taking more time for me to get to know these com-

munities than it has taken me in previous jobs as I split my time between the Gazette, the Stratford Times and the St. Marys Independent, I am no less grateful for all the wonderful people I've met and the warm welcome I've received since January.

So, thank you, readers, for helping me feel as if I'm a part of your communities even though I still live in Stratford (don't hold that against me). And thank you for continuing to support local news.

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## OPINION —

# Welcome to “rurban living?”

By Lorna Jean Edmonds, guest columnist

Am I mistaken or have many traditionally rural ridings and the counties, cities and communities within them more recently evolved into something different? Look around you – are your neighbours the same? Are the shops the same? Are the services – roads, schools, health care – the same, better or worse? What about the environment and the arable land for farming? What has changed and what has stayed the same?

I am referring to the communities and their ridings which not so long ago were truly rural but are now feeling a shift. These ridings were not caught up in the immediate tentacles of the Toronto, Ottawa, London and their major highway lineal reach that led to widespread developments and urban sprawl. These represent the bastion of rural ridings with cities that garner populations historically of less than 200,000, like Kingston and its riding, Kingston and the Islands, and some without even a city larger than 20,000 population like its neighbor, my riding of Lanark-Frontenac-Kingston. Perth-Wellington, Simcoe North and Stormont-Dundas-Glengarry are other examples and there are many more!

In 2020, I moved full time to a rural community in South Frontenac. Quite frankly, I knew very little about rural living and its livelihood. It's magical yet it too has its limitations. It's expensive. Energy is costly and, for too many, reliable high-speed internet is still out of reach. You want to buy

local, but food can be pricey. Just buying the basics in supplies and tools I needed to purchase can be arduous unless I (ab) used the luxury of Amazon for even some of the little things. Being a farmer and keeping your farm in the family, or at all, is getting harder and harder. Urban creep is seriously stretching municipal infrastructure – water, sewers, roads and community and emergency services to mention a few.

As many rural Ontario ridings become a mixture of rural and urban-like communities with people who have lived here all their lives to newcomers from near and far, life and their livelihoods are changing. The newbies are commuter families, retired people and tele-workers who choose to reside outside of a major city or move for financial and lifestyle reasons. They are joining families who have resided in rural Ontario for many years, if not centuries. By virtue of moving in together, they collectively bring a new set of wants and needs. The landscape has changed. These ridings are no longer what we think of as traditionally rural and much more of a melange of the rural and the urban.

Just look at the changes in size and demography of a number of our small towns like Carleton Place. Sprawling and diversifying suburbs are surrounding long-standing communities; further redefining the traditions and cultures of predominantly farming, natural reserves, lakes, parks, small towns and villages. As an Ottawa commuter and tele-working city, Carleton Place, for example, has become

bigger and more diverse. It is one of the fastest-growing communities in Canada. Innovation with new businesses and boutiques are drawn to these emerging communities from both a price-sensitive perspective and new families to serve. With the high cost of living of recent years, sadly, the demand for food banks and affordable housing is daunting coupled with the continued inability to access basic health care, rehabilitation and social services in a clinic/centre or at home in typical of rural ridings. This is not to mention the cost to the environment in terms of the use of fossil fuels, loss of arable land and the generation of excessive waste, particularly plastic.

We have critical needs in basic public infrastructure and a changing population of aging people with disabilities, and Indigenous communities and those with young families. Farming is essential to our livelihood as is welcoming new immigrants. Our economy and tax base must grow to support these changes by investing in innovation, jobs and supporting new residents, and it needs to do so while navigating the mitigation of climate change, food and housing security, and sustaining our agricultural lands, parks and natural resources. The fabric and landscape of these distinct communities across Ontario have changed.

Recognizing this, how do we wish to move forward? A key step is to relook at who and what we are and call it what it is – the fusion of ruralites with urbanites into the

“rurbanization” of these regions and communities. Perhaps it's no longer rural but “Rurban Living.”

If so, then new thinking and leadership strategies with a rurban framework is needed. I love living here, but unless we speak loud and clear to our new reality, our livelihood will, in time, come at a price. No plan is a plan and inaction will result in some grim realities. Let's start to advocate even more than we are now for critical investments that align with our rurban needs and will sustain and enhance the richness these ridings must continue to offer. Where we live is pretty special!

Let's start a conversation about your thoughts about “rurban” living? Please take a moment to complete this three-minute survey by visiting <https://tinyurl.com/LJEDMONDS>, and stay posted for future posts about rurban living!

*About the Author: Lorna Jean Edmonds is a fulltime rural resident in Hartington, Ont. She was a senior university executive and global influencer. She has worked extensively across the disciplines in academic and development administration and external and international relations. With over 30 years of experience in Canada, the United States and internationally, her career has led to partnerships and collaborative projects all over the world. Since moving to Hartington in 2020, she has been connecting with local communities and is committed to bringing more attention to the realities and needs of life and living in rural or rather “rurban” Ontario.*

## Wildfire smoke alters the brain: The effects of biomass smoke inhalation on mental health

By Thomas Verny

Wildfire smoke is a complex mixture of gases and fine particulate matter (PM2.5) produced during the combustion of vegetation and other organic materials in a wildfire. While the immediate health risks of wildfire smoke are well-documented and include respiratory problems and cardiovascular issues, emerging research suggests that wildfire smoke exposure can also have significant effects on brain health and trigger inflammation in the central nervous system. Here's an overview of recent research which demonstrates how this happens.

Wildland-fire acres burned per year have roughly doubled since 1985. These fires now routinely generate smoke that deteriorates air quality for most of the country. This smoke contains a multifarious mixture of toxic components due to myriad combustion fuel sources (e.g. trees, grass, animals, homes, cars etc.). These tiny particles are small enough to be inhaled deep into the lungs from where they can then enter the bloodstream and travel to the brain. A study from Washington State in 2020 estimated that 7.1 million people were exposed to average daily particulate matter concentrations ranging from 30 to 190 µg/m<sup>3</sup> for 13 consecutive days.

PM2.5 particles contain chemicals that can generate oxidative stress in the body. Oxidative stress occurs when there is an imbalance between harmful free radicals and the body's ability to counteract them with antioxidants.

This oxidative stress can damage cells, including those in the brain. The body's response to the presence of PM2.5 and other harmful substances in wildfire smoke includes the release of pro-inflammatory molecules such as cytokines. These molecules can contribute to inflammation throughout the body, including in the brain.

Inflammation in the brain as a result of smoke inhalation persists for many weeks. Inhaled particulate matter from wildfire smoke and other pollutants induces the formation of fragmented peptides that impair the functioning of the blood-brain barrier. Wildfire smoke exposure has been associated with the disruption of the blood-brain barrier, allowing harmful substances to enter the brain more easily leading to neuroinflammation and further activation of astrocytes and microglia, the immune cells of the brain.

Worse, the inflammatory process affects the hippocampus – the brain region necessary for learning and memory – thus leading to a range of neurological conditions including cognitive impairment, increased risk of neurodegenerative diseases like Alzheimer's and Parkinson's disease and mood disturbances.

Wildfire exposures have also been linked to cardiovascular, pulmonary, ocular and nasal diseases particularly in older people and those with chronic respiratory conditions.

The human body seems capable of adapting to chronic

particulate exposure to an extent, periodic exposures pose a problem because they cause a surge in inflammatory activity and ill effects appear more related to the fluctuations, rather than the baseline levels of pollutants.

If you're a firefighter, or if you just resided in a community that has had some of these dramatic smoke exposures, you could be experiencing neurocognitive or mood disorders weeks or months after the event.

Reducing exposure to wildfire smoke through measures like staying indoors during periods of poor air quality, using air purifiers and wearing N95 respirator masks can help mitigate some of these health risks. Additionally, addressing the root causes of wildfires, such as climate change and land management practices, is crucial for preventing the widespread and severe wildfires that produce harmful smoke.

### Key Takeaways

- Wildfire smoke can induce inflammation in the brain that persists for more than a month.
- Intermittent rather than constant exposure to smoke might pose a more serious risk due to surges in inflammatory activity.
- The area of the brain called the hippocampus is particularly affected, risking long-term damage to learning and memory.

OPINION —

## EXPERT ADVICE: *Summertime and the living (and fashion) is easy*



**By Scott Dunstall**

I love the summer. I mean when April finally rolls around, there is a sense of excitement created in my head and my summer lineup comes out of storage for a review.

There is a lot to go through after a long winter. Those shorts don't fit me anymore (that is happening a lot this year), some wild animal (moth) chewed a hole in the back of one of my polo shirts, or my white Cole-Haan penny loafers looked like I stomped my way out of the Nith River in them. For clarification, when I

use the word polo generically, it refers to a style of short sleeve shirt. When I use RL polo, that is a brand name used by Ralph Lauren. It's kind of like using the word, "Kleenex," for any tissue. Same thing here, but don't blow your nose in your polo.

So, when I get all the stitching (yes, I can sew, stop laughing) and the cleaning and the tossing out of the way, then the time to face the music comes. How will I put this stuff together? Well, shirts and shorts are your focal points, so let's talk about those.

**What I wear:** For shorts, it's Dockers, CHAPS, Hilfiger, Polo, Penguin. They all offer a tailored look and they are all above the knee. I look for a 9 1/2-inch inseam and none of them have pockets you can park your car in. I am not going to be an arrogant ass and say that cargo shorts are out. If you are comfortable in them, then by all means wear them. You should never be uncomfortable in your own clothes.

**How I wear them:** A few years ago, when my gut wasn't an is-

sue, I wore a ton of different belts and my flashes (outfits) almost always included them with a tucked in shirt. If that middle is starting to establish its own gravity field, then maybe you want to consider the untucked look which is what I am doing this summer. But that doesn't mean that I just pull my shirt out and that's it. I can try on a medium, custom-fit, red Hilfiger polo shirt and then try on a medium, custom-fit, yellow Hilfiger polo shirt, and nine times out of 10 they will fit differently.

They could feel the same to touch as this model of Hilfiger polo shirt uses a strong, structured material. But one could be longer or fit smaller than the other. And to add to that confusion, many designers have multiple versions of colours, designs and fit. A medium could be a classic fit, a custom fit, a skinny fit or a tapered fit and many designers have started to incorporate the un-tuck-it look where the cut tapers to the waist and the bottom perimeter falls just below the belt line. So, what do

you do? The only thing is trial and error. If you'd like to send me an email, I can tell you what I have learned so far and help you with making your selections.

Once you know what you are going to wear this summer and how you're going to wear it, then you might want to consider some colour matching I use if you need to make any new purchases.

- Navy and white: always in style. Clean, crisp and perfect for summer.
- Pink and grey: soft pink with grey is sophisticated and modern.
- Olive and beige: earthy tones for a natural, relaxed look.
- Coral and white: coral pops and white keeps it fresh.
- Light blue and khaki: cool and calm, ideal for a relaxed, summer vibe.

Some other things to think about:

- Accessorize wisely: a stylish pair of sunglasses, a light-

weight watch, or a straw hat can elevate your summer look.

- Stay comfortable: choose breathable fabrics like cotton, linen and seersucker to stay cool in the heat.
- Confidence is key: no matter what you wear, confidence will always be your best accessory.

*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 @everydaystyleby-scott or on LinkedIn @scottdunstall or Life & Style Wilmot on Facebook. Feel free to ask questions or propose collaborations: everydaystyleby-scott1@gmail.com.*

## EXPERT ADVICE: *Asparagus and the reality of conflict*

**By John Dinner**

Conflict in life is inevitable and something many of us consciously avoid. Despite the bad wrap the conflict often gets, it's not always a problem. If you disagree with me, that speaks to how easy conflict happens. Because that's the essence of conflict: it's a disagreement between people that often results in misunderstanding and, sometimes, real relational harm.

Conflict often results when what we think or believe to be true bumps up against another perspective different from our own. The reality is we tend to adopt points of view that substantiate or confirm what we already believe. That's confirmation bias and it happens when we rely on or seek out sources of information that align with our current understanding. Confirmation bias and associated conflicts showed up throughout the years-long pandemic, but more mundane issues can foster conflict as well.

Like me, I suspect many readers are mourning the end of asparagus season. I've enjoyed this vegetable for decades and it was only this year that I was confronted with the appropriate way to eat this highly nutritious (and tasty) asparagus: with a knife and fork or with your hands? In some households, eating anything (almost) with your fingers is a non-starter. However, I recently came across a video in which an etiquette expert declared emphatically (but very politely) that proper decorum when eating asparagus is to do so with one's hands. Inherent in this declaration is the possible conflict between

personal opinion and practice and that of an etiquette expert. What brouhaha could be unleashed if this topic makes it to the supper table in your home?

The divergence of view on how asparagus should be consumed is rather routine as compared with many conflicts we experience personally or observe from afar every day. Most conflict tends to be more substantive than one's eating habits. But, then again, that may depend on the importance placed on good manners – thereby introducing a whole host of potential conflict.

Here are some ideas to keep in mind that may help all of us better navigate conflict:

1. When thinking about how to respond to something you find disagreeable, ask yourself, "What do I know for sure?" It's easy to jump to conclusions, make assumptions or speculate on things with limited information. It can be helpful to avoid extrapolating on a few facts and try to focus on what you know for certain. It can often be much less than what we use to argue our case.
2. You might ask yourself how important an issue is relative to other matters and decide to avoid conflict if the discord isn't worth the aggravation or relational tension that might result.
3. Often, we can sense the onset of strong feelings of fear or anger in us when conflict seems imminent. Our brain can often respond reflexively (and in a nanosecond). Rather than reacting in that moment, a better outcome can result if we take a bit of time to pause, think and plan to deliver a

4. more thoughtful response.
4. When conflict arises, we can all benefit from being curious instead of critical. It's easy to feel under threat when a different opinion challenges our beliefs. Rather than being defensive, showing interest in the other person's perspective and how they came to their understanding can lead to rich result and enjoyable conversation.

Life would be dull without conflict. Agreeableness can create its own conflict overtime. Progress would be thwarted if we didn't debate different ideas and explore various solutions to problems. We have so

much to learn and benefit from differing points of view. As proof, I'm looking forward to next year's asparagus season already!

*John Dinner is a registered psychotherapist who works as a counsellor at Interfaith Counselling Centre in New Hamburg. He sometimes has strong views on such things as other people's driving habits that can cause conflict with those driving with him.*

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OPINION —

# EXPERT ADVICE: *Happiness is Huron Earth*



**By Mercedes Kay Gold**

Huron Earth is the brand name for the extensive line of holistic, herbal-based products offering heaps of healing love inside and outside the body.

Natalie Kohlruss found a new career while searching for alternative ways to support her daughter who was born with Multicystic Dysplastic Kidney and suffering from extreme Eczema. She left her job in social services, returned to school and graduated a chartered herbalist.

In 2016, Natalie launched Huron Earth and, in 2019, the Kohlruss family purchased just over one acre at the corner of Huron and Pinehill Road. The adorable



One of the natural, herbal teas available for purchase from Huron Earth in New Hamburg.

property with the historical schoolhouse is home to Adam, Natalie and their three children. Huron Earth products are hand-crafted using heaps of herbs, over 40 of which are grown on their small-scale farm in New Hamburg.

Spring 2024 started with a sold-out seedling sale. Summer is here and this past week, I enjoyed a sunny walk-through Natalie's herb garden admiring the array of gorgeous greenery and blossoming flowers in eye-popping colors.

Huron Earth helps renew, restore, revive and relieve us, but the garden is also home to Mother Nature's best friends, bees. The variety of gorgeous ground cover and plants in varying heights and shapes all bloom at different times which, in turn, benefits the entire earth and the cycle of all life.

Natalie lovingly handmakes high-quality herbal products from teas to tinctures to honey and salves, addressing an endless list of ailments.

Tea is the third-most popular drink in Canada with 48 per cent of Canadians drinking it daily and, shocking to this reporter, the biggest age group is 25-34-year-olds. Tea is healing except conventional tea may contain pesticides and is often packaged in bleached tea bags. Huron Tea is chemical-free and the herbs are hung or placed on racks to dry. No heat is applied. Natalie's teas are made in small batches and sell out quickly; they're not overproduced and sitting stale on a shelf. This holistic nutritionist can honestly say, after sipping Huron Tea, the fresh-picked, garden-fresh fabulousness allowed me to easily identify chamomile, skullcap and lavender. There are six types of health-helping teas. Soothe and support digestion with Tummy Tea, love your liver with an array of detox herbs such as burdock and stinging nettle in Teatox and address anxiety with SereniTEA.

Huron Teas contain well-known herbs such as lavender, peppermint arnica, calendula and St. John's Wort, but comfrey, red clover, yarrow and stinging nettle are in the lineup of super stars supporting



Natalie Kohlruss of Huron Earth on her farm in New Hamburg. Photos by Mercedes Kay Gold

overall wellness, too.

The superb skincare is stocked with essential oils, all lovingly prepared by Natalie. I am hooked on her Living Glow Facial Serum stocked with a blend of oils, leaving skin with a natural glow. Spoil yourself or a loved one with Natalie's energizing LIVING Rose Facial Toner. Using a copper sill from the Ukraine, Natalie achieves a high-quality hydrosol, helping soothe and restore skin's natural pH levels.

Salves are nature's answer to support painful itching and soothe redness associated with skin conditions such as dermatitis and psoriasis.

Huron Earth is available online and locally. Among Natalie's talents, she also manages the Stratford Market and she says, "All vendors must bake it, make it or grow

it!" I love this rule!

Looking to learn more about living a lifestyle rooted in natural wellness? Natalie just hosted her sixth annual weekend retreat to restore and rejuvenate with a side of foraging, learning and outdoor fun. Attend a workshop and learn why water should not be boiled when making tea, the importance of detox and using clean, chemical-free products.

Huron Earth is an exceptional line of wholesome products and it's never too early or too late to ditch chemicals.

Follow on social @huron.earth to see a complete line of their products, stores to purchase or shop on line. The small-scale farm is at 2653 Huron Road in New Hamburg.



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## TRAVEL —

# OH, THE PLACES WE'LL GO: *Fresh lobster, thump mats, mummers and a linguistic lesson*



**By Paul Knowles**

Every visitor to Petty Harbour – well, every Canadian music lover, at least – wants to know which of the houses in the Newfoundland coastal community was home to Alan Doyle.

Every guide – and every local resident – will point to the white and green house.

But if that's all you come to Petty Harbour for, you are missing a terrific day in a charming and vibrant community. There is actually a surprising amount of choice in a community of less than 1,000 inhabitants – everything from hiking and zip-lining to shopping and heading out on an ocean excursion.

My time in Petty Harbour was divided between a sea voyage and eating, and then shopping in a venerable gift store, and eating, and making a thump mat out of a lengthy piece of rope – and eating.

Petty Harbour is home to a nonprofit social enterprise called Fishing for Success, headquartered right on the water in the Island Rooms of Petty Harbour.

These rooms, by the way, are cabins located all along the harbour used for everything related to fishing – twine stores, salt stores and more. There are also stages – rough-hewn outdoor docks where fish are processed.

In this case, the rooms occupied by Fishing for Success are used for crafts, equipment storage, educational sessions and food preparation (did I

mention I ate?).

Kimberly Orren is co-founder of Fishing for Success, an organization with a number of goals. One is to give Newfoundland children hands-on experience around fishing and the crafts that go with it. She laughs that their program may involve taking kids out on the ocean in small boats, and then giving them knives to filet the fish.

“But kids need risky activities,” she says.

I tell her I agree.

Kimberly, a former teacher, and her colleagues – including story-loving Captain Leo – also offer programs to tourists and other visitors, individually and in groups, and the income from those events fund the educational programs for kids.

And I can tell you firsthand that those events are terrific. We suited up in warm coats and life jackets and headed out to sea in a small boat called Grace. On the ocean, we followed a lobster-fishing boat and watched the two-person crew haul up lobster traps and display their catches.

They also had smaller denizens of the sea in the traps and since we were close at hand, they tossed them to us to examine before we returned them to the water. So, I can say I caught a sea star – although it was in the air, not the water, when I caught it!

We returned to the Rooms, where Kimberly showed us how to make thump mats – a decorative rope creation that was once of very practical use, used to protect the decks of ships.

As we wove, the Fishing for Success team brought us food – crab salad, fish chowder, homemade partridge berry muffins and, finally, large chunks of the very same lobster we had watched the lobster fishers catch an hour or so earlier. Amazing!

I also visited Herbie's Olde Shoppe, a general store in Petty Harbour that was built in 1933 and has operated continuously ever since. Today, RhodieAnne Woodland is a co-owner. Between serving customers, she works at her beloved rug hooking and tells stories about the late founder and the Petty Harbour com-

munity she loves.

Everything in the eclectic shop is made by Newfoundlanders including models and stained-glass images of the famed Newfoundland Mummers. Mumming is the Christmas-time tradition of visiting neighbours in disguise.

And I believe I mentioned food? On a second visit to Petty Harbour, we dined at the popular Chafe's Landing Seafood Eatery where I sampled the excellent fish chowder, but then moved on to another Newfoundland staple – I mowed down a mooseburger – accompanied by a local beer, since Newfoundland is now replete with craft breweries.

And you can't visit Petty Harbour without spending some time strolling along the harbour capturing pictures of the boats named for family members, the colourful rooms and the green hills rising high on all sides.

Petty Harbour is less than a 20-minute drive from St. John's, but it's an entire world away. Both communities are well worth visits – I'll be writing a lot about St. John's in subsequent weeks – but to get a feel for traditional Newfoundland, conveniently near the capital, Petty Harbour is ideal. It is still a working fishing centre with fishers catching lobster, crab and even cod during the food-fishery season which allows each boat to catch up to 15 cod.

Oh, and in Petty Harbour, I learned that when a Newfoundlander refers to fish, he or she doesn't mean any random kind of fish. Fish on the Rock is cod and nothing but cod. Everything else will be called by its proper name – halibut, for instance.

And if you are after trout in the streams of Newfoundland, you aren't fishing, you are “troutin'.” Ah, you gotta love Newfoundland and Labrador, and Petty Harbour is a great place to get very near the heart of this island province.

*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](mailto:pknowles@golden.net).*



Petty Harbour. All photos by Paul Knowles



Lobster fishers on the coast of Newfoundland.



Kimberly Orren of Fishing for Success.



RhodieAnne Woodland hooks rugs and is a co-owner of Herbie's Olde Shoppe in Petty Harbour.



Up close and personal with a sea star, which was soon returned to its natural habitat.

# COMMUNITY —

## Perth County's John Schyff shows off wartime tractor

By Gary West

There were many farm implements built during wartime in the early 1940s when some products that we now take for granted were in short supply, because of the effects of war in Europe.

One such product in short supply was rubber, so in 1942, the Henry Ford company needed to come up with a new material for the tires on their tractors.

John Schyff, who lives east of Amulree, collects and loves antique tractors with original accessories and is the owner of a Ford 2N.

The Ford Company, the maker of cars and tractors, came up with a deep-lugged steel wheel that could still pull equipment to keep farm fields worked and producing food, but probably was not meant to travel too far at higher speeds on the road. The Ford 2N tractor came with steel wheels as standard equipment.

In order to bypass wartime restrictions on price, there had to be component changes made to the tractors due to wartime shortages.

The Ford 2N tractor took the place of the 9N built by Ford between 1939 and 1942 and was a utility tractor produced in Dearborn, Mich.

Due to those war-time shortages, the tractor was made with no battery or alternator system because parts were very hard to come by.

A Magneto and a hand crank to start was the only way Ford designed the 2N.

It had a four-cylinder gasoline engine and only three speeds and the belt horsepower was listed at 28.87 horsepower.

Batteries were in very short supply at the time, but a hand crank for starting was very easily made with steel that was not in as short supply.



John Schyff of North Easthope Township displays his 1942 Ford 2N on steel at the recent Waterloo-Oxford Secondary School Barnyard Bash. Students were amazed that farmers during World War II made a living farming their fields with a steel-wheeled tractor as shown. Photo by Gary West

## The power of horses to make the first day of summer one to enjoy



These four equestrian beauties were enjoying the lush, green pasture on the South Easthope farm of John, Heather and Kathleen Duiker east of Shakespeare. The friendly four are always out enjoying the summer conditions and seem to be always looking out for each other. Where one goes, they all go. Photo by Gary West



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COMMUNITY —

SHOW US YOUR WILMOT



Darryn Nafziger recently posted this photo of rainbow taken from the Peel St. Taproom in New Hamburg to the Show Us Your Wilmot Facebook page. Photo courtesy of Show Us Your Wilmot

Tavistock's Tim Hortons raises over \$7,000 for TAP through Smile Cookie campaign

By Gary West

Tim Hortons' Smile Cookie campaign continues to raise money for various charities all across Canada.

A large cheque was presented to Angie Brenner, program director for the Tavistock Assistance Program (TAP), for \$7,125.50 raised during the week of the Smile Cookie campaign at the local Tim

Hortons in Tavistock.

Tavistock Tim Hortons manager Steven Parker thanked all those in the area that a worthwhile charity like TAP that uses the money to help so many local families in need.

A total of \$18.3 million was raised across Canada during the weeklong campaign to aid over 600 charities.



Pictured at the Tim Hortons in Tavistock are, from left, Robbie Carter, Tim Hortons Tavistock manager Stephen Parker, Tavistock, New Hamburg and Baden Tim Horton general manager Melissa Hebert, Devin Jasztrab and Tavistock Assistance Program director Angie Brenner receiving a cheque for \$7,125.50 raised during this year's Smile Cookie Campaign. Photo by Gary West

Gazette Puzzles

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COMMUNITY —

# North Easthope Antique Tractor club members drive their antique tractors into Milverton

By Gary West

Antique tractors came from Tavistock, New Hamburg, Wellesley and many places in between to St. Peter's Lutheran Church in Milverton to celebrate in their fundraising breakfast with members of the congregation.

Pastor Bonnie Schelter-Brown thanked North Easthope Antique Tractor (NEAT) Club members and their wives for coming to support the church at their annual breakfast on a sunny and humid morning.

Schelter-Brown is a very busy pastor of four congregations at St. Peter's in Milverton, St. Paul's in Moserville, St. James in Baden and St. James in Norh

Easthope.

She said there will be one less Church come the end of the year as the congregation at St. Peter's in Milverton has chosen to close their church and find new expressions of their faith in a new church home that they are still discerning.

According to the pastor, the entire church membership helped to serve the breakfast for the tractor club and said their numbers may be small but they work together to do God's work in the community.

Member of the NEAT club wished the parishioners all the best and hoped that the future for them is one of promise and great hope.



A lineup of antique tractors that motored from many areas in Waterloo Region and Perth County for a final fundraising breakfast at St. Peter's Lutheran Church in Milverton.



The church's cooking crew made breakfast for a final time for the North Easthope Antique Tractor Club (NEAT). At year's end, the church's congregation will be closing St. Peter's Lutheran Church in Milverton as membership has dwindled considerably in recent years.



## Nominations are open for the 2024 WRCF Community Awards

Do you know:

- A community volunteer or philanthropist who creatively tackles issues of today, with an eye to the future, using innovative approaches and solutions?
- A business or organization that is committed to building and supporting our community through "Doing More Good"?
- An individual or organization in the community who is advancing social infrastructure in Waterloo Region?

Visit [wrcf.ca/award-nominations](http://wrcf.ca/award-nominations) to learn more and nominate someone for an award.

Applications close: July 17, 2024

Help us recognize individuals and organizations "Doing More Good" in Waterloo Region

WRCF.CA



Pastor Bonnie Schelter-Brown talks with Ralph Schwartzen-truber, a tractor club member from the Tavistock area, about the closing of the church this year.

SEND YOUR STORY IDEAS TO EDITOR GALEN SIMMONS AT [GALEN@GRANTHAVEN.COM](mailto:GALEN@GRANTHAVEN.COM)

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## COMMUNITY CALENDAR - JUNE/JULY/AUGUST 2024

### THURSDAY, JUNE 27

**Community Design Workshop about High Performance Development Standards (HPDS)**  
7 - 8:30 pm

"Green" building standards are necessary to help the Region reduce GHG emissions. The workshop will educate residents about HPDS and get feedback from the community. For more information go to [nvecoboosters.com](http://nvecoboosters.com) and check out upcoming events. Hosted by The Nith Valley EcoBoosters, Climate Action WR and WR Community Energy.  
New Hamburg Community Centre  
251 Jacob Street, New Hamburg

**Cruise Nights**  
6-8 p.m.

Thursdays in July and August  
Shakespeare Brewing Company  
2178 Perth Line 34, Shakespeare

### SUNDAY, JUNE 30

**Tavistock Bible Church Sunday Drive-In Meeting**  
7 - 8 pm

With The Shatford 6 and David Gray  
Shakespeare Truck Centre  
Hwy 7 & 8 Shakespeare



### MONDAY, JULY 1

**Township of Wilmot Canada Day**

11 am opening ceremony  
William Scott Park  
75 Hunter St. W, New Hamburg

### WEDNESDAY, JULY 3

**Township of East Zorra-Tavistock council meeting**  
9 am

Township office  
89 Loveys St., Hickson

**Explore the Arboretum and Christner Trail**  
7-8 pm

Register at [letstreewilmot.ca/events](http://letstreewilmot.ca/events)  
Who knew coffee grew in New Hamburg?  
470 Waterloo St. New Hamburg.

### THURSDAY, JULY 4

**Cruise Nights**  
6-8 pm

Thursdays in July and August  
Shakespeare Brewing Company  
2178 Perth Line 34, Shakespeare

### FRIDAY, JULY 5

**Tavistock Optimist Club Friday Night Fries**  
4 - 8 pm

Tavistock Optimist Park  
250 Woodstock St. S., Tavistock

### TUESDAY, JULY 9

**Township of Wellesley council meeting**  
6:45 pm

Council chambers  
4805 William Hastings Line,  
Crosshill

### THURSDAY, JULY 11

**20th Annual Childhood Cancer Fundraising BBQ**  
11 am - 6 pm

All proceeds will go towards Scotland's Yard (Grand River Hospital), Children's Health Foundation (London) and Walk to Conquer Cancer (Princess Margaret Hospital)  
1239 Notre Dame Drive, Petersburg

**Cruise Nights**  
6-8 pm

Thursdays in July and August  
Shakespeare Brewing Company  
2178 Perth Line 34, Shakespeare

### WEDNESDAY, JULY 17

**Explore the Petersburg Crown Lands Trail**  
7-8 pm

Register at [letstreewilmot.ca/events](http://letstreewilmot.ca/events)  
This trail is considered a gem.  
2703 Queen St., just south of highway 7/8.

### THURSDAY, JULY 18

**Cruise Nights**  
6-8 p.m.

Thursdays in July and August  
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### THURSDAY, JULY 25

**Cruise Nights**  
6-8 p.m.

Thursdays in July and August  
Shakespeare Brewing Company  
2178 Perth Line 34, Shakespeare

### MONDAY, JULY 29

**Township of Wilmot council meeting**  
7-11 pm

Council chambers  
60 Snyder's Rd. West Baden

### TUESDAY, JULY 30

**6th Annual Tavistock Community Car Show & Cruise**  
4 - 7 pm

Free entry - goodwill donation appreciated. All proceeds from the show are donated to the Tavistock Assistance Program. Prizes, Giveaways, Food. Presented by Zehr Insurance Brokers.  
Tavistock Mennonite Church  
131 Wettlaufer St., Tavistock

### WEDNESDAY, JULY 31

**Explore the Morningside Trail**  
7-8 pm

Register at [letstreewilmot.ca/events](http://letstreewilmot.ca/events)  
Fairgrounds meet near the playground.  
251 Jacob Street New Hamburg

### THURSDAY, AUGUST 1

**Cruise Nights**  
6-8 p.m.

Thursdays in July and August  
Shakespeare Brewing Company  
2178 Perth Line 34, Shakespeare



### THURSDAY, AUGUST 8

**Cruise Nights**  
6-8 p.m.

Thursdays in July and August  
Shakespeare Brewing Company  
2178 Perth Line 34, Shakespeare

### FRIDAY, AUGUST 9

**Tavistock Optimist Club Friday Night Fries**  
4 - 8 pm

Tavistock Optimist Park  
250 Woodstock St. S., Tavistock

### THURSDAY, AUGUST 15

**Cruise Nights**  
6-8 p.m.

Thursdays in July and August  
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### THURSDAY, AUGUST 22

**Cruise Nights**  
6-8 p.m.

Thursdays in July and August  
Shakespeare Brewing Company  
2178 Perth Line 34, Shakespeare

### THURSDAY, AUGUST 29

**Cruise Nights**  
6-8 p.m.

Thursdays in July and August  
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## Weekly Quiz Answers

- |                      |                    |
|----------------------|--------------------|
| 1. Woodstock         | 6. Summer Solstice |
| 2. Jonathan Swift    | 7. Cuba            |
| 3. Saudi Pro League  | 8. Origami         |
| 4. Sunday            | 9. House of Cards  |
| 5. Video Home System | 10. Four           |


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