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There were lots of amazing photos taken in the area Friday night before midnight as the Northern Lights put on quite a show. This photo was taken outside of Shakespeare by Sophie West.

peopleCare being proactive in human resources as they ready for growth

By Lee Griffi, Local Journalism Initiative reporter

According to the Canadian Press, Ontario will need 33,200 more nurses and 50,853 more personal support workers by 2032.

If those numbers aren't scary enough, the Ontario Long-Term Care Association (OLTCA) said that by 2029, the province's long-term care homes will require at least 58,600 more nurses and personal support workers. Those huge increases are needed to meet increased hours of care and support for residents with an increase in beds across the province.

Either way you look at it, the health-care system, already stretched when it comes to human-resources challenges, faces an uphill battle to staff homes and provide care to some of the most vulnerable members of society.

Despite the overwhelming statistics, one long-term care provider with deep roots in Tavistock is confident they will be able to meet the growing need for health-care staff. peopleCare is building a new home in the town behind the current facility, a project that will see a 100-bed home grow to 128 beds. With that, comes an increase in staffing needs.

"With the addition of 28 new beds, we need to hire over 40 new staff. Mainly registered practical nurses and personal support workers but also dietary, housekeeping and laundry," said the home's executive director, Deb Wettlaufer.

The home is actively recruiting and Wettlaufer sells the small-town charm to prospective employees.

"Tavistock is such a nice place to live in

Continued on page 2

Motorists and farmers urged to heed road safety this holiday weekend

By Lee Griffi, Local Journalism Initiative reporter

This May long weekend is always an eagerly anticipated event, but it also comes at a time when farmers are beginning the spring planting season.

That means there will be more cars on the road in addition to tractors and other large farm equipment as farmers move between fields and farms to get their crops planted. The Ontario Federation of Agriculture (OFA) has launched an awareness

campaign for farmers and motorists to help all of us prevent accidents.

Tracey Arts is an OFA director and Zorra Township farmer and explained this weekend will be an active one for motorists and farmers alike.

"It's the time of year but there will be more people driving, going to cottages, visiting friends, and the long weekend is a nice time to take the family on a mini vacation. We will see an increase in the number of vehicles in rural areas."

She added increased traffic combined with the start of the corn-planting season means a busy time for everyone sharing the road.

"We are trying to get that crop in and we are on a time constraint. We are all busy, we are all in a hurry. We aren't on the roads because we want to be, it's because we have to be there to get to our fields."

The OFA would like everyone to take a step back and consider what it means for

Continued on page 2




TIM LOUIS Member of Parliament
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COMMUNITY —

OFA wants everyone to prioritize road safety

Continued from page 1

motorists and farmers to share the road.

"We aren't there to be mean, we aren't there to make you have a crappy day and slow you down. Our tractors aren't made to go 100 km/hr. They are made to go 40 or less because we don't need to do that in a field," she added. "Slow down, take a deep breath and think, 'Hey, these are the people who provide food. They also have families to get home to.'"

Arts explained farm machinery legally cannot drive any faster than 40 km/hr. Many sideroads in Oxford County like the 16th Line don't have shoulders, making it nearly impossible to pass a large tractor. Arts said they aren't even legally allowed to pull off to the side of the road to allow people to pass. Const. Randi Crawford is the Oxford OPP media relations constable and said those driving farm machinery need to follow rules just like any other driver.

"If a farm vehicle has a slow-moving



Tracey Arts, Oxford County's Ontario Federation of Agriculture representative, is preparing to plant corn on her farm in Zorra Township. Photo courtesy of Tracey Arts

vehicle sign visible, that means the vehicle can only travel at 40 km/hr. Other motorists must slow down and can only pass or overtake the farm vehicle only when it is safe to do. When displaying a slow-moving vehicle sign, speeds cannot exceed 40 km/hr."

She added police also have a message for drivers as the long weekend approaches.

"The OPP advise all drivers, including farmers, to be mindful of their driving behaviours and make sure they are following the rules of the road and that their vehicles are in good, safe, working condition. Drivers are encouraged to allow extra time when travelling on the long weekend and to be considerate of other drivers on the roads."

Crawford added farmers have a job to do and motorists need to get to and from their jobs.

"It is imperative we all work together to share the roads."

According to federal government data, slow-moving vehicles are 3.8 to 4.8 times more likely to be involved in a fatal collision per kilometre on the road than other motor vehicles. Passenger vehicles incorrectly passing farm equipment can result in serious accidents or death, with statistics showing eight out of 10 accidents occur during the day and seven out of 10 occur in dry road conditions. Arts said she doesn't want to see any more deaths.

"That's the reality. These accidents can be fatal and it isn't worth your life for that extra few minutes. How many times have you passed a vehicle or had a vehicle pass you and you've met at the next stop sign? A farmer doesn't travel that far on the road to get to the field and letting them turn into it won't take that much time for you."

peopleCare takes proactive HR approach for growth readiness

Continued from page 1

and work in. It's a small, quiet community. We're always reaching out to students and others who haven't experienced it to share how rewarding it is to be in long-term care and care for seniors."

Wettlaufer has put in 40 years at the company's Tavistock location and mentioned EZTransit, a pilot program that started in January as another recruitment tool. It offers free transportation from Tavistock to Woodstock, but it is only committed to run until the end of May when East Zorra-Tavistock council will decide whether to continue it. The home also expects 20 internationally educated nurses (IENs) to join the team in Tavistock sometime in August.

"When the new peopleCare Tavistock home opens later this fall, we will be 100 per cent ready with the team of engaged, skilled and caring people we need to meet our residents' needs," she added.

The Gazette asked peopleCare if there is more the provincial and federal governments could be doing to help with the staggering numbers of skilled workers needed in the sector. Sheena Campbell is the company's vice president of communications

and engagement and said she gives the province credit for the continued investments to help alleviate staffing issues such as funding for education, training and enhancing student-clinical placements.

"We've been advocating with the federal government for immigration pathways in relation to IENs and displaced health-care workers in refugee circumstances, for example, to make it easier to register in Canada. We're also exploring with our provincial partners how to better support IENs to get their registration and classification in Ontario quicker."

Jeremy Zinger is peopleCare's vice president of long-term care operations and he sits on the Ontario Long Term Care Association's (OLTCA) human resources taskforce. He explained the company has been taking a proactive approach.

"The fact that we have health human-resource challenges happening across Canada and around the world is well known. peopleCare is committed to creating innovative staffing solutions that build and enhance the pool of skilled and caring health-care workforce in collaboration with government and other partners."

He added the company is working to

maximize all avenues to recruit new staff immediately, build a future pipeline of talent and create sustainable retention solutions for our existing and new Homes. They have also established a decided HR recruitment specialist role in each home.

"They manage the day-to-day tasks and work with the team to implement strategies, with a strong focus on attracting and hiring students, academic and immigration partnerships that build capacity upstream, and an enhanced employee engagement strategy."

peopleCare has put resources into bringing IENs to Ontario as they are building new homes and redeveloping existing ones.

"All our new homes we intend to bring in highly skilled, experienced internationally educated nurses. They work as PSWs in our homes for two years while we support them to get their credentials to practice as nurses in Ontario," said Jenn Killing, the company's vice president of quality, research and strategic partnerships.

Killing, a Tavistock resident, said with the company's growing number of long-term care beds they have to focus closely on recruitment.



Deb Wettlaufer has been with peopleCare for 40 years and is a part of the recruiting team for the company. Contributed photo

"When we looked ahead to opening more new homes in a short timeframe, we knew we had to maximize all avenues to recruit new staff immediately, build a future pipeline of talent and create sustainable retention solutions for our existing and new homes."

The new peopleCare Tavistock home is expected to welcome residents by mid-fall.



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Show Us Your Wilmot Facebook group member John Kroisenbrunner recently shared this photo of the water wheel in New Hamburg lit up at night. Photo courtesy of Show Us Your Wilmot

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COMMUNITY —

Coffee with a Cop hosted in Perth County

By Gary West

Members of Perth County OPP have embarked on a program to liaison more with the general public.

The program is called Coffee with a Cop and, last week, police officers were at the Wild Hog family market east of Stratford on Highway 7 and 8.

There were four officers inside the market and they were kept busy answering questions from marketgoers pertaining to police work in Perth County.

With the advent of police week, the officers said they are connecting with the public and answering questions they may have regarding police work in the area.

This is the fifth month they have been doing the informal coffee meet and greets and said they have been well received and have answered many of the questions and concerns voiced by those who drop by.

Const. Beth Hanlon, who is also the Perth County OPP's media relations officer, said they have tried to go to various small towns in the county the second Thursday of each month between 10 and 11 a.m.

Those towns include Milverton, Listowel, Mitchell and Monkton, and they sometimes meet at McDonalds or Tim Hortons, too, in various area municipalities.

Their next Coffee with a Cop will be June 13 at McDonalds in Mitchell between 10 and 11 a.m.

They are hoping the public in the area will drop by and meet the various OPP officers with their questions or concerns.



Pictured from left are Perth County OPP Const. Beth Hanlon, Sgt. Barry Cookson, Wild Hog market owner/manager Wendy Bachert, Staff Sgt. David Sinko, and Const. Jill Johnson, the OPP's community mobilization officer and mental health liaison. Contributed photo

GRANT HAVEN MEDIA

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The Wilmot-Tavistock Gazette

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COMMUNITY —

Wellesley Township to unveil historic cider-mill-explosion storyboard

By Wilmot-Tavistock Gazette staff

The Wellesley Township Heritage and Historical Society will hold a ceremony May 25 at 2 p.m. to unveil a storyboard plaque commemorating the explosion of Thomas Huber's cider mill on Sept. 14, 1908, located at what was then known as Huber's Corner.

The ceremony will take place near the site of the explosion at the corner of Lichty Road and Schummer Line (Concession 8, Lot 6 WS). Huber, a blacksmith and wagon maker, announced the opening of his new cider mill on Sept. 15, 1908, but the boiler exploded on Sept. 14, killing him and his business partner, William Attig, a saw-miller and general contractor from Perth County.

Huber, also known as Damien Huber (1861-1908), left his wife, Wilhelmine Dietrich (1861-1936), and two young children to mourn him. Attig (1855-1906) of Newton, left his wife, Mary Ritter (1858-1916), and four grown children to mourn him.

The historical society hopes some of their descendants can attend the ceremony.

Linwood resident Leonard Horst has done extensive research on the explosion and found many pieces of the original boiler in nearby fields. He acquired the Braendle cider boiler from Heidelberg and, with the owner's permission, relocated it to near



A storyboard commemorating the explosion of the Huber cider mill in 1908 will take place on Saturday, May 25 at 2 p.m. The site currently consists of the cider boiler from the Braendle cider mill in Heidelberg. Photo courtesy of Wellesley Township Heritage and Historical Society

the site of the Huber explosion. He will attend the ceremony to discuss his research and show the remains of the boiler.

"We are grateful to the current landowners who have allowed the boiler and our storyboard to be erected on their property," the society said in a press release. "Please join us on Saturday, May 25 at 2 p.m. as we unveil our storyboard."

For more information, contact info@wellesleyhistory.org or visit wellesleyhistory.org.

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WOODSTOCK INGERSOLL ECHO: JUNE 7

ST. MARYS INDEPENDENT: JUNE 6

WILMOT-TAVISTOCK GAZETTE: JUNE 6

GODERICH SUN: JUNE 13

STRATFORD TIMES: JUNE 14

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COMMUNITY —

Punjabi singer credits life in Tavistock for recent musical success

By Galen Simmons

Though a song he released last year, "Love You Canada," was his love letter to the country he now calls home, Punjabi singer Hira Dhariwal credits at least a piece of his recent musical success to his life in Tavistock.

"I feel proud I live in Tavistock," Dhariwal said. "I perform like any Punjabi singer, and Tavistock residents, they feel proud when they see me on the TV. They told me, 'Hira, you are last night on the TV.' Sometimes, Tavistock students and residents, if I'm driving, they're hooting, 'Hira! Hira!'"

The support he's received so close to home from friends, neighbours, local politicians and even strangers on the street has helped Dhariwal realize his singing dreams which, since he was first encouraged to pursue singing by his vocal teacher in 2017, has seen him record and release nearly 10 original songs – including his first and possibly most-popular song, "Punjabi King" – many of which he shot music videos for and starred in back in his home country of India.

Dhariwal has also made a name for himself within the Indian-Canadian music scene, performing at festivals throughout Ontario in places like Niagara Falls, Brampton and London, and across the

country, as well as back home in India mostly at universities and colleges.

The Tavistock resident recently made the jump into acting, having performed with an Indian-Canadian community theatre company as an onstage singer last year. He is now preparing to perform with the theatre group again in their upcoming production of Saos Challi Susaral in Windsor, which Dhariwal described as a comedy.

"Music is my new life journey," Dhariwal said. "I enjoy it a lot, but right now it's my profession, too. Lots of people support me. My family supports me and lots of other people."

Grateful for all the support he's received in Tavistock, the surrounding area and across the country, Dhariwal does what he can to give back, specifically as a long-time volunteer with the Multicultural Association of Perth Huron helping other newcomers settle in Perth and Oxford counties by delivering food and supplies, offering those who can't drive a ride and even performing his music at association events like the annual Multicultural Festival held in Stratford and elsewhere in the region each year.

Dhariwal says he hopes his success as a singer in Canada can show other newcomers in the area they, too, have the opportunity to realize their dreams with the

support of organizations like the multicultural association and the communities they now call home.

Tavistock and area residents will be able to hear Dhariwal sing at a Diwali show he is planning for both Tavistock and Stratford later this year. In the meantime, those interested in listening to his music and watching his music videos can follow

AS Hira Dhariwal on social media, visit his YouTube Channel at www.youtube.com/@hiradhariwal6280, and find his music on nearly every music-streaming platform.

Dhariwal said he is currently working on releasing a new song, "Punjabi King 2," as a sequel to the song that gave him his start as a singer.



Punjabi singer Hira Dhariwal is proud to call Tavistock and Oxford County his home. Photo by Galen Simmons



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COMMUNITY —

New Hamburg Legion Decoration Day

By Galen Simmons and Scott Dunstall

The New Hamburg Legion is encouraging the community to participate in a long-standing tradition aimed at honouring those in the community who have passed.

On June 2, Branch 532 will co-host Decoration Day with the Township of Wilmot at Riverside Cemetery. The ceremony will be to partly recognize and honour all veterans laid to rest in Riverside by "decorating" their gravesite with a Canadian Flag and Poppy affixed to their headstone or ground plate.

Veterans do not have to be born in the area and the nature of their service is not relevant.

"Years ago, it was done by communities, not just Legions," New Hamburg Legion president Ross Eichler said. "Legions focus more on Remembrance Day, and we want to make sure this is not another Remembrance Day as such for veterans only, it's for community."

While the ceremony is partly to recognize the veterans laid to rest in Riverside, it is also intended to pay tribute to families in our community that have family members laid to rest in Riverside. The theme of the occasion is to honour and display respect for those in the community that can no

longer speak for themselves.

"If you or I had somebody out there who wasn't a veteran, still it's Decoration Day for everyone," Eichler said. "We want to make sure it's a community event. ... We don't want to water down Remembrance Day, because that's a day on its own, and if we had this day just honouring veterans, that's kind of the same thing. ... If you have someone (at Riverside), I encourage you to place flowers on their graves on June 2 and join in the remembering of loved ones lost."

It promises to be a rewarding day. The event will include performances by the New Hamburg Concert Band and the Sir Adam Beck School Band, participation by Air Cadet Squadron 822, and an address given by Rev. Bob Thaler.

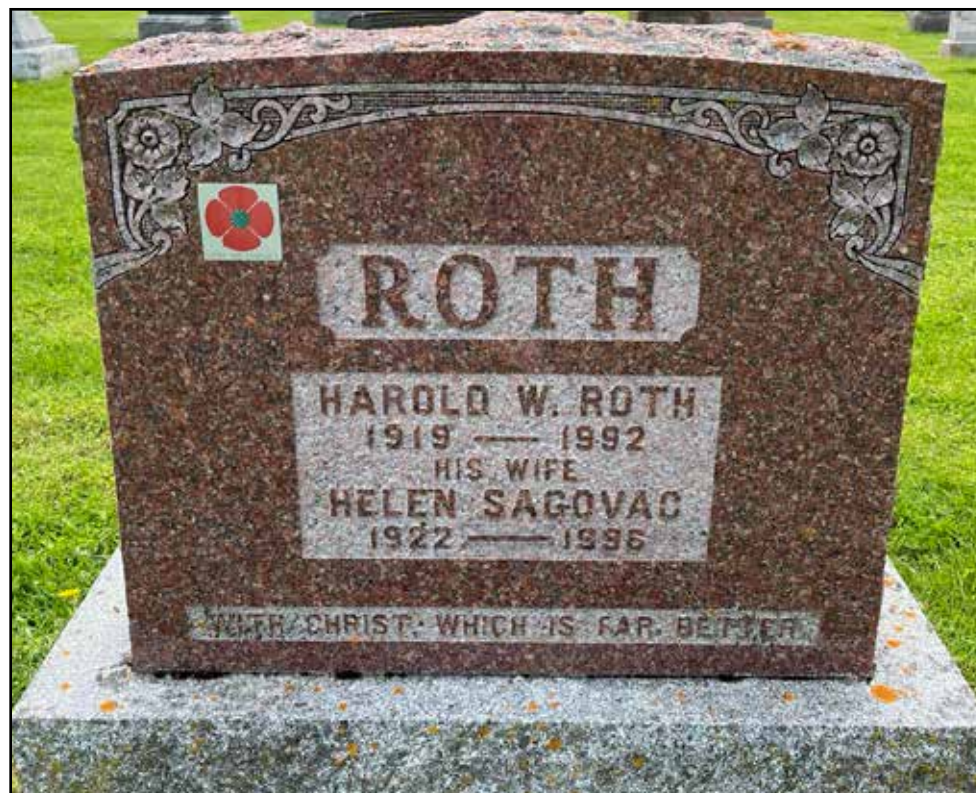
The Legion is encouraging those who attend to bring a lawn chair to sit and take in the ceremony, and parking is available across the street from the cemetery in the ODG and Arcadian Projects parking lots.

Details:

Location: Riverside Cemetery, New Hamburg

Date: Sunday, June 2, 2024

Time: 2 p.m.



New Hamburg and area residents are invited to join the New Hamburg Legion and Township of Wilmot at Riverside Cemetery June 2 to honour local veterans and others in the community who have been laid to rest there during a Decoration Day ceremony. Photo by Scott Dunstall



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COMMUNITY —

New Dundee Optimist Club hosts annual Mother's Day brunch

By Gary West

Hundreds of hungry eaters were served a full breakfast and brunch by the Optimist Club of New Dundee on Mother's Day.

The fundraiser for the local club is one area residents look forward to every year, and the club appreciates local Waterloo Region businesses for their donations.

They include The Village Caterer, Pillers Fine Foods, Perth-Waterloo Egg Farmers, Colour Paradise, No-Frills New Hamburg, P&H Milling, Maple Tap Farms and The Village Market.

The money collected every year is put back into youth activities in the New Dundee community.

Pictured from left preparing eggs for the New Dundee Optimist Club's Mother's Day Brunch are Gord Perrin, Scott MacLaurin and Brandon Smith. Contributed photo



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COMMUNITY —

Triplet bovines born at Terra Nova Dairy Farms in East Zorra

By Gary West

There are births that happen every day on modern dairy farms in the Oxford County area. With those births there can sometimes be twins, as there are in humans.

Triplets are a novelty and, in dairy farming, to have three good-sized calves, healthy and up running around in a matter of minutes, is a gift to any livestock farmer.

On May 11, Esther Visser, who is in charge of newborn calves at the Terra Nova Dairy Farm, east of Hickson, was there at the time and was glad to see two healthy, black angus calves born. When the third calf started on its way, she was amazed at the size of each calf and how healthy they were.

She has named them Socks, Boots and Mittens.

The registered Line Back high-producing fourth lactation cow has never looked

back since giving birth to the triplets.

With healthy black angus calves selling for \$700 to \$1,000 in today's market, dairy owner Peter Overdeest said with a smile he was happy with the payday without complications.

Visser, 25 and grew up on her parents dairy farm near Collingwood, looks after every detail of raising calves on their 270 milking-cow dairy farm.

The Ridgetown agricultural graduate, says she loves her job and loves working with cows and calves every day. She says dairy farming is in her blood and has been a part of her entire life, even though every day is not easy and fun but can be challenging at times.

She says she learned to appreciate the lifestyle and life's lessons learned along the way, and hopes to someday own her own dairy farm after learning from the best.



At less than 30 minutes old, these newborn triplet calves are being watched by their exhausted but healthy mother at Terra Nova Dairy Farm east of Hickson. Photo by Esther Visser



Esther Visser says the black triplets are healthy and running around their pen and still only two days old. Photo by Gary West

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COMMUNITY —

OBITUARY

John Buchenauer



At Innisfree House Hospice on Thursday May 9, 2024 John Buchenauer of Kitchener passed away at the age of 91.

Beloved husband of Olga (Held) with whom he celebrated 65 years of marriage this past fall. Devoted father of Ron & Gina (Bing) Buchenauer, Rob & Carmen (Alexy) Buchenauer and

Perry & Belinda (Petzke) Buchenauer. Loving grandfather of Cody (Andrea), Jesse (Brittany), Ben (Renee), Emily (Sam), Amanda (Adam), and Liam (Maddie). Great grandfather of Deacon, Vanna and Jacob. Brother of Helmut (Ingrid) Buchenauer and Elizabeth Buchenauer. Brother-in-law of Ella Kurtz, Freida Wilderman, and Richard Held. He will be missed by many nieces and nephews.

Predeceased by his parents John and Elizabeth (Hoffman) Buchenauer, and Elizabeth's husband Irvin, as well as brothers-in-law Alfred Kurtz, Ernst Wilderman, Rudy Held, and Eric Held and sister-in-law Lynn (Wallace) Held.

John moved to Canada from Germany in 1953 at the age of 18 (with only a suitcase he still has to this day) to begin a new life. He settled in Ontario. He and Olga started and raised their family in New Hamburg and Kitchener. He proudly worked for Canadian Blower and Forge as a pattern maker for many years. He enjoyed exploring new places and sightseeing on his many travels with Olga. John loved woodworking, helping family with various projects, going to the casino and dancing. He was never happier than when he was surrounded by loved ones, especially his grandchildren who will all sadly miss their wonderful "Opa".

Private arrangements have been entrusted to Mark Jutzi Funeral Home, New Hamburg.

Final resting place, Riverside Cemetery, New Hamburg.

In lieu of flowers, memorial donations to Innisfree House Hospice would be appreciated as expressions of sympathy.

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



May the road rise up to meet you. May the wind be always at your back. May the sun shine warm upon your face; the rains fall soft upon your fields and until we meet again, may God hold you in the palm of His hand.

IN MEMORIAM

Nelda Brenneman

July 19th, 1939 – May 23rd, 2023



In memory of Nelda, loving wife to Ray; cherished mother to Doug (Valerie), Dwight (Paulette) and Michael (Kathy); and beloved grandma to Tyler, Shea and Taite.

"Those we love don't go away. They walk beside us everyday. Still loved, and still missed, very dear"

N...never give up hope

E...entertain and practice hospitality, and be entertained

L...love unconditionally and widely

D... dessert, always order dessert and share it

A...men

Lovingly remembered by her family and friends.

Walk with Nelda in your hearts, take time to admire the flowers, and practice gratitude daily.

IN MEMORIAM



Linda Joane (Bender) Brown

APRIL 22, 1951- MAY 17, 1974

Fifty years ago on your way home you were suddenly and tragically taken from us. Loving wife to Wayne, adoring mother to Bonnie and Guardian Angel to grand daughters, Brittany and Brianne Schaub. A cherished daughter, a sister and best friend to Anne (Don) Hauss and a doting aunt to Deb, Lisa & Jeff.

How wonderful it was to have had you be a part of our lives. What we wouldn't give to just once more see your smiling face, to hear your laughter and to chat with. It is a comfort to know you are with your loving parents, Elon (July 30, 1990) and Marie (April 17, 2006). Loved and truly missed every day. Until we meet again...



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COMMUNITY —

The Wilmot-Tavistock
Gazette Weekly Quiz

1. When did Bon Jovi release Livin' On a Prayer?
2. Whose face is on all the Canadian coins?
3. In what country did french fries originate?
4. From the periodic table, what element is Li?
5. On a chess board, what piece moves in an L-Shape?
6. What is the color part of the eye called?
7. How many ships do you have to sink in Battleship?
8. Hepatic disease is also known as?
9. What Canadian province is the largest?
10. A tree that loses its leaves is known as what type of tree?

Answers found on page 22

BIRTHDAYS AND
ANNIVERSARIES

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

May 16: Happy birthday to William Lindner (7), Jaxon Hyde (23), Tara McGlynn (46) and Marieke VanRooyen.

May 17: Happy birthday to Luke Herold (7), Jacob Kobe (22), and Robert Brodrecht, and anniversary for Darryll and Candice Hopkins (16th).

May 18: Happy birthday to Aidan Heinbuch (8) and Jamie Wilker (21).

May 19: Happy birthday to Hudson McGlynn (12) and anniversary for Daniel and Kathryn Cressman (17th).

May 20: Happy birthday to Kasper Steckley (4), Evelyn Yantzi (5), Hudson Stahlke (8), Jacob Francis (21), Megan Bailey (22), Sarah Bailey (22), Ella Westlake (23), Tye Bond (23), Madelynne Sullivan and Jennifer Himes, and anniversary for Adam and Bethany Zehr (18th) and Bob Gladding and Muriel Percy (29th).

May 21: Happy birthday to Fiona Paese (12), Molly Gunn (14), Stella MacDonald (15), and anniversary for Travis and Niki Kropf (13th).

May 22: Happy birthday to Lily Saunders (12).

The Old Gazettes

By Jake Grant

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

May 14-21, 2014, Edition (10 years ago)

Someday in the future there may be no more gas stations, only charging stations for your electric vehicle. To begin facilitating that change, the Township of East Zorra-Tavistock is investigating a partnership with EARTH Corporation and Sun Country Highway Ltd. that currently supplies charging stations along the 401 corridor.

Students of Dana McGregor's Musical Moments Piano and Theory of Tavistock had a successful year at the Woodstock Rotary Festival. Some winners include Liam McGregor earning second for Intercity Stomp by Christopher Norton, Jayden Ruby earned third for Mouse in the Coal Bin by Clifford Poole, and Ella McGregor earned 87 per cent for The Sleepy Little Kitten by Linda Niamath.

More than 100 Tavistock Public School students registered for the annual Bike Rodeo held last Friday morning, May 16, 2014. Members of the Tavistock Optimist Club, the East Zorra-Tavistock Community Safety Committee and the Oxford County Injury Prevention Team all came together to provide an event that reinforces all the aspects of safety for bicycles on the road.

Oxford County's Cycling Advisory Committee is launching a challenge this summer for local residents to hop on their bikes and ride towards a common goal. The goal during Oxford County's "1 million km summer" is to collectively ride one million kilometres between May 17 and Oct. 5, 2014.

May 12-19, 2004, Edition (20 years ago)

Little-known to his fellow countrymen in

Canada, the late Embro-area Presbyterian missionary, Rev. George Leslie MacKay (1844-1901), is a national hero in Taiwan to this day. He built more than 60 churches in Taiwan during the 19th century and is also remembered as the founder of the first college, the first hospital and the first school for women on the island of Formosa.

Thousands of hikers across the country donned their running shoes and hiking boots to support hospice palliative care in their community. The 2004 National Hike for Hospice Palliative Care was Sunday, May 2, 2004, but 28 walkers from Brooksdale, Hickson, Plattsville and Tavistock set out on Monday April 26 to complete their walk.

On May 6, the Oxford Community Police Service conducted a Commercial Motor Vehicle Inspection at the Tavistock Recreation Centre in the Village of Tavistock. The inspection involved members of the OPP, the Aylmer Police service, Ministry of Transportation and Oxford Community Police Service. Out of 39 trucks, there was an overall failure rate of 18 per cent.

The May 4 meeting of the Tavistock & Area Horticultural Society featured the annual plant auction and fundraiser. Members, along with the Tavistock nursery, donated plants of all shapes and sizes.

Rogers Cable TV - Channel 20 Producer Kevin Lucas interviewed World Crokinole Championship committee chairman Barry Raymer last week in the Tavistock and District recreation Centre. The committee is preparing for their sixth annual event.

May 16-23, 1984, Edition (40 years ago)

Kindergarten A class performed the classic tale of Little Red Riding Hood at Hickson School last week, first in a dress rehearsal in the afternoon for the rest of the school and then in the evening for their parents. Tricia Oliver, as Grandma, hides from the big bad wolf, Andrew Raymer, sleeping in her bed.

First tee off for Saturday Morning Club saw the first hole-in-one for the season, which goes to Bryn Gladding in #1. Bryn went on to shoot 32 in that round.

Last Thursday evening, the Tavistock Volunteer Firefighters were called upon to assist in extinguishing a series of fires along the former CN rail line between 14th and 15th lines of East Zorra Township. Three unidentified men managed to smother the large blaze and minimized fire damage to a few stacks of banded railway ties and a stretch of grass alongside the former tracks. No cause has been identified for the fire.

One-hundred and eleven students at Tavistock Public School participated in the annual Optimist Bike Rodeo May 22. From Kindergarten to Grade 8 students, they played games, learned turning signals and developed a sense of safety while cycling on the road.

Retiring town foreman Clarence H. Wilker was honored by Ministry of the Environment members last week for his 25 years of service.

May 13-20, 1964, Edition (60 years ago)

With close to 175 present, the fifth annual ladies' night of the Tavistock Masonic Lodge was held Friday night at the Memorial Hall, the dinner being served by Mrs. Charles Quehl and Robert Ross, Worshipful Master, chairman for the evening.

A most successful waffle tea and bake sale was held last Saturday afternoon at the Knox United Church, the event being sponsored by the United Church Women on behalf of the choir gown fund.

Lynda Dawn McFarlane, four-year-old daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Douglas McFarlane, RR 6, Woodstock, was killed about five o'clock last Tuesday afternoon when she was in collision with a car in front of her home on No. 59 Highway just North of Hickson. Lynda had marked her birthday on Monday.

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SPORTS —

Wellesley hands out season-ending trophies

By Lee Griffi, Local Journalism Initiative reporter

The Applejacks may not have been able to defend their Schmaltz Cup as champions of the Provincial Junior Hockey League, but they celebrated their season last weekend.

The team handed out its individual awards at a banquet held at East Side Mario's in Waterloo Saturday night.

Here are Wellesley's 2023/2024 season award winners:

- Leading Scorer - Conner Doerbecker
- Most Sportsmanlike - Jake L'Heureux
- Coaches Award - Carson Wickie
- Unsung Player - Eric Lacey
- Rookie of the Year - Stewart Sinclair
- Most Improved - Jack Walmsley
- Most Valuable Defenceman - Austin Stemmler
- Most Valuable Local - Eric Lacey
- Most Valuable Player - Austin Stemmler
- Verna Metcalfe Award - Isiah Katsube

Metcalfe was a tireless volunteer for the Applejacks and passed away in 2018 at the age of 75. She served in just about every role with the team including president.

Players from this season's team who have aged out of the Applejacks franchise include Isiah Katsube, Carson Wickie, Owen O'Donnell and Curtis Butler.



Most Valuable Local was awarded to Eric Lacey at the Wellesley Applejacks' awards ceremony in Waterloo May 11. Contributed photo



The Wellesley Applejacks' overage players Isiah Katsube, Carson Wickie, Owen O'Donnell and Curtis Butler hold their retired jerseys at the team's awards ceremony in Waterloo May 11. Contributed photo



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Most Valuable Player was awarded to Austin Stemmler at the Wellesley Applejacks' awards ceremony in Waterloo May 11. Contributed photo

SPORTS —

Special Olympics hitting the pool in Wilmot next week; local athlete competing

By Lee Griffi, Local Journalism Initiative reporter

The Region of Waterloo and the Waterloo Police Service are hosting the 2024 Provincial Spring Games.

The games will welcome over 750 athletes from across Ontario to the Waterloo Region to compete in five diverse and exciting sports – basketball, powerlifting, rhythmic gymnastics, swimming and 10-pin bowling.

The event will have a New Hamburg flavour to it as some swimming events are being held at the Wilmot Recreation Complex. A total of 234 swimmers will compete in up to four events each, ranging from 25-metre sprints to the challenging 1,500-metre distance.

One of the incredible athletes competing is an 18-year-old woman from Stratford who is a member of the Wilmot Aquatic Aces Swim Club. It will be Amiera Black's first time in the Special Olympics but she is no stranger to serious competition.

"She swims in generic meets and with the Canadian Down Syndrome team so she has a wide scope of competition," said Amiera's mother, Jennifer, who added her daughter is extremely excited to be

participating.

"She loves it because it's not just about the competition, it's not about swimming well. She always goes out and does her best, but it's about socialization, being part of a team, and because Amiera is the only Special Olympics swimmer on the Wilmot team, she doesn't really have that until we go to a meet and she gets to interact with other swimmers from around the province."

Mom explained she can hardly wait to see her daughter not only compete but also act as an ambassador for other athletes.

"She makes me so proud when she swims. It's also exciting to have her be almost like the host athlete and invite everyone into our pool."

Special Olympics competes in regions with Wilmot falling into the South-Central District for provincial competitions. Amiera, Jennifer and mayor Natasha Salonen have been asked to be the flag bearers for the team at the opening ceremonies in Waterloo on Thursday, May 23. Amiera will be competing Thursday afternoon at Laurier University before heading back to Wilmot for a race Friday morning and finishing with her favourite event on

Saturday.

"It will be in around lunchtime, somewhere between 11:30 a.m. and 12 p.m., and it's the 800-metre freestyle. There are very few athletes who swim that one. It's a big deal for her and she's pumped about it."

Jennifer was very appreciative of what she calls an outstanding coaching staff at the Aces club where her daughter is treated just like any other swimmer.

"We love our coaches and even though she is the only Special Olympics competitor, she is always included and they are always working with her to move up the ladder and give her the best chance with what she is trying to accomplish."

Amiera, like many of the other competitors, will be staying at the athlete's village at Laurier.

The Provincial Games are held on a rotating basis over four years. Athletes based on age, gender, performance and regional endorsement are selected to advance to compete for Team Ontario at the 2026 National Summer Games set to be hosted in Medicine Hat, Alta.



Amiera Black is representing a swim club from Wilmot Township at next week's Special Olympics. Some of the pool events are being held at the Wilmot Recreation Complex. Contributed photo



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SPORTS —

Minor soccer in Tavistock kicks off 2024 season; field capacity a concern going forward

By Lee Griffi, Local Journalism Initiative reporter

This year's edition of Tavistock Tornadoes Optimist Youth Soccer is underway and while children as young as four and adults as old as 20 are competing, the club has concerns about having enough field space in the future.

Practices and games have begun and registration sits at 308 athletes, which is similar to previous years, while the club's special-needs program has 12 children signed up.

"We have run it for the last 10 years and it has received really good traction again this year," said club president Marlow Gingerich.

Beginning in June, the program is billed as grassroots soccer for those with special needs. It is founded on the belief that people with disabilities can, with proper instruction and encouragement, learn, enjoy and benefit from participation in individual and team sports.

One issue on the club's radar is the number and use of the fields in Tavistock. Currently, the organization utilizes four different sites. Optimist Park is for the U9 and U11 teams, the school-board fields are for the U7 up to U21 age groups, the small fields at Queen's Park are utilized by the beginner's program while the field at Tavistock Missionary Church is used for practices only. Gingerich said they are always anxious and looking for where more field space might exist.

"We may get to a point where we need a fifth location. So far, we have been able to shoehorn it in but one of the current examples is we have three teams at the U9 level. We only have one home field. They play each other a little bit but one out of the three teams can be at home while the other two need to travel. That becomes a bit of a pinch point," said Gingerich.

He added the club has not approached the township's recreation advisory committee

or members of council yet, but it is something he's considering.

"I have told myself I should go to a meeting just to see what they talk about and to advocate for the club. I have talked with Matt Lamers (parks and recreation supervisor at East Zorra-Tavistock) many times and he certainly is aware of where we sit," said Gingerich.

"We can manage the way it is, but it would be lovely to have a plan that says in five or 10 years there may be more options coming, or even in two or three years. We'd clap our hands for that."

The Gazette looked at East Zorra-Tavistock's parks and recreation master plan and among the short-term recommendations is to maintain soccer fields at a service level of 1:1,700 population, which is comparable to similar Ontario municipalities.

"The township is currently in a deficit of

0.2 soccer fields based on the 2016 census data. Based on the 2016 census population and the 2018 county growth projections, the township will continue to be in a deficit of 1.1 soccer fields by 2031 if no additional fields are created," the document says.

The plan also advised the township to look into incorporating a multi-use field into one of the existing East Zorra-Tavistock park spaces to address the need for a soccer field, as well as a space for trending sports.

Minor soccer, just like minor hockey in Tavistock, has seen tremendous growth in registrations of children 13 years and younger as the municipality continues to grow in residential development and population.

The Tornadoes have a full complement of coaches and volunteers in place for the season and Gingerich said the support from local businesses and organizations

continues to be generous.

"It always takes a bit of work to tap on shoulders and encourage people, but that being said, we probably have 40 or 45 coaches. All of the travel team lead coaches have coached before and that's a really good sign. They want to come back and participate."

Another challenge in minor sports today, be it soccer, baseball or hockey, is the availability of officials. Gingerich said while they have a full roster of referees for the younger ages, the same cannot be said for U15 and up.

"We are in good shape with our players who ref and line U13 and under with at least 14 officials, and that's a healthy number for us. The Intercounty Soccer League handles the scheduling of officials for the older groups and continues to struggle to find senior refs. All the games are covered but, in some cases, we had to go to a doubleheader format."

On some Sundays, the U21 age group would normally play at 7 p.m., but another game has been scheduled for 5 p.m. The referees will stay at the field for both games.

The younger officials in Tavistock have received, free of charge, a referee kit consisting of black shorts, socks and a shirt along with a whistle and notebook. The move will not only encourage young refs but also allow them to look official when they are on the fields. Gingerich said a donation by the Tavistock Men's Club this year and last year helped offset field-rental costs but also helped pay for the kits and training for officials.

"Men's Club member Mark Kozdras, a former soccer referee himself, hinted that if some of that money could be used for training refs, it would be a very noble use of those funds," Gingerich said.

The two main sponsors for the organization are Tim Hortons and the Tavistock Optimist Club.



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COMMUNITY —

The story of the Farmerettes coming to Grace United Church in Tavistock June 2

By Gary West

The story of the Farmerettes, who were young women who volunteered on farms between 1941 and 1952, will have their story told at Grace United Church in Tavistock on Sunday June 2 at 1 p.m.

Bonnie Sitter, the author of the book, *Onion Skins and Peach Fuzz: Memories of Ontario Farmerettes*, will describe how young women, some who had yet to finish high school, worked the fields and orchards of Southern Ontario when working men went off to war in Europe.

Isobel Gibson, now 93 and living in Seaforth, was one of the original Farmerettes and will share her experiences with what it was like to be a Farmerette in the '40s and '50s.

Also mentioned and pictured while harvesting cabbage in the book are Grace Omand of Wellesley, Kaye Hunsberger of New Hamburg and Molly Donau of Kitchener.

Blythe Festival produced a play on the Farmerettes that will be showing from Aug. 14 to Sept. 7.

There is also a production of a documentary currently being filmed.

For more information, email: tricia.wettlaufer@gmail.com.



A photo of three Farmerettes stooking sheaves of grain while working in the fields of southern Ontario in the early '40s taken from the Bonnie Sitter book called *Onion Skins and Peach Fuzz*. Contributed photo



Author Bonnie Sitter and Farmerette Isobel Gibson will be at Grace United Church in Tavistock June 2 at 1 p.m. for a talk on the Farmerettes of southwestern Ontario. Contributed photo

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OPINION —

REVIEW: *Anne of Green Gables The Musical* the perfect 40th anniversary production for The Community Players of New Hamburg



By Mercedes Kay Gold

The Community Players (TCP) of New Hamburg is celebrating their 40th year anniversary in style.

On opening night, Thursday, May 9, a cast of more than 50 won the audience over with the first musical in TCP's history. *Anne of Green Gables The Musical*, based on L.M. Montgomery's novel from 1908, was the perfect choice to commemorate 40 years of theatre. The beloved Canadian classic of *Anne Shirley* tells the tale of a feisty, flaming red-head with a face full of freckles who changes the lives of a small farming community on Prince Edward Island.

At 7:30 p.m., we were whisked away to the tiny town of Avonlea thanks to beautifully built sets, props and costumes. This reporter is curious just how many grandparents leaned over to explain a tablet was the iPad of the past? From the train station to the school house to the gorgeous green accents on Anne's new home in Green Gables, the simplicity of the late

1800s was brought to life.

The cast was enchanting and the chemistry on stage undeniable.

Alina Vuorinen brought unbridled energy to the role of Anne with an E, making it easy to fall head-over-heels with the 11-year-old orphan girl. The story begins with Matthew and Marilla Cuthbert, an unmarried brother and sister, eagerly expecting a boy to help on the farm. Matthew was taken aback at the train station, but excited nevertheless and set off to the farm.

Matthew and Anne, both happy-go-lucky, fit like a glove, but Marilla's stern demeanor threatened to return Anne to the orphanage. Luckily, it didn't take long for quirky Anne, her vivid imagination and sunny disposition with a side of drama queen, to charm her adoptive mother. Matthew was the polar opposite of his harsh sister; genuinely warmhearted and kind. Anne's chattiness and youthful energy in the house quickly led to an endearing friendship between the unlikely pair.

The siblings played by Rob Bridel and Alison Enns were spot-on, and the audience lovingly watched the trio become a happy, harmonious family.

The story of *Anne of Green Gables* is as relevant as ever; an awkward insecure girl trying to find her way while navigating the ins and outs of family, friendships and peer pressure. Every generation is faced with its own social issues, and *Green Gables* is no different than a small town or city today.

Leah Coupal, who played Diana Barry, Anne's bosom buddy, was truly captivating as she sang "Kindred Spirits" in act two



Alina Vuorinen as Anne and Robert Bridel as Matthew Cuthbert in The Community Players of New Hamburg's production of *Anne of Green Gables The Musical*. Photos by Narcis N. Popa

alongside her character's bestie.

The school-house scenes portrayed the past and present perfectly, complete with bullies, memorable teachers good and bad, the popular clique and brown-nosing honour-roll student. Of course, every schoolyard also needs a few mean and boy-crazed girls.

Simon Anthony brought a puppy love innocence to the character of Gilbert Blythe as we watched him tease Anne with the silly nickname, carrots.

There was no shortage of magnificent musical numbers, more than 10 in each act. The synergy on stage was unstoppable and the live orchestra brought life to the lyrics and dazzling, dancing feet. The or-

chestra may have been hidden upstairs, but the hardworking conductor and magical musicians made their mark.

With an enormous ensemble on stage at any one time, the show flew by and the audience had a hankering for ice cream during the intermission.

A huge congratulations are due to The Community Players of New Hamburg on the last 40 years with a supersized shout out to all the volunteers, sponsors and contributors for keeping local theatre thriving.

Mark your calendars. Our Town, the timeless classic about the lives of the residents of Grover's Corners, is coming in fall 2024 to the Trinity Theatre.



Alina Vuorinen as Anne, Robert Bridel as Matthew Cuthbert and Alison Enns as Marilla Cuthbert.



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TRAVEL —

OH, THE PLACES WE'LL GO: The magic of The Lost Gardens of Heligan



By Paul Knowles

Several times a year, I am invited to speak to horticultural societies or other garden groups. Usually, it's because they had a series of very professional gardeners who told them how to prune, plant, fertilize and propagate plants, and they need a break from all the seriousness, so they ask a guy who has written a number of whimsical garden books to come and tell silly stories. That would be me.

I tell them stories about my own gardening misadventures – ask me about the woman in the garden pond sometime – and about great gardens I have visited around the world. Almost always, I talk about The Lost Gardens of Heligan.

“How many of you have visited Heligan?” I ask.

Most have not.

“Go at once,” I insist. “Leave now in the middle of my talk, if you must.”

And while I am once again just being a bit silly, I actually mean it. The Lost Gardens of Heligan, in Cornwall, England, are one of the most intriguing destinations in the world, and not just for gardeners – there is so much here to fascinate any traveller, even dedicated non-gardeners. It gets me every time, and I have been to Heligan on multiple occasions.

Of course, it doesn't hurt that Heligan is in the heart of one of my favourite destinations anywhere. Cornwall is magical, largely unspoiled, very non-urban and steeped in history.

And you will find a unique perspective on that history at Heligan. As I did, yet again, when I led a group on a tour of southern England last year at this time.

The Heligan story is amazing, and very well told in Tim Smit's book, *The Lost Gardens of Heligan*.

Once upon a time, Heligan was one of the great English gardens. At its heart was an enormous Victorian walled garden, replete with vegetables and flowering plants. There were walks through towering rhododendron trees, a sub-tropical “jungle” garden with tree ferns, grottos, streams, glass houses (the English term for greenhouses) filled with tropical plants including productive banana trees and an amazing pineapple pit.

There was also an army of gardeners and support staff, all working to keep this astonishing garden in tip-top shape.

And then came World War I. The gardeners went off to war and most did not return. In the

words of Smit, “The Tremaynes (the garden's owners), losing heart in their great creation, moved out and the gardens began their slow but inevitable journey into sleep.”

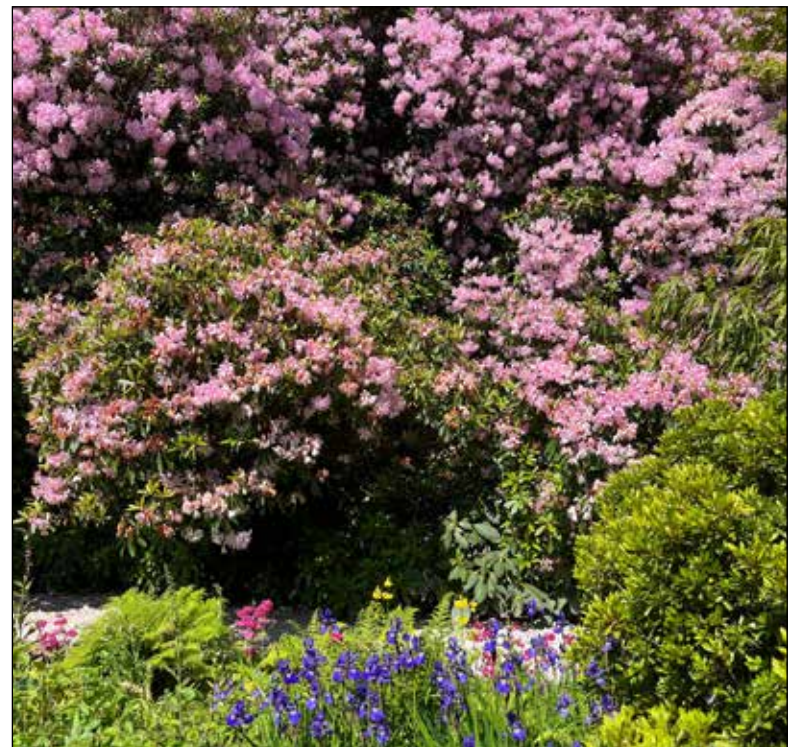
And so they remained for 70 years until 1990. That's when Smit and some colleagues hacked their way into what had become an almost impenetrable jungle, and fell in love. A certain horticultural madness seized them and they became determined to restore this sprawling, utterly neglected estate. An almost unimaginable task – but they did it.

I first visited Heligan in the early 1990s when it was very much a work in progress. I was there again in 1997, the same year things had moved along far enough for Smit to write his book.

Those visits were fascinating, but now it's even better. Today, visitors get to see the amazing fruits (literally) of the labours of this army of dedicated volunteers and staff members, who have restored one of the wonders of the gardening world to the height of its majesty.

If you take a tour of Heligan, you will learn of the incredible archaeological work done that produced evidence of original design and plantings. You will hear of amazing artifacts, unearthed quite by accident, that gave more information about the earlier days of Heligan.

But most importantly, you will revel and relax in the sheer beauty of the place. I admit that the walled garden is the most educationally interesting from a horticultural point of view, but my favourite activity is to wander among the enormous



Beautiful flowering borders backed by one of Heligan's amazing rhododendrons. All photos by Paul Knowles

rhododendron trees when they are in full, spring-time flower. It is, to steal one of my favourite British phrases, gobsmacking.

The site is huge. The main area – the walled, productive (vegetable) garden, the beautiful Flora's Green with its handkerchief tree, the flower garden and the special areas like the Italian garden – can make for a wonderful afternoon even if you don't venture further afield to delights like the newly created rare breeds farm or the jungle. But do plan for a day here and make the hike down to the jungle to explore this utterly different take on landscape gardening. There is nothing else like it.

Heligan is very close to the coastal village of Mevagissey and other beautiful spots on

the south coast and interior of Cornwall, so it's easy to spend several days here. And it's only 25 minutes from Tim Smit's second astonishing venture, the Eden Project, a series of giant geodesic domes housing a tropical rainforest, a desert environment and more.

I like the Eden Project, but I absolutely love *The Lost Gardens of Heligan*, and I am totally confident that you will, too.

You might even find yourself becoming a gardener, after all.

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.



The unique “Jungle”.



The formal Italian garden.



One of Heligan's permanent residents – a cheeky English robin.



A tree fern, one of hundreds of unique plants at Heligan.

OPINION —

EXPERT ADVICE: Not Just A Retirement Home, But A Lifestyle



By Isabel Livingston

It is widely known that our community boasts a diverse range of adult-lifestyle communities that provide ample choice for retirement living.

In conversation with many people I have come to learn that, for some, considering this idea can be frightening and unsettling. Oftentimes people say “I am too young for a retirement community.” Today, I would like to break down the essence of what these communities encompass and hopefully offer a different viewpoint.

Communities such as Foxboro Green, Morningside and Stonecroft are a few of the many options throughout Wilmot Township that are waiting for you to call them home. These communities are flourishing with vibrance, life and energy, promoting an active lifestyle with an array of activities, clubs and social events for their residents to engage in. From tennis courts to scrapbooking clubs, golf and gardening, they truly offer something to fulfill everyone's interests. These communities offer picturesque countryside views and rural charm. You would never imagine that such a tranquil retreat would be located just beyond the city limits of Kitchener-Waterloo and Stratford.

Adult lifestyle communities typically impose regulations for both residents and the grounds, requiring residents be at least 55 years of age as well as providing guidelines concerning pets, parking and outdoor-property modifications. These regulations often extend to pools, signage, fences and clothing lines with

specific stipulations to adhere to. Amongst these communities, restrictions and regulations may vary. Work with your realtor to fully understand the expectations of each community before making the move.

Understand that a condominium fee is typically customary and covers maintenance for community buildings and grounds. This fee may also encompass personal-yard upkeep including lawn maintenance and snow removal. It is essential to identify your priorities when considering your options so that your realtor can ensure they find you the ideal community and home.

It is important to acknowledge that ownership structures can vary between communities. Some properties include ownership of the house and leasehold of the land, where others grant ownership of both. When working with your realtor, they will be able to help guide you to understanding the specifics of each property.

Canadian winters are snowy and



Adult lifestyle communities offer a variety of activities that promote active living for residents. Stock image

chilly, making them the perfect opportunity to escape to your favourite warmer destinations. With the added privacy and security provided in these communities, you can travel with less worry about your home and spend more time relaxing and enjoying your trip.

For those considering this as a next adventure, I urge you not to let fear of uncertainty or losing your youth divert you from exploring this lifestyle. Allow it

to be a positive, new adventure with new hobbies, good company and years of memories waiting to be made.

For any real estate questions or suggestions for future article, email me at ilivingstonsells@gmail.com.

Isabel Livingston is a sales representative with Gale Group Realty Brokerage Ltd. and the Jennifer Gale Real Estate Team in Woodstock.



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COMMUNITY —

Tavistock Men's Club fish fry a popular annual event

By Gary West

Ticket sales for the Tavistock Men's Club Fish Fry continues on Wednesdays from 4-7 p.m. and Saturdays from 11 a.m. to 2 p.m. at the Men's Clubhouse on Woodstock Street North.

This year the fish is pickerel.

According to Brian Boland, director of ticketing sales, they hope to sell 600 meals before the June 1 deadline for the June 5 annual event, which is one of their main

summer fundraisers.

Tickets can also be obtained from any men's club member.

The annual fish fry has a long history. It started in June of 1982 by 18 couples and, at that time, was sponsored by the hall renovation committee as a tryout.

Under the supervision of Floyd Sippel and Bill Wettlaufer, the fish were fried and enjoyed by a large crowd and the event has been a staple in the community ever since.



Men's Club Fish Fry ticket sellers on Saturday included, in front from left, Keith Wiffen, Brian Boland and Ron Kalbfleisch. Those buying tickets at the back include, from left, Bart Danen and Michael Mitchell. Contributed photo

Gazette Puzzles

VICTORIA DAY LONG WEEKEND

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Pet of the Week



PENNY

Our Pet of the Week is Penny. Her owner, Nancy Coghill, says she is a sweet girl who loves being in the sun. She also loves to say Hi to people. She enjoys her life in Morningside in New Hamburg, and meeting her many neighbourhood doggie friends on her walks. She is a very friendly girl who loves her belly rubs!

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



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Stratford Savour and Sip Trail returns

By Emily Stewart

Destination Stratford's Savour and Sip Trail is back just in time for a tourism season filled with outdoor dining, shopping and theatre.

Destination Stratford announced the Savour and Sip Trail returned on May 1 and will run until Oct. 31. Five vouchers for \$39.55 can be used for five of the 28 participating businesses in Stratford, St. Marys and Shakespeare.

"We released the Savour and Sip Trail for the first time last year and were blown away by the response, so we're happy to have it back for May to October again this year," said April Murray, destination brand manager at Destination Stratford.

Stratford businesses new to the trail include Mercer Kitchen and Beer Hall, Olive Your Favourites and the Corner Store Candy Co. Kelly Lindsay, owner of the Corner Store Candy Co., told the Stratford Times the candy shop was part of the Chocolate Trail and the Christmas Trail before Lindsay was asked to be part of the Savour and Sip Trail.

"Since it's a new trail for me, I don't have much experience, but my experience on the other trails has been great," Lindsay said. "I find that it brings a lot of new faces into the shop and introduces them to our shop and our candy."

About half of those who redeem a tourism-trail voucher also purchase other items from Corner Store Candy Co.

Aaron Bayer, owner of Olive Your Favourites, also joined the Savour and Sip Trail after being a part of the Christmas and Chocolate Trails, along with the Maple Trail. He is thrilled to be part of the Savour and Sip Trail.

"The trails do so much to bring tourists around, in and out of our stores," Bayer said. "I've participated in the

Chocolate Trail myself and was impressed with the gifts that the various stores offer for customers to redeem their vouchers at."

He said the tourism trails give participants recommendations for places to see in Stratford, which helps those who have never been to the city before. The trails can lead visitors to places like side streets they otherwise wouldn't have known about.

"York Street is – of course, I'm a little biased – one of my favourite streets in Stratford," Bayer said. "But the trails definitely bring people down to the backside of Ontario Street where they may or may not visit based on a single day when there's only so many hours in the day and so much to see in the city."

Wendy Stanley, owner of Poppin Kettle Corn, will be participating in the trail for the second time after the great turnout in 2023.

"The feedback we got last year from the trail was fantastic," Stanley said. "People love to come to Stratford and explore using their map and their tickets to pick up the items from the stops on the map. It's a great way to explore Stratford and to see what stores have to offer."

She also said the tourism trails give customers new and returning ideas about what's available.

"What is even more exciting is when they come back the next time and say 'Oh, I was here on the trail and we've decided to come again.'"

Murray said Destination Stratford's tourism trails encourage visitors to stay longer in the area.

"We're finding that more visitors are looking for more meaningful experiences," she said. "We receive inquiries on an ongoing basis that visitors are looking for hands-on experiences and feel connected to the destination

through those experiences."

The Savour and Sip Trail also falls at the same time as Stratford Al Fresco, which allows visitors and residents to drink alcoholic beverages with their takeout food orders at designated Stratford Al Fresco dining areas.

"It's encouraging visitors to explore local retailers and restaurants," Murray said, "but also keeping that capacity at where it can be managed and having those visitors take those items to go, explore and create their own picnics and their own charcuterie boards or take them back to their hotel or their (bed and breakfast)."

Murray also recommends planning ahead and bringing a cooler and a picnic blanket when exploring the Savour and Sip Trail.

More information can be found by visiting visitstratford.ca/savourtrail.

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Just in time for picnic and outdoor dining season, Destination Stratford's Savour and Sip Trail returns for a second year. Photo courtesy of April Murray



Regional Municipality of Waterloo Board of Director Applications for the Waterloo Regional Heritage Foundation

The Waterloo Regional Heritage Foundation is a non-profit Corporation that assists in the preservation of the heritage and culture for the Region of Waterloo. The Waterloo Regional Heritage Foundation provides grants for investment in heritage-related endeavours and advises on a wide number of heritage issues throughout the Region. The Foundation defines Heritage as "what we receive from the past, what we live with today and what we pass on to future generations. Heritage can be cultural or natural, tangible or intangible, and can apply to all creations of the past that have acquired cultural significance with the passage of time."

This is an exciting time for the Foundation, as it completes a strategic review to consider how the role of our heritage and historic environment is evolving as we mature as a community. The review aims to ensure grant funding is robust, transparent, equitable, and purposeful; meets the needs of a growing and diverse community; and supports the Region's strategic objectives. Recently, the Foundation approved the Equity, Diversity and Inclusion Fund (EDI) as a new funding stream intended to encourage initiatives that will conserve and celebrate our region's diverse heritage and help build community and belonging. The EDI Fund provides funding to eligible individuals and organizations for heritage projects, publications and conservation initiatives that promote or foster equity, diversity, inclusion, reconciliation, and accessibility.

The By-laws for the Foundation provide for the election of ten members-at-large to its Board of Directors. As of the 2024 Annual Meeting, there will be three (3) vacancies to be filled for three-year terms. The Board of Directors currently meet at 5:30 p.m. on the 4th Tuesday of each month, except July, August, and December. Currently, participation in all meetings is electronic. However, some meeting months may also have an in-person option.

Persons interested in serving on the Board listed above must file an application with the Regional Clerk before **11:59 p.m. on Friday, May 24, 2024**. Application forms are available on the are available via the Foundation's website (www.wrhf.org) and the Region's website under Regional Government.

For more information contact the Office of the Regional Clerk at 519-575-4493 or regionalclerk@regionofwaterloo.ca.

All applicants will receive written notification about the result of their application.

Personal information is collected under the authority of the *Municipal Act, 2001* and will be used to determine suitability for appointment. Questions regarding the collection of personal information should be referred to the Office of the Regional Clerk at 519-575-4493 or regionalclerk@regionofwaterloo.ca.



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COMMUNITY CALENDAR - MAY/JUNE 2024

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May 20, 2024

WEDNESDAY, MAY 22

Community Care Concepts Lunch and Fellowship
12 p.m.
Join us for lunch and fellowship.
Linwood Community Centre, 5279 Ament Line, Linwood

THURSDAY, MAY 23

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

FRIDAY, MAY 24

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

SATURDAY, MAY 25

New Hamburg Mennonite Relief Sale
7:00 a.m.
New Hamburg Fair Grounds 251 Jacob St., New Hamburg

Foxboro Green's Gigantic Multi Family Yard Sale
8:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m.
Rain or Shine. Bargains galore!
2975 Erb's Road West, Baden

SUNDAY, MAY 26

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

MONDAY, MAY 27

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

SATURDAY, JUNE 1

World Crokinole Championship
8:00 am. to 9:00 p.m.
Free Admission (Registration fee for players). For more Information: worldcrokinole.com
Tavistock Arena, 1 Adam Street

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

SUNDAY, JUNE 2

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

WEDNESDAY, JUNE 5

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

WEDNESDAY, JUNE 5

Tavistock Men's Club Fish Fry
Serving 4 p.m. to 7 p.m.
Adults \$30 Children (6-12) \$15
Pickerel dine-in or take out.
For tickets call 519-655-2286 or 519-655-3573 or email: info@tavistockmensclub.ca
Men's Club Hall, 78 Woodstock St., N

THURSDAY, JUNE 6

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

SATURDAY, JUNE 8

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

TUESDAY, JUNE 11

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

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MONDAY, JULY 1

Township of Wilmot Canada Day
11 a.m. opening ceremony
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JULY 01, 2024

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Weekly Quiz Answers

- | | | |
|-----------------------|---------------|------------------|
| 1. 1986 | 4. Lithium | 8. Liver disease |
| 2. Queen Elizabeth II | 5. The knight | 9. Quebec |
| 3. Belgium | 6. Iris | 10. Deciduous |
| | 7. Five | |

REAL ESTATE

80 Acre Farm For Sale

Through our Customized tender process, 2300 Gerber Rd, Wilmot Twp. Region of Waterloo, (1/2 km west of Wellesley Home Hardware, in Wellesley), for the Stu Vogel Estate, Initial offer deadline Monday, June 24th at 6:00 p.m.

80 acres, more or less, 70 acres workable. Borders the Nith River. Systematically & randomly tiled – majority medium clay loam. Barn – 54 X 60ft. bank barn, attached 50 X 40ft. addition. The upstairs is spacious & has good floor. Implement shed with lean approx. 50 X 60ft. House – 2 storey field stone house with attached single storey addition and entry. Good steel roof, 3 bedrooms, 2 bathrooms, kitchen, dining room, living room and sitting room with wood stove, propane furnace, adjoining covered patio, drilled well, updated hydro service.

Note – Plan to view this intriguing farm property. A stone house with lots of character and a ton of potential to go with a nice chunk of workable land that overlooks the Nith River. A short walk to Wellesley, 15 minute drive to Waterloo and New Hamburg.

To view – Open Houses Sat. May 25th & June 1st, 10 – 2pm or by appointment.

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