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The younger chocolate-egg hunters were keen on collecting as many chocolate treats as they could find with help from parents and the Opti-Mrs club of Shakespeare. Full story on page 5. Photo by Gary West

More opposition but no more information on Wilmot land grab

By Lee Griffi, Local Journalism Initiative reporter

Provincial and federal politicians in Waterloo Region are sounding off about the secret land grab in Wilmot Township but that hasn't translated into any answers for concerned landowners and residents.

Waterloo MPP Catherine Fife introduced a petition in the Ontario legislature on Wednesday calling on the province to pause plans to expropriate and rezone farmland.

"The process of expropriating prime farmland in Wilmot Township has lacked transparency, with no public consultation or information in response to concerns about how rezoning and development will affect our water resources," said Fife who is also the NDP's finance critic.

She has also sent letters outlining her concerns to the minister of agriculture and another to the premier, neither of which has garnered a response. Fife said she's never seen anything like this in her political career.

"Based on my conversations, this decision is being driven by Queen's Park. The region is violating its own expropriation policy, and they certainly don't have the funding to expropriate 770 acres of prime agricultural land. In my experience, when you follow the money you usually find out what's really going on."

Drew Spoelstra is the president of the Ontario Federation of Agriculture (OFA) and, like everyone else involved, has no idea what the land grab means.

"They are looking to assemble a bunch of land in the area to attract new investment, but our position has been that agricultural land needs to be protected for the future and all the land in the Wilmot Township

Continued on page 2

Waterloo Region District School Board announces schools will be closed for eclipse April 8

Wilmot-Tavistock Gazette staff

In a last-minute decision, the Waterloo Region District School Board (WRDSB) announced Wednesday schools will be closed to students on Monday, April 8 and students can participate in asynchronous learning opportunities on that day.

Staff will be expected to attend their work location as scheduled.

"The decision has been made after listening to and reflecting on further feedback from the WRDSB community, including

staff and families," the board said in a press release. "Concerns for student safety have always been at the forefront of the decision-making for this day. The initial decision to have a regular school day was one we felt was possible, given the safety protocols we were prepared to implement. This would have allowed for an exciting once-in-a-lifetime learning opportunity. We also clearly communicated that families had the option to keep their children at home for the day or have them leave school prior to regular dismissal time."

The school board said it also considered a shortened school day, however that was not possible because of challenges with student transportation and significant safety concerns, among other factors, ensuring crossing guards would be available. The school board also tried to factor in the impact for many of its families that could not take time off work or did not have access to childcare.

Based on additional feedback from families and staff, the board is shifting to

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TIM LOUIS

Member of Parliament
Kitchener-Conestoga

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COMMUNITY —

No additional details on Wilmot land acquisition while local resistance grows

Continued from page 1

area is pretty important to the agricultural system across Ontario," he said.

"Our local director and staff are doing their best to support members however they can. Whether that's trying to find out more information, learning about what steps might come next in terms of land acquisition or whether it gets to the expropriation stage, which I understand is a threat on the table now."

He added the OFA is trying to figure out how to better support affected members in the future.

Kitchener-Conestoga MPP Mike Harris, the Region of Waterloo and Wilmot Township have all released an identical statement saying "shovel-ready land" is being gathered but the purpose has not been made public. Spoelstra said the powers that be are keeping the truth close to

their chests.

"Nobody's been able to get the information out or maybe they're working on the fly and don't have the information yet either. It's a developing story and there is probably lots more to come. We just have to keep our noses to the ground and continue to talk about the importance of farmland."

Kitchener-Conestoga MP Tim Louis is scratching his head after learning of the situation in his riding. He's at a loss to provide constituents with clarity.

"It's frightening. You're talking about losing 770 acres of prime farmland. That's unacceptable to me. I think we should be protecting the land that's feeding us."

He added farmers in the area have several legitimate concerns.

"Their fertilizers are under contract, some are being told it isn't worth planting

because they aren't going to get to harvest. One of the family farms goes back to the 1800s. I don't know why this land acquisition is such a secret."

Louis admitted there isn't much he can do as a federal member of parliament and he is in the dark like everyone else, but he encourages people to continue to speak out.

"I am hearing from people and I share their concerns. I have not been consulted on any plans for this potential project. The federal government is not involved in this decision to turn farmland into industrial land."

He added a recent visit to Waterloo-Oxford District Secondary School was an eye-opener as students were aware of the issue and asked questions.

"I talked to the students and that was one of the things they asked about. I think

they need to be part of what's going on."

Louis was home for the Easter weekend and he said much of his time was spent talking to constituents who have concerns about the proposed land grab.

"The people I talked to this weekend are concerned, rightly so, saying any time someone needs more land, what's going to stop them from doing this to the next farm? As of now, I don't have that answer. That's a valid concern if something like this can happen without consultation, without transparency."

Louis said he has reached out to the province and municipalities but he isn't expecting an answer that will give residents any information. He added there is a feeling of helplessness among landowners.

"We need to protect our farmland, it's as simple as that. We've got to protect the land that feeds us."

Waterloo Region District School Board to Close Schools on April 8 for Eclipse

Continued from page 1

an asynchronous day of learning. WRDSB will support students through asynchronous resources from their virtual-learning environment (where applicable), and/or WRDSB@Home. Students may also work on previously assigned work or spend time reviewing material previously covered.

"We recognize the challenges this change for April 8 may cause some families, and are especially sorry about those who will need to make alternative child-care arrangements," the board said. "We continue to hope that students will have the opportunity to take advantage of the once-in-a-lifetime experience."

What is a Total Solar Eclipse?

A total solar eclipse happens when the moon passes between the sun and Earth, completely blocking the face of the sun. People viewing the eclipse from locations where the moon's shadow completely covers the sun will experience a total solar



eclipse. The sky will darken, as if it were dawn or dusk.

Looking directly into the sun at any time is dangerous and can cause serious eye damage, especially during

a solar eclipse. On April 8, the eclipse will begin at 2:03 p.m. for the Waterloo Region and will end at 4:30 p.m. The maximum eclipse for Waterloo Region will occur at 3:18 p.m.

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COMMUNITY —

Help the New Hamburg Legion find family members of First World War veterans

By Wilmot-Tavistock Gazette staff

To help the local Legion find family members of local veterans so they can be honoured in the 11th edition of the Royal Canadian Legion Ontario Command's Military Service Recognition Book, the Gazette will regularly publish a list of names in future editions for which legion volunteers have been unable to find or contact family members. For this year's edition of the Military Service Recognition Book, the local legion has until May 15 to submit local veterans to the book's publisher.

This week's list of veterans are as follows:

- Abthorpe, Francis
- Aldred, Rayburn
- Aldworth, Roy S.
- Allen, Graham L.
- Anger, Edward R.
- Armstong, Jack
- Armstong, Leslie R.
- Backer, Roy W.
- Backman, Douglas B.
- Bailey, John M.
- Baird, John M.
- Baker, Gordon
- Bast, Arnold G.
- Beckley, Clifford N.
- Beger, Robert E.
- Bergey, Delton A.
- Bingrman, Robert
- Bowman, Claude
- Borho, Walter A.
- Bradley, Ernest
- Brenneman, Erwin F.
- Brown, William F.
- Carter, Reg C.
- Chapman, Gilbert C.
- Chappell, David W.
- Charbonneau, Joseph
- Cheeseman, Syd
- Clark, William J.
- Cleary, Francis P.
- Clement, Bob A.
- Clifford, John
- Clugston, Harold
- Cockerton, Ward H.
- Colley, H. O.
- Cook, Norman L.
- Copeland, J.
- Cornish, James
- Coxon, Donald
- Cressman, James O.
- Crittenden, Wesley R.

If you are related to or know someone who is related to one of the above veterans or any local First and Second World War veterans and would like to have their name, story and photo included in the 11th Military Service Recognition Book, email Bob Berg at rwberg@gmail.com. Please note, a previous email address provided as contact information for Berg has been compromised and messages to that email will not be received.

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COMMUNITY —

County kicks off public consultation as green bin program on the horizon

By Lee Griffi, Local Journalism Initiative reporter

Oxford County is looking for public feedback on changes to the curbside collection program, including the potential launch of a green bin program to collect organic waste like food scraps and paper towels.

Residents can share feedback through the online survey open now until April 30 at www.oxfordcounty.ca/speakup. Residents who fill out the survey have a chance to win a backyard green cone or a set of 20 bag tags, with separate draws taking place for each of Oxford's eight area municipalities.

Feedback can also be submitted through an online comment card or at the virtual public information meeting scheduled for Wednesday, April 24 at 6:30 p.m.

Frank Gross is the county's manager of transportation and waste management and said the green bin program would involve the curbside collection of separated organics, primarily kitchen or food waste. He added by law the county has no choice.

"Under provincial legislation municipalities over a certain size are required to implement the program by 2025 and meet organic-waste targets set by the province."

Another substantial change coming to the curbside is the implementation of a new recycling program, one funded by manufacturers and not local taxpayers.

"Municipalities have already started transitioning to the producer responsibility



model. The producers are responsible for the collection of recyclable materials and end-of-life management of packaging products. By January 2026, all of Ontario will have transitioned to the new program."

Oxford residents will see their recycling

picked up at the curb, but the service will be performed by an independent contractor while garbage collection will remain the responsibility of the county. Producers will provide more information at some point in 2025 advising what the collection cycle will be in each municipality.

"The producers include manufacturers of product packaging along with distributors and retailers. For example, Amazon as an importer of products would be responsible for the collection of packaging material they use to ship merchandise," added Gross.

Other changes could include how often garbage is collected, waste collection in urban versus rural areas, limits on how many garbage bags can be set out at the curb, and the use of clear garbage bags to ensure recyclable or organic material is not thrown out with garbage.

Oxford Warden Marcus Ryan said assessing the curbside waste collection program now allows the county to address several legislative, environmental and program-efficiency requirements.

"It also presents the opportunity to ask residents how potential changes might serve and impact them. If you want to see an organics or green bin program in Oxford County, now is the time to share your thoughts as county council considers the goals and design of the residential curbside collection program."

An audit of curbside garbage in Oxford County in 2021 found that more than half of residential waste by weight was made up of organic material that could be diverted from landfills and used for other purposes, such as renewable natural gas or compost.

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COMMUNITY —

Shakespeare Opti-Mrs host Easter egg hunt

By Gary West

The Easter eggs in Shakespeare brought out a large crowd of young egg hunters from all over the village and surrounding townships who converged to gather chocolate delights the Easter Bunny had left.

The busy Shakespeare Opti-Mrs members were up with the sun and ready for the enthusiastic crowd that gathered at the

grounds of Sprucedale Public School. The village Easter egg hunt has been going on year after year for longer than most can remember.

Opti-Mrs president Angie McPherson thanked sponsors – the Shakespeare Men’s club and the village’s Moo’s Ice Cream Shop – that made the day one to remember for kids young and old.



The Metske family from Shakespeare is seen here ready to gather chocolate Easter eggs. Pictured from left is Wyatt, Aiden, Makayla, dad Tim, mom Amanda and Jackson. Photos by Gary West



The older Easter egg enthusiasts searched the vast area of the front lawn at Sprucedale Public School.

Tavistock’s Easter egg hunt with Tavistock’s Agriculture Society directors

By Gary West

Members of the Tavistock Agriculture Society and this year’s Easter Bunny were kept busy in Tavistock’s Queen’s Park on Saturday when hundreds of kids of all ages took part in the annual Easter egg hunt.

Society president Kim Urlando said the weather was perfect with a sunny, clear sky and smiles on kids’ faces, making the day special for all the parents and society directors involved.

This was the second consecutive year for the event and the organizers from the Agriculture Society were kept busy handing out donated chocolate milk along with treat bags for kids who were done collecting and filling their baskets with chocolate Easter eggs scattered around the grounds.



Siblings Kaitlyn and Chad Keller spent many hours helping the Tavistock Agriculture Society organize events like Saturday’s Easter egg hunt in Queen’s Park. Photos by Gary West



The Weicker family from Tavistock enjoyed the Easter egg hunt in Tavistock. From left are dad Jesse, eight-month-old Lacey, seven-year-old Ginny, mom Ashlie and three-year-old Dorothy.



The hardworking volunteers with the Tavistock Agriculture Society on Saturday included, from left, Val Jones, Peih Leng, Chris Wiffen, Julie Kimpel, Kim Hill, Kim Urlando and fall fair ambassador Nicole Danen.

COMMUNITY —

The total solar eclipse of January 24, 1925

By Paul Bartlett

On the morning of Jan. 24, 1925, Tavistock and area found itself in the path of a total solar eclipse.

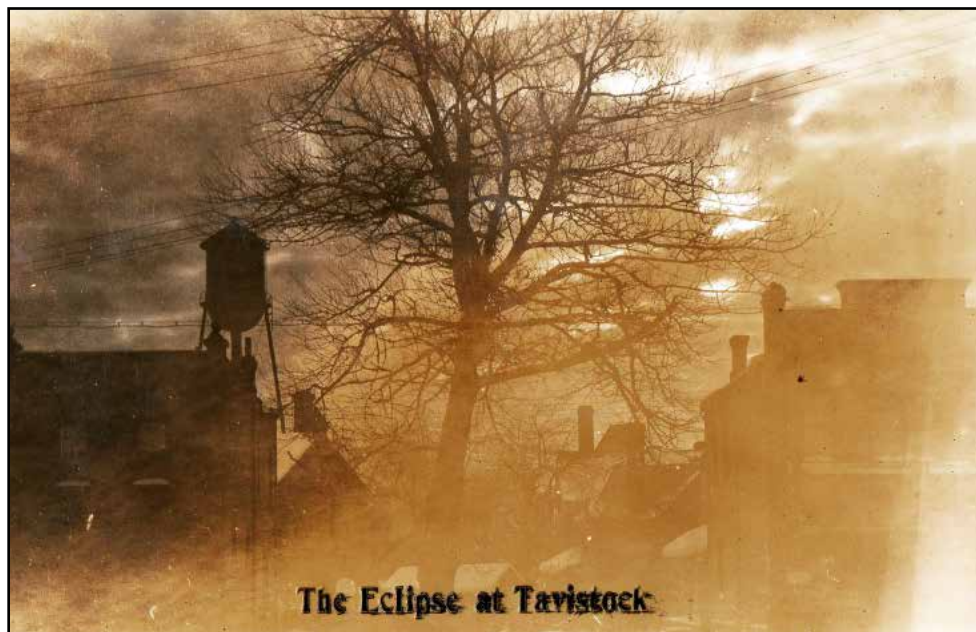
John Lemp Jr., local druggist and astronomer, was able to capture the event on film and in his store he sold postcards of the event.

Just as today, the eclipse had been widely anticipated. The East Zorra correspondent to the Gazette said, "No doubt a lot of people who don't know anything about it will be scared but just be calm and take a good look as we will never see it again in our days in Ontario."

The path of totality was a 60-mile (96 kilometre) strip that extended through Connecticut, parts of New York, Western Ontario, Michigan and Wisconsin. Readers were told that the total eclipse would last only two minutes, but stars would be visible during that time.

The most impressive sight would be the band of shadow approaching from the west at an enormous speed just before the face of the sun was entirely obscured.

"The last remaining minutes of the partial phases can be quite dramatic and beautiful", writes one commentator. "The crescent of the Sun grows thinner as the Moon's shadow approaches. The abrupt



John Lemp Jr., a Tavistock area druggist, took this photo of the total solar eclipse on Jan. 24, 1925. Though the eclipse was obscured by cloud cover, Lemp printed his photo as post cards and sold them as memorabilia from the historic, astronomical event. Photo courtesy of Tavistock and District Historical Society

darkness of totality is stunning and quite unlike you've ever seen. And the incredible solar corona is simply the most awe-inspiring naked-eye sight in all of nature. Certainly, a most remarkable sight."

Five scientists from the Dominion Observatory in Ottawa planned to go to Hamilton to take scientific observations of the eclipse. One of them may have been John Stanley Plaskett, Canada's foremost

astronomer. John had been born in East Zorra at Strathallan and was the leader of an expedition to study an eclipse in Labrador in 1905.

When the day of the eclipse finally came, there was widespread disappointment throughout the area as cloud cover prevented a clear view of "the most wonderful phenomenon". Residents of Tavistock had gathered in the village square and had come equipped with smoked glass and camera film but were rewarded with just brief glimpses of the sun following totality. Some lucky ones were able to get fleeting glimpses of the stars during the period of total darkness which had swept over the community for a brief two minutes.

In the postcard of the eclipse sold by John Lemp, it is difficult to make out the sun because of the cloud cover but one can get a sense of the darkness that enveloped the community at nine o'clock in the morning.

The report in the Gazette of the Jan. 24, 1925, eclipse concluded with the comments, "The next total eclipse that will be visible here will be in October 2144. Here's hoping the citizens of Tavistock on that day and generation – possibly our great-great-grandchildren – may have better luck and a clearer view than did their forefathers."



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COMMUNITY —

Wilmot neighbourhood group promoting water conservation and raising money for Forest Glen Public School

By Galen Simmons

A group of residents from a New Hamburg neighbourhood has partnered with a local public school to promote water conservation and raise money for the school by selling rain barrels.

Residents from the Morningside retirement community calling themselves Morningside EarthCare have partnered with Forest Glen Public School to sell rain barrels to Wilmot residents with the help of rainbarrel.ca, an organization that sells rain barrels to raise money for various causes.

“EarthCare did a rain-barrel sale two years ago in the spring,” said Morningside resident Dean Peachey. “At that time, we were partnering with Nith Valley EcoBoosters. This time I thought we’d get a school or a kids’ hockey team that, presumably, has more households involved or interested in perhaps purchasing, so that’s my hope. By connecting with Forest Glen Public School, we can increase the sales and the sort of ripple out into the community.

“It’s not that we’re trying to make a bunch of money. It’s mostly that we’re trying to get rain barrels out there and get people thinking about water conservation, how do you use less water, conserve water, that sort of thing.”

By collecting rainwater in 50-gallon barrels and using it to irrigate flower and vegetable gardens all season, Peachey said local families can reduce

the amount of rainwater that runs off hard, impermeable, manmade surfaces like concrete and asphalt and into local storm sewers, creeks and the Nith River.

Rain barrels also help curb the pollutants and other contaminants that are carried with rainwater runoff into the local watershed.

“We are excited to be part of this rain barrel fundraiser,” said Forest Glen school council member Kelly Durst. “Our students are enjoying learning about the many benefits collecting the rain has for our environment. We hope to have a strong fundraiser that will allow us to continue our greening initiatives at Forest Glen School.”

Both Durst and Peachey hope promoting the use of rain barrels among Forest Glen students and families, as well as residents in the wider Wilmot Township, will help start conversations around water conservation and the importance of protecting our freshwater sources and natural habitats.

Wilmot residents can purchase rain barrels this spring by placing orders online at rainbarrel.ca/wilmot by April 15, and the barrels will be delivered to the Wilmot Recreation Complex on April 25 for pickup from 4-7 p.m.

There are different types of barrels available, most of which are repurposed food barrels, so there is an additional environmental benefit to using the barrels.



Morningside EarthCare member Dean Peachey shows off one of two rain barrels he uses to catch rainwater and irrigate the flowers and vegetables in his home gardens in New Hamburg. Photo by Galen Simmons

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TOWNSHIP OF EAST ZORRA-TAVISTOCK

NOTICE OF PUBLIC MEETING REGARDING DEVELOPMENT CHARGES

Take notice that the Council of the Township of East Zorra-Tavistock will hold a public meeting, pursuant to section 12 of the Development Charges Act, 1997, as amended, to present and obtain public input on the municipality’s proposed development charges (D.C.) by-law and underlying background study.

All interested parties are invited to attend the Public Meeting of Council and any person who attends the meeting may make representations relating to the proposed D.C. by-law and background study. The meeting is to be held:

Date: **Wednesday May 1, 2024**
Time: **9:15 a.m.**
Location: **Township Council Chambers, 89 Loveys Street, Hickson, ON**

Copies of the 2024 Development Charges Background Study and the proposed draft development charges by-law will be available for viewing at the Township’s Municipal Office and website www.ezt.ca on or before April 3, 2024.

Any person may attend the public meeting and make written or verbal representation either in support of or in opposition to the by-law. Written submissions are invited and should be directed to Will Jaques, Municipal Clerk, at 519-462-2697 x7825 or wjaques@ezt.ca. Written comments received prior to the meeting and submissions made at the public meeting will be considered by Council prior to the enactment of a new development charges by-law.

DATED AT the Township of East-Zorra Tavistock this 3rd day of April, 2024.

Will Jaques, Clerk
Township of East Zorra Tavistock
89 Loveys Street, Hickson, ON, N0J 1L0

COMMUNITY —

OBITUARY

**In Memory of
Linda Ann Kennedy (nee Tallon)
June 21, 1947 – March 25, 2024**



Heaven smells like rolled ribs and pigtails as Linda and Mike are together again! Cherished mother of Patrick (Abby) and proud grandmother of Grayson, Linda worked hard and enjoyed life as the proprietor of the former Queens Tavern in Wellesley and close to 40 years at Kennedy's Tavern in St. Agatha.

Before opening her successful family business with Mike, Linda was a teacher and worked in the fashion world. Linda was an extraordinary cook whose laughter can still be heard ringing through the kitchen, as she served 100's of thousands of meals in our community. Always an entertaining storyteller, Linda's eyes would sparkle when sharing stories of her life and especially her beloved "Wee Pat" and the love of her life Mike.

Predeceased by her husband Michael (2021), parents Patrick and Helen (Miller) Tallon, brothers Mel Splane, Gerry Tallon, sisters Dawn Perrla, Gayle McNamara and brother-in-law Reverend Monsignor Philip Kennedy C.H.H. Left to mourn are brothers and sisters-in-law Anne (Michel), Ayngus (Donna), Andy (Nancy), Neil (Martha), Kathleen, Margaret, Clara (Barry) and numerous nieces and nephews on both sides.

Linda's gifts were always shared with her community and those in need. Whether it was service clubs, charities or community fundraisers, people knew that they could turn to Linda for help. She was active with the St. Agatha CWL, The Wellesley Apple Butter and Cheese Festival and was Past President of the K-W Visitor and Convention Bureau. Linda Kennedy had a passion and love for people. As generations of staff have passed through the doors of Kennedy's, Linda mentored not only in work but in life. Many to this day still consider her a second mother or close friend and have kept her in their lives. Whether in the "dish pit" or over a hot grill, Linda doled out wisdom with humour and the occasional stern word when she deemed it necessary.

Linda's legacy continues as she wisely shared the secret recipes of her delicious meals with Patrick, who carries on the family business. Mrs. Kennedy was a beloved friend to so many people and she will be missed greatly.

The family wishes to thank the staff at Grand River and Freeport Hospitals for their loving care.

Relatives and friends were invited to the Mark Jutzi Funeral Home, 291 Huron Street, New Hamburg, on Monday, April 1, 2024 from 2 – 4 & 6 – 8 pm. Funeral Mass was celebrated at St. Agatha Roman Catholic Parish, on Tuesday, April 2, 2024 at 11 am. Interment in Parkview Cemetery, Waterloo.

As expressions of sympathy, donations to the Canadian Cancer Society would be appreciated by the family. Personal condolences can be posted at www.markjutzifuneralhomes.ca

appreciated by the family. Personal condolences can be posted at www.markjutzifuneralhomes.ca

OBITUARY

SCHROEDER, Carl Andrew

Passed away peacefully, with his family at his side on Thursday March 28, 2024, at St. Mary's General Hospital, Kitchener. Carl was born 95 years ago in Cambridge, Ontario, a son of the late Ferdinand and Freda Schroeder.

Loving father of Mark Schroeder and wife Liz of Waterdown, David Schroeder and partner Kelly Shewan of Port Stanley, and John Schroeder of Port Rowan. Devoted grandfather of Brodie Schroeder, Todd Schroeder and wife Jenny, Helen Schroeder, Carl Schroeder and partner Kiley Jablonski. Proud great-grandfather of Deagan and Dylan Schroeder. Carl will be missed by sister Lorna Struthers as well as by many nieces, nephews, and extended families.

Predeceased by his beloved wife Lorraine (Bingeman) Schroeder (July 13, 2010), brothers, sisters and in-laws; Harold Schroeder, Morris and wife Evelyn Schroeder, Beulah and husband Lorne Grube, Norma and husband Robert Robichaud, and Harold Struthers.

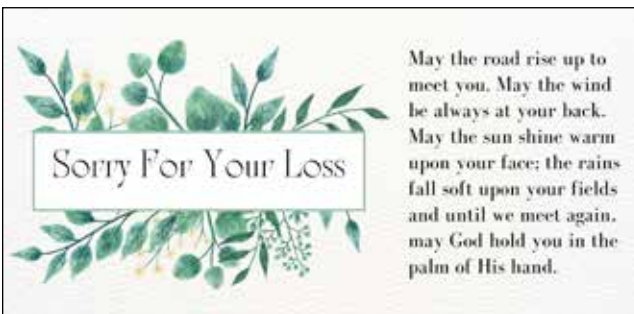
Carl was a long time member of Trinity Lutheran Church, New Hamburg. He had a great passion for the outdoors and wood working. Carl was an avid golfer and would be found on the course as often as possible.

Relatives and friends are invited to a gathering in celebration of Carl's life on Thursday, April 11, 2024, from 12 – 2 p.m at Mark Jutzi Funeral Home's reception room. Refreshments will be served. Please enter through the basement doors at the garage.

A private graveside service will be held at Riverside Cemetery, New Hamburg, for family members and relatives at 11:00 a.m.

As expressions of sympathy, donations would be accepted to the St Mary's General Hospital Foundation - Cardiac Unit and can be done through the funeral home website.

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



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April 4, 2016

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Let this be a loving reminder
That someone is missing today
Someone our hearts still hold on to,
As we travel along life's way.
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Someone who won't be forgotten,
But cherished from year to year.
And now, as we pause to remember,
Let us all fondly recall,
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And oh, How he loved us all.

Always and forever your
loving wife Linda, children
and grandchildren



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COMMUNITY —

The Wilmot-Tavistock Gazette Weekly Quiz

1. When was the last time a total solar eclipse crossed Canada?
2. How many divisions are on an American Roulette Wheel?
3. What does SPF stand for?
4. Does sound travel faster in water or air?
5. What is the bunny's name in Disney's Zootopia?
6. What country has the most castles?
7. What is a group of flamingos called?
8. What are April showers meant to bring?
9. What day is Earth Day?
10. What nationality was Picasso?

Answers found on page 26

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.

April 4: Happy birthday to Hannah Heinbuch (10), Kennedy Faulhafer (19), Mitchell McKay, and Larry Hohner.

April 5: Happy birthday to Kate Doan (18).

April 6: Happy birthday to Montana Zehr (19) and Brenda West.

April 7: Happy birthday to Joshua Hobson (15) and Adam West.

April 8: Happy birthday to Ethan Miller (12), Ruby Harnack (16), Justin Strohoff (18), Blair Sparling (22), Jean Brown (93), Heather Knechtel, and anniversary for Gary J. and Shirley Yantzi (41st).

April 9: Happy birthday to Austin Lupton (14) and Clare Wettlaufer, and anniversaries for Marlin and Brenda Bender (47th) and Jeff and Susan Wagner (47th).

April 10: Happy birthday to Lily Gilmore (17), and anniversary for Terry and Lynne Ross (31st).

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.

April 2-9, 2014, Edition (10 years ago)

Early bird registration for the World Crokinole Championship is to be received by April 30.

The memorial hockey tournament for local soldier Tyler Todd will look to grow again this year when players fill the arena in Plattsville this weekend, April 3, 4 and 5, 2014. Last year's tournament was a great success with 160 joining together for some non-competitive, three-on-three hockey and raised \$35,000 for Wounded Warriors.

Families of students at Sprucedale Public School, Shakespeare participated in a Family Arts Night last Wednesday, March 26, 2014. The event was part of the Parents Reaching Out program from the Ministry of Education.

Janice K. Wagler was the recipient of the 35-year, 4-H Milestone Award at the Monsanto 4-H Ontario Volunteer Recognition luncheon held at the Waterloo Inn on Saturday. Janice is actively involved as a volunteer, was a past president and sits on the board of directors.

Members of the Tavistock and District Rod and Gun Club held another successful gun show at the Tavistock Memorial Hall this past weekend. More than 100 enthusiasts set up tables and welcomed a crowd of over 350 with everything from guns, crossbows and rare spare parts and accessories around the hall.

According to church records, it's been 25

years since the first Lenten Luncheon was held at Grace United Church.

March 31-April 7, 2004, Edition (20 years ago)

Saturday April 3, M&M Meat Shops and Mac's convenience store will host a Spring Fling fundraiser for Cystic-Fibrosis in Tavistock. The one-day event will feature raffles for prizes and a non-perishable food collection, as well as a barbeque and 99-cent foot-long subs.

The Tavistock Royals did not go down without an all-out effort on Friday night in Monkton. Down three games to one, they took their final game into overtime tied at 2, but Monkton's Jeff Hunt scored the winner putting an end to the Royals season.

When Bill Swanink heard a bump in the night, he didn't dream that a truck might have nearly taken off the front of his antique store. Bill got up next morning to find bricks and mortar lying on the sidewalk, his railing in pieces and his lightshade on the sidewalk. Swanink's are hoping to have a sign posted to reduce truck traffic along the side street.

April 4-11, 1984, Edition (40 years ago)

Tavistock – Embro Men's Hockey League brought a close to their 1983/84 season with a banquet and awards night on Friday. Receiving the top scorer was Gord Marshall of Innerkip who scored 19 goals and had 31 assists. The top goaltender was Embro's Jamie Shewan with an average of 3.13 goals per game.

With the added financial help of the Knechtel Corporation, the First Tavistock Brownies will have a new toadstool and owl for their meetings. Knechtel associate Store owner Don Schwartzenruber was pleased to present a cheque for \$35.00 to 9-year-old Jodi Smith and 6-year-old Michelle Holst of

the Tavistock troop.

On the final night of regular season play of the Men's Dart League at the Legion Hall on Wednesday, the top point winner was the Canadians with 75. The highest score of the night was a tie between Jim Brenneman and Kevin Woelfle with 140.

Congratulations to Emily Clarke who is celebrating her 100th birthday. Emily was born in Dublin, Ireland.

The Tavistock Curling Club held their eighth annual meeting on Friday and presented awards to the winners. Doug Wiffen presented the first draw afternoon winners, Janis Keizer, John Schultz and Gloria Wettlaufer with trophies from Tavistock Farm Supply Ltd. Ross Yantzi from Yantzi's Feed and Seed presented the second draw afternoon curlers, Len Neeb, Gloria Wettlaufer, Marrie Schultz and Susan Stock.

April 3-10, 1964, Edition (60 years ago)

The Gazette was advised late Monday afternoon that demolition of the former Peppler Block, recently purchased for a new post office, is expected to get underway toward the middle of the month.

All candidates in the April 8 federal election must pay a \$200 deposit – a fee that hasn't changed in 81 years. It is required under the Canada Elections Act to discourage people who have no serious parliamentary aspirations.

A surplus of \$2,816 on the operations during 1962, and an accumulated surplus of \$28,025, were shown in the report of the auditors presented to the South Easthope Township council at its meeting last Monday afternoon. And the report also showed outstanding taxes of \$7,993, which is a slight decrease from that reported a year ago.

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COMMUNITY —

OPP Sgt. Leanne Wilhelm now the president of the Ontario Provincial Police Association

By Gary West

There are many well-educated youth from the Perth County community who grow into adulthood and end up giving back to the community they were raised in.

OPP Sgt. Leanne Wilhelm is one of those people.

Wilhelm grew up north of Stratford, on Airport Road in North Easthope Township of Perth County. She attended North Easthope Public School, Northwestern Secondary School, Seneca College and then the Ontario Police College. She is a daughter of David and Shirley Wilhelm who now reside in Shakespeare.

She is in her 17th year of policing with the Ontario Provincial Police.

Prior to being hired as a provincial constable, Wilhelm was a member of the Perth County auxiliary policing unit, a volunteer unit with the OPP.

She was promoted to auxiliary sergeant before being hired on as a fulltime constable in 2008 in Huron County.

For 13 years, Leanne worked out of Clinton in Huron County before being transferred back to Sebringville in Perth County for two years to be closer to her family.



Sgt. Leanne Wilhelm pictured and is now in Huron County as a frontline supervisor out of the Clinton detachment. Contributed photo

After competing in a rigorous sergeant competition, Leanne was successful and promoted to sergeant in Huron County in September 2022. She is now a frontline supervisor reporting out of the Clinton

detachment.

Wilhelm has a variety of policing experience. She is a crisis negotiator and responds to crisis calls all over the western region. A crisis negotiator is called out

during an integrated response in relation to a suicidal person, barricaded person and/or hostage takings.

She is also a member of the provincial-liason team and has been a coach officer for numerous recruits. During her career, Wilhelm held various roles including domestic-violence coordinator, media-relations officer and peer-support team member. Wilhelm was elected and holds the position of area president with the Ontario Provincial Police Association.

When asked what her favourite part of being a police officer is, she would often say "the variety of different work that it brings is special, not knowing what will happen day-to-day, and helping the community."

"Some days at work are really tough," she says, "and some days are really rewarding."

She has a great team of officers that all help each other out and she loves her job and enjoys going to work every day."

She also said she enjoys supporting and mentoring her fellow co-workers.

Wilhelm is married with three boys and loves being outdoors and spending time with family and friends. Wilhelm can often be seen at community events either in or out of uniform.

Property Listings



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806137 Oxford Rd. 29, Innerkip
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\$697,500
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SPORTS —

Tavistock Minor Hockey's only two women head coaches lead teams to divisional championships

By Wilmot-Tavistock Gazette staff

Out of all Tavistock Minor Hockey teams, just four made it to their divisional championship.

Of those four, only two teams took home gold and both of those teams had women as head coaches, a recent trend that has seen a number of women in minor and professional hockey coaching positions, breaking gender stereotypes that still exist in modern sports.

Tavistock U15 LL Titans wins divisional championship

Sweeping their opponent 2-0 in a best of three series, the Tavistock U15 LL Titans won the Grand River Local League (LL) Division C Championship on Saturday, March 24.

Facing a tough opponent, the Woolwich Wildcats, the U15 Titans were able to rise above the adversity and hammer home that they deserved that championship title and trophy.

In game one, the Titans hosted the Wildcats on Wednesday, March 20 and in a hard-fought battle from goal line to goal line, the Titans decidedly won 3-1.

"Winning that first game, and at home in our own barn, gave our team the confidence they needed heading into game two," said head coach Kathleen Smith.

"Knowing some of the pressure was off, but also knowing we could beat a team that we had only ever lost or tied to, made all the difference. Confidence, hard work and trust in the coaching staff made the difference and led this team to be champions."

Despite the relief after a hard-fought win at home, the Titans knew there was still work to be done. Game two was held on Saturday, March 24 in Woolwich.

From the moment the puck was dropped, the Titans had the Wildcats on their heels and continued to pour on the pressure. The relentless forechecking and shots testing their goalie, eventually led to opportunities for the Titans.

Never giving up and letting the puck do the work led to a 5-2 victory and the Titans were named division champions.

"It was an honour and quite magical to have coached such a team in my first year

of coaching. I was a teacher, a coach, a guide, but they did the work," Smith said.

"I always told them that we (the coaching staff) are here to help, advise, plan, have a vision and guide, but it's up to them to do the work and earn their accolades. They did just that, and I couldn't be prouder of the young men and women they have become over the course of this season. It was a privilege to coach them, and for the ones I won't be coaching next year, I wish them all luck in their next season."

The U15 LL's successful season wasn't always easy. With a short bench of 10 skaters and two goalies, along with some very dedicated AP players, there were also some power struggles within the locker room thrown into the mix.

Yet the entire coaching staff of the U15 LL squad knew they had to deal with the conflict early on, to not let it fester and grow.

Once this was dealt with, and a common goal was established, there was nothing in the team's way.

Throughout the season the team worked on systems, special teams, they were disciplined for selfish or retaliatory penalties, and they worked on earning trust from their teammates.

Going from the challenge of a short bench of players, half of which had never played together before, to a truly unified team that passed the puck, that used and relied on everyone on the ice from goalie out, and that celebrated each other's successes was a dream for the coaching staff.

"This was a team that developed over the season, overcame obstacles early on, and became one unit with the same goal - to win," said Smith.

"I brought my experiences of playing at high levels and the lessons I learned over the years from my coaches to this year as a head coach. I did my best to try to teach the kids discipline, the value of hard work, and what it really means to be a team. And look how it paid off - they are division champions and brought home some hardware."

Smith also credited team manager Laura Meadows for volunteering her time to manage the hockey team and run training for all Tavistock Minor Hockey teams.



The U15 LL Titans won the divisional championship on March 24. From left are assistant coach Chris Jansen, Wyatt Charbonneau, Alex Meadows, Colin Smith, John Jansen, Caleb Chambers, Michael McCadden, Brady Kuiack, Brandon Cox, Darcy Zehr, Addy Smith, Tyler Reis, head coach Kathleen Smith, Presley Lafleur, trainer Daryll McCadden, Daniel Hovius, Flypp Broeckel and manager/trainer Laura Meadows. Contributed photo

U11 Tavistock Titans LL Team 1 win gold in B Division final

The other Tavistock Minor Hockey team that made it to their divisional finals was the U11 Tavistock Titans LL Team 1.

On home ice, the team earned the gold medal in the B Division final series of the season against St. George. On top of success in tournaments, head coach Stacy Jordan's squad made it to the divisional championship best of three series against St. George.

In a deciding two-games-to-none sweep, the U11 Titans won the championship title on home ice on Friday, March 22 in front of a supportive and hometown crowd.

The U11 LL Team 1 squad had a bit of a different story this season. The team of 16 players seemed to click early in the season, which helped on the ice and the U11 LL team had a great season.

Jordan said, along with a tight team from the start, keeping consistent lines and positions helped bring success to the U11 LL team.

The U11 Titans competed in several tournaments during the season and brought home hardware from three of them. They earned a bronze medal in the Embro Tournament, a silver in Tillsonburg, and a gold medal in Oshawa.

Despite being one of only two women head coaches in the organization, Jordan said being a woman had no bearing on her success as a coach.

"Sometimes I wondered if certain situations that happened during the season would have looked different if I was a male," she said. "But I was fortunate to have had great coaches in my past as a hockey player and have a great rapport with kids."

Assistant coaches Joe Clemmer and Glen Sutherland, and team trainer Kelitta Martin were a huge part in the success of the team, Jordan said.

"The parents on our team were a huge bonus," she added. "They were so supportive with it being my first year as head coach."

Despite the successful season, Jordan admits the team did have some challenges over the season, and one of them was due to their biggest rival, the other U11 Tavistock team.

Jordan acknowledged that the other U11 team had a great lineup of coaches and players too, adding that it was always a fun match against them.

"Honestly, we could have beat any team in our division this year if we showed up to play every game," Jordan said. "We beat St. George in regular season but when it came to playoffs, we couldn't pull it off until the final series."

The first game of the series against St. George was a hard-fought battle, as St. George came to play.

Both teams were on their game that night and played positional hockey quite well. Knowing if they played aggressive, they would win, the U11 Titans came out on top.

With the momentum on their side and less pressure going into the second game of the series on home ice, the U11 Titans had a job ahead of them.

With back and forth scoring by both teams, eventually the U11 Titans pulled ahead in front of a hometown crowd and secured the championship title late in the third period.

When it comes to methodology to coaching, Jordan said she tries to keep things very simple and easy for them to understand.

"When you throw complicated drills at them after a long day at school, they simply can't comprehend what you are trying to teach them, let alone why," Jordan said. "My lecture at the start of every game was to beat them to the puck. The team that wins the race to the puck more often, is the team that wins the game."

Editors note: U15 Tavistock Titans LL head coach Kathleen Smith is editor of The Goderich Sun, another paper owned and operated by Grant Haven Media, the business that owns and operated the Wilmot-Tavistock Gazette. Smith collected and submitted all of the content and photos in this story.



The U11 Tavistock Titans LL Team 1 after their home ice win for the championship title. Contributed photo

SPORTS —

Tavistock Titans runners-up in Aylmer

By Gary West

The U-18 Tavistock Titans wrapped up their season recently and came as close as any team could come to capturing the OMHA round-robin championship.

In their final game in Aylmer, the Titans and East Elgin Attack were tied 1-1 heading into the final minutes of the second period in Aylmer. The Attack got a late second-period goal on a breakaway.

The Titans came out in full attack mode in the third, but came up just short of getting it past a hot goaltender from East Elgin.

“The boys really improved throughout the year and came together as a team as time went on,” head coach Zack Berg said, adding that’s what matters the most.

“The team came up short in the final game, but it wasn’t because of lack of effort. Overall, it was a successful season and one the boys should be proud of and hopefully remember for the rest of their lives.”

Berg said playing hockey to win is important, but not as important as the friends and personal growth that will stay with the young hockey players for years to come.



Pictured are the 2023-2024 U-18 Tavistock Titans. In the front row from left are Zack Roth, Owen Maxwell, Brady Raymer, Morgan Brenneman, Jake Hauss, Carter Roth, Carter Otto, Dylan West, Jordan Keene, Logan Rose and Ethan Gilbert. In the second row from left are Anderson Allan, Jordan Wiles, Max Harvey, Cooper Yantzi, Logan Hallock, Cam Monroe and Blake Stere. In the back row from left are coaches Derek Hyde, Zack Berg, Jake Wiffen and Jensen Van Boekel. Contributed photo



Pictured are the U-18 Tavistock Titans, dejected but proud to receive the banner for being named runners-up in Aylmer following their defeat at the hands of the East Elgin Attack by a 2-1 final score. Photo by Gary West

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ROAD HOCKEY

SPORTS —

Royals swept in OEHL championship series

By Lee Griffi, Local Journalism Initiative reporter

The repeat didn't happen.

Tavistock went down in four games in the inaugural Ontario Elite Hockey League Championship to the Minto 81s, denying the Royals a repeat of last season's title, then in the Western Ontario Athletic Conference Association.

The 81s claimed the crown with a 5-2 victory on Tavistock ice Saturday night. Minto jumped out to a 3-0 lead after two periods before Sean Kienapple's goal just six minutes into the third pulled the Royals to within two. After another 81s marker, Kienapple scored again, his fifth of the playoffs, with four minutes left to make it 4-2, but there would be no comeback.

Deven Kropf forced overtime in game three with his sixth of the postseason on a feed from Geoff Killing. Minto scored the winner three minutes into the extra period to earn a 4-3 victory. The 81s led 2-0 in the first before Drew Gerth's 12th of the playoffs. The teams traded second-period goals as Callan Christner scored on a powerplay on a pass from Trevor Sauder to pull Tavistock to within one.

Despite coming up short, Royals president Kyle Wynette said he and the rest of the

executive couldn't be more pleased with the on-ice product this season.

"We are extremely proud of the performance of our team this season. While we fell four wins short of our ultimate goal, it's not an easy task to reach the finals two years in a row in a league full of so much talent. A deep playoff run and great fan support certainly make it easier to continue to bring Royals hockey to the community in the coming years."

Anyone who follows the team has seen the same faces volunteering their time year after year. Wynette said there are so many people to thank for their selflessness.

"John Bender is one of our long-standing volunteers who put in countless hours to ensure things flow smoothly behind the scenes. John's wife Pauline Bender has been another long-serving executive. Aside from being known for her work selling programs at the front door, she is always our biggest and loudest supporter in the stands. Duane Kropf, Doug Berger and Murray Holtzworth are three long-serving volunteers who staff the front door for each home game and ensure all our fans get into their seats in a timely fashion."

He added Ron Saunders, Heidi Danen, Jack Danen and Kim Zehr should also be

recognized.

"I can't thank Heidi enough for how many hours she puts into this team. Not only does she keep our finances in check, but she spends a lot of time stocking and keeping our Blueline Club running smoothly. Rod Ramseyer is our newest executive member and his creativity and passion for his role have been a huge boost to our club this season."

Wynette also wanted to recognize assistant trainer Scott Habel, and game announcer Teddy Schurink.

"His energy and passion for the team shine through in his work in the timekeepers' booth. Executive member Kevin Zehr, another Royals lifer, is usually seen sitting beside Ted in the timekeepers' box. In addition to fulfilling the demanding task of tracking the game and updating the scoreboard, Kevin is always a smart, responsible voice of reason with important executive decisions."

Wynette also wanted to give kudos to the coaching staff made up of general manager and coach Brad Stere and assistants Tyson Zehr and Addison Cober.

"Their energy and dedication are a huge part of the success of our club. And last but certainly not least, our founder Ken "Tooke" Zehr. There isn't a person in the league that doesn't love and respect him."

The fan support the Royals receive is among the best in the league, something not unrecognized by Wynette and his fellow executive members.

"I can't express my gratitude enough to the community and thank them for the

support they have shown. I feel a responsibility to ensure we deliver a quality product to our fans, and I don't want to let them down. While I was disappointed we couldn't deliver them another championship banner, I'm proud of the effort this group has put in to entertain our amazing fans each weekend. It's amazing seeing so many young fans out to our games. Their energy and care for our players are a huge inspiration."

Wynette is a member of the league's board of directors and serves in the treasurer role. He has been involved in much of the day-to-day operations, something he's pleased to see is changing.

"We were fortunate this year to have hired a league commissioner, Rick Richardson, and more recently a league statistician, Dennis Watson. Passing over some of the clerical work to these staff members has been a huge relief for me. I had to wear a few hats when the league first got rolling this fall."

He explained overall Tavistock is happy with how the year the inaugural year went.

"We had to learn very quickly how to run a hockey league. With our first season now completed, our focus will be on fixing some of our processes, expanding the promotion and marketing of the league, and strategizing how this league will grow and prosper in the years ahead. Our shorter-term goals are to seek league-wide sponsorship with those financial resources being put towards improving our league visibility and the overall program for our players."



COMMUNITY NOTICE

ANNUAL VEGETATION MANAGEMENT PROGRAM

Each year, CN is required to manage vegetation on its right-of-way. Managing this vegetation contributes to mitigating fire risks and enhances the efficiency of inspection of track infrastructure. The spray program is not being done for aesthetic reasons.

To ensure safe railway operations, CN will conduct its annual spray program on its rail lines in the province of Ontario. A certified professional (Davey Tree Expert Company Ltd., 1-800-465-6367) will apply herbicides on and around the railway tracks (primarily along the 24-foot graveled area/ballast). Product requirements for setbacks in the vicinity of dwellings, aquatic environments and municipal water supplies will be met.

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Paraffinic Oil (586 g/L), Alkoxylated alcohol non-ionic surfactants (242 g/L), Methyl and Ethyl oleate (esterified vegetable oil 75.20%), Flumioxazin (33.5%), Pyroxasulfone (42.5%), Chlorsulfuron (75%), Aminopyralid (52.5%-60%), Metsulfuron-methyl (94.5%), Picloram (97.5 g/L), 2, 4-D (360 g/L), Triclopyr (755 g/L), Florpyrauxifen (4.77%)

CN only uses herbicides that have been approved for use in Canada and in the province within which they are applied.

The program is expected to take place from May to October 2024.

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SPORTS —

U18A New Hamburg Junior Firebirds, Shamrock League champions, fall short at OMHA tourney

By Galen Simmons

Though they found themselves at the top of the heap in the Shamrock League's inaugural season, the U18A New Hamburg Junior Firebirds fell short with a win, a loss and a tie at the Ontario Minor Hockey Association (OMHA) tournament in Whitby over the weekend.

The firebirds tied the Oakville Rangers, ranked fifth in the province, 3-3 in the first game; they beat the Markham Waxers 4-0 in game two; and then lost to the Quinte West Golden Hawks 3-2 to conclude the Firebirds' OMHA tournament run and their season.

"(Quinte West) scored three goals in the first period," Firebirds head coach Zach Mark said. "It was a slow start we couldn't bounce back from. We dealt with a little bit of controversy all weekend, so it was kind of hanging over our heads."

The controversy Mark referred to is the recent suspension of Junior Firebirds defenceman Jordan "JJ" Jacobs, who was targeted with a racial slur during a game on March 7. According to media reports, an opposing player referred to Jacobs as the N-word, and Jacobs responded with the use of profanity. While the player who uttered the racial slur was suspended for seven games by the OMHA, Jordan was also initially handed down a seven-game suspension for his response, which was later reviewed and reduced to three games.

That suspension prevented Jacobs from playing at the OMHA tournament.

"When you lose your best defenceman or your strongest core – we always say he's like the heartbeat of our team – it's



Though the U18A New Hamburg Junior Firebirds were champions of the Shamrock League in its inaugural season, they fell short at the OMHA tournament in Whitby over the weekend as a result of being down two of their best players. Contributed photo

tough to not have him," Mark said. "Then in game two against Markham, one of our other strong players (Aidan Klasnic) cut his artery, so he was squirting blood pretty good.

"I can now joke about it because he's still with us, he's okay, but a scary, scary moment for sure. I think there was more blood on the ice than was left in his body."

While it was a tough end to an otherwise great season for the Junior Firebirds, which saw the team come away with 51-7-11

record, Mark said he takes some consolation knowing the team that knocked his team out in the OMHA tournament went on to lose in the tournament final.

"Quinte ended up going to the final and lost in overtime in the final, so it was good to know we were that close and just a slow start cost us the game," Mark said. "With being down bodies and stuff, it was tough, but two good teams – Welland and Quinte – are heading to OHF now with Woodstock, St. Thomas and Porcupine."

While Mark said he didn't know what to expect with the level of competition in the Shamrock League, he was pleased with how the inaugural season played out.

"We knew right off the hop that we had a skilled group and could do well this season," Mark said, noting a number of players who had been with New Hamburg Minor Hockey since they were kids returned this season to play hometown hockey. "Our start to the season, I believe we played 35 straight games without a loss. ... It started off hot. We won our regional Silver Stick (tournament), we won our Glancaster tournament and then during the Christmas break we also won a tournament down in Riverside. We actually had our first loss there. It was a shootout loss in the tournament, but it still meant a win in the finals.

"At International Silver Stick in Sarnia, we went 3-in-1 in round-robin, but due to the tie breakers, just unfortunately we didn't advance on to the semis, which was tough but a good learning experience for us."

The Junior Firebirds sailed through play-offs right up until game one of their final series with the Dorchester Dragons, losing 4-3 in overtime. New Hamburg then tied Dorchester 2-2 in game two and won 4-1 in game three before Aydan Burns scored the Shamrock League winning goal in sudden-death overtime to break the series tie and win the champion banner and a ticket to the OMHA tournament.

"We've been the favourites all year. It was definitely backs against the wall," Mark said. "We hadn't dealt with that kind of adversity, so it was definitely good to be able to push through it and be successful."

Firebirds win controversial OT thriller to take stranglehold on PJHL series

By Lee Griffi, Local Journalism Initiative reporter

Justin McManus scored the game-winning goal just over 14 minutes into the second overtime period Tuesday night in Woodstock to give New Hamburg a 3-2 victory and a 3-1 lead in the Doherty Division final.

Anthony Pede fed McManus who tucked the puck in under Navy Vets goalie Tyler Bouck who was outstanding all night, stopping 43 of the 46 shots he faced.

The Navy Vets twice thought they had won in overtime but had two goals disallowed. The first was because Firebirds goalie Graeme Noye accidentally knocked the net off its pegs before the puck crossed the line and the second was after none of the four on-ice officials saw a shot from

Ethan Szabo hit the top of the net before bouncing out quickly. Video taken by 519 Sports Online posted on its Facebook page clearly shows the puck in the net.

Woodstock general manager Matt Fidlin said the coaching staff was told by the officiating crew that Noye's stick hit the top of the netting, not the puck. Fidlin added the team will be filing an official protest with the Provincial Junior Hockey League. Game five in the series is scheduled for Friday night in New Hamburg.

Antonio Pasqualino opened the scoring for New Hamburg to give the Firebirds a 1-0 lead after 20 minutes. Mitch Penner tied it up in the second and the teams exchanged goals in the third frame setting up the extra periods.

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SPORTS —

OMHA under fire following suspension over racial slur

By Lee Griffi, Local Journalism Initiative reporter

The Ontario Minor Hockey Association (OMHA) is coming under criticism from a Wilmot Township coach and the mother of a player who was suspended after being on the receiving end of a racial slur.

16-year-old JJ Jacobs, a member of the New Hamburg Junior Firebirds U18 team, received a seven-game suspension from the OMHA for his part in a verbal altercation in a game on March 7.

“JJ told us that the player said, ‘Good job, little Black boy,’ and then the N-word,” said the team’s head coach, Zach Mark. “JJ said he called the other player a racist and also used profanity. The team appealed the suspension and after a 14-day waiting period it was reduced to three meaning Jacobs missed a season-ending tournament in Whitby where his teammates battled for an Ontario championship.”

Mark added the suspension doesn’t make sense.

“Why are you holding a racist comment to the same standard as calling someone racist? We were handed the news (of the reduced suspension) after 14 days at 2:30 p.m. on a Thursday when it’s Good Friday the next day and we are playing at 11 in the morning. It’s tough.”

Mark explained there were about half-dozen instances where Jacobs was subjected to racist remarks during the season that were reported to the on-ice officials. Hockey Canada protocol states that referees must inform both coaches of any report made during the game and make a note of it on the electronic game sheet. Mark said he has no idea if that due diligence was completed. In this instance, the referees did not hear either player’s remarks, but a report was made to the OMHA. Jacobs provided a written report to the association but was never contacted for an in-person or telephone interview afterward.

Mark explained there is no room in the game for racism and wants it cleaned up for good.

“I feel for him. It’s not the first time he’s dealt with it this season. We are playing a lot of small-town teams where



Jordan “JJ” Jacobs received a seven-game suspension, later reduced to three games, after responding with profanity to an opposing player calling him a racial slur during a March 7 hockey game. Contributed photo

you don’t see as much diversity as you do when you play the Oakvilles and Burlingtons. I see it wear on him game by game and day by day whether it’s at school or on the ice. There is no place for this in hockey. We want to promote inclusivity and diversity and make the game a safe and fun place. It’s one of the best sports around and for people to still have to be dealing with this in 2024 is insane.”

He added the OMHA is showing a lack of leadership to

eliminate racism from the game.

“We have lost so much respect and trust for people who are in a position of power and could be doing something about it but choose not to.”

Jacobs has decided not to speak publicly at this time, but his mother, Patti Jacobs, wants to hold the OMHA accountable for their actions.

“I am really hoping someone will step up and take ownership, admit they did wrong and apologize. To this point, we haven’t heard anything from them at all which I find sad.”

She also wants to bring awareness that racism is still happening in hockey and likely in other sports.

“We are hoping this gets the word out. We can only hope coaches will have conversations with their teams at the beginning of every season to express this is wrong.”

Patti Jacobs said it was unfortunate her son missed the weekend tournament, something that had an impact on the team.

“It put a damper on what should have been a pretty exciting weekend for these boys who had a pretty historic season. It was probably one of the worst weekends of his life. He was devastated. It broke our hearts to sit there at each game and watch him stand at the boards while his team went out and played for him.”

Had Hew Hamburg won their third game of the tournament on Saturday, JJ Jacobs would have been able to play in the next game. They dropped a 3-2 decision to the Quinte West Golden Hawks ending the Junior Firebirds season.

JJ Jacobs missed the previous three seasons of hockey due to a heart issue and during that time decided to coach AAA hockey in Kitchener. Patti Jacobs said her son wants to send positive messages to his players. “He wants these kids to feel protected and comfortable with speaking out and not be afraid that if they say something they will be penalized. That is the unfairness we are seeing.”

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COMMUNITY —

Tavistock & District Skating Club's Youth Synchro Teams Shine in Skate Ontario Synchro Series

By Teresa Weicker

The Tavistock & District Skating club youth synchro teams have had a busy and successful season competing in Skate Ontario Synchro Series.

Congratulations to Pre-Novice, provincial champions at the recent competition in Brampton. They have competed at three other competitions over the season placing first in Kingston, second in Baltimore and first in Oakville, with their season's top score here.

Juvie had a great season and this group of young girls aged nine to 13 jumped to this competitive category this year. They finished the season strong at provincials placing fourth, with other placings of ninth, fifth, and third over the season.

Star 4 Pre-Juvenile finished the season with two gold medals and a fourth-place finish. They also skated at the Rising Star Gala hosted by Team Unity to showcase all the Star 4 synchro teams across Southwestern Ontario.

Juvenile and Pre-Novice are coached by Tara Wilkins and Lauren Holdsworth while Lauren Holdsworth coaches Star 4.

Synchro tryouts start this week. If you would like to join our synchro family, please visit tavistocksc.uplifterinc.com for more information or contact Head Coach Tara Wilkins tara.wilkins1@gmail.com.

The Tavistock Skating Club will showcase our young CanSkate skaters this Saturday, April 6. Please join us at 11 a.m. as they perform for their family, friends and the community. Admission is by donation. Fall sessions start in September. Please visit our website in August for more information.



Pictured are the Star 4 skaters from the Tavistock and District Skating Club. From left are Paisley Wilhelm, Chloe King, Lauren Rujescu, Kadence Bell, Aubrey Lange, Katerina Schmidt, Mikayla Munro, Cassidy Weicker, Kenzingtin Cudney, Jane McCutchen and Lyla Wilson. Absent is Gracie Sutherland. Contributed photo



Pictured are the Juvenile skaters from the Tavistock and District Skating Club. From left are Mya Herold, Charlotte King, Grace Kalbfleisch, Layne Moylan, Nora Hogan, Sydney Robinson, Kiyah Marshall, Abby Herold, Riah Wagler, Lauren Hassan, Katherine Missio, Claire Rempel, Adelynn Zehr, Myra Hendry, Natalee Weicker, Reese Weicker and Kensington Lang. Contributed photo



Pictured are the Pre-Novice skaters from the Tavistock and District Skating Club. In back row from left are Jenna Pickering, Laina Berendsen, Hailey Minler, Eilish Moylan, Maddie Moylan, Chloe Bell, Bria Moore, Natalee Weicker and Molly Frook. In front row from left are coach Tara Wilkins, Kaylee Adam, Candace Dietrich, Kyleigh Dick, Abby Herold, Riah Wagler, Claire Rempel, Alexis Bell, Avery Brenneman and coach Lauren Holdsworth. Contributed photo



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COMMUNITY —

Perth-Huron Jersey Club breeders hold annual Breeders Sweepstakes competition

By Gary West

The Jersey dairy breed has long been a staple in dairy herds across the country and many production and show champions have been born and bred in Perth and Huron counties.

The Perth-Huron Jersey Club was established in 1934 and, over the decades, the little brown cow has become known for exceptional production and type that can compete with any other dairy breed on modern dairy farms today.

Recently the club held its annual Breeders Sweepstakes, named after brothers Lowell and Richard Skinner, who were successful promoters and Jersey Breeders, born and raised in the Mitchell area of Perth County.

With dozens of entries for the on-farm barn competition, cattle judge Jeff Jackson from St. Marys made his way to farms

from the Tavistock area in the east to Clinton in the west.

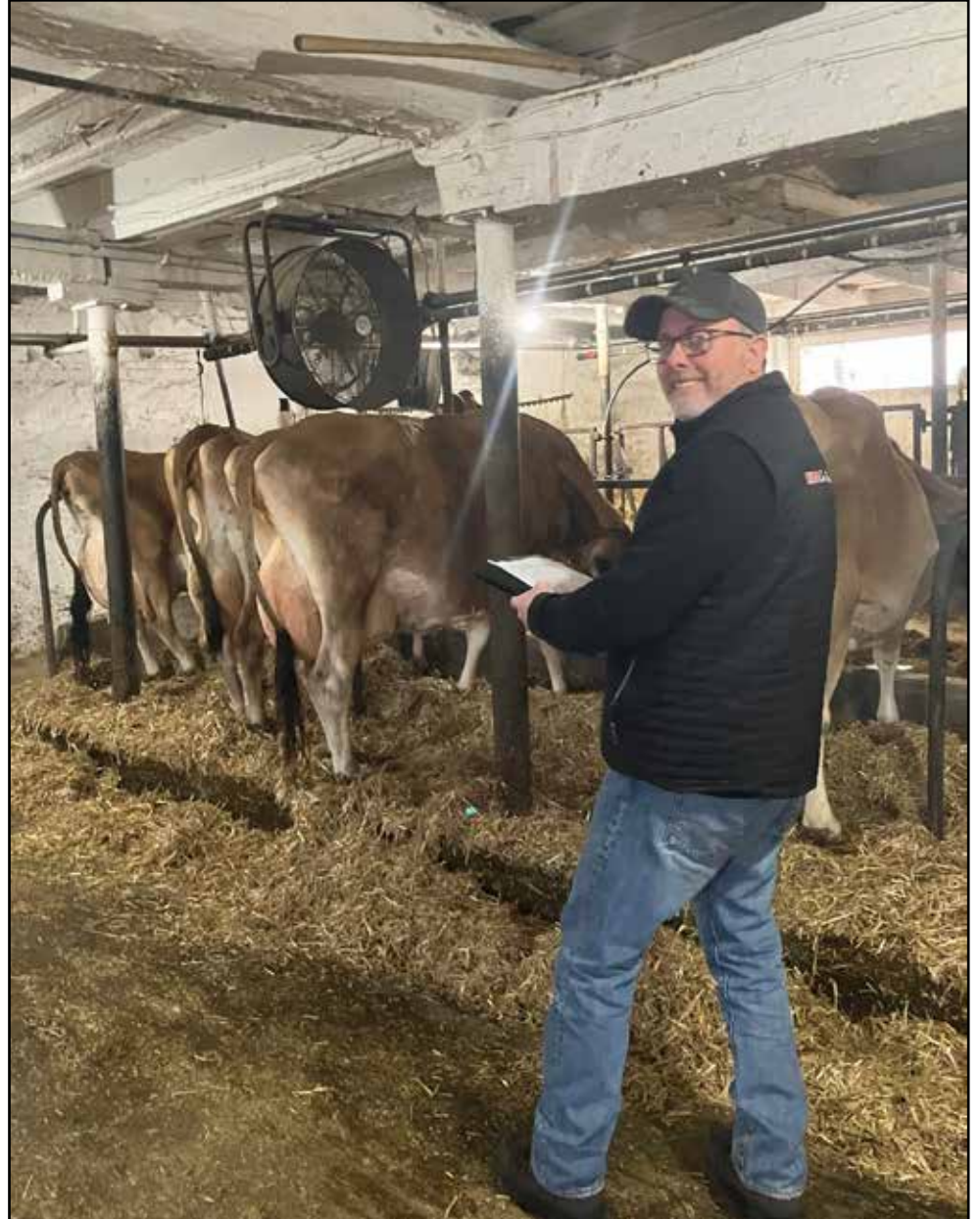
The award winners are as follows:

- First lactation winner was Braeview Video Kovid for Athlone Farms, with runner-up Jaspar Victorious Everbloom for Jaspar Jerseys.
- Second and third lactation: First place went to Francrest Premier Chrissy for Paullor Jerseys and the runner up was Genesis Blackapple Havana for Derek Van De Walle.
- Fourth and additional lactation: First place went to Low-Rich Valentino Reta for Jerett and Chelsey Skinner, with runner-up going to Braeview Barcelona Raine for Athlone Farms.

After judging on each farm was complete, the overall grand champion named was Francrest Premier Chrissy for Paullor Farms of Clinton.



Brian Anderson of RR# 2 Tavistock shows this young Jersey cow at Athlone Farms to Judge Jeff Jackson during the on-farm Breeders Sweepstakes competition held recently in Perth and Huron counties. Photos by Gary West



St. Marys Jersey judge Jeff Jackson looks over this entry in the Breeders Sweepstakes for the Perth-Huron Jersey Club competition.

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FEATURE —

Ontario's 2024 Budget: aims to balance priorities during economic uncertainty

By Amanda Modaragamage, Local Journalism Initiative Reporter

The Government of Ontario notes it's committed to investing in infrastructure, healthcare and education despite economic uncertainty, focusing on primary care expansion and long-term-home re-development projects.

However, Ontarians have raised concerns about the deficit and the need for a prudent fiscal plan. Ontario Minister of Finance Peter Bethlenfalvy introduced the 2024 Budget in the Ontario Legislature on March 26, stressing the importance of affordability in a strapped economy.

"Life has rarely been this expensive," said Bethlenfalvy in his address at Queen's Park. "The Bank of Canada has repeatedly raised interest rates at a big pace for months now. The pace and frequency of the Bank of Canada rate hikes have been punishing, perhaps most of all on homeowners whose mortgages have, in some cases, increased by thousands of dollars a

month.

"The pressure of managing the government budget pales in comparison to the pressures many families face because they manage their family budget in time, and everything costs more. These are the challenges of a small-business owner managing their budget in order to keep the lights on and keep local workers employed."

In the 2024 budget, the provincial government is spending 13 per cent more in healthcare and 11.9 per cent more in education respectively. New and existing primary care teams will receive \$546 million over three years to expand the provision of primary care to an additional 600,000 people in Ontario.

Small and rural hospitals will receive \$50 million over three years to stabilize health-care capacity in rural and northern communities. An additional \$500 million over ten years will be available to support small-hospital projects and community health programs.

"Our government is investing in health care, which is vitally important to our communities in rural Ontario," Perth-Wellington MPP Matthew Rae told Grant Haven Media. "These are important investments our government decided to continue to make despite the economic headwinds we're currently facing as a province."

The budget also includes investments for a new medical school at York University. This will be the first medical school in Canada focused primarily on training family doctors and training and retaining nurses and medical staff.

Ontario is also investing an additional \$152 million over the next three years to support individuals facing unstable housing conditions and mental-health and addictions challenges.

"Our government's historic investment of \$1.8 billion in housing-enabling infrastructure will help us and our municipal partners unlock millions of homes

across Ontario," said Rae. "I hope our federal partners will join us in building the critical infrastructure that we need to get homes built."

This year's budget also launches a new Ontario Transit Investment Fund, which will provide annual funding of \$5 million to deliver local and intercommunity transportation projects in unserved and underserved areas in rural Ontario. The funding builds on the Community Transportation Grant Program.

Rae says that to help ease the tension surrounding transportation for families, the 2024 budget will also extend the gas tax cut until December 2024.

"Our government is focused on ensuring that we keep costs down for families," said Rae. "I will continue to advocate for ways to improve affordability for rural Ontario in particular."

Carbon tax increase comes into effect this month despite controversy

By Amanda Modaragamage, Local Journalism Initiative Reporter

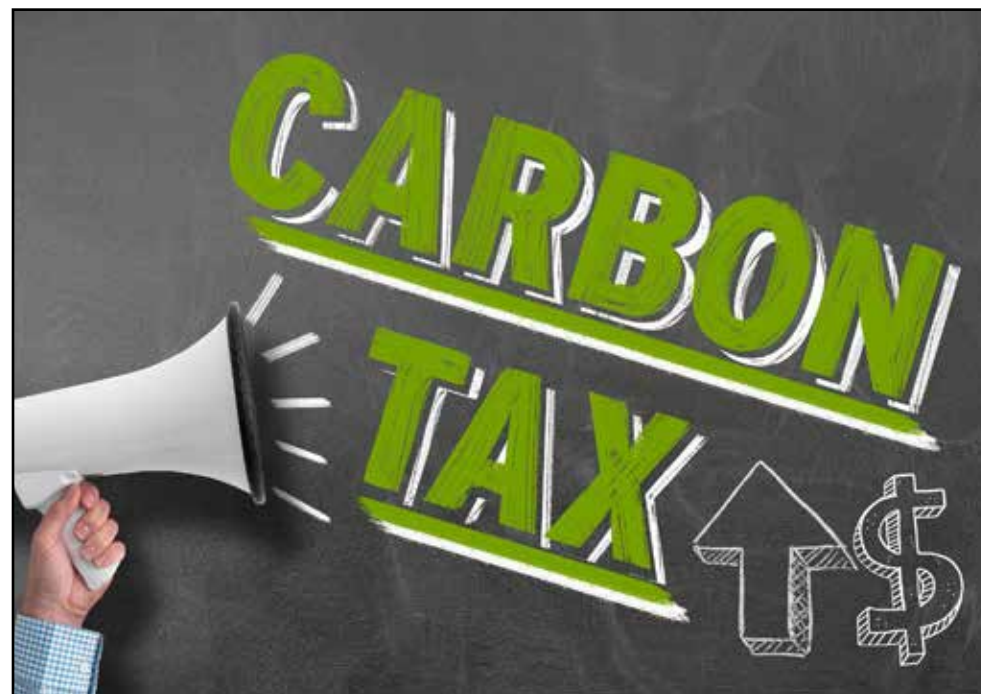
Although Ontario Premier Doug Ford and others from across the country called for a pause on the increase, carbon pricing will rise to \$80 per tonne on April 1, up from the current \$65.

Perth-Wellington MP John Nater says this increase will not help rural communities but instead make it harder for small businesses and farmers to survive in the already strapped economy.

"The carbon tax has a significant impact on Canadians, especially those living in rural communities including farmers, agribusinesses and local small businesses, because other alternatives are not available in communities like ours. Drying grain, heating barns and running farm equipment all use fuel and, unfortunately, there are no other alternatives in rural areas.

"When the carbon tax is applied to all these different aspects of rural and small-town living, it adds the cost to each and every person who lives in these communities, works in these communities and owns businesses in these communities. So that's the substantial economic impact," said Nater.

The carbon tax increase is a "cornerstone policy of Prime Minister Justin Trudeau's minority Liberal government," said Hadrian Mertins-Kirkwood, a senior



researcher with the Canadian Centre for Policy Alternatives, who notes the carbon tax pricing is a fine policy, but it's not enough to help the economy.

Local MPs are siding with premiers across the country to try to highlight the impact the tax hike will have on all aspects of the economy. Nater notes this could not only drive up food costs across the country but

also push small businesses and farmers to do business across the border.

"Unfortunately, small business folks are looking at different options because the cost is becoming unaffordable to businesses in Ontario.

"We're really seeing a huge impact on business, and we believe there can be a more reasonable approach to this."

Though the carbon-tax increase was implemented on April 1, Nater wants to see it scrapped. He says Trudeau requested "better alternatives to the carbon tax," but he isn't taking suggestions passed along from other provinces.

"A lot of other provinces have come up with alternatives, but they're basically being denied by the federal Liberals. Meanwhile, the provincial proposals are far more beneficial to the environment and consumers.

"We've heard from other provinces that are looking at alternative methods, including nuclear-power-generation and transportation alternatives, providing all these different options that don't involve a carbon tax. However, the federal government has said that none of these alternatives are acceptable without a carbon tax or a price on carbon."

Nater said he believes the carbon tax is a political move rather than a way to promote the decrease of fossil fuels. He says studies conducted on the carbon tax show the program is a "wash" when it comes to its benefits.

"At the end of the day, I think what we're seeing is a very short-sighted approach, as they're unwilling to change direction. What we've seen in the last few months is that this is all political science rather than environmental science," he said.

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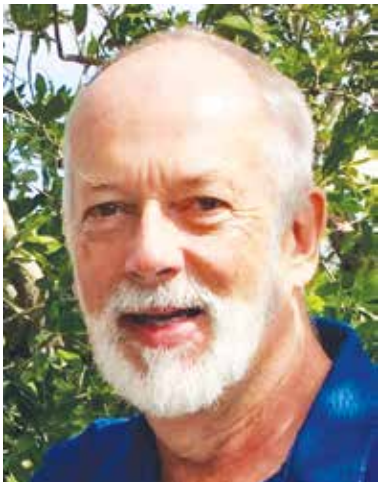
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TRAVEL —

OH, THE PLACES WE'LL GO: "There's something for everyone" is entirely true at Beaulieu



By Paul Knowles

Imagine this family discussion. The question: "Where shall we go on our holiday in the south of England?" The answers: "I'm going to England for the gardens!" "No! I want to see history and ruins and stuff like that!" "But you promised me great, aristocratic homes!" "I'm only interested in stuff about World War II!" "That's not fair! I don't like any of that old stuff. I want something modern!" "I just want to play!" "I don't want to go. I want to stay home and watch movies on TV!"

Now it's your job to put together a day trip for this fractious, dysfunctional family which sounds a great deal like many families planning a trip together. I would have thought this to be an impossible task until I visited Beaulieu.

There is so much going on at Beaulieu (pronounced Bewley) that it is impossible to capture its essence in a catchphrase.

This place is much more than a Beaulieu theme park or Beaulieu historic site or Beaulieu Gardens. To avoid complexity, the aristocratic family that own the destination simply call it Beaulieu. And yes, there is something here to satisfy every member of our fictitious, quarreling family.

Besides, none of them even mentioned Beaulieu's greatest claim to fame. It is the home of the United Kingdom's National Motor Museum, an absolute cornucopia of automotive ingenuity. The museum houses over 280 vehicles ranging from the very first cars to travel the primitive highways of Britain to thoroughly modern racing cars and jet engines on wheels that have shattered speed records. To my delight, I found a car of the same make and model as my very first car, an Austin Cambridge I purchased from my grandmother, which will tell you how much of a chick magnet that car was. I digress.

Gearheads will absolutely love the National Motor Museum, and if you only schedule half a day – or even, more wisely, a full day – at Beaulieu, your family is unlikely to see anything but all things motorized. They might roam among those vehicles for weeks on end. But there is truly something for every member of our squabbling family.

The gardens are amazing and sufficiently large to accommodate a formal Victorian flower garden and a woodland mill pond walk.

Beaulieu once had a second noun in its name. It was Beaulieu Abbey, a vast, medieval monastery. Today, the abbey is in ruins, but they are beautiful ruins and visitors can stroll

through history and take in an exhibition.

And not far from the ruined abbey is the very much intact Palace House, also open for tours. This has been – and still is – home to the Montagu family since 1538. The family continues to own and operate Beaulieu to this day.

The house was one of Britain's first stately homes to be opened to the public. Visitors are greeted by helpful, costumed interpreters who will tell you about the palatial home and, if you ask, at least a little bit about the owners and sometime inhabitants, Ralph Douglas-Scott-Montagu, Fourth Baron Montagu of Beaulieu (born in 1961), and Lady Ailsa Montagu. Baron Montagu and Lady Montagu have no children, and one staff member quietly admitted that while there should be no immediate concerns, they are a bit worried about the long-term future for this multi-faceted attraction. In the meantime, the couple's portraits keep a close eye on everything and the owners stay at Beaulieu on occasion.

In the home, visitors will see both sides of an historic home – the lavish furnishings in the area occupied by the family and the simpler decor in the sections where the servants lived and worked. The latter is very Downton Abbey.

So where does World War II come in? That would be the Secret Army Exhibition where visitors learn about Beaulieu's role as a top-secret finishing school for members of Britain's Special Operations Executive.

Something modern? Well, one of the U.K.'s most popular television exports is the show, Top



The Palace House, home of the Montagu family since 1538, and now also open for visitors to Beaulieu. All photos by Paul Knowles

Gear, which was in production from 2002 to 2023. It was long hosted by acerbic Brit Jeremy Clarkson, who was fired after a physical altercation with a producer, and now stars in the unlikely realty show, Clarkson's Farm. A latter-day host was Friends alumnus Matt LeBlanc. The show continues to be seen in re-runs by millions of fans around the world. And it can be explored at Beaulieu in the exhibit, World of Top Gear.

And what about those final two family demands? The one who wants to play will be fine. The expansive Beaulieu grounds include the Little Beaulieu playground, Britain's oldest monorail, and an antique bus that carries visitors around the groups.

And if the movie and TV lover isn't captivated by the Top Gear exhibit, there is always the On Screen Cars exhibition of TV and film favourites.

Human beings being human beings, there may be family

members who won't want to visit Beaulieu. But my guess is, after a few hours there, they will be the same ones who won't want to leave!

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.



A peaceful plaque mounted in the Abbey ruins.



A Rolls-Royce Silver Ghost, in the National Motor Museum at Beaulieu.



The view from the Victorian gardens.



The kitchen of the manor house – everything ready to go "below the stairs."

OPINION —

EXPERT ADVICE: *More than meets the eye*



**By Chip Bender
RP(q)**

Last week, I had two experiences that proved to me even people we have known for a long time have dimensions to them we did not know about.

The first incident was one in which a cousin of mine shared with me the contents of a conversation she had with my dad a few years earlier, which she found extremely helpful and meaningful. Elements of her story portrayed a side of my dad I did not know, even though I have known him my whole life and know lots of his other positive aspects.

The second incident occurred the following morning at the funeral of a mentor of mine whom I had known for 30 years, initially in a professional context and then a personal one. At the funeral, there was a tribute shared by his younger brother which included lots of stories about his childhood, as well as from my men-

tor's two sons, who shared their memories of him as a father. Once again, I was astounded and surprised by the many aspects about a person whom I thought I knew relatively well.

It struck me that one of the reasons these incidents occurred was due to our brains' tendency to simplify the information we take in so it can begin processing something else instead. When we get to know people, we can be prone to see them in only a two-dimensional way. It is as if we are looking at one side of a cereal box and assume that one side contains the entirety of all the characteristics of the box. In reality, there are 5 other sides to the box, not counting the inside

of the box, each of which gives additional information about the box in its totality. And most people are far more complex than mere cereal boxes.

As a psychotherapist, I get to know a side of people they may only show to a few other people or no one at all. However, I need to remind myself that the sides I am privileged to see are not all of their sides. Each of my clients has numerous other sides that make up their personality and offer views into who they are that I will never see. Those other sides include things like parts of their past that we do not discuss and the different relationships they have or have had with people past and present.

It can be confining or even dangerous to see people in only a two-dimensional way and assume we know everything about them. It can be equally troublesome when we have a limited view of ourselves. Sometimes, we may get stuck thinking about only one side or aspect of ourselves that then becomes the dominant narrative of who we are.

When we think about ourselves and anyone that we meet, we need to remember there is so much more to us humans than meets the eye.

Chip Bender is a registered psychotherapist (qualifying) with the Interfaith Counselling Centre.

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FEATURE —

Moo's Ice Cream in Shakespeare opens for third season



Pictured are Moo's customers greeted by owners Seager and Rhonda Grubb. In front are Ryan and Avery McLeod with grandfather Bill Rovers, grandmother Yvonne McLeod and Mom Samantha McLeod. Photo by Gary West

By Gary West

Moo's Ice Cream in Shakespeare welcomed visitors from near and far on their opening weekend at the onset of another season of serving the popular, cool treat.

A Stratford family was one of the ice-cream shop's first customers on Saturday, and came bearing gift certificates won at the Shakespeare Opti-Mrs Easter egg hunt that had just finished at the Sprucedale Public School playground.

The McLeod and Rovers family, which has roots in the Shakespeare area, is always glad to head to the village on a sunny

Easter weekend, and ice cream was an added bonus.

Moo's Ice Cream Shop owner Rhonda Grubb says this is her business' third season serving 40 flavours of Kawartha ice cream and 15 flavours of fresh-fruit frozen yogurt, along with soft ice cream in flavours of vanilla or chocolate.

They are open 11 a.m. to 7 p.m. on weekends and 11 a.m. to 9 p.m. during the summer, starting in early June.

There is also free cotton candy for the young and young at heart to top off all cones and sundaes.

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COMMUNITY —

The Community Players of New Hamburg celebrate 40th anniversary with Anne of Green Gables

By Mercedes Kay Gold

This year marks the 40th year anniversary of The Community Players of New Hamburg and a time to share in celebrating the string of enchanting performances put on by the community theatre troupe over the years.

From Mary Poppins to The Hunchback of Notre Dame, the list of classics is unforgettable, and this year is extra special.

"The Community Players takes pride in presenting a diverse range of productions from playwrights worldwide," said Brooke Gamble, The Community Players artistic director.

This year is special and to commemorate the past 40 years, a Canadian production was chosen for the first time in the history of The Community Players. Anne of Green Gables The Musical, the tale of that iconic red-headed, freckle-faced, east-coast girl, will grace the stage at the Trinity Theatre in New Hamburg May 9-12.

With a cast of 42 ranging in ages from eight to 71 and newcomer Alina Vuorinen playing Anne, the talented theatre community kicks off 2024 with fireworks. Vuorinen, a high-school student and Kitchener native, was especially drawn to the audition. She said she was elated at the possibility of landing the role of Anne Shirley.

The heartwarming moments in the classic Canadian story set on the east coast is the role of a lifetime for a young and aspiring performer. Over the years, the beloved tale of an 11-year-old orphan girl growing up on a 19th century farm on Prince Edward Island has left an impact on readers young and old, and Vuorinen is excited to bring Anne to life on stage this May.

Anne of Green Gables is second to none as the top choice to mark the 40th-anniversary celebration. This year also marks the first musical staged by The Community Players



Members of The Community Players of New Hamburg rehearse for their upcoming production of Anne of Green Gables The Musical. Photo by Katrina Vessie

since 2019.

The all-ages novel, a classic children's story, is as appealing and relevant today as it was in 1908. The book chronicles the adventures of a quirky girl who struggles with self-acceptance, peer pressure, fantasies, family dynamics, community, loss and the future.

Celebrate spring and surprise your favorite gal with tickets for an entertaining Mother's Day event. Save the date for this fabulous family-friendly musical. Anne of Green Gables The Musical opens May 9 and runs until May 12.

Tickets are on sale starting at 9 a.m. April 6.

Early bird pricing saves you \$5 by purchasing online before 11:59 p.m. on April 7. Visit thecommunityplayers.com for more information. After April 7, purchase online, in-person at the box office or at Quilting by Design located at 337 Waterloo St., New Hamburg.

For more information call 1-800-827-7524 and follow on social media @tcpnh.

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COMMUNITY —

New Dundee Women's Institute plans international Women Walk the World April 27

By Nancy Birss

Members of the New Dundee Women's Institute are holding a local worldwide walking event and film showing on Saturday, April 27 at the New Dundee Community Centre.

Women Walk the World is an annual, successful worldwide fundraising event and celebration of Associated Country Women of the World's (ACWW) Rural Women in Action. This year, New Dundee Women's Institute is proud to host a local walk supporting the international organization. Donations for this walk will support all of ACWW's work including projects, advocacy, education and awareness-raising.

Rural women are the backbone of families, communities and nations, but they suffer the worst impacts of climate change and conflict, go unheard in legislation and remain

unprotected and unsupported. Associated Country Women of the World exists to change that. ACWW offers support, friendship and practical help to improve the lives of women and their families through project work with local organizations, thus empowering women and communities around the world.

Participants will meet at 10 a.m. at the New Dundee Community Centre (1028 Queen St. S). Choose a short walk or longer historical walking tour of New Dundee, returning to the community centre for their own box lunch. Tea and coffee will be provided. Please bring your mug too.

International ACWW board executive member, Anne Innes, will share a brief presentation about ACWW and the aim of this international walk. Following lunch and social time, a 50-minute film, Just Eat It, on food waste

will be shown. The topic of reducing food waste is one of three resolutions passed by ACWW at its 30th Triennial Conference last May in Malaysia.

Your participation in Women Walk the World will help ACWW achieve its goal of connecting and supporting projects for women worldwide. Cash or cheque donations to the ACWW will be collected that day. We aim to finish up at 2 p.m. All are welcome to join us for any part of the day.

So please save the date!

For further information, please contact Nancy at nbirss@uwaterloo.ca.

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<p>TUESDAY, APR. 2</p> <p>Ostomy Support Group Meeting 7:00 p.m. 'Humour and Feeling Good' with Dr. Ken Shonk Social time and snacks. Everyone welcome. 93 Morgan St., Stratford</p> <p>MONDAY, APR. 8</p> <p>Garden Wilmot (Wilmot Hort Society) Monthly Garden Talk 7 p.m. Topic: Growing cannabis in your yard Wilmot Rec Complex, Meeting Room A (upstairs). 1291 Nafziger Rd. Baden</p> <p>Township of Wilmot council meeting 7-11 p.m. Council chambers 60 Snyder's Rd. West Baden</p> <p>TUESDAY, APR. 9</p> <p>Township of Wellesley council meeting 6:45 p.m. Council chambers 4805 William Hastings Line, Crosshill</p>	<p>WEDNESDAY, APR. 10</p> <p>Community Care Concepts Lunch and Fellowship 12 p.m. Join us for lunch and fellowship. Cost: \$14.00. Must register by April 5 by calling 519-664-1900 or Toll Free: 1-855-664-1900. Wellesley Recreation Complex, 1401 Queen's Bush Rd. Wellesley</p> <p>SATURDAY, APR. 20</p> <p>Let's Tree Wilmot Tree Planting for Habitat Restoration 9 a.m. to noon; 1-4 p.m. Nithview Senior Community Floodplain 40 Albert St. New Hamburg</p> <p>Tavistock Historical Society Annual Meeting 1:30 pm Presentation: Growing Up In Tavistock In the 1960's Grace United Church 116 Woodstock St S, Tavistock</p> <p>WEDNESDAY, APR. 24</p> <p>Community Care Concepts Lunch and Fellowship 12 p.m. Join us for lunch and fellowship. Cost: \$14.00. Must register by April 19 by calling 519-664-1900 or toll Free: 1-855-664-1900. Linwood Community Centre, 5279 Ament Line, Linwood</p>	<p>THURSDAY, APR. 25</p> <p>Community Care Concepts Lunch and Fellowship 12 p.m. Join us for lunch and fellowship. Cost: \$14.00. Must register by April 19 by calling 519-664-1900 or toll Free: 1-855-664-1900. Wilmot Rec Complex, 1291 Nafziger Rd, Baden</p> <p>SATURDAY, APR. 27</p> <p>Women Walk the World event 10 a.m. New Dundee Community Centre 1028 Queen St., New Dundee</p> <p>TUESDAY, APR. 30</p> <p>Nith Valley Ecoboosters free in-person educational event 7:00-8:30 p.m. Topic: "STOVE TALK: Introduction to Induction". Please join us to learn about the benefits of induction cooking and see cooking demonstrations by local chefs. Register at: nvecoboosters.com Questions? Contact nvecoboosters@gmail.com Wilmot Recreational Complex, Room A 1291 Nafziger Road in Baden</p>	<p>SATURDAY, MAY 4</p> <p>Let's Tree Wilmot Tree Planting 9 a.m. to noon Riverside Park Riverside Drive New Hamburg</p> <div style="text-align: center;"> <p>April 22, 2022</p> <p>Earth Day</p>  <p>let's save our earth</p>  </div>
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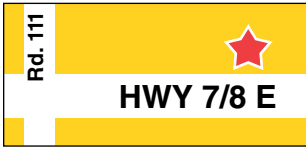
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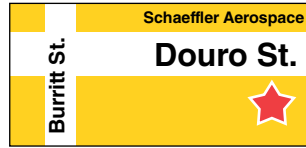
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